



UNDERSTANDING

FSC

**FOREST  
STEWARDSHIP  
COUNCIL**

**Infomatics Consultancy**

Web: [www.iso-consultants.com](http://www.iso-consultants.com)

Email: [info@iso-consultants.com](mailto:info@iso-consultants.com)

Providing **FSC consulting**, Training, Implementation and Certification facilitation services across the world.

## WHAT IS FSC?

**Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)** is a globally recognized certification system with a million hectares of forestland certified under its forest conservation standards. The council uses a voluntary market-based system in which forest owners and companies associated to timber related products are audited against principles and criteria set by the **FSC**. The performance-based standards encompass environmental, social and economic values, and are framed to ensure that the forests are managed sustainably.

**FSC** Certification is awarded to businesses that comply with the requirements laid down by the **Forest Stewardship Council**.

**FSC** is an international organization that promotes responsible management of the world's forests through its 10 **FSC** Principles and associated **FSC** Criteria.

Responsible Forest Management provides a way of using trees and non-timber forest products to meet the ever-increasing need for lumber, paper and other products without degrading the forest's ecosystems.

## WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM FSC CERTIFICATION:

FSC has two distinct types of certification for forest managers and companies that use forest products.

### FSC Forest Management

FSC Forest Management Certification is for Smallholders, communities, indigenous people and forest owners. Those who practice low intensity management can find the forest management certification assessment to be disproportionately expensive and complex for their situation.

### FSC Chain of custody

Chain of Custody certification is essential for businesses seeking to (a) access environmentally and socially aware markets, or (b) demonstrate compliance with public and private procurement policies that specify environmentally responsible materials. These include Furniture manufacturers, publishers, pulp industries, and all other wood products. Such businesses that attest to the wood's traceability and legal origin, are certified to use the FSC trademark.



### RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IS:

The forest is well maintained under FSC certification guidelines to assure it remains healthy and productive.

Trees are selected from FSC forests so as to not cause undue damage to the ecosystem.

The effect of foresting is mitigated to the greatest degree possible to avoid damage to the ecosystem.

Harvested areas are replanted and maintained to keep the forest and surrounding lands healthy, vibrant and productive.

## 10 FSC PRINCIPLES CREATE THE “GOLD STANDARD” OF CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS:

FSC ensures traceability of products from the forests to the point of sale. Products that are manufactured from responsibly harvested forests are identified with the FSC logo, which is considered the “gold standard” of forest certification by major environmental groups.

### Compliance with laws and FSC principles

Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.

### Tenure and use rights and responsibility

Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.

### Indigenous peoples’ Rights

The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.

### Community relations and Worker’s rights

Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic wellbeing of forest workers and local communities.

### Benefits from the Forest

Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest’s multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.

### Environmental Impact

Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.

## Management Plan

A management plan — appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations — shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long-term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.

## Monitoring and assessment

Monitoring shall be conducted, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management, to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.

## Maintenance of High Conservation value forests

Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.

## Plantations

Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1-9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.

## BENEFITS OF FSC:

Conserve biological diversity and its values: water resources, soils, unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes.

Maintain the ecological functions and integrity of the forest.

Protect threatened and endangered species and their habitats.

The concept of sustainable forest management aims to ensure human rights for communities and forest workers are respected.

To meet **FSC**'s social criteria, all certified forestry operations must seek permission from indigenous groups before forestry work can begin.

Local people, traditionally using forests to collect food, firewood, building materials or medicinal plants, must still have access to the forest resources that support their livelihoods.

Research demonstrates that **FSC** makes good business sense. Positive business benefits of **FSC** certification are:

- **Improved market access** ➤ **Higher prices** ➤ **Stable contracts** ➤ **Favorable credit arrangements**
- **Improved production efficiency** ➤ **Enhanced public image**

Major companies have policies in preference of FSC-certified products. Green building standards, including the US Green Building Council's LEED program, provide incentives for using FSC-certified materials.

**FSC** requires forest managers, on both public and private lands, to engage local community members to (a) protect customary rights of indigenous people, (b) ensure their voices are part of the certification process and (c) address the impacts of forest operations.

## WE PARTNER WITH YOUR ORGANIZATION TO ACHIEVE FSC CERTIFICATION:

We, at “**Infomatics Consultancy**”, are a team of highly skilled, qualified and motivated consultants and trainers, having considerable experience to assist our clients to design and implement **FSC**. Lakshy is committed to partner with you on your path to success and has comprehensive services that are aimed at helping the organization achieve the **FSC** certification.

We enable organizations to align themselves for certification by:

- **Conducting an initial gap analysis.**
- **Helping you establish policies and objectives.**
- **Coordinating document preparations, reviews, approvals, and issuance.**
- **Managing implementation schedules, training, follow-up actions.**
- **Aiding your selection of a Registrar with the appropriate industry experience.**
- **Helping the organization seek FSC certification.**

## FOUR STEPS TO CERTIFICATION:

### Scoping Visit

The company provides all requisite information for a thorough understanding of the business and its existing procedures and processes, in order to devise a customised method to incorporate CoC requirements into your current systems.

### Document Procedures

A draft of Procedures to incorporate CoC, developed based on information gained during the scoping visit, is shared with the company. These procedures detail the customized methodology to incorporate CoC in your company.

### Review Visit

It included the finalization of Procedures, undertake staff training, review of the initial implementation of the systems and handover of the Chain of Custody Manual ready for audit.

### Certification!

Assistance and support during the audit process, by your chosen Certification Body. Upon successful completion of the audit you will be awarded **CoC** Certification.



## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR FSC CERTIFICATION:

- | Policy for pilots tests of draft **FSC** standards
- | **FSC** policy for accepting contribution
- | Policy for the association with **FSC**
- | Modular approaches to forest certification
- | Scope of application of the **FSC** Principles Criteria for forest stewardship
- | Partial certification of large ownership
- | **FSC** policy on the excision of areas from the scope of certification
- | Annual administration Fee Policy (**AAF**)
- | **FSC** pesticides policy
- | **FSC** Certification and ILO Conventions
- | **FSC** Interpretation on GMOs
- | Group chain of custody certification – **FSC** Guidelines for Certification Bodies
- | Development and Transition of the **FSC** Network
- | Development and Revision of **FSC** normative documents
- | Processing Pesticides Derogation Application
- | **FSC** Forest manager's Checklist for Developing Derogation Application
- | Processing Appeals
- | Processing Complaints in the **FSC** Certification Scheme
- | Processing Policy for Association Complaints in the **FSC** Certification Scheme
- | Participants of external observers in on-site **FSC** certification audit and / or **ASI** accreditation assessments
- | Evaluation of the organization's commitment to **FSC** Values and occupational health and safety in the chain of Custody
- | Transfer of **FSC** Certification and License agreement
- | Development of national Chain of Custody group eligibility criteria
- | Procedure for the operation of the **FSC** Network
- | **FSC** Controlled Wood risk assessment by FSC accredited national Initiatives, National and Regional offices
- | List of approved National and Regional Controlled Wood Risk Assessment
- | **FSC** Principles and criteria
- | Structure, content and local adaption of generic forest stewardship standards
- | Forest management evaluation
- | **FSC** product classification



## WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF FSC CERTIFICATIONS AVAILABLE?

The business owners, depending on their operations and product, can avail certifications to establish stewardship. The FSC provides the following certifications:

1. **Forest Management (FM)**
2. **Chain of Custody**
3. **Control Wood**

With a team of highly skilled, qualified and motivated consultants and trainers, having vast industrial experience, we partner with organizations across the world to implement and achieve FSC Certification.

Our consulting approach is highly professional, time bound and effective, resulting in ease of implementation, and adds value to the business processes of the client organization.



We Measure our **Success** by **Customer Success..**

And our Customers Make us Feel Very Successful..