



# **FSC™ CERTIFICATION IN TANZANIA**

Working with Government to take care of Tanzania's forests





## FORESTS IN CRISIS

Tanzania is losing its forests at an unprecedented rate. The FAO Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 indicates that between 2015 – 2020, Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar lost 474,109 hectares of forest, largely attributed to competing land uses e.g. settlement, agriculture, and charcoal production.

The Environment Division indicates that the country may be at risk of total forest loss within 50-80 years.

Deforestation deprives Tanzania of revenue. It is estimated to cost the country's economy up to USD 3.5 billion by 2033.

Tanzania has a wood deficit of 19.5 million cubic metres per year.

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

## FORESTS CORE TO TANZANIA'S DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Tanzania's forests cover approximately 46 million hectares which is 55 per cent of its total land area. Forests are sources of livelihoods to 87 per cent of the rural households, contribute 90 per cent of the energy requirements and deliver vast ecosystem services.

Forest goods and services contribute 3-4 per cent to Tanzania's gross domestic product (GDP) while tourism, which partly depends on forested woodlands, contributes 17 per cent to the country's GDP.

## GOVERNMENT OF TANZANIA'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Despite the challenges, Government of Tanzania is taking positive steps to ensure sustainable forest management for its forest resources.

Tanzania committed to restore 5.2 million hectares of degraded land as contribution to the global effort to mitigate climate change under the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100).

The country is implementing participatory forest management, a community-based approach to secure and manage forests at community level.

In 2018, the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™) approved the FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) of Tanzania Mainland. The NFSS is applicable to all forest operations seeking FSC certification for forest management in Tanzania.

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



# USD 3.5 BILLION

the estimated amount Tanzania could lose in revenue due to deforestation by 2033.



## 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.

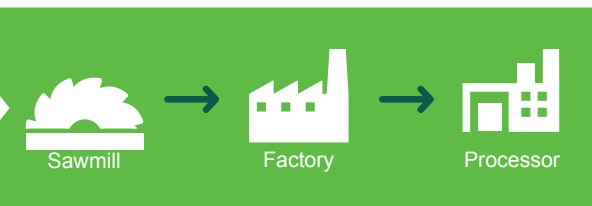
### FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION



**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. Tanzania had 227,688 hectares of certified forest and three forest management/chain of custody certificates.

### CHAIN OF CUSTODY CERTIFICATION



**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 447,751 chain of custody certificates were issued in 130 countries. In Africa over 300 chain of custody certificates were issued; in Tanzania there were four certificates.



## WHY SHOULD GOVERNMENT OF TANZANIA CERTIFY ITS FORESTS?

### • Meeting international obligations

By implementing FSC certification, Government of Tanzania 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 5.2 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 Tanzania can be identified and conserved as biodiversity hotspots.
- > Tanzania's endangered plants and animals and the habitats they live in can be protected.
- > Soil and water quality can be improved.

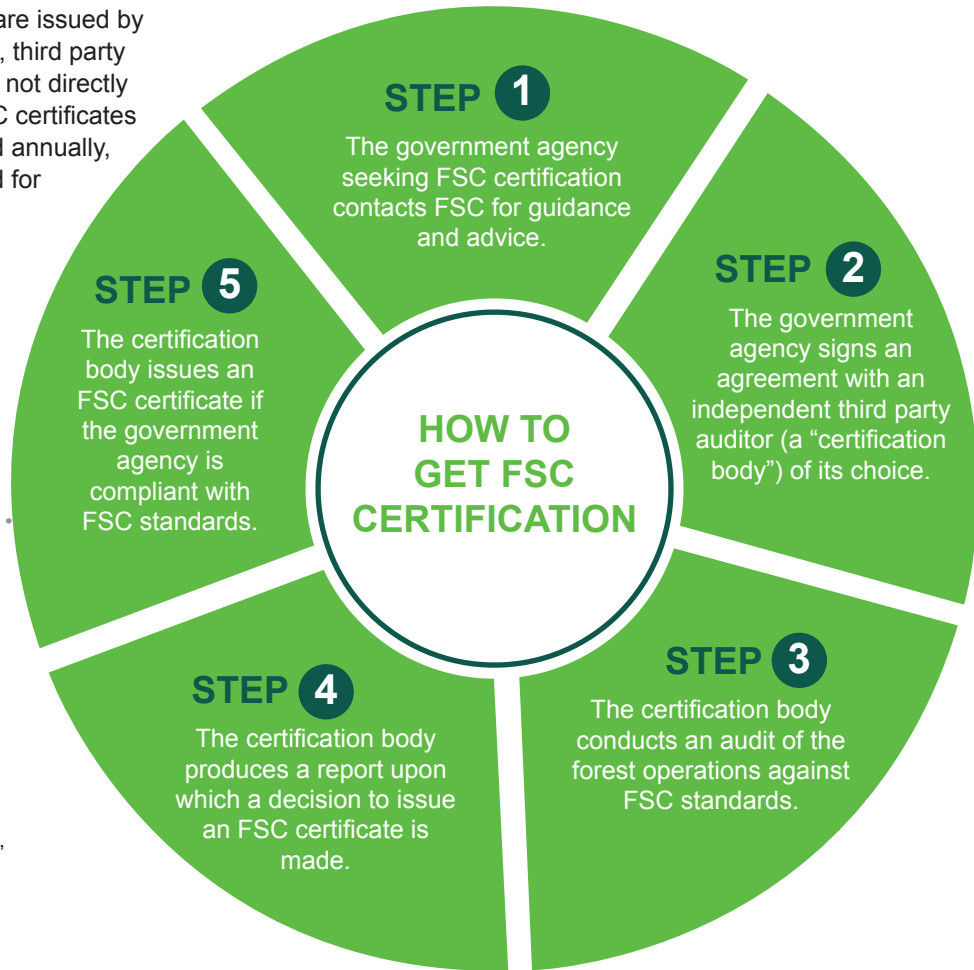
It's good for business: 

- > Improves business efficiency and stabilizes market access.
- > Emphasizes local economies and practices that favour good relationships between companies 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 TANZANIA 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:**

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[www.fsc.org/en](http://www.fsc.org/en) | [www.africa.fsc.org](http://www.africa.fsc.org)

**INFORMATION SOURCES**

- > The Forest Stewardship Council: <https://fsc.org/en>
- > National Forest Resources Monitoring and Assessment (NAFORMA) of Tanzania Mainland report 2015. <https://www.tfs.go.tz/index.php/sw/resources/view/naforma-report-2015>
- > Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism: Forestry and Value Chains Development (FORVAC), 2018 – 2022
- > Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 United Republic of Tanzania Report
- > FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Tanzania Mainland, 2018