



FSC Standards Revisions in Canada

FSC Canada Forest Management Standards Revision Process: Strategic Direction Approved

In February 2013, after consultation with FSC Members in Canada, the Forest Management Standard Revision Strategic Direction has been approved by the Membership.

Background

In February 2012 FSC International membership approved the revised Principles & Criteria (P&Cs). FSC P&Cs are the guiding framework for developing regional forest management standards globally.

This milestone marks the beginning of an important next phase in FSC's work. In parallel, FSC Canada will engage stakeholders in revising and aligning the regional Forest Management (FM) Standards (National Boreal Standard (2004), Maritimes Standard (2008), BC Standard (2005) and Great Lakes-St. Lawrence draft Standard (2010)) with these revised Principles and Criteria. The revision of these regional FM Standards will build on previous work and agreements while providing opportunities for focused regional and national discussions. The process seeks consistency, rigor and cost-efficiencies.

The FM Standards Revision Process is expected to take approximately two years. The Process Design Phase started in August 2012 with a survey asking Canadian stakeholders about the values important to them. The standards revision strategic direction as described in the below Motion, is now being put out to the FSC Canada membership for consideration and approval, with voting concluding January 31, 2013.

Engaging Indigenous Peoples as well as stakeholders around key indicators and through indicator specific discussions will facilitate input to the standards, drafts 1 through 3. Field testing will occur in multiple regions with the goal of having standards approved by FSC IC by December 31, 2014.

The FM Standards revision process will align with the revised international P&Cs and the FSC international generic indicators (IGIs), currently being drafted.



Strategic Direction Approved:

Do you support the strategic direction for revising FSC Canada Standards, as described below?

Motion:

Be it resolved that:

The strategic approach of FSC Canada's Standards Revision Process will proceed as follows:

- 1. FSC Canada will establish national common indicators that will be applied in all regions.** FSC Canada will assess the similarities and differences between regional standards with the goal of developing national common indicators.
- 2. FSC Canada will identify and develop region specific indicators.** FSC Canada will develop and approve criteria used to determine circumstances when region specific indicators should be developed. FSC Canada understands that ecological and social differences in a region may justify the development of region specific indicators for some criteria.
- 3. FSC Canada will develop one National Standard.** One National Standard that includes national common indicators and region specific indicators, where warranted, will replace existing regional standards.
- 4. FSC Canada will support and encourage meaningful national and regional participation.** FSC Canada understands that chamber balance and regional representation is required to ensure the development of National Standards.



The FSC Canada Standards Revision Process will be guided by the following principles:

State of the Art Standards that will be Recognized International

- align and harmonize with the revised FSC Principles & Criteria (P&C), International Generic Indicators (IGI) process and all relevant FSC policy and standards
- understand and apply the newly released FSC International (IC) Guidelines for the implementation of the right to Free, Prior & Informed Consent (FPIC). Assess performance of FPIC in Canada, providing input to FSC IC
- create a National Standard that embodies world-leading approaches to ecologically, economically and socially sound forest management

FSC, Standards of Excellence

- strengthen existing regional forest management standards in areas that they are considered difficult to measure
- improve the clarity of indicators where needed
- consider ecological and social circumstances and the appropriate management approaches of a region, when developing common indicators and regionally specific indicators
- increase consistent language across Canada's regional standards
- increase consistency of thresholds including indicators and verifiers across Canada's regional standards
- draft indicators using the best available science and information
- strengthen indicators by drawing upon recent and relevant advances in science
- draw upon operational experiences in applying the standards and advances in forest management.
- incorporate recommendations from the FSC Canada Science Panel on caribou conservation
- support the translation of key documents to French and English



National and Regional Participation

- identify and seek consensus on how to address indicators that are in conflict with national or regional regulatory requirements
- focus the majority of time and effort on indicators that indigenous peoples, auditors, certificate holders, and stakeholders have identified as problematic, important or require strengthening
- focus the majority of time and effort on seeking consensus on the indicators that people are in disagreement on how to address
- regularly solicit input from indigenous peoples, certificate holders, certifiers, FSC members and other stakeholders
- create a process that has opportunities for multi-chamber feedback and provides opportunities for meaningful participation, occurring nationally and in the regions

Timing

- The process design phase took place from May to October 2012. The standards revision process is expected to take approximately two years beginning in the fall of 2012. See timeline as described in communique
- Note that this timeline is contingent on FSC IC progress and is directly aligned with the schedule and progress of the IGI process and may change as a result