



SYNOPSIS OF CONSULTATION FOR ALIGNMENT PROCESS

FSC-STD-20-012 V2-0 Controlled Forest Management
Evaluations

3/04/2024



FOREWORD

The revision of <[FSC-STD-30-010 V3-0 Controlled Forest Management](#)> was triggered by the [Strategy for FSC Mix products and Controlled Wood](#) which aims at reducing reliance of the FSC system on all forms of controlled wood and to enable the implementation of as a step towards forest management certification against the full set of requirements of the applicable locally adapted Forest Stewardship Standard (FSS). Following a two-year duration, the process reached its conclusion and was published on 1 January 2024 with the effective date of 1 July 2024.

Substantial changes on the Controlled Forest Management (CFM) standard necessitated the revision of its accreditation standard FSC-STD-20-012 V1-1 to align it with the new requirements. Given the transition of CFM standard from a risk-based approach to a conformance-based approach in version 3-0 wherein more than 70% of the indicators of <[FSC-STD-60-004 V2-1 International Generic Indicators](#)> were incorporated, the working group opted to adopt a similar approach for incorporating the key elements from <[FSC-STD-20-007 V4-0 Forest Management Evaluations](#)> to the FSC-STD-20-012 V2-0 Controlled Forest Management Evaluation Draft 1-0.

The alignment process of the <[FSC-STD-20-012 V2-0 Controlled Forest Management Evaluation](#)> conforms with the <[FSC-PRO-01-001 The Development and Revision of FSC Requirements](#)>, and particularly with the 'Section 12. Alignments between requirements'.

As required in FSC-PRO-01-001, a consultation lasting for 10 working days was organized from 01 March until 15 March 2024, mainly focusing to the Network Partners, Certification Bodies, ASI, Director General (PSG) and Policy and Standard Committee.

This document shows the synopsis of the feedback received during the focused consultation.

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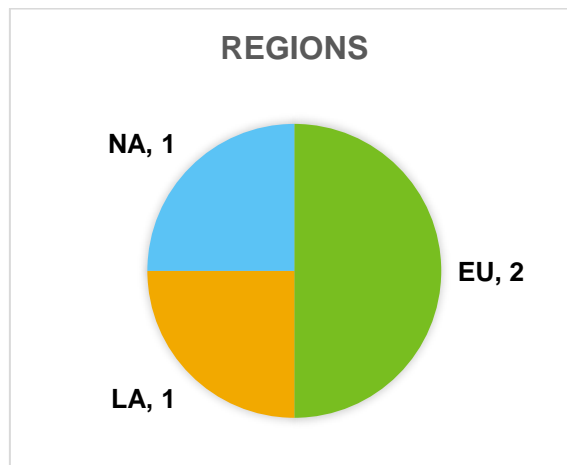
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES FOR THE CONSULTATION

Throughout the consultation period, a range of outreach activities were undertaken to actively engage stakeholders and encourage their participation. These activities included:

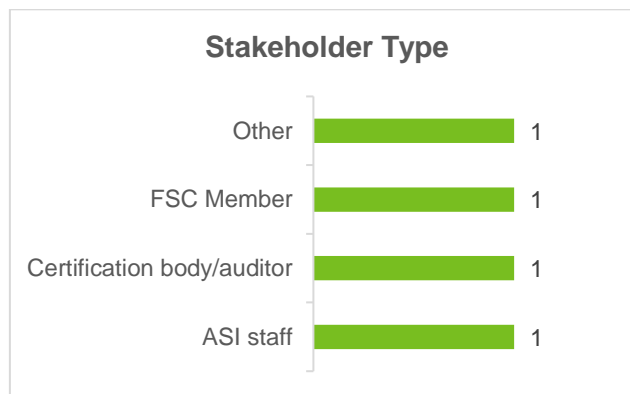
- **PSG & PSC:** Consultation materials were shared with PSG and PSC two weeks in advance.
- **Focused Consultation:** News item about the consultation was shared across multiple platforms, targeting various stakeholder groups. These various platforms were CB Forum, FSC Intranet and MS Team’s channels (OneFSC Global).

PARTICIPATION IN FOCUSED CONSULTATION

The focused consultation was launched on 01 March until 15 March 2024 and a total of 4 people participated. The breakdown of participants’ regions are as follows: two from EU (UK & Sweden), one from NA (Canada) and one from LA (Brazil).



Each participant belonged to a specific stakeholder group category, which consisted of four groups:



And two participants represented the economic north as FSC members, while the remaining two were non-members.



SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND FSC’S FEEDBACK

This section is structured to provide an overview of the level of agreement on the topics that were asked in the consultation platform. Each topic presents:

- a) **Questions asked**
- b) **Quantitative analysis:** indicating the level of agreement
- c) **Qualitative analysis:** including summaries of the key topics from the qualitative feedbacks and FSC’s comments to address them.

Topic 1: General Requirements

a) Questions in the consultation

Question 1: To what extent do you agree with the requirements included in Part 1 - General Requirements?
 Question 2: Please briefly explain your rationale and/or include suggestions for improvement.

b) Quantitative analysis

Questions -->	Q1	
Responses	Count	%
Strongly Agree	1	33%
Agree	2	67%
Neutral	0	0
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
Total	3	100%

c) Qualitative analysis

The response to the qualitative feedback is provided below.

Nr	Key Stakeholder Feedback	FSC's comment
1	This is clear and will be streamlining the system	No major changes will be made to the final version of the standard
2	Clause 1.2 is unclear. The certificate could have also been terminated or withdrawn. Suggestion to remove 'by a valid or expired'.	The feedback was incorporated, and the draft was revised.

Topic 2: Forest Management Evaluations

a) Questions in the consultation

Question 1: To what extent do you agree with the requirements included in Part 2 - Forest Management Evaluations?

Question 2: Please briefly explain your rationale and/or include suggestions for improvement.

b) Quantitative analysis

Questions -->	Q1	
Responses	Count	%
Strongly Agree	0	0
Agree	1	50%
Neutral	0	0
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	1	50%
Total	2	100%

c) Qualitative analysis

The response to the qualitative feedback is provided below.

Nr	Key Stakeholder Feedback	FSC's comment
1	The pre-evaluations for the step-up evaluation is an integrity risk and should not be allowed as an option. Indeed, the CFM CH should only have the option of a step-up evaluation. Having the opportunity to have a pre-evaluation will lead to impartiality issues as this would, in reality, be a practice for the step-up evaluation conducted by the CAB, which would be considered as consulting. If a CFM CH would like to know if they	Pre-evaluations for the step-up evaluation is not significantly bigger integrity risk than pre-evaluations for FM certification. It should not be seen as consulting, it is only aimed to indicate the potential gaps for entering full FM certification.

would be ready for the step-up evaluation, they can always hire a consultant for a mock or practice audit.

There are some important potential gaps for example in the implementation of FPIC requirements, adaptive management and in the use of pesticides and fertilizers.

2 9.5 should stay the same in 20-012 to maintain the integrity of the Scheme. Leaving it optional for CABs will lead to no consultation at all and would be of little meaning to leave it

As the pre-evaluation itself is optional, it is justifiable to keep also the consulting of key stakeholders voluntary.
Organizing the consultation for pre-evaluation could be a barrier for entering CFM certification, as it may require major effort including substantial economic input.

3 7.2 There should be a requirement for the step-up evaluation to happen early enough to enable a final report to be produced before the certification decision to grant Full FM certification.

7.2 requires completing step-up evaluation prior to the expiry of CFM certification and 7.3.c requires an evaluation report for the step-up evaluation.

Topic 3: Certification Decision

a) Questions in the consultation

Question 1: To what extent do you agree with the requirements included in Part 3 - Certification Decision?

Question 2: Please briefly explain your rationale and/or include suggestions for improvement.

b) Quantitative analysis

Questions -->	Q1	
Responses	Count	%
Strongly Agree	1	55%
Agree	1	55%
Neutral	0	0
Disagree	0	0
Strongly disagree	0	0
Total	2	100%

c) Qualitative analysis

The response to the qualitative feedback is provided below.

Nr	Key Stakeholder Feedback	FSC's comment
1	This is clear and will be streamlining the system	No major changes will be made to the final version of the standard

Topic 4: Reporting

a) Questions in the consultation

Question 1: To what extent do you agree with the requirements included in Part 4 – Reporting?

Question 2: Please briefly explain your rationale and/or include suggestions for improvement.

b) Quantitative analysis

Questions --> Responses	Q1	
	Count	%
Strongly Agree	0	0
Agree	1	55%
Neutral	0	0
Disagree	1	55%
Strongly disagree	0	0
Total	2	100%

c) Qualitative analysis

The response to the qualitative feedback is provided below.

Nr	Key Stakeholder Feedback	FSC's comment
1	9.1 (17.4) should not be removed from 20-012. This is important for FSC and ASI to have access to information in English.	Clause 17.4 of FSC-STD-20-007 was dropped because the digital reporting template is not directly applicable to CFM. The intention is that the evaluation report and the public summary are translated to the official languages of FSC only when requested, in order to save the costs



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