



INTERPRETATIONS OF THE NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

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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 <i>Ecosystem Services Procedure</i> 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>	

FSC-PRO-30-006 V1-2 (2021) ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROCEDURE: IMPACT DEMONSTRATION AND MARKET TOOLS

Code	INT-PRO-30-006_05
Requirement (s)	FSC-PRO-30-006 V1-2 Clauses 1.4 and 1.5, Annex A
Publication date	27 February 2023
<p>a) Can a forest management group create a single Ecosystem Services Certification Document (ESCD) document, valid for all members, in which the activities carried out by the group are presented in general, including the possible situations and options that may be present among the members, without specifying in detail which ones are applicable to the single member?</p> <p>Yes, a group entity may create a single ESCD document, valid for all members, without specifying in detail which elements in the ESCD are applicable to a member, provided that it is clear which areas contribute to the ecosystem service and proposed impact(s).</p> <p>b) Which specific elements in the ESCD shall be defined for each single member in a forest management group?</p> <p>There are no mandatory elements to be defined for each single member, but the following elements of the ESCD template are recommended to be addressed at the level of members: Part I – 4.3, 5.1.1, 5.1.2, 5.1.3, 5.1.4, 5.1.5, 5.1.6, 6.5, 9.1, 9.2, 10.2, and the whole of ‘Part II: Management information’. The group rules shall clarify which specific elements in the ESCD apply to each member.</p>	

Code	INT-PRO-30-006_06 (Also published in Interpretation of the Normative Framework under code INT-STD-20-007_63)
Requirement (s)	FSC-STD-20-007 V4-0 Clause 18.1 FSC-STD-20-007a Clause 2.2 FSC-STD-20-007b Clause 2.1 FSC-STD-20-012 V1-1 Clauses 10.13.1 and 10.11.2 FSC-STD-20-011 Clause 12.3, 13.4 a) FSC-PRO-30-006 Clause 1.5.1
Publication date	27 February 2023
<p>As French will be included as a new official language of FSC as result of Motion 01/2020 <i>Addition of French as FSC's Third Official Language</i> passing at the 9th FSC General Assembly, until the change in the FSC Statutes is made and becomes effective, are certification bodies allowed not to translate the evaluation reports and public summaries of evaluation reports into English or Spanish, when the report is available in French?</p> <p>Yes, FSC will be including French as an official language into its Statutes at the earliest convenience. Until then, certification bodies may already submit forest management, chain of custody and controlled wood evaluation reports and/or public summaries, and Ecosystem Services Certification Documents in French.</p>	

Code	INT-PRO-30-006-07
Requirement (s)	FSC-PRO-30-006 V1-2 Part V, Chapters 17 and 18 FSC-STD-30-005 V2-0 Clauses 7.1 and 12.3 FSC-STD-20-007 V3-0 Clause 6.3.5
Publication date	27 February 2023
<p>Group Entities are allowed to bring on new members into their Forest Management Groups upon the successful completion of the internal evaluation in accordance with the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard and Clause 7.1 in FSC-STD-30-005 V2-0. This is verified by the certification body in the regular forest management evaluations, based on sampling of the new members (see: FSC-STD-20-007 V3-0 Clause 6.3.5).</p> <p>a) Does this Clause 7.1 apply also for new members aiming to deliver ecosystem services?</p> <p>Yes, it applies. New members shall conform with all applicable requirements provided by the Group Entity, and the Group Entity shall evaluate each applicant who wishes to join the group and ensure there are no major non-conformities with any applicable requirement.</p> <p>b) Is the Group Entity required to conduct internal evaluation of new group members applying the Ecosystem Services procedure, and keep the Ecosystem Services Certification Document (ESCD) updated?</p> <p>Yes, the Group Entity shall conduct internal evaluation of new members and, provided that ecosystem services is in the scope of certification, ensure that the intended outcome of the proposed impact(s) may be achieved and keep the ESCD updated.</p> <p>c) Can the certification body verify or validate ecosystem services impacts and approve the ESCD based on sampling of the new members?</p> <p>Yes, the certification body shall verify or validate ecosystem services impacts and approve the ESCD based on sampling of the new members. The new management units shall be sampled at the rate of a main evaluation.</p> <p>d) Can the Group Entity validate and verify ecosystem services claims for group members, based on methodologies already approved by a certification body?</p> <p>No, the Group Entity shall not validate or verify any ecosystem services impacts. The Group Entity may include new members into the ESCD and apply previously approved methodologies to demonstrate impacts.</p> <p>The certification body validates and/or verifies ecosystem services impacts and lists all claims and participating management units into the forest management evaluation report.</p>	



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