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

Direction of result	Level of evidence	
	More robust	Weaker
Positive		
Inconclusive		
Negative		

Environmental topics

Greenhouse

Climate

Number of findings



Economic topics

Utilization

aases Geographical scope Compositional diversity diversity Republic of the Congo FSC-certified forest management led to greater overall mammal abundance, as indicated by higher encounter rates and General greater faunal biomass, compared to Plant diversity non-FSC-certified forest management. Such effect was most pronounced for species larger than 10kg. Forest cover Forest loss Statistically significant **Publication type** Journal Article Yes Forest (Collateral) References degradation Tree damage Zwerts et al. (2024). FSC-certified forest management benefits large mammals compared to non-FSC, Nature, 628, 563-568 https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-07257-8 Disturbances Representation conservation

Social topics

Access to land

Local

Management efficiency Growing stock Management costs Management costs Market Demand Price premium Profitability Income

Logging and

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)"

Water conservation

Dead-wood

Forest structure Protected areas

Matias et al., 2024, p. 1

Structural

diversity

*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**
Zwets et al., 2024, p. 565

"The soundscapes of FSC-certified concessions resembled national parks (selectively lagged 20+ years ago) more so than non-certified forests" Yohetal., 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)" Charmokar etal, 2021, p.24

Reference

Charmolars, S., Oli, B. N., Joshi, N. R., Maraseni, T. N., & Atreya, K. (2021). Forest Carbon Storage and Species Richness in FSC Certified and Non-certified Community Forests in Nepal. Small-Scale Forestry, 2012, 199–728. https://doi.org/10.1007/s1842-020-079464-3 Moltios, G., Caganacci, F. & Rostolina, C. M. (2024). FSC Forest certification effects on biodiversity: A global review and meta-analysis. Science of The Total Environment, 908, 168296.

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