

What are the impacts of FSC in forests?



Background

FSC regularly and systematically reviews independent impact evaluations of FSC forest management certification, led and published by scholars. The publications are curated and added to the **FSC Research Portal**, and their key findings are presented in the **FSC Impact Dashboard** (below).

FSC Impact Dashboard

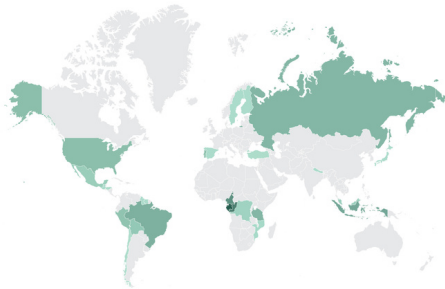
A compilation of findings from independent comparative studies reporting on the effects of FSC certification.

FSC-certified vs uncertified logged forests

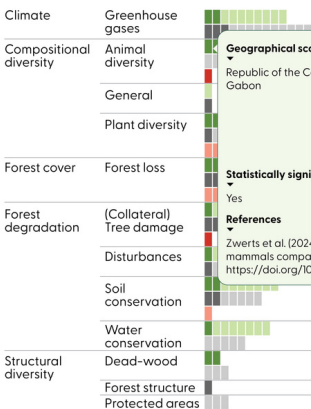
Publication year: 2004-2024

Statistically significant: All

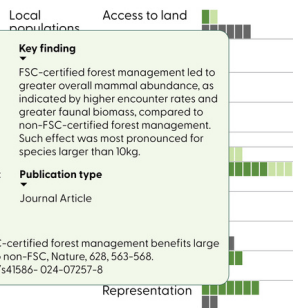
Peer reviewed: All



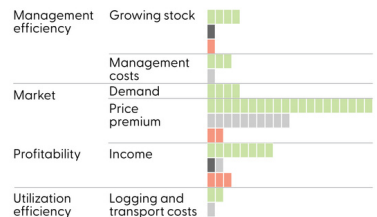
Environmental topics



Social topics



Economic topics



Most recent evidence on impacts of FSC certification on biodiversity and climate

"Vascular plant richness exhibited significantly higher values in FSC certified areas (in comparison to non-certified areas)"
Matias et al., 2024, p. 1

"Our data provide strong evidence that FSC-certified forest management results in higher overall mammal abundance, as approximated by encounter rate and faunal biomass relative to non-FSC forest management. This effect was most pronounced for species larger than 10kg"
Zwerts et al., 2024, p. 565

"The soundscapes of FSC-certified concessions resembled national parks (selectively logged 20+ years ago) more so than non-certified forests"
Yoh et al., 2024, p. 1

"This study ... observed enhanced carbon stocks and higher species richness in the FSC Certified Community Forests (in comparison with non-certified Community Forests)"
Charmakar et al., 2021, p. 214

References

- Charmakar, S., Oli, B. N., Joshi, N. R., Moraseni, T. N., & Atreya, K. (2021). Forest Carbon Storage and Species Richness in FSC Certified and Non-certified Community Forests in Nepal. *Small-Scale Forestry*, 20(2), 199-219. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11842-020-09464-3>
- Matias, G., Cagnacci, F., & Rosalino, L. M. (2024). FSC forest certification effects on biodiversity: A global review and meta-analysis. *Science of The Total Environment*, 908, 168296. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.168296>
- Yoh, N., Mbamy, W., Gottesman, B. L., Froese, G. Z. L., Satchivi, T., Obiang Ebanga, M., Carlson, L., Koto, S. E., Özdoğan, M., Seaman, D. J. I., Maicher, V., Malinowski, H., Poulsen, J., Ebang Mbele, A., & Buřivalova, Z. (2024). Impacts of logging, hunting, and conservation on vocalizing biodiversity in Gabon. *Biological Conservation*, 296, 110726. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2024.110726>
- Zwerts, J.A., Sterck, E.H.M., Verweij, P.A. et al. FSC-certified forest management benefits large mammals compared to non-FSC. *Nature* 628, 563-568 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-07257-8>

Research Portal



Impact Dashboard

