

ADV-FSC-01-003- 01_V1-0 Alignment of Forest Stewardship Standards (FSS) with international SLIMF Eligibility Criteria (FSC-STD-01-003 V2-0) for Management Units with non-timber forest products (NTFP) plantations.

Normative reference FSC-STD-01-003 V2-0, Clause 1.3.3

Scope This Advice Note is applicable to the FSS of the following countries:

1. Brazil (FSC-STD-BRA-1.1-2025 Plantations)
2. Bolivia (FSC-STD-BOL-02-2023 ES)
3. Canada (FSC-STD-CAN-01-2024-SIR EN)
4. Central America (FSC-STD-RCA-01-2023 ES)
5. Chile (FSC-STD-CHL-02-2024)
6. Colombia (FSC-STD-COL-02-2021 ES)
7. Ecuador (FSC-STD-ECU-01-2022 ES)
8. Mexico (FSC-STD-MEX-02-2021 ES)
9. Peru (FSC-STD-PER-02-2024)

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Background The revised version of the SLIMF and Community Forest Eligibility Criteria (FSC-STD-001-03 V2-0), effective 1 January 2024, introduced key changes compared to V1-0. One key change is that plantations of NTFPs can now be considered 'low intensity managed' under the provisions of Clause 1.3.1 and thus are eligible to qualify as SLIMF. This was not possible under FSC-STD-01-003 V1-0.

In addition, standard developers have the option to adapt the international eligibility criteria for a management unit with NTFPs in scope of certification for qualifying as SLIMF (see Clause 1.3.4).

The countries listed in the scope of this Advice Note had retained language from FSC-STD-01-003 V1-0 in their FSS, explicitly excluding NTFP plantations from SLIMF eligibility.

In response to the revised international criteria, the respective Standard Development Groups (SDGs) or national Boards have requested alignment of their FSS with V2-0 to enable recognition of NTFP plantations as SLIMF. Rather than conducting a minor revision of these nine FSS, it was decided to implement the alignment via this Advice Note.

ADVICE In the FSS of the countries listed in the scope, management units composed of plantations used exclusively to collect or harvest non-timber forest products (NTFP) are considered 'low intensity managed' and thus qualify as SLIMF.

Any provisions excluding NTFP plantations from qualifying as SLIMF, which are retained from FSC-STD-01-003 V1-0 in the respective FSS do no longer apply.
