

# FSC® Forest Management Certification Services

SCS Global Services certifies responsible forestry practices in forests that meet the stringent environmental, social and economic



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requirements of the internationally-recognized Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standard. Our seasoned team of certification professionals has deep knowledge of forest management, ecology and economics, and brings this expertise to bear in its field audits, findings, certification decisions and client support.

## CERTIFICATION OPTIONS

Choose the service that best suits your needs:

- 1. Forest Management for Single or Multiple FMUs.** A forest management entity with one or several forest management units (FMUs) operating under a single forest management plan.
- 2. Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMF).** Streamlined certification protocols for small forests or groups of forests with low harvest levels or maximum size requirements by country.
- 3. Group Certification.** Multiple landowners or forest managers certified under one certificate, under the direction of a single group manager.
- 4. Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP).** Certification protocols for operations that harvest non-timber forest products, such as foodstuffs.

## BENEFITS OF FSC CERTIFICATION

Certification to the FSC standard by SCS Global Services can benefit your organization in several ways:

- Assure customers that you meet the highest standards of forest stewardship
- Satisfy growing worldwide demand for certified products
- Enhance your brand by using the SCS Kingfisher certification mark alongside your FSC logo.

for information about becoming certified or locating certified products:

[SCSglobalServices.com/  
fsc-certified-responsible-forestry](http://SCSglobalServices.com/fsc-certified-responsible-forestry)

tel +1.510.452.8000

[coc@SCSglobalServices.com](mailto:coc@SCSglobalServices.com)



## CERTIFICATION PROCESS

The assessment process includes the following steps:

- 1. Application.** Representatives of your forest management operation fill out an application.
- 2. Project Proposal.** SCS evaluates the application and prepares an audit plan and proposal, including the costs and a timeline for the evaluation process. The applicant then authorizes a work order and the certification process begins.
- 3. Stakeholder Consultation.** The SCS assessment team, consisting of experts in the relevant fields of forestry, social science, and economics, conducts stakeholder consultations to acquire outside input regarding the applicant's management performance in relation to the FSC Principles and Criteria.
- 4. On-Site Audit.** The assessment team conducts an on-site audit to determine if the applicant's management system is being implemented in conformance with the FSC standards. Forest conditions are also assessed. A report is produced that details the results of the evaluation.
- 5. Peer Review.** The assessment report is reviewed by the applicant for factual accuracy, and then submitted to independent peer review to validate the appropriateness of the team's analytical methodology and conclusions.
- 6. Certification Decision.** Following peer review, the SCS certification committee reviews the report and decides whether or not to approve certification. If granted, a certificate is issued for a five-year period, subject to annual surveillance audits.

## PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENTS

An applicant may prefer to undergo a preliminary assessment to provide insight regarding its strengths and weaknesses relative to the certification standards. The results of this preliminary assessment enable forest managers to better prepare for the FSC-endorsed certification process. Per FSC policy, larger or controversial operations are required to undergo preliminary assessments prior to the certification evaluation.

## SCS FOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAM

SCS Global Services (SCS) has been providing global leadership in third-party environmental and sustainability certification, auditing, testing, and standards development for nearly 30 years. Our programs span a wide cross-section of industries, recognizing achievements in green building, product manufacturing, food and agriculture, forestry, retail, and more. We are accredited to provide services under a wide range of nationally and internationally recognized certification programs. Consistent with our mission, we are a chartered benefit corporation and Certified B Corp™.

SCS pioneered the field of forest management certification with its establishment of the Forest Conservation Program in 1991. Soon thereafter, SCS participated as a founding member in the FSC, and subsequently become one of the first internationally accredited third-party certifiers for Forest Management and Chain-of-Custody certification under the FSC umbrella. SCS has certified tens of millions of hectares of forests in Central, South and North America, Europe, Asia, and New Zealand; SCS has also issued more than a thousand FSC-endorsed Chain-of-Custody certificates worldwide.