



Local Authorities can make a difference !



The Role of Local Authorities in Promoting
Responsible Forest Management

Introduction

Local Authorities construct, operate and maintain economic, social and environmental infrastructure, oversee planning processes and establish local environmental policies and regulations. They also assist in implementing national and regional environmental policies. They are very close to the people and play a vital role in educating and mobilising the public and responding to community concerns. Therefore, Local Authorities – large or small – are important players for putting sustainable development into practice. They are important consumers with public procurement policies as a powerful tool for promoting the use of environmentally and socially responsible products and practices. Local Authorities' behaviour is likely to have an important influence on people and they should take every opportunity to set a good example to the public.

Every minute of every day some 26 hectares of forests are lost somewhere in the world due to threats such as illegal logging, land clearance for agriculture, road building, mining and forest fires.

That is why WWF launched the Forests for Life Campaign which aims to promote forest protection and responsible forest management world-wide.

In this context, forest certification according to the Principles and Criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a valuable tool for Local Authorities who would like to support environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management world-wide.

This brochure outlines how Local Authorities can actively promote responsible forest management practices and thus contribute to the protection of our world's remaining forests. Local Authorities really can make a difference and take action to leave our children a living planet!

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Local Authorities in action

Local Agenda 21: “Think globally, act locally”

The influence of Local Authorities is often underestimated when global problems are raised, though they can play an important role. This was mentioned for the first time during the UNCED conference in Rio de Janeiro (1992) where political leaders, scientists and members of non-governmental associations discussed the world's future. It was thanks to this conference that the concept of “sustainable development” became widely accepted.

The proposed actions discussed during the Rio conference were put together in Agenda 21, a sort of “guideline” for a sustainable 21st century. Chapter 28 specifically proposes initiatives that can be developed by Local Authorities (who are) willing to support the objectives of Agenda 21. Today, Local Authorities of many countries are implementing a Local Agenda 21.

Local Agenda 21

28.1. “Because so many of the problems and solutions being addressed by Agenda 21 have their roots in local activities, the participation and co-operation of Local Authorities will be a determining factor in fulfilling its objectives. Local Authorities construct, operate and maintain economic, social and environmental infrastructure, oversee planning processes, establish local environmental policies and regulations, and assist in implementing national and sub-national environmental policies. As the level of governance closest to the people, they play a vital role in educating, mobilising and responding to the public to promote sustainable development.”

The Climate Alliance

The Climate Alliance is a partnership between European Local Authorities and indigenous rainforest peoples with the goal of protecting the earth's atmosphere. The 1000 European member cities work jointly on drawing up and implementing climate protection action plans and co-operate with the indigenous partners to preserve tropical rainforests.



**KLIMA-BÜNDNIS
ALIANZA DEL CLIMA e.V.**

**Climate Alliance
Declaration
(Bolzano, 17 May 2000)**

"Effective climate protection calls for a reduction in all greenhouse emissions, which is the subject of the Kyoto and Montreal Protocols. In the mid-term, we are striving for more rigorous reductions in CO₂ and other greenhouse gases than those agreed by the industrial states. The long-term goal for our cities and towns is a climate-friendly per capita value for greenhouse gas emissions.

We support indigenous rain-forest peoples in their endeavours to exercise their basic rights. These include the right to be recognised as people with traditional territories, the right to self-determination and the right to live in their natural environment.

We want to contribute to the conservation of tropical forests and their biological diversity within the framework of possibilities for municipal action. This also serves climate protection, which requires both conservation and expansion of biological CO₂ sinks and, at the same time, a reduction in man-made greenhouse gas emissions at source."



The Climate Alliance Declaration specifies that Local Authorities should contribute to the conservation of tropical forests and their biological diversity by¹ :

- *Excluding tropical timber derived from destructive logging or primary tropical forests in procurement policies; furthermore it is recommended to avoid timber derived from destructive logging or primary forests in other climatic zones.*
- *Supporting and implementing other policies and measures for the protection of the rainforests and their biological diversity which guarantee the rights of the people living in the forests, particularly the indigenous peoples. This includes internationally recognised, verifiable and*

independent certification of timber produced by ecologically and socially acceptable forest management systems, and responsible use of other forest products that contribute to the quality of life of the indigenous communities.

Apart from Local Agenda 21 and the Climate Alliance, many Local Authorities are collaborating with organisations and networks on sustainable development issues, for instance:

- *European Sustainable Cities and Towns Network: over 1300 local and regional authorities from 38 European countries;*
- *Energie-Cités: the network extends over 20 European countries and its actions involve some 200 municipalities.*

¹ Source : Climate Alliance Declaration, 17.05.2000

FSC – a way to protect our world's remaining forests

A label for wood - the guarantee for responsible forest management practices

Acknowledging the failure of the attempts to regulate the international timber trade, environmental organisations decided - at the end of the eighties - to promote a systematic boycott of tropical timber. Although the boycott drew attention to the problem of forest destruction, it was clear that it could not be considered a long term solution but could even have unintended effects such as the conversion of forests (now valueless) into farming land and an increased use of alternative products, PVC or aluminium, less ecologically sound than timber.

Moreover, by defining tropical timber as “harmful to the environment” and concentrating all the attention on tropical forests, the boycott ignored the management problems and biodiversity loss in the European and North American forests. It was necessary to develop a constructive method allowing the consumer to identify wood from well managed forests and to encourage forest owners over the world in their efforts to implement good management practices. This is how the concept of forest certification and wood labelling was created as a tool to promote responsible forest management practices.

Every minute of every day we are losing some 26 hectares of forests (roughly the size of 37 football pitches), somewhere in the world. This amounts to nearly 14 million hectares per year. This loss is due to threats such as illegal and non sustainable logging, land clearance for agriculture, road building, mining, and forest fires.



What is the FSC?

The *Forest Stewardship Council* (FSC) was founded in 1993 by forest owners, timber industries, social groups and environmental organisations as a global, independent, non-governmental, non-profit organisation. The objective of the FSC is to promote environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management world-wide.

FSC is a membership organisation. Any forest owner, timber industry, labour union, environmental organisation, indigenous peoples' group or individual may become a member of the FSC and guide its development.

The members of the FSC have developed 10 international Principles and Criteria for certification of good forest management. National

FSC working groups adapt these Principles and Criteria to the specific conditions of the respective country.

The structure of FSC respects the fundamental principles of Agenda 21, such as the balanced representation of economic, environmental and social interests and competence. Thus its members (who total almost 500 at the time of writing) are divided into 3 chambers representing social, environmental and commercial interests, each of which is entitled to the same number of votes. Each chamber consists of 2 sub-chambers (one for the northern and one for the southern regions of the world) in order to consider the interests of the developing countries. Again both sub-chambers have the same number of votes.

From the forest to the consumer: the "Chain-of-custody"



Unlike a boycott that makes no distinction between well managed and poorly managed forests, FSC is a constructive approach that aims at encouraging initiatives for responsible forest management. Products originating from certified forests are labelled and thus allow the consumer to identify timber coming from environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management. In order to provide a guarantee to the consumer that the wood purchased really comes from a well managed forest, FSC has designed a system – called chain of custody - that tracks the timber from the certified forest through all the steps of the production process until it reaches the end user. Only when this tracking has been verified by an independent certification body is the product eligible to carry the FSC logo.

The 10 Principles of FSC

PRINCIPLE #1:

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND FSC PRINCIPLES

Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.

PRINCIPLE #2:

TENURE AND USE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.

PRINCIPLE #3:

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS

The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognised and respected.

PRINCIPLE #4:

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND WORKER'S RIGHTS

Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.

PRINCIPLE # 5:

BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST

Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.

PRINCIPLE #6:

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.

PRINCIPLE #7:

MANAGEMENT PLAN

A management plan - appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations - shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.

PRINCIPLE #8:

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Monitoring shall be conducted - appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management - to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.

PRINCIPLE 9:

MAINTENANCE OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS

Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.

PRINCIPLE # 10:

PLANTATIONS

Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1 - 9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.



Six good reasons to support FSC:

Protecting our world's forests

By using FSC certified timber products in your public works, your Local Authority gives the right signal and proves that it is capable of acting – not only talking- when it comes to protect our world's forests.

FSC, a recognition for best forest management practices

By certifying your forests according to a credible and international certification system, supported by leading environmental organisations, you receive an international recognition for the environmental and social quality of your forest management.

FSC, a participatory tool

Certifying your forests can be the starting point for an interesting and challenging debate between forest managers, citizens, associations and elected representatives about the management of your community forests. The participatory approach of FSC can create positive synergies between stakeholders, make the public aware of its responsibilities and solve existing conflicts.

FSC, a way of supporting local communities and indigenous people

The FSC recognises the rights of indigenous people to own, use and manage their lands and resources. By adopting the FSC certification scheme, you support indigenous people and local communities. By purchasing FSC

certified timber, you have the guarantee that the way the forest is managed respects their resources and tenure rights, including sites of special cultural and religious significance.

FSC integrates your Local Authority into a continent- and world-wide network

As more and more public forests are being FSC certified, more and more municipalities gather experience and know-how in responsible forest management. They can share it with you and help you improve your own forestry practices as well as the income of your forests' products. Your city could also decide to use this network of "FSC Local Authorities" to build a partnership with a municipality in the southern hemisphere, in order to exchange experience and knowledge and provide some capacity building.

FSC is economically beneficial in the long term

The certifiers' suggestions for optimising management helps to improve efficiency: certification demands better planning and monitoring which leads to better management decisions, which will be economically advantageous in the long term. Because of the currently growing market demand for certified timber it is often possible to receive premium prices for your certified timber. In the long term, certifying your forests will provide guaranteed market access for timber products from the forest.

How can Local Authorities promote responsible forest management?



As outlined in Agenda 21, Local Authorities have several ways and means at their disposal to work towards sustainable development. Thus, they can make a difference and contribute actively to the promotion of responsible forest management and thereby the protection of our world's forests.

Local authorities as consumers

Why should Local Authorities require FSC certified products in tender specifications?

Public procurement, local, regional, national and European govern-

ment spending on goods and services, represents about 14% of the GDP of the European Union – equivalent to over half the GDP of Germany. Environmental values are an important consideration in awarding public contracts. Indeed, forest management can be environmentally appropriate and socially beneficial, but it can also be environmentally and socially damaging. As a consumer of forest products, Local Authorities should take responsibility for ensuring that they have a neutral if not positive effect on the world's forests.

By choosing FSC certified timber products, Local Authorities

have the guarantee that the products are derived from well managed sources and that they contribute to responsible forest management world-wide.

Several LA's throughout Europe have successfully used FSC certified wood for public works, for instance: Limburg Province, Edegem (Belgium), Gouda, Uithoorn, Rotterdam, Lelystad (The Netherlands), Oranienburg, Greiffenberg (Germany), Horsham (UK), Barcelona, Huelva (Spain), Håbo (Sweden), and many more. More information about their projects can be found in the country fact sheets.

Suggested timber purchasing policy for Local Authorities

Forest management can be environmentally appropriate and socially beneficial, but it can also be environmentally and socially damaging. This policy recognises the responsibility of this Local Authority as a consumer of forest products to ensure that it has a neutral if not positive effect on the world's forests.

This Council will give preference to timber and timber products that have been independently certified by a credible, globally applicable forest certification scheme and can demonstrate that the products are derived from well managed sources. This certification scheme is the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) or an equivalent certification scheme that meets all the requirements mentioned below.

A sound forest certification system should:

- be independent, and be based on independent third party audits;*
- be participatory and acceptable to a large range of involved parties, including to consumers, social and environmental NGOs;*
- be fully transparent to the parties involved and to the public;*
- be built on consensus, to avoid unilateral measures and/or discriminatory trade impacts;*
- provide objective and measurable criteria and performance standards;*
- have transparent procedures including clear appeal mechanisms;*
- ensure an active commitment of the managers/owners of a certified unit;*
- have clear mechanisms that make reports and decisions available to the public;*
- encourage transparent use of eco-labelling –i.e. declarations that are precise and verifiable*
- be operational at an international level and not discriminating against certain forest types, groups of forest owners, countries or regions.*
- be institutionally and politically adapted to local conditions*

Documentation must be provided to prove that every attempt has been made to obtain certified sources before exploring alternatives. Flexibility in terms of species specification should be pursued.

All officers with responsibility for specifying timber will be required to inform contractors of the council's wood purchasing policy.



Guidance for implementing the timber purchasing policy

In order to guarantee the successful implementation of the timber purchasing policy, Local Authorities should consider some guidelines:

1/ Inform the staff

Local Authorities should hold a meeting to which all the staff with responsibility for timber procurement are invited. During this meeting, the timber purchasing policy can be discussed and questions related to FSC and the practical implementation of the new policy can be addressed.

2/ Provide the contractor with enough information

The staff with responsibility for specifying timber shall inform the contractors of the timber purchasing policy. Clear tender specifications and assistance to the contractors are essential. Some companies know the FSC procedure, but many do not. It is highly recommended to inform them on how they can obtain more information about FSC.

3/ Administrative guarantee

When FSC certified products are requested, the contractor has to give a guarantee to the Local Authority that the timber comes

from an FSC certified forest. As the timber, once purchased, may not physically carry a trademark, check the invoice of the supplier, which should clearly state that independently certified timber was supplied. There should be a code number that refers to the chain of custody certificate number, for example SA-COC-1022, or SGS/COC/0755/6525/0184.

4/ Prescribe technical requirements rather than timber species

Local Authorities commonly prescribe a limited range of timber species, however not all of them are available with an FSC label. Therefore we suggest that Local Authori-



ties prescribe technical requirements rather than timber species in tender dossiers. These descriptions can be as detailed as one wishes. For example, construction timber could be specified as follows:

- European or North American coniferous wood.
- Strength: refer to stress grading or mention “as strong as Oregon-select & merch. – 63 x 180 mm”.
- Durability: refer to a certain standard or mention “suitable for this application” or preserved with boric salts.
- Aesthetic aspects can also be mentioned.

5/ Use of lesser known timber species

Consumers are used to purchasing a very limited range of timber species, such as Meranti for exterior carpentry and often forget that thousands of wood species exist. The overexploitation of certain species causes environmental problems and so it is highly recommended to use a broader range of species. As an effect of the certification process, lesser known timber species become available on our markets. The support of the certification process includes the appropriate use of lesser known FSC certified species.

6/ Refine the search

Although the range (volume as well as number of species) is rapidly expanding, not all species are available with the FSC label. In order to help contractors in search of FSC certified timber, you can provide them with a list of companies selling FSC certified products.

7/ Different applications

If the project requires the use of different timber species for different applications, it is recommended to make separate tender specifications in order to facilitate the process.

8/ Set up a monitoring procedure

Local Authorities should set up a simple monitoring procedure so as to follow the implementation of their timber purchasing policy. This monitoring procedure might take the form of a pie chart which indicates the volumes of FSC certified timber and those of non-certified timber products.

Your national FSC working group, WWF office or Forest and Trade Network can provide assistance for the setting up and implementation of your timber purchasing policy and provide you with further information about FSC. Contact details can be found in the respective country fact sheets.

Legal aspects related to the prescription of FSC certified wood in tender specifications

Currently (September 2001), Local Authorities are fully allowed to specify certain environmental and social criteria in tender specifications, as long as they are clear and are announced in advance. In order to avoid discrimination against other labels, the specifications have to mention that the timber has to be certified according to the rules of FSC or the rules of an equivalent system that meets the requirements for a credible label.



What is the Global Forest and Trade Network ?

The Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN) is a group of organisations around the world that share the common aim of promoting trade in certified forest products as a means of improving forest management practices. Currently there are 15 organisations, or Forest and Trade Networks, within the GFTN, each serving a specific region of the world. While individual network organisations are independently managed, WWF provides co-ordination to the GFTN, ensuring that all group

members benefit from common efforts in advancing a shared mission.

Each individual Forest and Trade Network builds a member base of companies committed to the production, purchase and advocacy of independently certified forest products. Participation within a given network is open to any organisation that accepts its stated commitments. Member companies range from forest owners and timber processors to architects and home-improvement retailers. There are currently over 700 member companies world-wide, from small produc-

Local Authorities as forest owners

Local Authorities are not only consumers of wood products, very often they are forest owners too and as such they can decide to manage their forests according to the Principles and Criteria of the FSC.

For many towns and municipalities, certification of their forests is a practical implementation of the Agenda 21 objectives and as such part of their Local Agenda. The FSC not only considers the environmental, economic and social aspects of forest management, it also puts a very strong emphasis on participation. Thus, FSC certification provides an opportunity to all the stakeholders to express their views concerning the management of their community forests. This participatory approach can create very positive synergies between the

forest managers and its users and makes the public aware of its responsibilities.

The international applicability of the FSC is especially important to Authorities which are members of the Climate Alliance. Indeed, by certifying their forests according to the same standards as their partners in the South, these municipalities want to express their solidarity. It's a way of demonstrating that the approaches which are required at a global level are also implemented by them, locally.

Some examples of LA's that have certified their forests are: Apeldoorn, Arnhem, (The Netherlands), Bonn, Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Koblenz, (Germany), Croydon (UK), Älvkarleby, Huddinge (Sweden), Zurich, Winterthur, Geneva, (Switzerland), and many other. More information regarding these examples can be found in the country fact sheets.



ers to world leading companies such as The Home Depot and IKEA.

Forest and Trade Networks are currently in operation in Austria, Belgium, Brazil, France, Italy, Germany, Ireland, the Nordic Countries, the Netherlands, North America, Oceania, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, and the UK. Dramatically increasing global demand for independently certified forest products continues to fuel the formation of additional Forest and Trade Networks throughout the world. New Forest and Trade Networks are in development in Bolivia, Hong Kong, and Japan.



FSC Certification in practice

Forest certification is a voluntary process. The decision to manage a forest according to the FSC standard and to have it certified belongs solely to the forest owner. Certification itself is a monitoring process where an independent certification body chosen by the forest owner and accredited by FSC examines the existing forest management practices and procedures and ensures they are in accordance with the requirements of the FSC.

It has to be pointed out that in order to be certified, forest management does not have to be in total accordance with all the FSC Criteria right from the start, but the actions and objectives mentioned in the management plan must clearly implement responsible forest management as defined by the FSC standard. An even-aged plantation of a single species, for example, can be certified if the management plan clearly specifies a list of actions so as to convert the plantation into a more diverse forest which respects the objectives of the FSC. The implementation of these actions is controlled by the certification body during annual surveillance visits. Thus certification can be considered as a gradual approach to improve forest management practices.

Group certification for small forest owners

The concept of group certification was developed to provide easy, low-cost and equitable access to certification for owners of small forest holdings. The group certification process does not certify each forest holding individually, but establishes a group of certifiable forest operations. Members of such a group share certification logistics and costs. For forest owners participating in such a group scheme, certification is far less costly and less work intensive than individual certification. Any voluntary group of forest owners, a forest owners' association, a forestry organisation or a forest management co-operative may be suitable for group certification. Existing certification groups use the group successfully for joint marketing of their FSC certified forest products.

FSC certification step-by-step

In practice forest certification means an inspection of forest management both on the ground by field visits, and by talking to the forest manager and checking the relevant paperwork. Typically it involves the following steps:

1. Contact a _____ certification body²
2. Pre-audit _____
3. Formal request _____
4. Stakeholder consultation _____
5. Main audit _____
6. Audit report _____
7. Peer review _____ of the audit report
8. Handing over of the _____ certificate
9. Annual monitoring _____

² A list of FSC accredited certification bodies can be found at the end of the brochure.

In a first telephone enquiry, the forest manager finds out from the certification body what certification involves for their particular woodland. They talk about the type of woodland, its size and location, and about management objectives. The staff member of the certification body explains the procedure, estimates costs and sends an application pack.

It is not necessary to carry out a pre-audit but it can be very useful to do so. During the pre-audit, the certifier meets with the forest manager, goes through basic documents such as the management plan and visits the forest. This helps identifying aspects of management, which need to be improved upon before going ahead with the actual certification.

When the forest manager feels ready for the main assessment, he or she informs the certification body and fills in an application form. It is only now that the certification procedure becomes formal and official; in fact, the findings of the pre-audit are always confidential. The certification costs (costs for the main audit and the annual surveillance visits) are also discussed at this moment. They are based on the amount of time it will take to carry out the audit and thus depend on the size and complexity of the management operation.

Before actually visiting the forest, the certification body has to inform and consult local stakeholders, such as forest contractors, neighbouring landowners, local associations, individuals (e.g. hunters) or the forestry administration.

The auditor/audit team comes to meet the forest manager to inspect the woodland. Together they visit key areas such as current or recent harvesting sites, watercourses, regeneration areas, etc. to check whether the requirements -as set out in the standards- are being met. The auditor also verifies whether the existing documents (e.g. management plan, maps, health and safety regulations) are in compliance with the standard. The selling procedures are also checked in order to verify the correct use of the FSC logo and the correct transfer of the data to the buyers.

The auditor/audit team writes an audit report in which they recommend whether the forest should be certified, or what conditions have to be fulfilled before the certificate is issued, the so-called pre-conditions. Generally, the FSC certificate is issued with a number of conditions. In that case, the auditor issues corrective action requests in order to improve management practices which do not fully comply with the FSC Criteria. For each corrective action request, the auditor specifies a timeframe during which it has to be implemented. The forest owner will receive a copy of the inspection report and has the opportunity to comment before a certification decision is finalised.

The auditor submits its final report to an expert review committee. They examine the report and its results and make sure the certification procedures have been followed correctly. They recommend whether the forest should be certified and also check if the recommendations and corrective action requests issued by the auditor are appropriate and reasonable. The peer reviewers are neither employees of the certification body nor market competitors of the forest owner.

If the results of the main audit are positive, the certification body issues the certificate which allows the forest owner to use the FSC label. As explained above (step 6), the FSC certificate is issued with a number of corrective action requests which have to be implemented within a given timeframe. The FSC certificate will cover a 5 year period.

During the annual surveillance visits, the auditor controls the implementation of the corrective actions as well as the continued compliance with the FSC standard. The annual surveillance visits are on a much smaller scale than the main audit.

Costs of certification

The certification costs depend on the size and complexity of the forest holding and the management practices. The total certification costs can thus differ from forest to

forest and therefore the figures below are only estimates. The costs listed below are averages of the expected annual cost over a five year term (average of main audit and annual surveillance visits)³.

Size of holdings (ha)	500	1.000	5.000	20.000
Cost per year and ha in Euro	2,55	1,28	0,51	0,25

(Status May, 2001, National currencies have been translated into Euro with the exchange rate of 15 April 2001)

The cost for FSC group certification is determined by the number of holdings participating and their respective size. In addition, the cost is influenced significantly by the extent to which forest management

is executed, documented, and verified jointly among the members of the group. Additional costs may occur, for instance for consulting and internal monitoring of the group.

³ FSC Arbeitsgruppe Deutschland (2001).

Group certification	Scottish Woodlands Ltd, United Kingdom	Skogssällskapet Förvaltning AB (SFAB), Sweden	Bürgergemeinden and Forest Owners' Association Canton of Solothurn, Switzerland	Group Ostwestfalen-Lippe, Germany
Ownership categories	Private forest holdings, investment fund managers, individual investors	Private, public, foundations	State, communal and private forest holdings	Small private forest holdings
Total forest area (ha)	20.100	250.000	31.300	7.200
Holding size (ha)	10,4 to 3.036	6 to 17.000	10 to 570	26 (average size)
Cost per year and ha in Euro	1,13 to 2,27	0,33 to 0,55	0,26	0,12

(Status May, 2001, National currencies have been translated into Euro with the exchange rate of 15 April 2001)

Local Authorities as awareness raising actors

Local Authorities can play an essential role in informing the public about the importance of responsible forest management and the purchase of labelled timber products. An increasing consumer demand for labelled products will indeed stimulate timber processing companies as well as forest owners to participate in the certification process and thus contribute to the protection of the world's remaining forests.

Possible target groups could be environmental, cultural and development organisations, local environmental advisory boards, timber trading and timber processing companies, architects and forest owners.

The following activities could be organised by the Local Authority:

- Providing information about FSC via leaflets, brochures on sustainable construction methods, municipalities' newsletters, etc.
- Providing information about the impact of certification on institutional structures and on participatory processes in tropical countries.
- Organisation of exhibitions, meetings or seminars for the public or more specific target groups.
- Development of a policy on subsidies in order to promote the use of certified timber products.

Some nice examples of awareness raising activities of LA's are the following:

- The city of Göteborg awarded its International Environment Prize 2001 to both FSC International and the National Control Association for Organic Cultivation.
- From 1999 on the city of Zurich sells FSC certified Christmas trees.

More information about these and other examples can be read in the country fact sheets.



Suggested subsidy rule for certified timber

Art. 1: Within the restrictions of the available budget line approved in the annual budget, the municipal executive can accord a subsidy for the use of FSC certified wood or equivalent () in houses or buildings.*

Art. 2: Only houses or buildings situated within the municipalities' borders are taken into consideration.

Art. 3: The subsidy runs up to:

- for roofing joinery work: e pro m³, up to a maximum of e.*
- for exterior carpentry: ... % of the invoice, with a maximum of ...e.*
- an extra subsidy for timber frame constructions can be obtained.*

The subsidy will only be awarded once for the same building.

Art. 4: The request to obtain the subsidy for the use of FSC certified products or equivalent () has to be submitted at the Municipal Executive.*

Art. 5: Within a period of ... days after the introduction of the request, the municipal executive will inform the applicant of the success of the request and will communicate the amount of the subsidy.

The total amount will only be transferred after reception of the invoices (mentioning the FSC certificate number).

Art. 6: Within a period of ... days after obtaining the subsidy, the concerned official can inspect the works on site. If these controls show false or illegal practices, the subsidy will not be paid. The municipal official has the right to make an appeal to third parties.

The municipal executive has the right to refuse requests that do not comply with the intention of this code.

Art. 7: Disputes related to these rules or the inspections will be settled by the Municipal Executive.

() An equivalent certification scheme should :*

- be independent, and be based on independent third party audits;*
- be participatory and acceptable to a large range of involved parties, including to consumers, social and environmental NGOs;*
- be fully transparent to the parties involved and to the public;*
- be built on consensus, to avoid unilateral measures and/or discriminatory trade impacts;*
- provide objective and measurable criteria and performance standards;*
- have transparent procedures including clear appeal mechanisms;*
- ensure an active commitment of the managers/owners of a certified unit;*
- have clear mechanisms that make reports and decisions available to the public;*
- encourage transparent use of eco-labelling -i.e. declarations that are precise and verifiable*
- be operational at an international level and not discriminating against certain forest types, groups of forest owners, countries or regions.*
- be institutionally and politically adapted to local conditions.*

More information

List of FSC accredited certification bodies⁴

CANADA

Silva Forest Foundation,
Ms. Susan Hammond
P.O. Box 9,
Slocan Park BC V0G 2E0
Canada
Tel:+ 1 250 226 7222
Fax:+ 1 250 226 7446
silvafor@netidea.com
<http://www.silvafor.org>
Scope of accreditation : Within
Canada for Forest Management
and Chain of Custody

GERMANY

GFA Terra Systems
Hans-Joachim Droste
Eulenkrustrasse 82
Hamburg 22359
Germany
Tel:+ 49 40 6030 6140
Fax:+ 49 40 6030 6189
info@gfa-terra.de
<http://www.gfa-certification.de>
Scope of accreditation : World-
wide for Forest Management and
Chain of Custody

ITALY

ICILA (Istituto per la Certifi-
cazione ed I Servizi per Imprese
dell'arricchimento e del legno)
Ricardo Giordanno
Via Braille 5
Lissone (Milano) I-20035
Italy
Tel: + 39 039 465239
Fax: + 39 039 465168
envcert@icila.org
<http://www.icila.org>
Scope of accreditation: Worldwide
for Chain of Custody

SOUTH AFRICA

South African Bureau for Stan-
dards (SABS),
Mr. C.F. du Toit
Private Bag X191, Pretoria 0001
South Africa
Tel:+ 27 12 428 7911
Fax:+ 27 12 344 1568
debruic@sabs.co.za
Scope of accreditation : Chain of
Custody evaluation in South
Africa and the South African
Development Corporation

SWITZERLAND

Institut für Marktökologie (IMO)
Dr. Thomas Papp-Vary
Poststrasse 8,
Sulgen CH-8583
Switzerland
Tel:+ 41 71 644 9880
Fax:+ 41 71 644 9883
forest@imo.ch
<http://www.IMO.CH>
Scope of accreditation : World-
wide for Forest Management and
Chain of Custody

THE NETHERLANDS

SKAL
Mr. Raoul Vernede
P.O. Box 384,
Zwolle AJ 8000
The Netherlands
Tel:+ 31 38 426 8181
Fax:+ 31 38 421 3063
RV@skal.com
<http://www.Skal.com>
Scope of accreditation : World-
wide for Forest Management and
Chain of Custody

⁴ FSC International, 21st of September 2001

UNITED KINGDOM

BM TRADA Certification
Mr. Alasdair McGregor
Stirling Business Centre, Well-
green Place,
Stirling FK8 2DZ
United Kingdom
Tel:+ 44 1786 450 891
Fax:+ 44 1786 451 087
AMCGregor@stirling-trada.co.uk
<http://www.bmtrada.com>
Scope of accreditation :Chain of
Custody certification worldwide

SGS Forestry QUALIFOR Pro-
gramme

Mr. Neil Judd
58 St. Aldates
Oxford OX1 1ST
United Kingdom
Tel:+ 44 1865 202 345
Fax:+ 44 1865 790 441
Neil_Judd@sgsgroup.com
<http://www.qualifor.com>
Scope of accreditation : World-
wide for Forest Management and
Chain of Custody

Soil Association Woodmark
scheme

Kevin Jones / Meriel Robson
Bristol House
40-56 Victoria Street
Bristol BS1 6BY
United Kingdom
Tel:+ 44 117 914 2435
Fax:+ 44 117 925 2504
kjones@soilassociation.org
mrobson@soilassociation.org
<http://www.soilassociation.org>
Scope of accreditation : World-
wide for Forest Management and
Chain of Custody

UNITED STATES

Rainforest Alliance Smart Wood
Program
Mr. Richard Donovan
61 Millet Street
Goodwin Baker Building
Richmond Vermont 05477
United States
Tel:+ 1 802 434 5491
Fax:+ 1 802 434 3116
info@smartwood.org
<http://www.smartwood.org>
Scope of accreditation : Worldwide
for Forest Management and Chain
of Custody

Scientific Certification Systems
Dr. Robert Hrubes
Park Plaza Building
1939 Harrison Street
Suite 400
Oakland California 94612-3532
United States
Tel:+ 1 510 832 1415
Fax:+ 1 510 832 0359
rhrubes@igc.org
<http://www.scs1.com>
Scope of accreditation : Worldwide
for Forest Management and Chain
of Custody

Related websites

- FSC International: www.fscoax.org
- WWF International: www.panda.org
- Global Forest and Trade Network: www.panda.org/forestandtrade/
- Forestworld: www.forestworld.com
- Certified Forest Products Council: www.certifiedwood.org
- Climate Alliance: www.klimabuendnis.org
- Agenda 21: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/agenda21.htm
- European Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaign: www.sustainable-cities.org
- Energie-Cités: www.energie-cites.org
- Sustainability Web Ring: <http://sdgateway.net/webring>

Related publications

- Group certification toolkit
- FSC- the right choice for forest owners

6 Six good reasons to support FSC

1 Protecting our world's forests

By using FSC certified timber products in your public works, your Local Authority gives the right signal and proves that it is capable of acting – not only talking – when it comes to protect our world's forests.

2 FSC, a recognition for best forest management practices

By certifying your forests according to a credible and international certification system, supported by leading environmental organisations, you receive an international recognition for the environmental and social quality of your forest management.

3 FSC, a participatory tool

Certifying your forests can be the starting point for an interesting and challenging debate between forest managers, citizens, associations and elected representatives about the management of your community forests. The participatory approach of FSC can create positive synergies between stakeholders, make the public aware of its responsibilities and solve existing conflicts.

4 FSC, a way of supporting local communities and indigenous people

The FSC recognises the rights of indigenous people to own, use and manage their lands and resources. By adopting the FSC certification scheme, you support indigenous people and

local communities. By purchasing FSC certified timber, you have the guarantee that the way the forest is managed respects their resources and tenure rights, including sites of special cultural and religious significance.

5 FSC integrates your Local Authority into a continent- and world-wide network

As more and more public forests are being FSC certified, more and more municipalities gather experience and know-how in responsible forest management. They can share it with you and help you improve your own forestry practices as well as the income of your forests' products. Your city could also decide to use this network of "FSC Local Authorities" to build a partnership with a municipality in the southern hemisphere, in order to exchange experience and knowledge and provide some capacity building.

6 FSC is economically beneficial in the long term

The certifiers' suggestions for optimising management helps to improve efficiency: certification demands better planning and monitoring which leads to better management decisions, which will be economically advantageous in the long term. Because of the currently growing market demand for certified timber it is often possible to receive premium prices for your certified timber. In the long term, certifying your forests will provide guaranteed market access for timber products from the forest.



Since it was founded in 1961, WWF has become one of the world's largest and most effective independent organisations dedicated to the conservation of nature. WWF now operates in around 90 countries, supported by nearly five million people world-wide. WWF's mission is to achieve the conservation of nature and ecological processes by:

- preserving genetic, species and ecosystem diversity;
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable both now and in the long term, for the benefit of all life on earth;
- promoting actions to reduce, to a minimum, pollution and the wasteful exploitation and consumption of resources and energy