



Standard

SLIMF AND COMMUNITY FORESTS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA - ADDENDUM

FSC-STD-01-003a V1-2 EN



**FORESTS
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Version	Description	Date
V 1-0	This addendum version was last updated in April 2016 and listed countries where the SLIMF (Small or Low Intensity Managed Forest) eligibility criteria deviated from the international thresholds defined in FSC-STD-01-003 V1-0. It provides critical guidance to standard developers for addressing national contexts and integrating criteria into Forest Stewardship Standards (FSS).	01/04/2016
V 1-1	This revision addresses significant updates to the normative framework since 2016, including the approval of FSC-STD-01-003 V2-0 and the development of new FSS and IFSS for several countries. The updated addendum reflects these changes, ensuring alignment with the latest standards and an accurate record of country-specific SLIMF and Community Forests criteria.	15/05/2025
V1-2	This revision reflects updates to the normative framework up to Q1 2026, including the approval of new FSS and IFSS for several countries. The updated addendum reflects these changes, providing an up-to-date overview of country-specific SLIMF and Community Forest eligibility criteria.	10/04/2026

INTRODUCTION

This document provides an updated list of countries where the small or low intensity managed forests (SLIMF) and community forest eligibility criteria differ from the international thresholds specified in <FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF and Community Forests Eligibility Criteria>.

The SLIMF and Community Forest Eligibility Criteria addendum is updated annually. This version includes all Forest Stewardship Standards (FSS) and Interim Forest Stewardship Standards (IFSS) that are approved, valid, and/or published until 31 March 2026. These standards were considered according to the following version of the SLIMF and Community Forests criteria:

- SLIMF eligibility provisions in FSS and IFSS approved before 1 January 2024 were reviewed based on FSC-STD-01-003 V1-0.
- SLIMF and Community Forests eligibility provisions in FSS and IFSS approved on or after 1 January 2024 are reviewed based on FSC-STD-01-003 V2-0, effective 1 January 2024.

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1. 'SMALL' SCALE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Below is the list of countries for which the definition of 'small' differs from the international SLIMF Eligibility Criteria threshold (FSC-STD-01-003 V1-0 & V2-0).

Country	'Small' threshold	Approval date
Argentina	1,000 ha	March 2023
Australia	1,000 ha	February 2018
Bolivia	1,000 ha	March 2023
Brazil Natural Forests & Plantations	1,000 ha Note: This area must include the entire management unit.	December 2024
Bulgaria	1,000 ha	June 2024
Canada	1,000 ha	August 2023
Chile Natural Forests & Plantations	Those with a maximum area of native forest under management of 1,000 ha on soils class IV to VII, or 400 ha on soils class IV to VII, or 300 ha on soils class I to III classes according to the land capability classification).	June 2022
China	500 ha	October 2025
Colombia	1,000 ha	April 2021
Costa Rica	1,000 ha	May 2022
Cuba	500 ha	August 2021
Czech Republic	1,000 ha	May 2023
Denmark	250 ha	February 2018
Ecuador	1,000 ha	February 2022
Finland	MU size classes XS (< 20ha) and S (20-500 ha in Southern Finland, 20-1,000 ha in Northern Finland) are considered SLIMFs.	March 2023
France	500 ha	March 2025
Ghana	Natural forests of not more than 1,000 ha; plantation forests of not more than 200 ha.	April 2024
Guatemala	1,000 ha	May 2022
Honduras	1,000 ha	May 2022
Ireland	200 ha	January 2024
Latvia	1,000 ha	December 2022

Lithuania	500 ha	August 2020
Mexico	1,000 ha Note: In extension (refers to the total area included in the forest management programme) of Forest Operations (ejido, communal or private).	March 2021
Mozambique	1,000 ha	November 2025
Nepal	500 ha	May 2018
Nicaragua	1,000 ha	May 2022
Norway	1,000 ha	May 2022
Papua New Guinea	1,000 ha	August 2018
Peru	1,000 ha	January 2024
Poland	500 ha	June 2024
Portugal	500 ha	April 2025
Sierra Leone	1,000 ha	November 2025
Slovakia	1,000 ha	March 2023
Salomon Islands	1,000 ha	September 2023
South Africa	1,000 ha	November 2018
South Korea	1,000 ha	December 2025
Spain	250 ha	September 2019
Sweden	1,000 ha	October 2019
Türkiye	1,000 ha	December 2025
Uganda	1,000 ha	April 2018
United Republic of Tanzania	1,000 ha	July 2017
United Kingdom	500 ha	December 2017
United States of America	1,000 ha	July 2025
Uruguay	1,000 ha	March 2021
Zambia	1,000 ha	August 2025

2. 'LOW INTENSITY' ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Below is the list of countries for which the definition of 'low intensity' differs from the international SLIMF Eligibility Criteria definition (FSC-STD-01-003 V1-0 & V2-0).

Country	Definition of 'low intensity'	Approval date
Australia	The annual harvest is less than 5,000 m ³ /per annum. Note: harvesting less than 20% of the MAI is not included in the 'low intensity' definition.	February 2018
Brazil Natural Forests	The rate of harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI) within the total production forest area of the Management Unit, AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EITHER the annual harvest from the total production forest area is less than 5,000 cubic meters, • OR the average annual harvest from the total production forest is less than 5,000 m³ / year during the period of validity of the certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits. • Management Units that harvest only NTFPs, and/or use the forest for ecotourism purposes, watershed protection or provision of environmental services. Comment: In cases where MAI calculations are not available, other regionally accepted growth measures for a certain forest type can be used.	December 2024
Brazil Plantations	Timber harvest level proportional to the mean annual increment (MAI) for the total production area of the management unit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management unit harvest level is less than 20% of the average annual increment (MAI) AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest harvest is limited of a maximum of 5,000 m³/year • In cases where MAI calculations are not available, other regionally accepted growth measures for a certain forest type can be used. 	November 2024
Cameroon	SLIMFs are referred to as low intensity Management Units with an average annual harvest from the total production forest less than 5,000 m ³ /year during the period of validity of the certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits. Note: harvesting less than 20% of the MAI is not included in the 'low intensity' definition	June 2020

Canada	Plantations of non-timber forest products shall not be considered low intensity forest Management Units within the meaning of this Standard.	August 2023
China	<p>The rate of harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI) within the total production forest area of the unit, AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EITHER the annual harvest from the total production forest area is less than 5000 cubic meters, • 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. • OR only collect NTFPs. <p>Comment: For bamboo forest management: The annual average number of bamboo harvested should be less than 15% of the annual average number of newly grown trees.</p>	April 2025
Mexico	Forest operation harvesting less than 20% of the annual timber allowable cut (ALC) established in the forest management plan authorized by SEMARNAT and harvesting less than 5,000 m ³ of timber per year.	March 2021
Nepal	<p>Forest management unit is classed as low intensity when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the rate of harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI) within the total production forest area of the unit, however in the case of community-based forest management organizations, harvesting up to 40% is considered as low intensity operation; AND • management activities do not include application of chemicals or biological agents; AND • management activities do not include clear-cutting where more than 50% of wood stock in the sub-compartment is harvested; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EITHER the annual harvest from the total production forest area is less than 5,000 cubic metres; • OR the average annual harvest from the total production forest is less than 5,000 m³/ year during the period of validity of the FSC certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits. 	May 2018

Netherlands	<p>Low intensity managed forests: forest areas where the following applies:</p> <p>a) the rate of harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment within the total production forest area of the unit, AND</p> <p>b) EITHER the annual harvest from the total production forest area is less than 5,000 m³,</p> <p>c) OR forest management explicitly and primarily focuses on nature conservation.</p>	December 2021
Norway	<p>Levels of intensity (including low intensity) are not defined in the FSS. Intensity will follow requirements based on the size of the land holding and natural circumstances (landscape forms, level above the sea, production capacity in the forest stands, costs, infrastructure, etc.).</p>	May 2022
Peru	<p>The level of harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI), and less than 5,000 m³/year of timber is harvested in the whole area of productive forest.</p>	January 2024
Republic of Gabon	<p>Low intensity operations (mostly community forests) include Management Units with an average annual harvest from the total production forest of less than 5,000 m³/year during the period of validity of the certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits.</p> <p>Note: harvesting less than 20% of the MAI is not included in the 'low intensity' definition</p>	December 2020
Spain	<p>Management intensity levels (low/medium/high) have been defined according to the degree of naturalness of the forest stand (plantation/non-plantation) and the type of management applied (intensive/extensive), since both factors condition the impact on the environment.</p>	September 2019
United Republic of Tanzania	<p>Management Regimes of Low Potential Impact (LPI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harvesting of non-IUCN red-listed NTFP species only; OR • Provision of ecosystem services; OR • Sawlog Felling Cycle ≥30 years in natural forests; AND • Sawlog Harvesting ≤30m³/ha over the Felling Cycle in natural forests; OR • Any combination or all of the activities above being carried out in one management unit; AND • Not using heavy machinery; AND • Not using chemicals 	July 2017

Uruguay	<p>The average annual harvest is less than 5,000 m³/year during the period of validity of the certificate, as verified in the harvesting reports and control audits.</p> <p>Note: harvesting less than 20% of the MAI is not included in the 'low intensity' definition</p>	March 2021
Vietnam	<p>Harvesting rate in the forest management plan period, <20% means annual increment and annual harvest apply for natural forests.</p>	July 2019

3. 'COMMUNITY FORESTS' ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Below is the list of countries for which the definition of 'Community Forests' differs from the international definition (FSC-STD-01-003 V2-0).

Country	Definition of 'Community Forests'	Approval date
Canada	Community Forests: Any forest managed by a local administration or government, community group, First Nation, or community-held corporation for the benefit of the entire community, in which profits are cycled back into the community.	August 2023

ABBREVIATIONS

FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
FSS	Forest Stewardship Standard
IFSS	Interim Forest Stewardship Standard
MAI	Mean Annual Increment
P&P	Policy and Performance Unit
SLIMF	Small or Low intensity Managed Forests



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