



Forest Stewardship Council®



Interpretations of the normative framework

Ecosystem Services
01 October 2020

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Procedures

PROCEDURE

FSC-PRO-30-006 V1-0 (2018) ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROCEDURE: IMPACT
DEMONSTRATION AND MARKET TOOL

PROCEDURE

FSC-PRO-30-006 V1-0 (2018) ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROCEDURE: IMPACT DEMONSTRATION AND MARKET TOOLS

Code	INT-PRO-30-006_01
Requirement (s)	FSC-PRO-30-006_V1-0_Clause 3.1
Publication date	04 August 2020
<p>Clause 3.1 (p.12 FSC-PRO-30-006 V1-0) states: “The conservation area network and areas outside the management unit: 3.1.1 Represent the full range of environmental values in the management unit; 3.1.2 Have sufficient size or functional connectivity to support natural processes; 3.1.3 Contain the full range of habitats present for focal species and rare and threatened species; and 3.1.4 Have sufficient size or functional connectivity with other suitable habitat to support viable populations of focal species, including rare and threatened species in the region”</p> <p>It does not make sense to ask FSC Certificate Holders to comply with requirements outside the management unit. How is this requirement to be interpreted?</p> <p>When the Organization wants to demonstrate the positive impact ES1.3 <i>Maintenance of an ecologically sufficient conservation area network</i>, they need to demonstrate that the conservation area network fulfils all above-mentioned Clauses (3.1.1-3.1.4). Scale is important for natural processes and biodiversity conservation to work.</p> <p>The Organization has two options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the conservation area network within their management unit is sufficient by itself to comply with Clause 3.1.1-3.1.4; or 2) the Organization links their conservation area network within their management unit to neighbouring conservation areas managed by others and as a result of being well-connected it is able to demonstrate the positive impact and comply with Clause 3.1.1-3.1.4. 	

Code	INT-PRO-30-006_02
Requirement (s)	FSC-PRO-30-006_V1-0_Clause 3.6
Publication date	04 August 2020
<p>The suggested carbon management practices in module 7 of the FSC Ecosystem Services Guidance (p.21-23, FSC-GUI-30-006 V1-0) are oriented towards tropical forests. How should this Clause be applied in non-tropical contexts?</p> <p>Clause 3.6 states that “Management activities maintain, enhance, or restore carbon storage in the forest, including through forest protection and reduced impact logging practices for carbon, as described in FSC-GUI-30-006 <i>FSC Guidance for Demonstrating Ecosystem Services Impacts</i>.”</p> <p>Besides the suggested carbon management practices in module 7 of the FSC Ecosystem Services Guidance (p.21-23, FSC-GUI-30-006 V1-0), the Organization is free to choose and implement other responsible forest management practices in case these are more suitable for their country and/ or local context to maintain, enhance and/or restore carbon storage in the forest.</p>	

Code	INT-PRO-30-006_03
Requirement (s)	FSC-PRO-30-006_V1-0_Clause 17
Publication date	04 August 2020
<p>Can ecosystem services (ES) be evaluated remotely via a desk audit?</p> <p>As the evaluation of the FSC Ecosystem Services Procedure follows the requirements as laid out in FSC-STD-20-007, a field visit would be a standard part of the evaluation of ecosystem services impacts (cf. Clause 5.4, p.14 FSC-STD-20-007).</p> <p>Under specific circumstances, the Certification Body may decide to evaluate ecosystem services impacts remotely, via a desk audit. Such specific circumstances are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If a field visit does not lead to new information (because the state of the ES and the implementation of management activities that contribute to the impact cannot be checked in the field); AND/OR 2. the auditor already knows the forest well, and the aspects related to ecosystem services for which a positive impact is to be verified/validated have been observed during previous on-site forest management audits; AND/OR 3. The Organization qualifies for a desk-based audit based on a derogation issued by FSC International <p>Desk-based ecosystem services evaluations shall include interviews with relevant staff and stakeholders, (satellite) imagery, virtual forest visit and/or other best available information.</p>	

Code	INT-STD-60-004_03 & INT-PRO-30-006_04
Requirement (s)	Principle 5, Annex C. List of national standards that include Annex C FSC-PRO-30-006
Publication date	01 October 2020
<p>When a National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) includes an Annex C for the verification of Ecosystem Services (ES) claims, should this annex be used for relevant certification activities or should the FSC-PRO-30-006 Ecosystem Services Procedure be used instead?</p> <p>FSC-PRO-30-006 prevails in all cases.</p> <p>In the revision of FSC-STD-60-004 <i>International Generic Indicators</i> from V1-0 to V2-0, the ecosystem services requirements in Annex C were transferred into Part II of FSC-PRO-30-006. Organizations shall comply with the applicable requirements of Parts I, II, III, and IV of FSC-PRO-30-006 when they want to demonstrate the positive impact of their forest management on ecosystem services and use FSC ecosystem services claims.</p>	

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