FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
AN INTRODUCTION
WHY DO FORESTS MATTER?
31% of Earth’s land area is comprised of forests.

Forests protect our soils, provide much of our fresh water, and regulate and stabilize our climate.

Nearly 80% of the world’s terrestrial species are supported by forests.

1.6B people’s livelihoods are supported by forests.
WHAT IS FSC?
FSC IS...

25% BUSINESS

25% ENVIRONMENT

25% SOCIAL

25% ABORIGINAL
FSC IS A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Largest FSC-certified forest areas in the world (by country)

- Canada: 53.9 million ha, 17% of total forest area
- United Kingdom: 1.6 million ha, 56% of total forest area
- Sweden: 12 million ha, 52% of total forest area
- Latvia: 1.8 million ha, 52% of total forest area
- Estonia: 1.2 million ha, 5% of total forest area
- Finland: 1 million ha, 5% of total forest area
- Belarus: 5 million ha, 5% of total forest area
- Russia: 39.9 million ha, 5% of total forest area
- USA: 13.6 million ha, 4% of total forest area
- Poland: 6.9 million ha, 74% of total forest area
- Belgium: 2.8 million ha, 21% of total forest area
- China: 2.2 million ha, 13% of total forest area
- Indonesia: 15 million ha, 3% of total forest area
- New Zealand: 1.3 million ha, 15% of total forest area
- Brazil: 6.3 million ha, 1% of total forest area
- Republic of Congo: 1.7 million ha, 8% of total forest area
- South Africa: 1.4 million ha, 15% of total forest area
- Chile: 2.4 million ha, 14% of total forest area
HOW FSC WORKS
FSC’S 10 PRINCIPLES OF RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

1. Compliance with laws
2. Workers’ Rights and Employment
3. Indigenous peoples’ rights
4. Community relations
5. Benefits from the forest
6. Environmental values & impacts
7. Management Planning
8. Monitoring and assessment
9. High Conservation Values
10. Implementation of Management Activities
HOW DOES FSC CERTIFICATION WORK?

Forest Management (FM) certification

Forest → Saw Mill → Factory → Processor → Retailer

Chain of Custody (COC) certification

Trademark/Labeling

FSC® F000205
FSC 100% labels identify products which are made of 100% virgin material from FSC-certified forests.

FSC MIX labels identify products which are made with a combination of FSC virgin fibre, and/or recycled materials with Controlled virgin fibre. The mobius loop represents the total pre and post consumer recycled fibre.

FSC Recycled labels identify products which are made with 100% recycled fiber. The mobius loop represents the total pre and post consumer recycled fibre.
WHY
CHOOSE FSC
RARE, THREATENED ENDANGERED SPECIES & THEIR HABITAT ARE PROTECTED
ABORIGINAL PEOPLES RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED
DEFORESTATION IS PREVENTED
WORKER CONDITIONS ARE IMPROVED
**1. WE’RE GOVERNED BY OUR MEMBERS**
We’re democratically governed, and over 800 social, economic and environmental members help us to set the right policies to protect the world’s forests.

**2. WE HAVE THE HIGHEST STANDARDS**
We set higher standards than any other forest certification scheme, which gives users the best assurance that certified forests are being managed responsibly.

**3. WE’RE RESPECTED AND CREDIBLE**
We are the preferred certification scheme for business and the one most widely used by members of the Fortune 500.

**4. OUR IMPACT IS FAR-REACHING**
Operating in over 100 markets, we issue more certificates globally than any other timber certification scheme.

**5. WE HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT**
Of any existing forest certification scheme, we provide the highest level of protection for endangered species and natural forests.

**6. WE HAVE INFLUENTIAL SUPPORT**
Our membership includes the world’s largest and most respected environmental NGO’s such as Greenpeace and WWF, both of which are vocal in their support of FSC over others.

**7. WE’RE TRANSPARENT**
Every process and decision we make is open to public review and our product claims are independently audited.

**8. OUR STANDARDS ARE GLOBALLY CONSISTENT**
Wherever we operate in the world, our standards are based on the same principles and criteria.  
FSC® F000205

**9. WE THINK LOCAL**
Every FSC forest certification process is open to local consultation so the people who live there can always have their say.

**10. WE’RE RECOGNISED**
FSC is the only forest certification scheme member of ISEAL Alliance, the global association for sustainability standards.
YOUR CHOICES ARE CHANGING THE WORLD