Salvaged wood (specifically with uncertain or unknown origin) and trees from urban areas cannot be covered under the Forest Management and Controlled Wood Standards. The current version of FSC-STD-40-007 recognizes them as forestry waste, which is not accepted as reclaimed wood material.

Based on stakeholders’ feedback, FSC could consider allowing such materials to be recognized as controlled or, where this is not possible, as reclaimed material. Allowing additional materials into the FSC system, that would normally be disposed of as waste, can promote greater recovery and higher-value uses of these materials and help to reduce landfill disposal of recyclable materials. Ultimately, it has the potential benefit of reducing the pressure on forests for virgin material.

Co-products are the output produced during the process of primary manufacturing of another (principal) product from the same inputs (e.g., sawdust, chips generated during lumber processing). In order to use these co-products in the FSC system, the organization has to be able to trace them back to its origin (covered by the forest management or controlled wood standards). However, this is often not possible, which excludes a significant source of material from entering the FSC system.

Based on stakeholders’ feedback, FSC could reconsider its position on some co-products, and evaluate the possibility of using them as a reclaimed material.

FOR REFLECTION
- What would be the benefits, challenges and risks for the FSC system?
- How to better make use of opportunities and overcome potential barriers?
- Some proposals and next steps recommendations.

DATE AND TIME
20 September 2023 - 3 p.m. (CET)

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