Forest Stewardship Council®

FSC FORESTS FOR ALL FOREVER™

DER-PRO-30-006_01	**Use and structure of Ecosystem Services claims**
Normative reference	FSC-PRO-30-006 V1-2, clauses 11.3, 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 15.2, 18.3, 19.7
Scope	☒ Generic (applicable by all certificate holders) ☐ Specific (applicable only upon individual request and FSC confirmation)
Approval	09 November 2026
Effective date	10 November 2026
Period of validity	Until 31 December 2031
Certification Body	Multiple
Request by CB	With <FSC-PRO-30-006 V2-1 Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools>, FSC introduced a clear structure for ES claims and increased functionality in the use of validated ES impacts through clear rules on how to make ES claims. The new structure of ES claims contains a standardised syntax and clear usage rules, providing refined communication/market opportunities for ES projects. In order to smoothen the transition between V1-2 and V2-1; and to provide the new ES claims structure for Organizations using V1-2 of FSC-PRO-30-006, it would be beneficial to extend the application of the new ES claims structure and the use of ES claims for validated ES impacts for V1-2 ES projects.
Rationale	In principle, Organizations that validated or verified impacts using V1-2 of FSC-PRO-30-006 shall continue using the rules of that procedure until the validations or verifications expire. However, this creates a parallel system without clear rules for communication for all organizations using FSC-PRO-30-006. Granting a derogation would create a level playing field for all organizations and would give more clarity on how communications shall be structured.
FSC Conclusion	After analysing the potential risks and benefits of extending the scope of validated ES claims and the new ES claim structure, FSC acknowledges that enabling the structure of V2-1 ES claims and the use of validated ES impacts will benefit the Organization and sponsors in the development and market use of ES projects. Consequently, FSC has decided to apply the following modified requirements to the text of the scope of <FSC-PRO-30-006 V1-2 Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools>: **Clause 11.3** The organization may use ecosystem services claims as described in Part IV of this procedure for impacts that have been validated.

Clause 12.1 The FSC ecosystem services claims may be used for the following purposes:

12.1.1 Promoting FSC-certified forests with verified and/or validated ecosystem services impacts (Section 13);

12.1.3 Promoting financial sponsorship of verified and/or validated ecosystem services impacts (Section 15); and

Clause 12.2 The FSC ecosystem services claim shall include:

a) FSC registered trademarks (as defined in <FSC-STD-50-001 Requirements for Use of the FSC Trademarks by Certificate Holders>);
b) the licence code of The Organization or a sponsor making the ES claim;

NOTE 1: The licence code is granted to The Organization by their CB, and to a sponsor by their FSC trademark service provider.

NOTE 2: FSC provides an online platform to download FSC trademarks and high-resolution artwork files.

c) FSC website address; and
d) an impact statement that includes:

i. the specific ES impact (e.g., conservation of species diversity); and
ii. geographical location of the MU (at minimum the name of the country); and
iii. the year of validation/ verification by the certification body; OR
iv. the years covered in the impact demonstration process (only applicable for verified impacts).
v. if based on validated impacts the intended verifiable target used by The Organization in the validation of ES impacts; or the activities in the plan to achieve the validated ES impacts

Clause 12.3 For promotional purposes, FSC ecosystem services claims of verified ES impact may also be described in summary form by using the phrase “verified positive impact” with reference to the ecosystem service(s) for which impacts have been verified.

Clause 12.4 Organizations may make claims about multiple verified and/or validated ecosystem services impacts.

Clause 15.2 Sponsors with an FSC trademark licence may promote sponsoring of verified and/or validated ecosystem services claims with the FSC trademarks, as indicated in Clauses 12.2 and 12.3, conforming A sponsor shall conform with all applicable requirements for use of the FSC trademarks in <FSC Trademark Use Guide for Promotional Licence Holders>.

Clause 18.3 For each verified and/or validated impact, the certification body shall:

18.3.3 Include the verified and/or validated impact in the forest management certificate.

Clause 19.7 The certification body shall publish and periodically update, on the FSC database of registered certificates (info.fsc.org), a table of any sponsorships for the verified and/or validated impacts, containing the following information:

19.7.1 The verified and/or validated impact that has been sponsored

19.7.2 The number of sponsorships for each verified and/or validated impact

19.7.3 The year of each unique sponsorship.