



FSC[™] CERTIFICATION IN UGANDA

Opening opportunities, creating benefits for businesses

GROWING DEMAND FOR WOOD AND RELATED PRODUCTS IN UGANDA

Uganda aspires to attain an upper middle-income status by 2040, in line with Uganda Vision 2040.

As the country rolls out its sustainable industrialization for inclusive growth, employment and sustainable wealth creation programs, demand for wood and wood related products continues to grow, projected to reach 105 million tonnes by 2040.

Demand for wood and related products is mainly driven by government projects and businesses in construction, furniture, electricity transmission, fuelwood, paper printing and packaging, to meet requirements of the country's growing population.

THE NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE SOURCING OF WOOD PRODUCTS

Uganda is estimated to have a wood supply deficit of approximately 174,000 tonnes by 2030.

Moreover, a World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) study indicates that over 80 per cent of the timber on the Ugandan market is from informal and/or illegal sources and of low quality.

Illegal wood is leading to massive destruction of Uganda's forests, has accelerated the effects of climate change and continues to impose stiff competition to businesses that obtain their wood products from legal sources.

Businesses need to be part of the solution to protect Uganda's forests by procuring wood and related products originating from sustainably managed/FSC certified sources.

FSC CERTIFICATION: SUPPORTING BUSINESSES TO THRIVE

FSC certification is trusted by businesses worldwide as the sustainable choice to deliver better outcomes for forests, people and markets – today and for future generations. This is because:

- > FSC is endorsed by big brands in businesses and by NGOs;
- > FSC is the global gold standard in forest certification;
- > FSC provides an inclusive platform to engage stakeholders.

By adopting FSC certification, businesses in Uganda can:

- ➔ **Gain market access and competitive advantage:** FSC certification can help businesses gain stronger and more diverse customer base and strengthen their competitive advantage.
- ➔ **Enhance public image:** The FSC brand enhances reputation for businesses and increases the confidence of customers that the wood products they are buying come from responsible sources.
- ➔ **Meet the requirements of investors:** FSC certification provides assurance to investors that businesses take care of the environment and the wellbeing of communities and workers.



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.

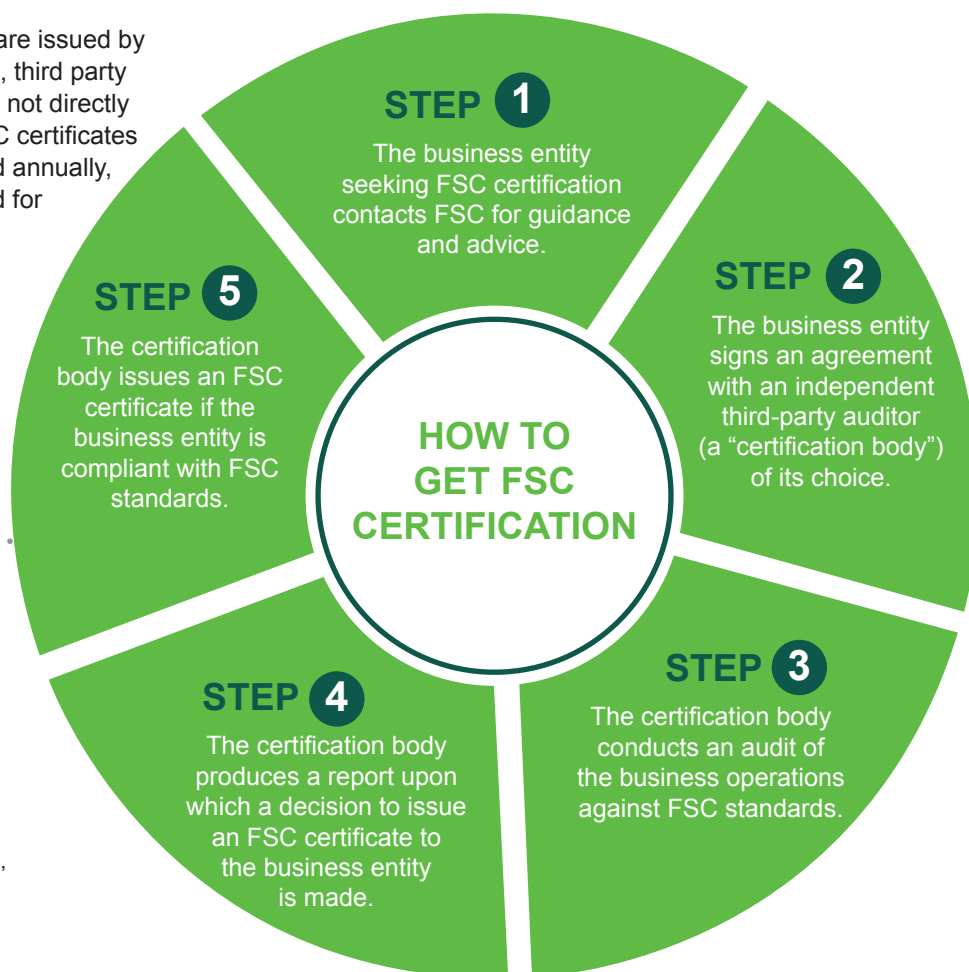
The FSC system monitors how forests are managed. It puts in place mechanisms to label and trace timber and other products all the way to the consumer. It does this through two kinds of certification:

- ➔ **Forest Management Certification** 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, Uganda had 40,000 hectares of certified forest area.
- ➔ **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, Uganda had three certificates.

HOW DOES A BUSINESS IN UGANDA 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.

Images: National Forestry Authority (NFA) and Forest Sector Support Department (FSSD)

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