

FSC® AFRICA

# STRATEGY

2021-2026



## THE DAWN OF CERTIFICATION IN AFRICA

Africa's forests, which are estimated to span 637 million hectares, 20.6 per cent of the continent's land area, and 15.6 per cent of the world's forest cover, are a major force behind regional economic development. In Africa, there exists an astonishing 290 million hectares of production forest, with 10.7 million hectares managed under the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) Forest Management (FM) certification. Most of Africa's forests are owned and managed by national governments (94%) with the private sector responsible for only about 6%

Africa's forests support local communities' livelihoods and are a significant source of revenue for regional economies. In addition to providing ecological services, they do much more than just help combat climate change. Without climate and ecosystem services (CES), most species would not exist.

In Africa, FSC promotes economic, social, and environmental sustainability in forest management. FSC has 166 members in 22 countries and run active programmes in over 15 of them.

## FSC SCOPE OF WORK IN AFRICA

Known for their biodiversity and low human density, the Congo Basin forests are considered the 'second lung' of the planet after the Amazon. For this reason, the Congo Basin is crucial for forest management efforts. FSC promotes sustainable forest management in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo (Republic of Congo), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Gabon. Additionally, the FSC is implementing natural rubber and small holder certification projects in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, and Nigeria; and looking at prospects of certifying forests in Benin, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

In Eastern Africa, the opportunity for responsible forest management is in protected areas, plantation and non forest timber products like tea and bamboo. FSC focuses on Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. There is a potential to expand activities to Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Somalia, Seychelles, South Sudan and Sudan.

Much of Southern Africa is dominated by dry woodlands, typically miombo and sandveld species, which are critical in terms of economic, social and environmental sustainability. They also serve as a significant carbon sink and support mega-herbivores. In Southern Africa, we focus on Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mozambique, and have presence in Botswana, eSwatini, Lesotho and Zambia. We are facilitating certification in Angola, Malawi, Mauritius, Madagascar and the Comoros.



## GROWTH STRATEGIES



**Best Approaches:** Maintain institutional capacity of FSC Africa to capitalize on the many opportunities and strengthen regional technical capacity for certification.



**Science driven & policy approach:** Use research evidence-based policy tools to increase uptake of certification in national forest programmes.



**Strengthen value proposition:** Transform markets to adopt ethical and sustainable sourcing – an incentive for growth in both FM and CoC certification.



**Strategic partnership:** Strengthen partnerships with governments and other institutions to scale out sustainable forest management.

## EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES



New prospects of scaling out certification across the region – FM, woodlots in tea estates, bamboo, furniture, biomass energy, construction, textiles, olive production, etc.



Demand for certified natural rubber – West Africa – Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, and Liberia.



Opportunity with smallholder and communities certification in Eastern Africa, Western Africa, Congo Basin and Southern Africa through the Community and Family Forests (CFF) programme.



Opportunities for pro-certification legislation in the region, and enhancing the understanding of FSC by governments and national forest authorities.



Potential markets for verified Ecosystems Services (ES) claims.



Forest Landscape Restoration: e.g. 32 countries committing to restore more than 100 m ha of forest – AFR100 (the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative) by 2030.

## FSC VISION

Meeting the rights and needs of the present generation without compromising those of future generations.

- Social: respectful and supportive
- Ecological: sustainable & biologically diverse
- Economic: responsible and profitable

## FSC MISSION

FSC will promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

## 2026 OBJECTIVE

The value and benefits of forest stewardship will be demonstrated in 15 million hectares of FSC-certified area including national parks and community managed forests.

## OUR CORE STRENGTH

We convene members and other partners from diverse interests to set a global benchmark for forest stewardship and deliver results that matter for the forests and the people who depend on them.

### IN NUMBERS

**10.7M**

MILLION HECTARES  
OF CERTIFIED  
FORESTS

**61+**

FOREST  
MANAGEMENT  
CERTIFICATES

**370+**

CHAIN OF  
CUSTODY  
CERTIFICATES

**166**

MEMBERS

