



Forest Stewardship Council

FSC INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

FSC Glossary of Terms

FSC-STD-01-002 (V1-0) EN



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FSC GLOSSARY OF TERMS

FSC-STD-01-002 (V1-0) EN

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, not for profit, non-government organization established to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

FSC's vision is where the world's forests meet the social, ecological, and economic rights and needs of the present generation without compromising those of future generations

Foreword

This FSC standard specifies the definitions of terms used in FSC standards, guidelines, policies and other normative FSC documents in English language. This glossary is indented for use as a reference document and will be updated as necessary, when new terms are defined or when definitions of terms are changed. In the case of any inconsistencies between the definitions in this glossary and definitions in other FSC normative documents approved after publication of this document, the terminology used in the approved documents are to be considered valid in their specific context.

Note on use of this standard

All aspects of this standard are considered to be normative, including the scope, standard effective date, references, terms and definitions, notes, tables and annexes, unless otherwise stated (e.g. examples).

Version 1.0 of this document includes a collection of terms and definitions from other FSC documents (e.g. the FSC Principles and Criteria, FSC accreditation and certification standards) which already have been approved by the membership and/or the FSC Board of Directors and which apply across the FSC Global Network. Terms and definition which only apply in the context of a specific standard are not included in this version of the glossary.

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A Scope

This International Standard specifies general terms and definitions relating to the FSC Certification Scheme.

The definition of terms in this International Standard shall be binding for all members of the FSC Global Network, FSC accredited certification bodies and FSC certificate holders. The use of the glossary is also recommended for all other interested stakeholders.

B Standard effective date

This standard becomes effective upon approval.

C References

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For references without a version number, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC Directives - Part 2:2004, Rules for the Structure and drafting of International Standards
ISO/IEC Guide 2:2004 Standardization and related activities -- General vocabulary
ISO 14050:2009 Environmental management - Vocabulary
ISO 17000:2004 Conformity assessment — Vocabulary and general principles
FSC-POL-30-001 FSC Pesticides Policy
FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship
FSC-STD-01-005 V1-0 FSC Dispute Resolution System
FSC-STD-20-002 V2-1 Structure and Content of Forest Stewardship Standards
FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1 Accreditation Standard for Chain of Custody Evaluations
FSC-STD-20-012 V1-1 Standard for Evaluation of FSC Controlled Wood in Forest Management Enterprises
FSC-STD-30-005 V1-0 FSC standard for group entities in forest management groups
FSC-STD-30-010 V2-0 FSC Controlled Wood Standard for Forest Management Enterprises
FSC-STD-40-003 V1-0 Standard for Multi-site Certification of Chain of Custody Operations
FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0 FSC Standard for Chain of Custody Certification
FSC-STD-40-005 V2-1 Standard for Company Evaluation of FSC Controlled Wood
FSC-STD-60-006 V1-2 Process requirements for the development and maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards
Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992
Dictionary of Business, Oxford University Press, 1996
Forest Certification Handbook, Upton and Bass, 1995

D Terms and definitions

FSC Certification Scheme is developed by the Forest Stewardship Council A.C. to enable independent third-party certification of environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management as a market mechanism allowing producers and consumers to identify and purchase timber and non-timber forest products from well-managed forests.

FSC Global Network: Forest Stewardship Council Asociación Civil (FSC AC), FSC International Center GmbH (FSC IC), ASI - Accreditation Services International GmbH (ASI), FSC Global Development GmbH (FSC GD), FSC Regional / National Offices, and FSC endorsed National Initiatives.

1 Notes on use

- 1.1 This glossary gives the meanings of words as they are used in normative documents by the FSC International Center published in English language.
- 1.2 The terms and definitions are laid out in a systematic order, with an alphabetical index.
- 1.3 Definitions from the Glossary to the FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship (FSC-STD-01-001) may only be changed on the basis of a formal vote of the FSC General Assembly.

2 FSC Glossary of Terms

Accreditation Decision

A decision made whether to grant, continue, extend, reduce, suspend, restore, withdraw or refuse FSC Accreditation of a CAB or to take disciplinary measures (adapted from ISO/IEC 17011:2004 (E))

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-005 v1-0

Biological diversity

The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. (see Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992)

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Biological diversity values

The intrinsic, ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components. (see Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992)

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Biological control agents

Living organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other living organisms.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Chain of custody

The channel through which products are distributed from their origin in the forest to their end-use.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Certificate

A document issued under the rules of a certification system, indicating that adequate confidence is provided that a duly identified product, process or service is in conformity with a specific standard or other normative document [ISO/IEC Guide 2:1991 paragraph 14.8 and ISO/CASCO 193 paragraph 4.5].

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Chemicals

The range of fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, and hormones which are used in forest management.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) (also referred to as Certification Body)
Body that performs conformity assessment services and that can be the object of accreditation (adapted from ISO/IEC 17011:2004 (E)).

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-005 V1-0

Consensus

General agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments (adapted from ISO/IEC Guide 2:1991).

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-005 V1-0

Credit account

A record kept by a certified organization operating a credit system which lists entries and withdrawals of volume credits for the purpose of selling products with FSC claims.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Credit system

A Chain of Custody system applied at the product group level which allows a proportion of outputs to be sold with a credit claim corresponding to the quantity of FSC and post-consumer inputs. Considering the applicable conversion factor(s), FSC and post-consumer inputs can be accumulated as FSC credit on a credit account.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Criterion (pl. Criteria)

A means of judging whether or not a Principle (of forest stewardship) has been fulfilled.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Critical control points

Places or situations in the supply chain where materials from uncertified/uncontrolled sources could enter or where certified/controlled materials could leave the system.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Customary rights

Rights which result from a long series of habitual or customary actions, constantly repeated, which have, by such repetition and by uninterrupted acquiescence, acquired the force of a law within a geographical or sociological unit.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Dispute: Umbrella term for any of the following:

Appeal: request by a party subject to a decision for reconsideration of any adverse decision made by the FSC with regard to the FSC Certification Scheme and/ or the FSC Accreditation Program (adapted from ISO/IEC 17011:2004 (E)).

(Informal) Complaint: initial expression of dissatisfaction by any person or organization, to FSC, relating to the activities of the FSC Certification Scheme and/ or the FSC Accreditation program (adapted from ISO/IEC 17011:2004 (E)).

Formal Complaint: formal expression of dissatisfaction by any person or organization, to FSC, relating to the activities of the FSC Certification Scheme and/ or the FSC Accreditation program, where a response is expected (adapted from ISO/IEC 17011:2004 (E)).

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-005 V1-0

District

Generic geographical definition within a country, which has similar features and similar risk for controlled wood categories and from which wood is sourced. It can be a county, locality or watershed, and is normally a sub-set of an eco-region.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Ecoregion

A large area of land or water that contains a geographically distinct assemblage of natural communities that:

- (a) share a large majority of their species and ecological dynamics;
- (b) share similar environmental conditions, and;
- (c) interact ecologically in ways that are critical for their long-term persistence.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-005 V2-1

Ecosystem

A community of all plants and animals and their physical environment, functioning together as an interdependent unit.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Endangered species

Any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Exotic species

An introduced species not native or endemic to the area in question.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Forest integrity

The composition, dynamics, functions and structural attributes of a natural forest.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Forest management/ manager

The people responsible for the operational management of the forest resource and of the enterprise, as well as the management system and structure, and the planning and field operations.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Forest Management Enterprise (FME)

Company or operation responsible for forest management.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-012 V1-1

Forest Management Unit (FMU)

A clearly defined forest area with mapped boundaries, managed by a single managerial body to a set of explicit objectives which are expressed in a self-contained multi-year management plan.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Forest Stewardship Standard

The normative document which specifies the requirements with which a forest management enterprise must conform in order to obtain certification.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-002 V2-1

FSC accredited Certification Body

CAB which is appointed by the FSC AC to undertake FSC certification audits of applicants for the FSC Certification Scheme and the surveillance of certified Forest Management Enterprises and Forest Product Enterprises against the Certification Requirements.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-005 V1-0

FSC certified product

FSC certified material that is eligible to carry an FSC label and to be promoted with the FSC trademarks.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

FSC Controlled Wood

Virgin wood or wood fibre which has been verified as having a low probability of including wood from any of the following categories:

- a) Illegally harvested wood;
- b) Wood harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights;
- c) Wood harvested in forests in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities;
- d) Wood harvested in forests being converted from natural and semi natural forest to plantations or non- forest use;
- e) Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-012 V1-1

FSC Forest Stewardship Standard

The FSC Principles and Criteria together with the addition of indicators that are adapted to regional (trans-national, supra-national), national and/or sub-national conditions in order to be implemented at the forest management unit (FMU) level.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-60-006 V1-2

FSC Pure material

FSC-certified virgin material originating in FSC-certified forests or plantations that has not been mixed with material of another material category throughout the supply chain.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

FSC Mixed material

FSC-certified virgin material based on input from FSC-certified, controlled and/or reclaimed sources, and supplied with a percentage claim or credit claim.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

FSC Recycled material

FSC-certified reclaimed material based on exclusive input from reclaimed sources, and supplied with a percentage claim or credit claim.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)

Biological organisms which have been induced by various means to consist of genetic structural changes.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Illegally harvested wood

Wood that has been harvested in violation of any and all laws applicable to harvesting in that location or jurisdiction including the acquisition of the harvesting rights from the rightful owner; the harvesting methods used and the payment of all relevant fees and royalties.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-012 V1-1

Indicator

A quantitative or qualitative variable which can be measured or described, and which provides a means of judging whether a forest management unit complies with the requirements of an FSC Criterion. Indicators and the associated thresholds thereby define the requirements for responsible forest management at the level of the forest management unit and are the primary basis of forest evaluation.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-002 V2-1

Indigenous peoples

"The existing descendants of the peoples who inhabited the present territory of a country wholly or partially at the time when persons of a different culture or ethnic origin arrived there from other parts of the world, overcame them and, by conquest, settlement, or other means reduced them to a non-dominant or colonial situation; who today live more in conformity with their particular social, economic and cultural customs and traditions than with the institutions of the country of which they now form a part, under State structure which incorporates mainly the national, social and cultural characteristics of other segments of the population which are predominant." (Working definition adopted by the UN Working Group on Indigenous Peoples).

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF)

High Conservation Value Forests are those that possess one or more of the following attributes:

- a) forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant :
 - concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or
 - large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- b) forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.
- c) forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).
- d) forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Landscape

A geographical mosaic composed of interacting ecosystems resulting from the influence of geological, topographical, soil, climatic, biotic and human interactions in a given area.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Landscape level requirements

Requirements of the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard that are implemented at the level of the group entity in a forest management group (e.g. protection of representative samples of ecosystems, protection of high conservation values).

FSC Source: FSC-STD-30-005 V1-0

Local laws

Includes all legal norms given by organisms of government whose jurisdiction is less than the national level, such as departmental, municipal and customary norms.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Long term

The time-scale of the forest owner or manager as manifested by the objectives of the management plan, the rate of harvesting, and the commitment to maintain permanent forest cover. The length of time involved will vary according to the context and ecological conditions, and will be a function of how long it takes a given ecosystem to recover its natural structure and composition following harvesting or disturbance, or to produce mature or primary conditions.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Means of verification

A potential source of information or evidence that allows an auditor to evaluate compliance with an indicator.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-002 V2-1

Multiple FMU certification

A certification for which the scope includes more than one forest management unit (FMU) managed by the same forest management enterprise.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-012 V1-1

Multi-site organization

An organisation that has an identified central office and a network of at least two sites. Products from these sites or from identified sets of sites covered by a multi-site certificate must be substantially of the same kind, and must be produced or handled according to fundamentally the same methods and procedures.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Native species

A species that occurs naturally in the region; endemic to the area.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Natural cycles

Nutrient and mineral cycling as a result of interactions between soils, water, plants, and animals in forest environments that affect the ecological productivity of a given site.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Natural Forest

Forest areas where many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems such as complexity, structure and diversity are present, as defined by FSC approved national and regional standards of forest management.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Non-compliance

Any failure to meet the threshold requirement(s) of an indicator.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-002 V2-1

Non-timber forest products

All forest products except timber, including other materials obtained from trees such as resins and leaves, as well as any other plant and animal products.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Origin

Forest area where the trees for the wood or fibre were harvested

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Other forest types

Forest areas that do not fit the criteria for plantation or natural forests and which are defined more specifically by FSC-approved national and regional standards of forest stewardship.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Percentage system

A Chain of Custody system applied at the product group level which allows all outputs to be sold with a percentage claim that corresponds to the proportion of FSC and post-consumer input over a certain period in time.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Pest

Organisms, which are harmful or perceived as harmful and as prejudicing the achievement of management goals. Some pests, especially introduced exotics, may also pose serious ecological threats, and suppression may be recommended. They include animal pests, plant weeds, pathogenic fungi and other micro-organisms.

FSC Source: FSC-POL-30-001

Pesticide

Any substance or preparation prepared or used in protecting plants or wood or other plant products from pests; in controlling pests; or in rendering such pests harmless. (This definition includes insecticides, rodenticides, acaricides, molluscicides, larvaecides, fungicides and herbicides).

FSC Source: FSC-POL-30-001

Plantation

Forest areas lacking most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems as defined by FSC-approved national and regional standards of forest stewardship, which result from the human activities of either planting, sowing or intensive silvicultural treatments.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Post-consumer reclaimed material

Material that is reclaimed from a consumer or commercial product that has been used for its intended purpose by individuals, households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Precautionary approach

Tool for the implementation of the precautionary principle.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Pre-consumer reclaimed material

Material that is reclaimed from a process of secondary manufacture or further downstream industry, in which the material has not been intentionally produced, is unfit for end use and not capable of being re-used on-site in the same manufacturing process that generated it.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Primary manufacturing

Any processing that transforms roundwood into materials other than roundwood. For chip and fibre products, primary manufacturing includes the pulp mill as well as the paper mill stage.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Principle

An essential rule or element; in FSC's case, of forest stewardship.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Procedure

A specified way to carry out an activity or process. Procedures can be documented or not.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Product group

A product or group of products specified by the organization, which share basic input and output characteristics and thus can be combined for the purpose of FSC Chain of Custody control, percentage calculations and labelling according to the FSC material categories: FSC Pure, FSC Mixed, FSC Recycled or FSC Controlled Wood.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Product type

A general description of outputs based on a categorization or classification system.

Examples of product types according to the FSC product classification are: 'logs of coniferous wood', 'wood charcoal', 'chemical wood pulp', 'garden furniture', or 'particle board'.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Reclaimed material

Material that demonstrably would have otherwise been disposed of as waste or used for energy recovery, but has instead been collected and reclaimed as input material, in lieu of virgin material, for re-use, recycling, re-milling in a manufacturing process or other commercial application.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Resource Management Unit (RMU)

Set of FMUs managed by the same managerial body (e.g. the same resource manager).

FSC Source: FSC-STD-30-005 V1-0

Resource Manager

Person or organization that has been given the responsibilities by forest owners for the utilization of their forest resources, including operational planning and harvesting operations.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-30-005 V1-0

Salvaged wood

Wood that has been felled for reasons other than obtaining its lumber, or which was felled for its lumber and subsequently lost or abandoned. Examples include lake/river salvage (logs/timber that sank to the bottom of a river or lake while being transported), wood from orchard clearance, wood from road clearance and urban harvested wood.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Silviculture

The art of producing and tending a forest by manipulating its establishment, composition and growth to best fulfil the objectives of the owner. This may, or may not, include timber production.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Site (in the context of chain of custody)

A single functional unit of an organisation or a combination of units situated at one locality, which is geographically distinct from other units of the same organisation or the associated network.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-003 V1-0

SLIMF (small or low intensity managed forest)

A forest management unit which meets specific FSC requirements related to size and/or intensity.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-012 V1-1

Stakeholder

Any individual or group whose interests are affected by the way in which a forest is managed.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-30-010 V2-0

Succession

Progressive changes in species composition and forest community structure caused by natural processes (nonhuman) over time.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Supplier

Individual, company or other legal entity providing goods or services to a Chain of Custody operation.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Tenure

Socially defined agreements held by individuals or groups, recognized by legal statutes or customary practice, regarding the "bundle of rights and duties" of ownership, holding, access and/or usage of a particular land unit or the associated resources there within (such as individual trees, plant species, water, minerals, etc).

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Threatened species

Any species which is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Transfer system

A Chain of Custody system applied at the product group level, which allows outputs to be sold with an FSC claim that is identical to the material category and, if applicable, the associated percentage claim or credit claim with the lowest FSC or post-consumer input per input volume.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Use rights

Rights for the use of forest resources that can be defined by local custom, mutual agreements, or prescribed by other entities holding access rights. These rights may restrict the use of particular resources to specific levels of consumption or particular harvesting techniques.

Very limited portion

The area affected shall not exceed 0.5% of the area of the FMU in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% of the area of the FMU.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-30-010 V2-0