



Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC

Approved by the FSC Board of Directors at its 51st Meeting, July 2009

NOTE: Taking into account the feedback received through the final consultation and at the same time recognizing the importance of the Policy on Association for FSC's credibility, the FSC Board of Directors decided to approve Part I of the final draft, which contains the actual policy elements.

The FSC Board of Directors also decided that the new Policy and Standards Committee will further work to define the mechanisms necessary to ensure the adequate implementation of the policy. This work is expected to start already in 2009 and should be considered as a high priority by the committee.

Policy elements

Introduction

FSC's mission is to promote the environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests. It is increasingly recognized that association between FSC and organizations that are involved in unacceptable forest-related activities is harmful to FSC's reputation and ultimately to its ability to deliver on its mission. In order to address this concern, in March 2007 the FSC Board of Directors mandated the FSC International Center to develop criteria for the association of third parties with FSC.

Through this policy FSC expects to be able to identify organizations not committed to the basic fundamentals of responsible forest management and prevent them from misusing their association with FSC. It is especially relevant, but not limited to, the granting and maintenance of FSC trademark licenses and FSC certificates to organizations associated with FSC through forest management, chain of custody and/or controlled wood FSC certification.

Unacceptable Activities

FSC will only allow its association with organizations that are not directly or indirectly involved in the following unacceptable activities:

- a) Illegal logging or the trade in illegal wood or forest products
- b) Violation of traditional and human rights in forestry operations
- c) Destruction of high conservation values in forestry operations
- d) Significant conversion of forests to plantations or non-forest use
- e) Introduction of genetically modified organisms in forestry operations
- f) Violation of any of the ILO Core Conventions¹

¹ As defined in the *ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work*.