



PSU Review Report

of

FSC-STD-20-007 V3-0

Forest management evaluations

Status:	Draft review report for consultation
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PSU Review Report

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, not for profit, non-government organization established to promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests. FSC's vision is that the world's forests meet the social, ecological, and economic rights and needs of the present generation without compromising those of future generations.

Summary and recommendation

Reviewed Document

Document code	FSC-STD-20-007 V3-0 EN Forest management evaluations FSC-STD-20-007a (V1-0) EN Forest management evaluations addendum – Forest certification reports FSC-STD-20-007b (V1-0) EN Forest management evaluations addendum – Forest certification public summary reports
Document title	Forest management evaluations
Objective of document	FSC forest management certification is designed to provide a credible guarantee that all Forest Management Units (FMUs) included in the scope of the certificate comply with the requirements of the Forest Stewardship Standard specified on the certificate. Evaluation is based on the certification body's observations of the means of verification for each Indicator of the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard. The means of verification include study of documentation and records, field observations, and interviews with managers, employees, contractors and other stakeholders. Observations may be collected over a wide area including many different sites and many different means of verification. The objective of this standard is to clarify the principles to be followed by certification bodies when sampling FMUs and sites and integrating the observations to come to a reliable certification decision.
Last approval date	31 August 2009
Review triggered by	☒ Regular review as scheduled
	☐ GA Motion or Board decision
	☒ New or changed FSC policies or legislation
	☐ Change Requests
	☒ Other (please specify): Changes in other normative framework documents
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Draft Review Report	9 Oct 2019
Public consultation	15 Oct – 15 Nov 2019
Final Review Report	

Recommendation

☒	Full revision
☐	Minor revision ¹
☐	Editorial revision
☐	No revision
☐	Withdrawal

¹ According to *FSC-PRO-01-001 V3-1* Annex 4

Note

If the need for revision is concluded by PSU and supported by stakeholders, the report will be presented to the FSC Board of Directors for decision making. If approved by the FSC Board, the reviewed document will then undergo a revision process as described in procedure *FSC-PRO-01-001 V3-1*.

I. Introduction

This report has been developed according to *FSC-PRO-01-001 V3-1* Clause 9.6 to review (assess) the continued relevance and effectiveness of a normative document. This is a mandatory step before a normative document can be taken to a revision process.

II. Proposed recommendation and justification

PSU recommends a full revision of FSC's main standard regulating the auditing of responsible forest management: *FSC-STD-20-007 Forest management evaluations*, and the associated addenda *FSC-STD-20-007a Forest certification reports* and *FSC-STD-20-007b Forest certification public summary reports*.

The objective of this standard is to clarify the principles to be followed by certification bodies when sampling MUs and sites and integrating the observations to come to a reliable certification decision. Certification bodies must comply with the requirements of this standard for all forest management evaluations, including pre-, main and re-evaluations of single forest management units, forest management groups, and single legal entities managing multiple forest management units. It is also used as a normative document for FSC accreditation.

Revision of FSC-STD-20-007 is part of the streamlining efforts of the FSC Normative Framework (i.e., Strategy 1 of the Global Strategic Plan 2015-2020), aiming at making it more effective, outcome-oriented and risk based.

Global Strategic Plan also requires that the social, environmental and economic impacts of FSC are monitored, evaluated, reported on, widely communicated, and used to inform decision making. For that purpose, the contents of forest management audit reports must be re-assessed and digitized, to ensure standardization and relevance of data gathered during certification process.

In addition, the revision process is considered necessary, because some fundamental changes have been introduced to the FSC normative framework since the approval of current version of the 20-007 standard in 2009. New, or revised documents include:

- FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship
- FSC-STD-60-004 International Generic Indicators
- FSC-STD-20-006 Stakeholder consultation for forest evaluations
- FSC-POL-30-001 FSC Pesticides Policy
- FSC-PRO-30-006 Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact demonstration and market tools
- FSC-PRO-60-007 Structure, Content and Development of Interim National Standards
- FSC-PRO-60-008 Incorporating a risk-based approach in the development and revision process of National Forest Stewardship Standards
- FSC-GUI-60-002 Guideline for Standard Developers for addressing risk of unacceptable activities regarding scale and intensity
- FSC-GUI-60-005 Promoting Gender Equality in National Forest Stewardship Standards
- 19 Advice Notes and 56 interpretations for forest management evaluations
- Motion 45 (GA2014) called for transparency and consistency in the public reporting of evaluations and templates for that purpose

Also, FSC-STD-30-005 FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups and FPIC Guideline are under revision and the HCV Guidelines are approved and will be published soon.

PSU conducted also a “Safeguards to Risky Areas” survey by 2013-214, with a public consultation and a side-event in General Assembly in Seville. The study resulted several revision recommendations to the FSC-STD-20-007.

Topics to be addressed in the revision process include:

- Incorporating risk-based assurance models
- Assessing scale, intensity and risk (SIR)
- Assessing NTFPs
- Differentiated sampling for group certification, e.g. by activity and size; - Activity: Active versus passive management units and differentiation in sample size related to groups
- Conformity evaluation with National Forest Stewardship Standards having risk-based approach classification of indicators
- Pre-evaluations in risky areas
- The contents and digitizing of forest management audit reports

III. Impact analysis

The revision of FSC-STD-20-007 is expected to have cross-cutting and in-depth impacts to the entire FSC system, such as:

- Auditors: Revised and digitized reporting, use of risk-based approach, clarified sampling rules, operating rules in risky areas (armed conflicts, epidemics) will simplify, strengthen and guide the work of auditors
- Forest managers: The administrative burden for collecting data, which has low relevance to the outcomes of the forest management, will be reduced, particularly for small holders,
- Standard Development Groups: Risk based approach used for classifying the indicators in national standards will be implemented in the audits,
- Strategic planning: digitized audit reports will enable aggregating information of the impacts and trends of FSC certified forest management. This information is essential for evidence-based planning and communication.
- FSC secretariat and FSC members: Targeted data and accessible data will help the secretariat and FSC members to monitor impacts of the FM standards and inform future revisions

IV. Stakeholder consultation and feedback

Methodology

Stakeholders are invited to provide comments and feedback on the review report from 15 October until 15 November 2019 via the FSC consultation platform.

Results

To be filled in following public stakeholder consultation