

Why choose to be an FSC™ certified smallholder?



INTRODUCTION TO FSC

What is FSC?

FSC is an independent, non-governmental, not for profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. FSC's pioneering approach is to bring together voices from the Global North and South to define environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management and identify the tools and resources that will effect positive, lasting change.

OUR VISION is that the world's forests meet the social, ecological, and economic rights and needs of the present generation without compromising those of future generations.



INTRODUCTION TO FSC

What is FSC certification?

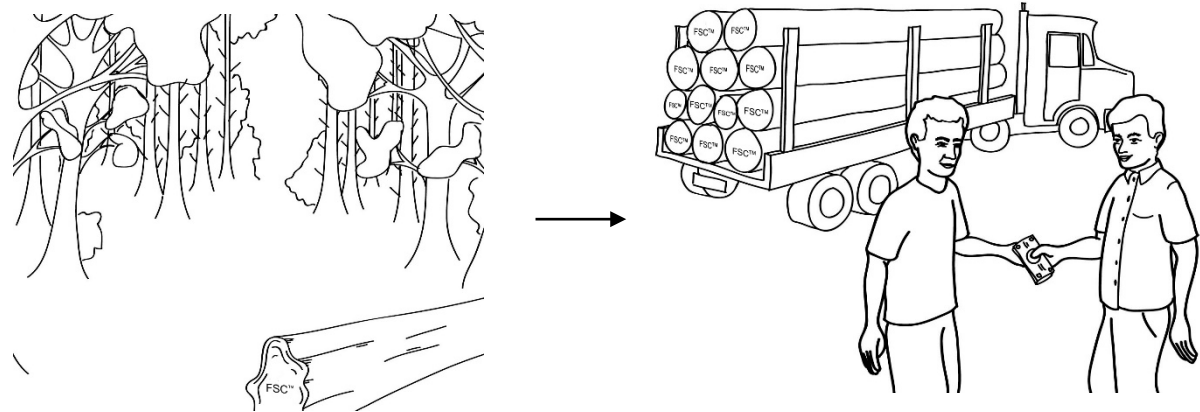
FSC certification provides a credible link between responsible production and consumption of forest products, enabling consumers and businesses to make purchasing decisions that benefit people and the environment as well as providing ongoing business value.

Types of FSC certification

FSC forest management (FM) certification ensures responsible long-term forest management. To become FSC certified the forest has to be managed in a way that complies with FSC's Principles and Criteria, the fundamental document which describes how a forest should be managed to meet the social, environmental and economic needs of the present and future generation. It forms the basis for all FSC forest management policies and standards. FM certification is most often combined with chain of custody certification so that primary producers can sell their products.

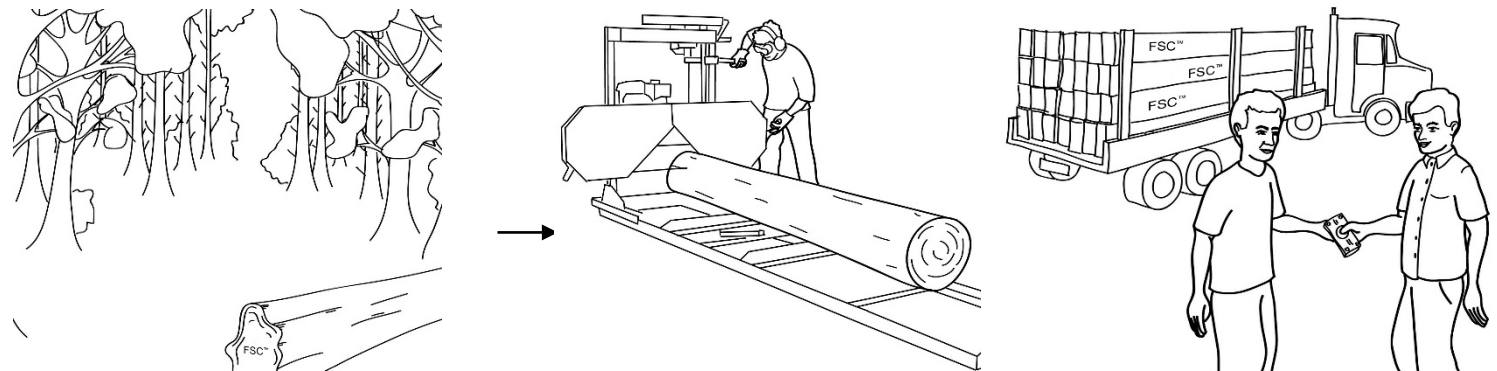
Chain of custody (CoC) certification allows credible tracking of FSC material from the forest all the way to the consumer. CoC certification is necessary to sell material from an FSC certified forest with the FSC label.

FSC Forest Management certification (FM)



FSC Forest Management certif

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SMALLHOLDERS

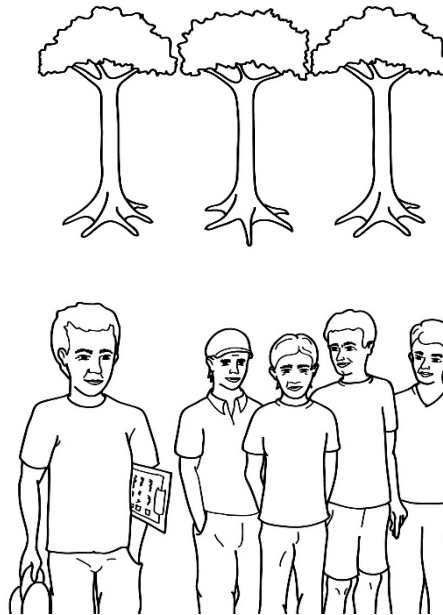
What is a smallholder?

A smallholder is a producer who has a small area of forest, harvests timber at a low-intensity, or is part of a community who owns and/or manages a forest. Smallholders are for example known as woodlot owners, family forests, small non-industrial private forests, small forest enterprises, community forestry operations and non-timber forests product harvesters. For those that qualify as smallholders, FSC offers policy tools that reduce the costs of certification as well as access to financial and technical support to aid in their FSC certification.

Do you qualify as a smallholder?

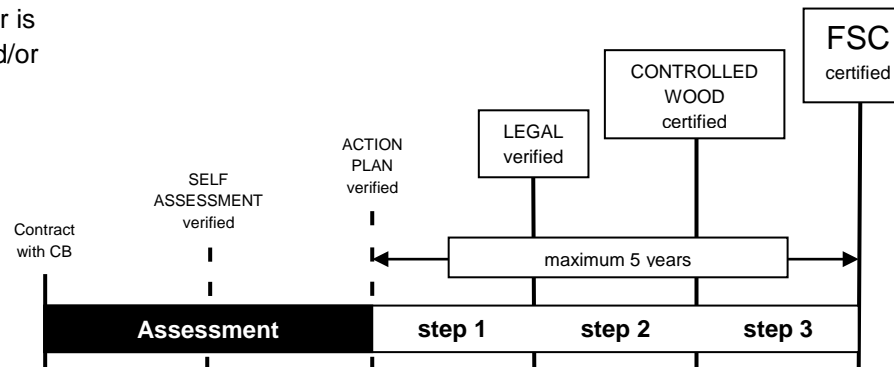
A smallholder is either designated as a small or low-intensity managed forest (SLIMF) through FSC's SLIMF eligibility criteria or is a member of a community that owns and/or manages a forest area, where each community member has an equal share.

Certification options for smallholders



FSC Small and Low Intensity Managed Forest (SLIMF) is a streamlined certification procedure that reduces the costs and administrative work.

FSC Group Certification for smallholders where a group of forest owners can join for FSC certification, which reduces the cost and administrative work.



FSC Modular Approach Program is a new step-by-step program for achieving certification in 5 years. MAP makes FSC certification easier to achieve by dividing certification into 3 steps: legality, controlled wood, and full FSC certification.

Read more about the certification options for smallholders in the step-by-step guide “How to become an FSC certified smallholder”.

FSC AND SMALLHOLDERS

Why does FSC support smallholders?

Smallholders are an important part of the FSC mission. In total, they hold a lot of forested lands, but as individuals they lack the economy of scale to sell their wood in international markets at prices that can compete with bigger companies. This situation makes it difficult for them to access and benefit from FSC certification.

However, smallholders who do get certified find better market access, more support (technical and financial), and higher prices for their timber. With these benefits, smallholders can also play an increasing role in building and maintaining an active local timber industry. In addition, their careful management of forests can help reduce the rate of deforestation and land conversion while providing revenue streams from timber and non-timber harvests.

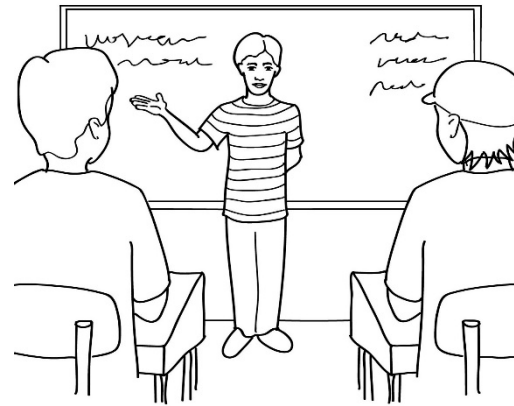
Smallholder Support Program

FSC offers support to smallholders by working with National Offices and other partners to provide on-the-ground assistance. Areas of support include:

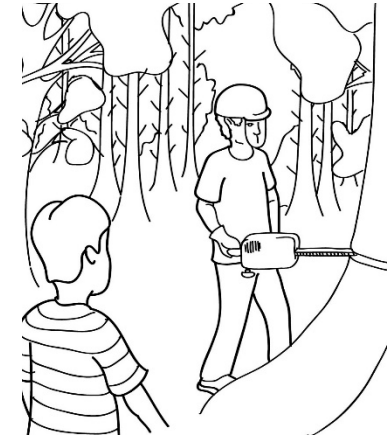
- Outreach and education
- Training and technical guidance
- Market access support through the Small and Community Label Option
- Financial support through the Smallholder Fund

For support and more information about how to get involved, contact FSC Canada or go online to www.fsc.org/smallholders.

Outreach and education



Training and technical guidance



Market access support



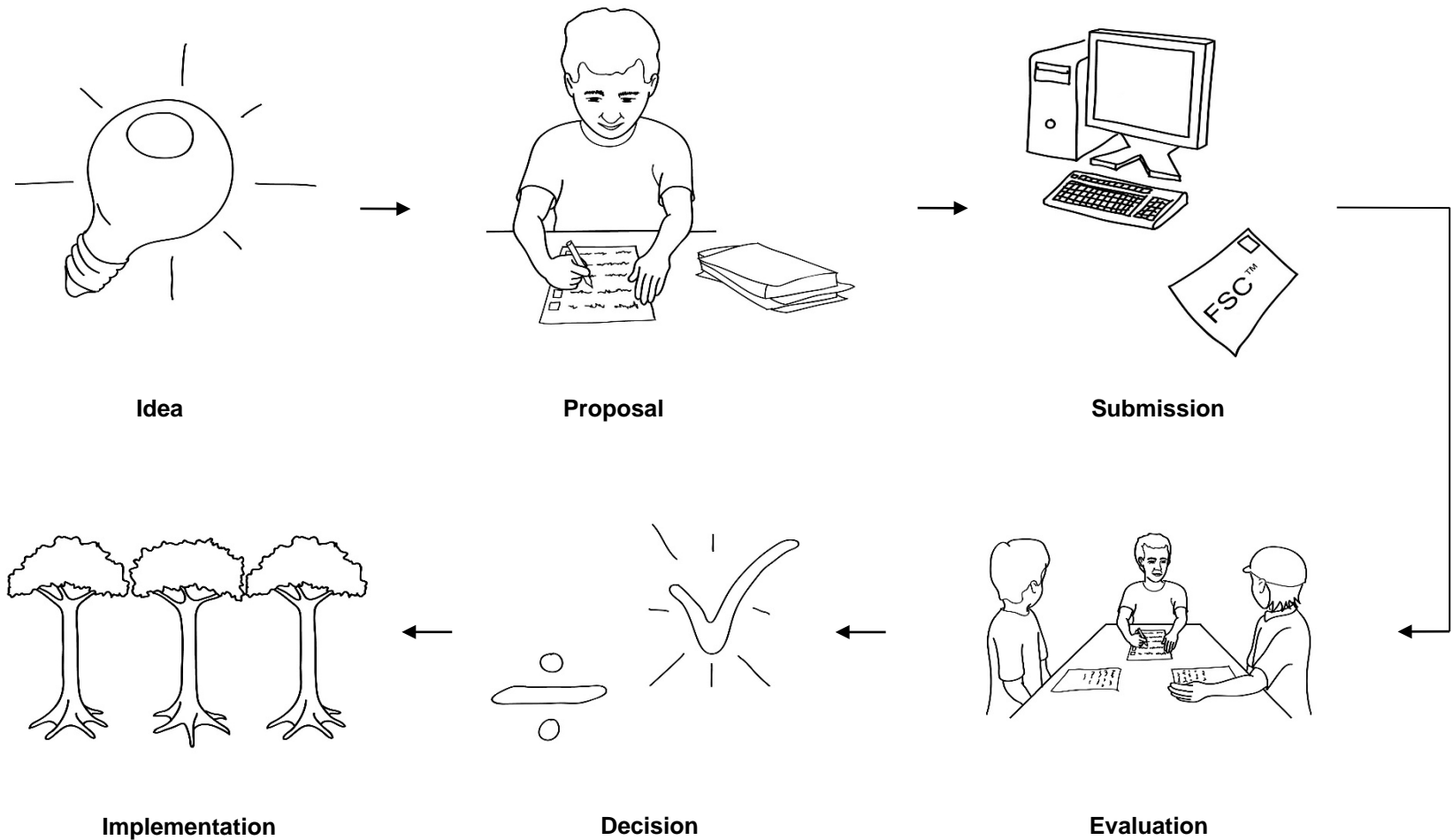
Financial support



FSC AND SMALLHOLDERS

Smallholder fund

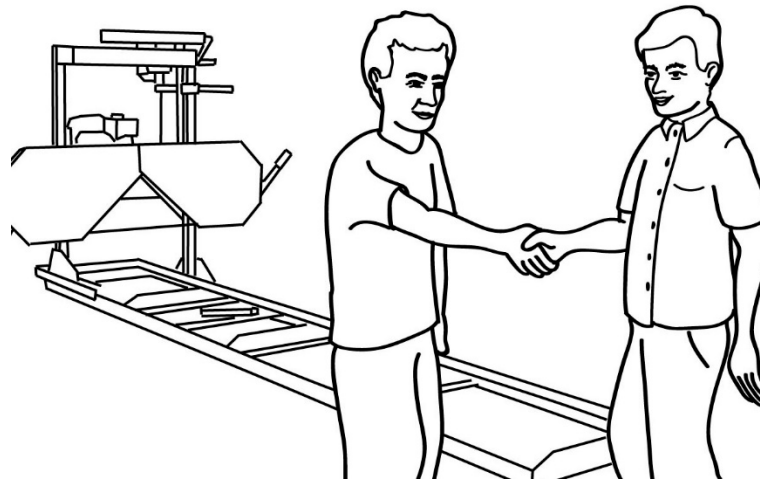
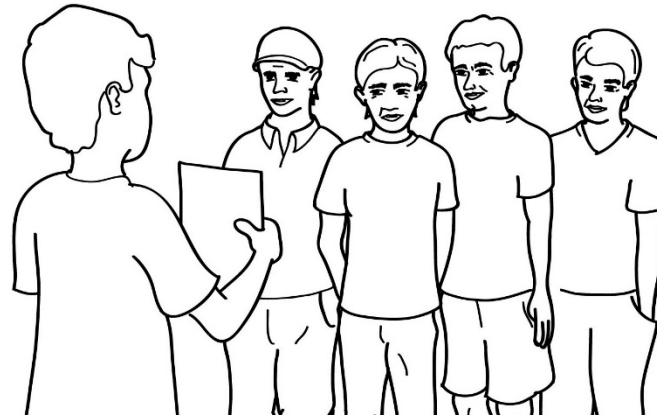
In 2012, FSC launched the Smallholder Fund to support projects that build capacity for smallholders to gain and maintain FSC certification. To get more information and updates on the Fund, please visit www.fsc.org/smallholders



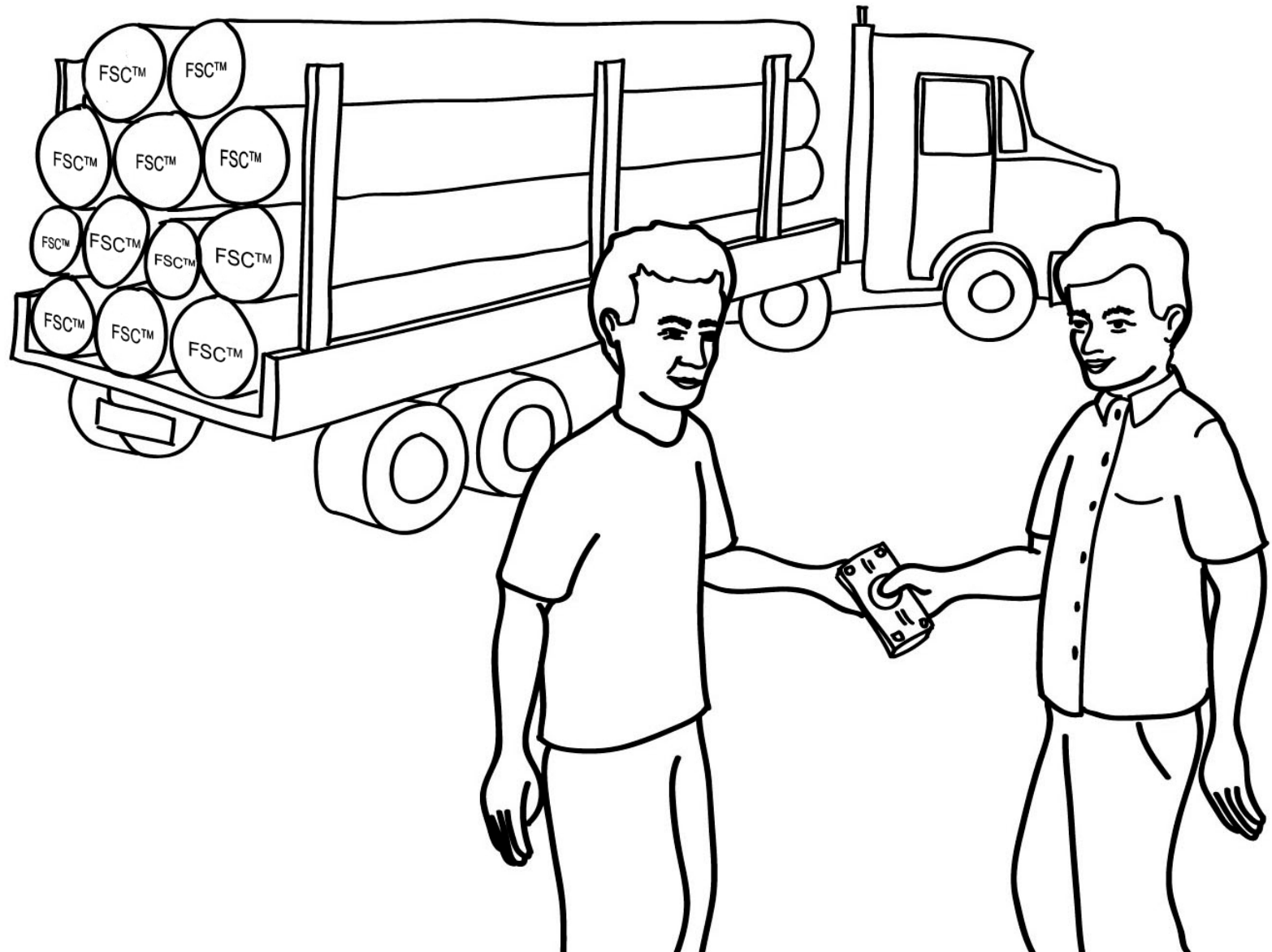
BENEFITS

Benefits for smallholders

- FSC certification requires smallholders to organize themselves so that they can receive more benefit from their certification. This also can help smallholders improve their management practices and expand their knowledge of forestry.
- FSC certification can improve access to financial and/or technical assistance.
- FSC certification can improve smallholder access to international supply chains.



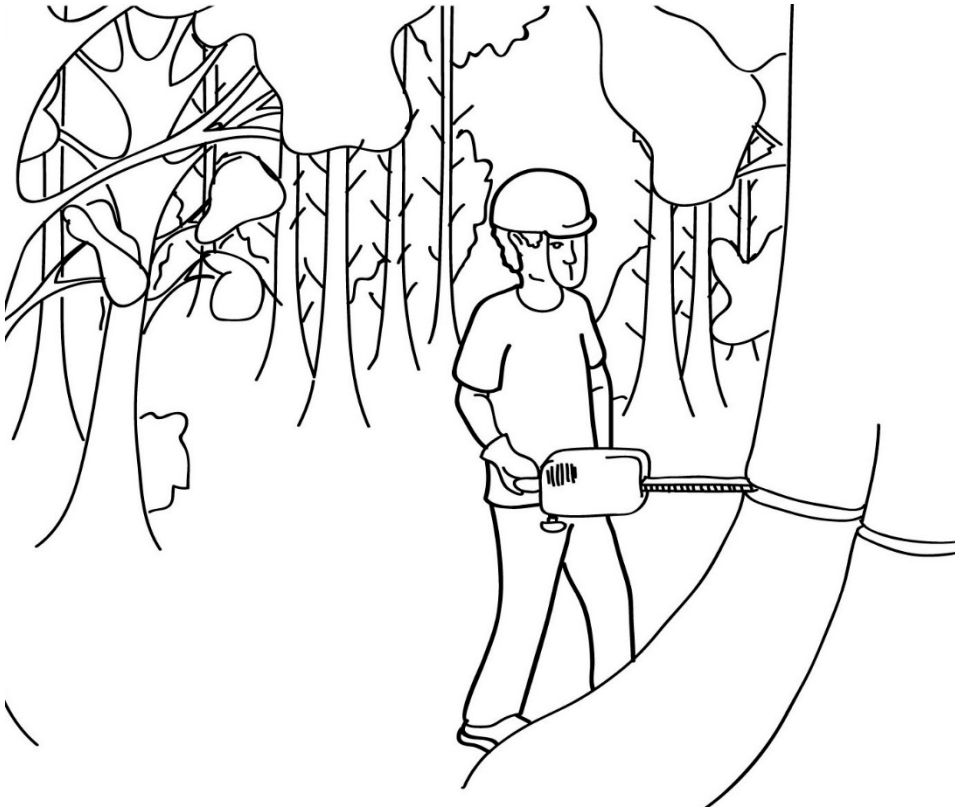
BENEFITS



Market benefits

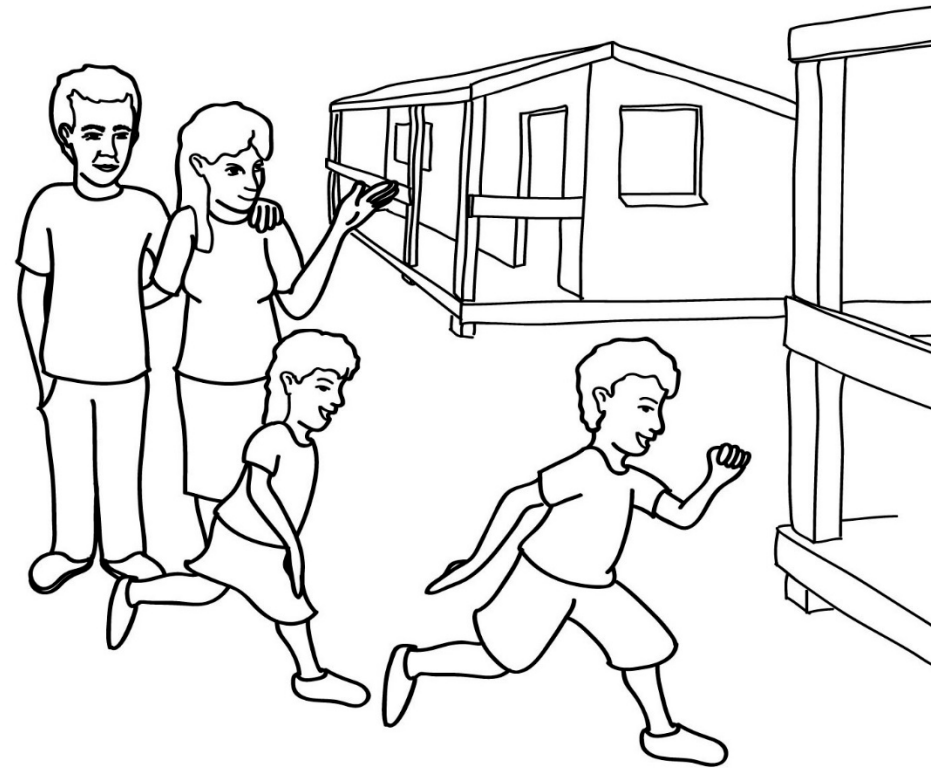
- FSC certification can provide new markets and/or increase current buyers.
- FSC certified products can fetch a higher price, compared to uncertified products.
- FSC certification can improve the reputation of a certificate holder by increasing their credibility among consumers and environmental groups.

BENEFITS



Social benefits

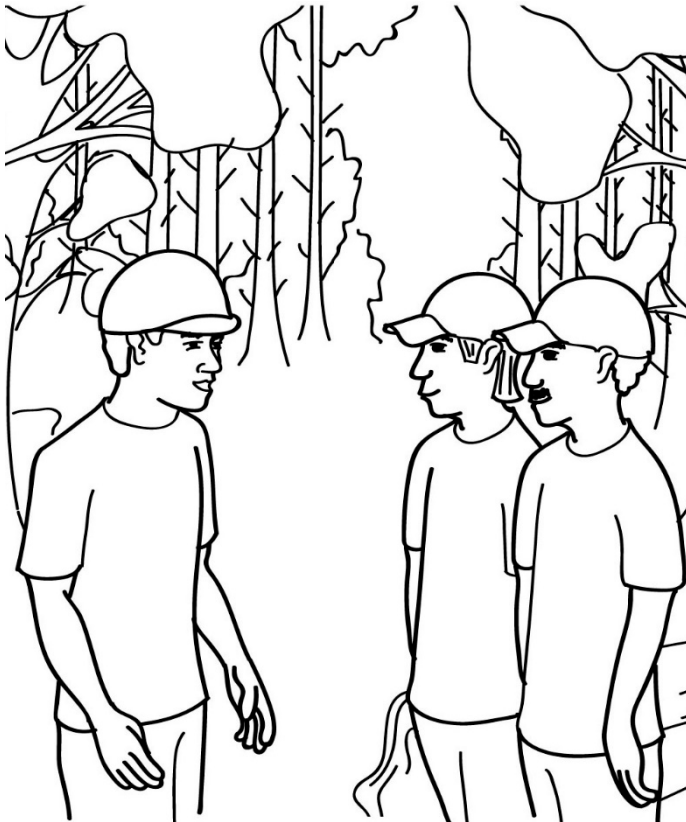
- FSC certification requires that all workers have the right protection, receive proper training, and are paid a fair wage, which means better conditions for workers and their families.



BENEFITS

Social benefits

- FSC certification requires that free, prior and informed consent be given by indigenous and local peoples prior to forest management in forests where these people have recognized land and use rights.
- FSC emphasizes local economies and practices that favor good relationships between companies and local communities.



BENEFITS

Enviromental benefits

- FSC certification requires the protection of endangered plants and animals and the habitats they live in.
- FSC certification protects soil and water quality.
- FSC certification requires the identification and protection of high conservation values.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED

You can read more about the certification options and process for smallholders in the step-by-step guide “How to become an FSC certified smallholder” and at www.fsc.org/smallholders.

You can also contact FSC Canada for more information.

www.ca.fsc.org

info@ca.fsc.org

The first thing you have to do to become FSC certified is to contact a certification body. Here are the certification bodies in Canada.

- [BM Trada](#)
- [Bureau Veritas](#)
- [Control Union](#)
- [KPMG](#)
- [Rainforest Alliance](#)
- [SAI Global](#)
- [SCS Global Services](#)
- [SGS Canada](#)
- [Soil Association](#)