

FSC INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

Forest management evaluations addendum –
Forest certification public summary reports
FSC-STD-20-007b (V1-0) EN



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**FOREST MANAGEMENT EVALUATIONS ADDENDUM –
FOREST CERTIFICATION PUBLIC SUMMARY REPORTS**

FSC-STD-20-007B (V1-0) EN

FINAL VERSION

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

INTRODUCTION

Forest management may affect large areas of land providing homes and livelihoods for many people, habitat for rare and endangered plants and animals, and basic environmental services to a wide surrounding area. Forest management requires the balancing of many, sometimes competing interests and objectives.

The social impacts of forest management mean that forest management is a social as well as a technical activity. It is not possible to involve all stakeholders in every forest evaluation. It is therefore essential that forest certification and its results should be open to public scrutiny. This is the only way to demonstrate to all interested or affected parties that the certification decisions are justified and acceptable. It is a basic requirement of the FSC scheme that certification bodies make a summary report of each certified forest operation publicly available.

For those forests designated as Small or Low Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMFs) only very basic information is required. For larger operations more detailed information is expected.

1 General requirements

- 1.1 The certification body shall prepare a forest certification public summary report for each forest management enterprise or group entity to which a certificate is issued in accordance to the requirements specified in this standard.

NOTE: If the main evaluation report meets the content requirements for the public summary report and the main evaluation report is publicly available in accordance to the requirements of this standard for language and public availability, then there is no requirement to prepare an additional, separate, public summary.

2 Language(s)

- 2.1 Public certification summaries shall be made available in:

- a) one of the official languages of FSC for certificates that cover a total forest area of more than 1,000 ha in the scope¹, *and*
- b) at least one of the official language(s) of the country in which the certified forest management unit is located, or the most widely spoken language of the indigenous people in the area in which the certified forest management unit is located.

NOTE: FSC reserves the right to request a translation of any forest certification public summary report into one of the official languages of FSC, at the expense of the certification body.

3 Public availability

- 3.1 The forest certification public summary report (including translations as required) shall be published on the FSC database of registered certificates (www.fsc-info.org) before a certificate is issued or re-issued.
- 3.2 Annual updates (see Section 8, below) shall be added to the published summary report or published separately on the FSC database of registered certificates (www.fsc-info.org), no later than ninety (90) days after the on-site closing meeting at the end of a surveillance evaluation.

4 Units

- 4.1 Data presented in the reports should be in metric system units. If non metric system units are used the report shall provide conversion rates together with any assumptions made in order to make conversion into metric units possible.

5 Title page

- 5.1 The title page of the public summary report shall clearly identify:
- a) The name and contact details of the certification body, including contact person and website address

¹ Unless *all* the FMUs within the scope of the certificate meet the eligibility criteria for a 'small forest' (see *FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF eligibility criteria*).

- b) The date (format: day/ month/ year) the public summary was last updated
- c) The name and contact details of the certificate holder² and contact person
- d) The name and/or location of the certified forest area(s)³
- e) The FSC certificate registration code
- f) The dates of issue and expiry of the certificate
- g) The sequential information on the evaluation results presented in the report (e.g. “main evaluation”, “2nd surveillance”, “3rd surveillance”).

6 Certificate registration information⁴

- 6.1 The basic quantitative information for each certificate shall be entered or updated in the FSC database of registered certificates (www.fsc-info.org) at each evaluation as required by FSC.

7 Content

- 7.1 The report shall be short and concise and bring up the most important features and in the specific format outlined in this standard (as per Box 1 below). The report should be not more than 15-20 pages.
- 7.2 SLIMFs
The elements marked with an asterisk (*) in the table are NOT required in the case of certificates issued to single SLIMF FMUs.
- 7.3 Groups
Forest certification public summary reports for group certificates shall include an up-to-date list of all non-SLIMFs group members with name, contact details and the geographical location of their FMUs in the scope of the certificate, unless national legal restrictions do not allow publication of this kind of information (this needs to be specified in the public summary report).

Box 1

1 Description of forest management

- 1.1* A description of the forest, land use history and regional context
- 1.2 A general description of the management system (e.g., uneven-aged management, even-aged management, rotation length, silvicultural prescriptions);
- 1.3 A summary of the management plan, including a description of:
- 1.3.1 the management objectives;
 - 1.3.2 the forest resources (land use and ownership status, socio-economic

² In the case of group certification the certificate holder is the group entity.

³ In the case of group certification the region in which the group is located shall be specified.

⁴ FSC is developing a standardised template to facilitate submission of this information in a standard format and using standardised categories.

conditions, forest composition, profile of adjacent lands);

1.3.3 Geographical location of the non-SLIMFs FMU(s) in the scope of the certificate:

- i) Latitude E/W ### degrees ## minutes
- ii) Longitude N/S #### degrees ## minutes

NOTE: the coordinates should refer to the center of a FMU.

1.3.4 the management structures (e.g. management structure, division of responsibilities, use of contractors, provision of training, etc). implemented by the certificate holder;

1.3.5 the silvicultural and/or other management systems being implemented (incl. harvesting techniques and equipment, rationale for species selection);

1.3.6 the environmental safeguards;

1.3.7 the management strategy for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species;

1.3.8 the certificate holder's procedures for monitoring growth, yield and forest dynamics (incl. changes in flora and fauna), environmental and social impacts, and costs, productivity, and efficiency;

1.3.9 summarized quantitative data on the use of pesticides (names and quantities of pesticides applied, size of area treated annually).

1.4 A description of any area of forest which the certificate holder has chosen to exclude from the scope of the certificate together with an explanation of the reason for its exclusion and description of the controls that are in place to ensure that there is no risk of confusion being generated as to which activities or products are certified, and which are not.

2 Standard(s)

2.1 Reference to the standards used (e.g. locally adapted certification body generic standard, FSC-accredited national standard; *FSC-STD-30-005 Group forest certification: requirements for group managers*) including the version number and date of finalisation.

NOTE: The summary report shall include a statement and/or link to the website(s) where the standard(s) used can be downloaded or requested.

2.2* A description of the process of local adaptation of the standard, if applicable.

3 The evaluation process

3.1 The evaluation dates: (specify actual dates or month, year and duration);

3.2* A general description of the evaluation including, if applicable, pre-evaluation visits. The description should give an overview of what was audited, audit methods and time allocation when significant;

3.3* A general description of the consultation process with stakeholders.

4 Observations

4.1 A general presentation of the observations on which the certification decision is based, including:

4.1.1 a list of main strengths and weaknesses with respect to the overall conformity with the Forest Stewardship Standard used for the evaluation;

4.1.2* a summarized presentation of findings with clear information to enable the reader to make an easy correlation between the requirements of each of the criteria of the Forest Stewardship Standard used and the performance of the certified operation;

4.1.3* Clear and systematic presentation of the comments received from stakeholders (who are not members of the enterprise under evaluation) before, during or after the evaluation, and the corresponding follow-up action and conclusions from the certification body;

NOTE: similar stakeholder comments may be grouped by issues.

4.1.4* a description of any preconditions that had been issued, and the actions taken by the certificate holder to close out those preconditions prior to the issue of the certificate.

5 Certification decision

5.1 A clear statement that the forest has been certified by the certification body as meeting the requirements of the specified standard, the date of certification, and the expiry date of the certificate.

5.2 A list of all non-conformities that the managers are required to correct in order to maintain their certification, including the time course within which corrective actions shall be taken.

8 Updates

8.1 An update of the public summary report shall be made publicly available on the FSC database of registered certificates (www.fsc-info.org) within ninety (90) days after the last field day of each surveillance evaluation. Updates should be in the form of additional pages published separately or added to the original public summary.

8.2 Updates shall include at least the following information:

a) the date of the surveillance evaluation and a brief summary of the sites inspected;

b) a description of any significant changes in the management and/or harvesting methods;

c) quantitative data on the use of pesticides (names and quantities of pesticides applied, size of area treated since last audit);

d) a description of the actions taken by the certificate holder to correct any non-conformities identified at previous evaluations or subsequently;

- e) the certification body's conclusions as to whether the actions taken constitute full conformity with the requirements of the relevant elements of the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard and, if not, whether the remaining non-conformities is considered a 'minor' or 'major' non-conformity;
- f) description of any further non-conformities identified as a results of the surveillance audit;
- g) updated presentation of stakeholder comments as required in Clause 4.1.3 (Box 1, above);
- h) updated list of members in a group certificate (see Clause 7.3 above)
- i) statement of new conditions (requirement to correct all identified non-conformities);
- j) the updated certification decision.