



FSC[®] CERTIFICATION IN KENYA

Working with Government to take care of Kenya's forests





FORESTS IN CRISIS

Kenya's forests are being depleted at an unprecedented rate. The FAO Global Forest Watch indicates that between 2001 and 2019, Kenya lost 342,000 hectares of forest cover largely attributed to pressure from charcoal production, agriculture expansion, unregulated logging and urbanization.

Deforestation deprives Kenya of revenue. It is estimated to have costed the Kenyan economy a combined total of 12.4 billion Kenyan shillings (USD 145 million) in 2009 and 2010.

Ministry of Environment and Forestry estimates an annual sustainable wood deficit of approximately 16 million cubic metres, projected to increase to 34.4 million cubic metres by 2030.

Government of Kenya, therefore, needs to take bold steps to address the existing challenges, reverse the loss of its forests and bridge the supply-demand gap.



USD 145 MILLION

the estimated amount of revenue Kenya lost in two years due to deforestation.

FORESTS CORE TO KENYA'S DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Kenya's forests cover approximately 4.1 million hectares which is 7.2 per cent of its total land area. The forests contribute about 33 per cent to household income and 70 per cent of Kenya's domestic energy requirements.

Forest goods and services contribute about 3.6 per cent to Kenya's gross domestic product (GDP) and support other sectors particularly agriculture, fisheries, livestock, energy, wildlife, tourism, trade and industry that contribute between 33 to 39 per cent to GDP.

The country's five main forests 'water towers'; Mau Forest Complex, Mount Kenya, the Aberdares, Mount Elgon and Cherangani provide 75 per cent of Kenya's water resources, are important biodiversity hotspots and act as carbon sinks.

GOVERNMENT OF KENYA'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Government of Kenya is taking positive steps to ensure sustainable forest management of its forest resources in-line with the National Forest Policy.

The Government through its ongoing forest restoration program is committed to increase the national tree cover to 10 per cent of the country's total land area by 2022.

The Government is committed to restore 5.1 million hectares of degraded land, as contribution to the global effort to mitigate climate change under the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100).

Government of Kenya is also rehabilitating its five water towers to increase forest cover and land productivity, enhance resilience to climate change and increase benefits to communities from forest and agriculture production.

Kenya developed its own FSC Interim National Standard as basis for promoting responsible forest management using the FSC certification system. The standard is applicable to all forest management operations in Kenya seeking FSC certification.

This is where Government of Kenya's partnership with FSC is important and the process of certification is duly explained.



WHAT IS FSC CERTIFICATION?

FSC certification confirms that forests are being managed in a way that preserves biological diversity and benefits the lives of local people and workers, while ensuring they sustain economic viability.

The FSC system monitors how forests are managed. It puts in place mechanisms to label and trace timber and other products all the way to the consumer. It does this through two kinds of certification: Forest Management Certification and Chain of Custody Certification.

FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATION



Forest Management Certification confirms that individuals, governments and private companies are managing their forests in a way that protects water, soil and wildlife, benefits the wellbeing of local communities and workers while ensuring they sustain economic viability.

As of January 2021, over 221 million hectares of forest were FSC certified in 79 countries. In Africa, more than nine million hectares of forest were FSC certified. Kenya had no FSC forest management/chain of custody certificates.

Chain of Custody Certification ensures that FSC certified materials and products are checked at every stage of processing from the forest all the way to the consumer.

As of January 2021, a total of 44,751 chain of custody certificates were issued in 130 countries. In Africa over 300 chain of custody certificates were issued; in Kenya there were nine certificates.



WHY SHOULD GOVERNMENT OF KENYA CERTIFY ITS FORESTS?

• Meeting international obligations

By implementing FSC certification, Government of Kenya is able to:


- > Meet the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which FSC supported to formulate. FSC certification contributes to 14 of the 17 goals and 40 targets.




- > Attain its commitment to restore 5.1 million hectares of degraded land it pledged under the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100).




• Satisfying social, environmental and economic needs

It's good for people: 

- > Indigenous Peoples and local communities are consulted, their land and user rights are protected and this reduces conflicts.
- > FSC certification requires forest managers - on both public and private lands - to engage local communities and to protect customary rights of Indigenous Peoples, ensuring their voices are part of the certification process.
- > Workers can have better conditions, fair wages and protection of their rights.
- > Certified businesses pay their taxes, which generate social and economic benefits for the people.

It's good for the earth: 

- > High conservation value areas in Kenya can be identified and conserved as biodiversity hotspots.
- > Kenya's endangered plants and animals and the habitats they live in can be protected.
- > Soil and water quality can be improved.

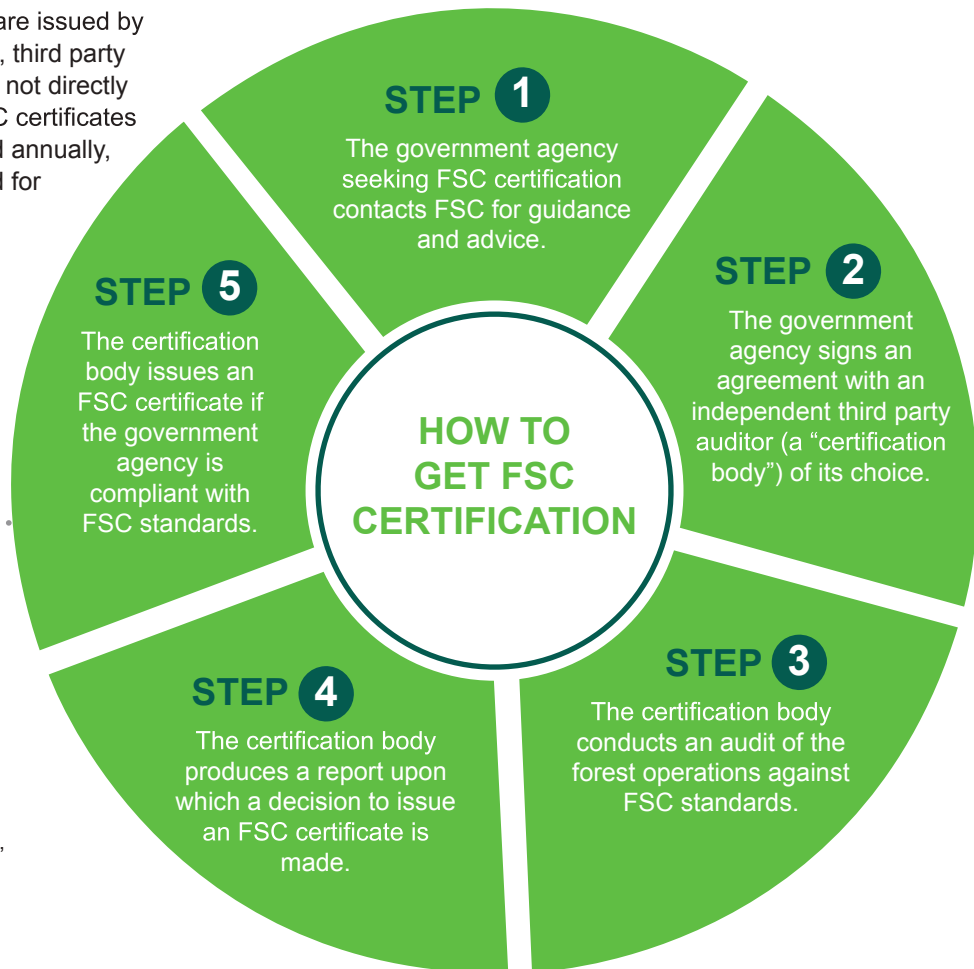
It's good for business: 

- > Improves business efficiency and stabilizes market access.
- > Emphasizes local economies and practices that favour good relationships between the Government and all relevant stakeholders, including local communities.
- > Requires that all workers have right protection, receive proper training and are paid a fair wage, which means better conditions for workers and their dependants.

HOW DOES GOVERNMENT OF KENYA OBTAIN FSC CERTIFICATION?



Certificates are issued by independent, third party auditors and not directly by FSC. FSC certificates are reviewed annually, and are valid for 5 years.



If you're not successful, the certification body will issue corrective actions to implement, and once successfully implemented, a certificate is awarded.

ABOUT THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL® (FSC®)

FSC is an international non-profit, multi-stakeholder organization that provides the world's most trusted sustainable forest management solution. It has over 25 years of experience in promoting responsible forest management, bringing together experts from the environmental, economic and social spheres.

FSC works with governments, businesses, Indigenous People's organizations, community forestry groups and various other categories of stakeholders to ensure that forests and wood supply chains are managed responsibly.

FSC leverages on the power of consumers, and the market, to save forests. It empowers governments, businesses and consumers to identify and choose products from responsibly managed forests.



THE 10 FSC PRINCIPLES AND CRITERIA FOR FOREST STEWARDSHIP

The 10 FSC Principles and Criteria are essential requirements for responsible forest management. To obtain FSC certification, a forest owner or manager needs demonstrate how these requirements are met.



01 COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

Comply with applicable laws, regulations, treaties, conventions and agreements.



02 WORKERS' RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

Maintain or enhance the social and economic wellbeing of workers.



03 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS

Identify and uphold indigenous peoples' legal and customary rights of ownership, use and management of land, territories and resources affected by forest management activities.



04 COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Contribute to maintaining or enhancing the social and economic wellbeing of local communities.



05 BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST

Efficiently manage the products and services of the managed forest area to maintain or enhance long-term economic viability and the range of environmental and social benefits.



06 ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND IMPACT

Maintain, conserve and/or restore ecosystem services and environmental values of the forest area. Avoid, repair or mitigate negative impacts.



07 MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Align the management plan with the scale, intensity and risks of activities. Ensure there is documentation to guide staff, inform stakeholders and justify management decisions.



08 MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Show that progress towards achieving objectives, impacts of activities and condition of the managed area are assessed and adapted in line with scale, intensity and risk of activities.



09 HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES

Maintain and/or enhance high conservation values in the managed forest area.



10 IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Select and implement management activities that are in line with economic, environmental and social policies and objectives.

PLEASE CONTACT US:

Annah Agasha
Coordinator, Eastern Africa
Email: a.agasha@fsc.org



Africa FSC



@FSC_Africa



www.fsc.org/en | www.africa.fsc.org

INFORMATION SOURCES

- > The forest Stewardship Council: <https://fsc.org/en>
- > Global Forest Watch: <https://www.globalforestwatch.org>
- > United Nations Environment Programme: <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/deforestation-costing-kenyan-economy-millions-dollars-each-year-and>
- > Ministry of Environment and Forestry: Taskforce Report on Forest Resources Management and Logging Activities in Kenya, 2018
- > Kenya Forest Service: <http://www.kenyaforestservice.org>