

Forest Stewardship Council



**Requirements for an FSC
Standard Setting Process**

FSC Mission Statement



The FSC shall promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.

A Standard is ...



*An acknowledged measure of comparison
for quantitative or qualitative value.*

American Heritage Dictionary (1980)

...In FSC a national standard describes what we expect
to find in a well managed forest operation in the country
concerned

OHT 7

Advantages of Woodmark Generic Standard



- FSC -endorsed standard - meets all requirements
- ready for immediate application
- can be adapted for local use - and can be basis for
development of local standards
- Proven successful use across the world
- available in several languages

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Advantages of having a National Standard



- Agreed approach to best practice in region
- Standard with endorsement of stakeholders
- Local familiarity with standards
- Local relevance
- Equivalence across Certification Bodies

- EXAMPLE: UK Woodland Assurance Standard

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Why National Initiatives ?



National Initiatives are vital for the long-term growth and stability of FSC. They have two main objectives:

- Encourage local participation and bring local input in forest certification processes especially developing local standards

- Help decentralize FSC activities

OHT 4

Work of an FSC National Initiative

- Develop Standards

- 2 Promote FSC including use of the logo
- 3 Communicate widely between stakeholders and FSC

OHT 6

FSC National Initiatives

Following countries have already developed National Initiatives and are either FSC endorsed or are working towards endorsement.

1. Belgium	10. Germany	18. Peru
2. Bolivia	11. Ghana	19. Poland
3. Brazil	12. Ireland	20. Romania
4. Cameroun	13. Italy	21. Spain
5. Canada	14. Mexico	22. Sweden
6. Colombia	15. Nicaragua	23. United Kingdom
7. Denmark	16. Netherlands	24. United States
8. Estonia	17. Papua New Guinea	
9. Finland		July 2001

OHT 2

What is FSC expecting?



FSC accepts and endorses national standards when they meet certain requirements:

- 1. Process
- 2. Content

One without the other is unlikely to work well

Basic process requirements for FSC standards



- Shared ownership
- Clear procedures
- Fair decision making
- Transparency and accountability
- Adequate participation and representation
- Mechanism for revision
- Grievance procedure
- Harmonization

Basic content requirements for FSC standards



- Follow the structure of the FSC P&C
- Key regional issues are addressed by specific indicators e.g. old growth protection or exotic species
- Clear and specific enough to be used in a forest assessment by certifier

Process: A Commonsense Approach



- Identify key stakeholders
- If in doubt, include in consultation
- Communicate with FSC from the start
- Establish a balanced working group
- Hire a professional to write standards
- Be open and transparent
- Communicate with stakeholders
- Start with FSC Principles and Criteria
- Make standards feasible and cost effective
- Follow FSC manual

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Five Questions Before We Get Started



- 1 What do you want to achieve?
- 2 Who will be involved?
- 3 How will it work?
- 4 How long will it take?
- 5 How will you meet the costs?

OHT 5

Why Consult?



- transparency and accountability
- structure for input from stakeholders
- produce national standards that are acceptable to the broadest possible range of stakeholders

OHT 16

Tips for Making Consultation Work



- 1 List people who should be consulted
- 2 Too many voices rather than too few
- 3 Ask those on list if they are prepared to be consulted
- 4 Increase the list in areas that are under-represented
5. Put invitations in writing

OHT 17.1

Tips for Making Consultation Work



- 6 Allow at least a month for responses
- 7 At least a year for the consultation process and revision of drafts
- 8 Show you take input seriously
- 9 Test standards in the field
- 10 Work with neighbouring countries/regions

OHT 17.2

Who Do We Need?



- How many people do we need in a working group?
- Which groups/people should be included?
- How can you ensure that no sector feels excluded?

OHT 11


Resolving Disputes



- Decide on a dispute resolution process:
 - in advance of trouble
 - Fair
 - Transparent
 - Balanced
- Ask other working groups how they do it
- Refer to FSC's own process for complaints / disputes
- Procedures for reviewing and amending standards

OHT 18


Content: Key questions to ask about your standards text



- Will it deliver good forest management?
- Does it include the FSC *Principles and Criteria*?
- Can an inspector use it to reach a clear decision in a cost effective inspection?
- Do responsible forest managers consider it feasible and practical?
- Is it fair to both small and large ?
- Would it work in all locations and forest types?

OHT 9

A Hierarchical Framework



STANDARD	→	Principle	Provided by FSC in <i>Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship</i>
	→	Criteria	
	→	Indicator	Developed as part of National Initiative
	→	Verifier	

OHT 13

Improving a Draft Standard



“Sufficient public access should be encouraged where appropriate”

- What is wrong with this text?
- How could it be improved?
- What means of verification could be used?

OHT 15

Potential Problems



- 1 Volume of work and time
- 2 Funding
- 3 Lack of input from key organisations
- 4 Determining the relative weight of different interests
- 5 Flexibility versus audit-ability
- 6 Resolving what cannot be resolved

OHT 19

Keeping FSC informed



Keep FSC fully informed from the beginning - this saves a lot of frustration and remedial work later on

Don't send your standard to FSC days before a board meeting asking for it to be endorsed at that meeting!

OHT 23

What FSC can do for you?



- Guidance documents
- Feedback on standards
- Training and advice on standards, logo use
- Network of FSC National Initiatives
- May be able to assist with funding for some countries
- Representation of FSC at vital meetings

.....But resources are very limited at present

Top Ten Tips



- 1 Complete transparency and openness to new ideas
- 2 Working groups with a real balance of interests
- 3 Genuine consultation
- 4 Standards written by professionals
- 5 Ambitious but realistic timetable and budget
- 6 Mutual respect
- 7 Humour
- 8 Commitment
- 9 Effective communication
- 10 Efficient organisation

OHT 25

Useful References



- FSC National Initiatives Manual (1998) Free on request from FSC fscoax@fscoax.org
- FSC Standards Survival Guide (Revised 2001), Hannah Scrase and Anders Lindhe, Taiga Rescue Network - Free on request from TRN - info@taigarescue.org
- Principles, Criteria and Indicators, E. M. Lammerts van Bueren, 1997, Tropenbos, Netherlands - tropenbos@iac.agro.nl
- Criteria and Indicators Toolbox Series, 1999, CIFOR 10 Volumes including CD Rom (Free on request from CIFOR- cifor@cgiar.org)
- 3-6 Day training course: Working with your Stakeholders - Resolving conflict and building consensus on environmental issues, Environment Council, UK