

FSC® Advice Note

ADVICE-60-002-01 Stipulation of Controlled Wood Risk Designations by FSC International in case of Emergency Situations

Normative reference FSC-PRO-60-002 V3-0, Clauses 10.4 and 11.2
PSU-PRO-10-002 V1-0, Clause 8.5 and 8.6

Scope This advice note applies to FSC International in its oversight and approval role of National Risk Assessments (NRA) and Centralized National Risk Assessments (CNRA), collectively known as FSC risk assessments. It affects responsible bodies, NRA Working Groups, FSC partners, and CNRA consultants as defined in FSC -PRO-60-002 and PSU-PRO-10-002.

Approval FSC Director General, 8 March 2022

Effective date 8 March 2022

Background Recent geopolitical tensions have highlighted the need to refine the mechanisms for quickly responding to suddenly changing risk situations in areas covered by a valid FSC risk assessment.

Drastically changing conditions or governmental actions within areas covered by a valid FSC risk assessment could seriously undermine the integrity of the FSC certification scheme in general, and controlled wood in particular, if left unaddressed. Furthermore, these risks can also cause serious reputational harm to the FSC certification scheme and the FSC brand.

Therefore, FSC is introducing the option for FSC International to change the risk designations and control measures for relevant controlled wood indicators in NRAs and CNRAs through the urgent (NRA) and fast (CNRA) revision mechanisms.

NOTE: Changes to FSC risk assessments due to this Advice Note will be approved by the FSC international secretariat’s Policy Steering Group.

ADVICE 1. In the event of rapidly changing circumstances within the area covered by a valid FSC risk assessment, and when those changing circumstances pose a serious risk to the integrity or reputation of

the FSC certification scheme, FSC may revise FSC risk assessments by applying urgent (NRA) or fast (CNRA) revisions without the involvement of the responsible body (NRA) or a consultant (CNRA).

2. FSC may establish mandatory control measures for indicators with specified risk designations as per Clause 1 above in both NRAs and CNRAs.
3. FSC will inform the responsible body or FSC partner, as applicable, before publicizing the risk assessment revised as a result of the application of this Advice Note.
4. The application of this Advice Note shall be mentioned in the introductory pages of the revised FSC risk assessment.
5. The extraordinary change(s) to risk designations introduced by FSC as well as any newly established or revised control measures shall be attributed to FSC throughout the revised risk assessment, as applicable.