



Supply Chain Integrity Program

Delivering a stronger and more
simple CoC system

Introducing the FSC Supply Chain Integrity Program

FSC celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2014. Over two decades our system has grown, evolved and delivered benefits to organizations worldwide. Many businesses now rely on the FSC system as a core part of their business.

Many things have changed in the world over the last twenty years. The speed and global scale of business transactions and the utilization of technology have all accelerated at a breathtaking pace.

At the same time, luckily, a much larger variety of companies now see it as part of their responsibility to help take care of forests worldwide through the products they procure and produce.

Where our system might have fit the profile of certified companies 15 years ago, because their setup and needs were similar, this is often is no longer the case.

After 20 years it is time to revise the FSC system and ensure that it is still relevant for the users it is intended for, and that it still fits its purpose: to provide organizations and consumers worldwide an assurance of the responsible sources of forest products they buy and sell.

We must evolve and improve our ability to adapt our system to fit the needs and realities of a much larger multitude of companies. We must make our system more flexible and ensure that being FSC certified does not interfere with being effective and utilizing the technological solutions at hand today.

And we must strengthen our system to protect it and our stakeholders against companies and individuals with malevolent intentions.

In short we need to improve in two critical areas:

A. CoC certification must be more versatile to match the diversity of industry participating in the FSC system

CoC certification must deliver credibility in a more flexible manner by using risk-based approaches to meet certification requirements in a more effective way.

Often we find ourselves asking organizations to meet requirements that do not really fit their systems instead of focusing on the areas where there might or might not be a risk of non-conformities. As a result the system is overly bureaucratic, especially for small and medium size organizations.

B. The current FSC CoC system must deliver a high level of assurance and credibility

Overall, our current CoC system is built on trust. It was built for responsible businesses with long-term business relationships with their suppliers and a high level of knowledge of the supply chain.

With more than 50,000 organizations certified worldwide and the rapidly growing and changing nature of business transactions today, one needs to ask whether the system in use today is still fit for purpose.

We want to ensure that the FSC system works for the business world of today and is adaptable to future changes. As a result, the FSC Supply Chain Integrity Program has been launched with the aim of creating a stronger and more effective certification system for companies of all sizes.

Focus on user orientation and outcome

At the FSC International General Assembly in Seville 2014 there was a strong call from members and stakeholders for FSC to become more user oriented and to focus much more on outcomes. There was also a call to collaborate with strong alliances with other organizations with missions similar to ours to a larger extent than we have done to date. We have heard this call and built them into three core commitments of work for the next five years.

As a result we commit to putting the needs of our users at the centre of all changes we introduce. We must limit the changes suggested to changes that either improve the FSC system for the majority of users or which ensures measurable impact on the ground. And we must change the FSC system from being a system with a strong emphasis on rules into a system that focus on user orientation and outcome, including risk-based approaches to the maximum extent possible.

Two focus areas comprised of 8 projects

The FSC Supply Chain Integrity Program will focus on two areas, each comprised of a number of different projects and will run from beginning of 2015 onwards. It is a joint program carried out across various units of FSC International and the FSC Network. Each project has its own implementation plan, project lead and timelines.

The program is closely aligned with the draft strategic plan and the implementation hereof. The pace of implementation of each project will be dependent on resources and timelines allocated based on the strategic plan, which is expected to win approval in Autumn 2015. Some projects under the program have, however, already commenced in order to ensure faster implementation.

A. Transform Trademark service program & CoC certification to be user oriented



B. Address inaccurate claims in FSC System



FSC is...



Environmentally appropriate

forest management ensures that the harvest of timber and non-timber products maintains the forest's biodiversity, productivity, and ecological processes.



Socially beneficial

forest management helps both local people and society at large to enjoy long term benefits and also provides strong incentives to local people to sustain the forest resources and adhere to long-term management plans.



Economically viable

forest management means that forest operations are structured and managed so as to be sufficiently profitable, without generating financial profit at the expense of the forest resource, the ecosystem, or affected communities.

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