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SLIMF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

FSC-STD-01-003 (Version 1-0) EN

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The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, not for profit, non-government organisation based in Bonn, Germany.

The mission of the Forest Stewardship Council is to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

FSC develops, supports and promotes international, national and regional standards in line with its mission; evaluates, accredits and monitors certification bodies which verify the use of FSC standards; provides training and information; and promotes the use of products that carry the FSC logo.

Foreword

FSC recognises that the cost of independent, third party certification is relatively high for small enterprises. Moreover, the potential environmental and social impacts of small enterprises and those enterprises which are managed at low levels of harvesting are relatively low. In order to reduce the cost of certification for such small and low intensity managed forests (SLIMFs) FSC permits certification bodies to evaluate and report on these forests using streamlined certification procedures.

This standard has been developed to provide consistent definitions of 'small' and 'low intensity' managed forests for the purpose of implementing streamlined certification procedures.

The category of 'low intensity' forest operations is an experimental one. The intention behind the development of this category is to include those operations with very low intensity management and harvesting, such as non-timber forest product operations. The category definition will be reviewed and may be revised on the basis of further experience.

Notes on use of this standard

All aspects of this standard are considered to be normative, including the scope, standard effective date, references, terms and definitions, tables and annexes, unless otherwise stated.

Please send any comments or suggestions regarding this standard to:

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Contents

- A Scope
 - B Standard effective date
 - C References
 - D Terms and definitions
-
- 1 SLIMF eligibility criteria
 - 2 'Small' forest management units
 - 3 'low intensity' forest management units

A Scope

This standard shall be used by all FSC-accredited certification bodies and FSC-accredited National Initiatives for the purpose of defining small and low intensity managed forests (SLIMFs) eligible for application of streamlined certification procedures.

B Standard effective date

This standard may be used by certification bodies and FSC National Initiatives from 1st January 2004.

C References

- FSC-STD-01-002 FSC glossary of terms
- FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria - addendum

D Terms and Definitions

Terms and definitions are provided in *FSC-STD-01-002 FSC glossary of terms*. The following terms in particular are relevant to implementation of this standard: **forest management unit**, **SLIMF (small or low intensity managed forest)**, **SLIMF group**.

1 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria

- 1.1 A forest management unit shall qualify as a 'SLIMF' if it is either a 'small' forest management unit (as defined in this standard) OR managed as a 'low intensity' forest management unit (as defined in this standard).

2 'Small' forest management units

- 2.1 Forest management units may be classed as SLIMF units when they are 100 ha. or smaller in area or when they meet the requirements specified in 2.2 below.
- 2.2 Forest Management Units of up to 1000 ha. in area may be classed as SLIMF units when this is formally proposed by the FSC-accredited national initiative for the country concerned, or in countries in which there is no FSC-accredited national initiative when this has the demonstrated broad support of national stakeholders in the country concerned¹. Classifications proposed by certification bodies shall be superceded by any subsequent classification approved by the FSC-accredited national initiative for the country concerned.

¹ Broad support is currently defined as "Agreement characterised by a wide and strong majority in favour of a proposal. In terms of voting this is defined as a two thirds majority based on a quorum of 50% of the eligible votes cast" (draft 1-0 FSC-STD-60-006). The definition applied to this standard STD-01-003 shall be the definition developed during further consultation of FSC-STD-60-006, including any further changes.

2.3 FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria - addendum provides the definitive list of countries for which the definition of 'small' is larger than 100 ha.

2.4 Forest Management Units that do not qualify as 'small' may qualify as SLIMF units if they meet the requirements specified in section 3, below.

3 Low intensity forest management units

3.1 Forest management units may be classed as SLIMF units when:

- a) the rate of harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI)² within the total production forest area of the unit, AND
- b) EITHER the annual harvest from the total production forest area is less than than 5000 cubic metres,
- c) OR the *average* annual harvest from the total production forest is less than 5000 m³ / year during the period of validity of the certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits.

3.2 Forest management units from which non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are collected or harvested shall be evaluated as 'low intensity' on the basis of the timber harvest rate. A forest management unit consisting of natural forest in which only NTFPs are harvested would, therefore, qualify as a 'low intensity' FMU.

3.3 Plantations of non-timber forest products (e.g. oil palm plantations, cocoa plantations) shall not be considered low intensity forest management units within the meaning of this standard.

3.4 FSC-accredited national initiatives may develop additional criteria, and/or specify a lower threshold to define 'low intensity' more appropriately for their region. FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria - addendum provides the definitive list of countries for which the definition of 'low intensity' differs from that defined in 3.1 above.

² Where FMU-specific estimates of mean annual increment are unavailable or impractical regional estimates of growth rates for specific forest types may be used.