



FSC™ CERTIFICATION IN UGANDA

Working with Government to take care of Uganda's forests

FORESTS IN CRISIS

Uganda has lost more than 50 per cent of its forest estate over the past 25 years.

The FAO Global *Forest Resources Assessment 2020* indicates that between 2015-2020, Uganda's forests decreased by nine percent from 2.5 million hectares to 2.3 million hectares. This loss is largely attributed to a rapidly growing population and competing land uses e.g. settlement, agriculture and charcoal production.

The National Environment Management Authority estimates that at the present rate of deforestation, Uganda will have no natural forests by 2050.

Deforestation deprives Uganda of revenue. Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) estimates a loss of 23 billion Uganda shillings (USD 8 million) annually.

Government of Uganda, therefore, needs to take bold steps to reverse the loss of forest cover and ensure sustainable management of its forest resources.

FORESTS CORE TO UGANDA'S DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Uganda's forests cover approximately 2.3 million hectares. The forests are sources of livelihoods to 87 per cent of rural households, contribute approximately 88 per cent of the energy requirements, and deliver vast ecosystem services.

The forests host wildlife such as mountain gorillas and chimpanzees that are major tourist attractions, contributing approximately 61 per cent income derived from tourism.

The forestry sub sector contributes about 3.5 per cent per annum to Uganda's gross domestic product (GDP) and provides jobs for about one million people.

GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Despite the challenges, Government of Uganda is taking positive steps to ensure sustainable forest management of its remaining forest estate.

Under Uganda Vision 2040, the Government is committed to increase its land area covered by forests from 9 percent to 15 percent by 2025, and to 24% by 2040.

Uganda committed to restore 2.5 million hectares by 2020 as contribution to the global effort to mitigate climate change under the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100).

In 2018, the Ministry of Water and Environment, in partnership with the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™), launched the National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS). The NFSS is applicable to all forest operations in Uganda seeking FSC certification for forest management.

For example, the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), a Government agency responsible for the management and protection of Wildlife in and outside protected areas is adopting FSC certification for its park management system.

Government of Uganda's efforts to manage its forests sustainably can be enhanced through adoption of FSC certification.



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.

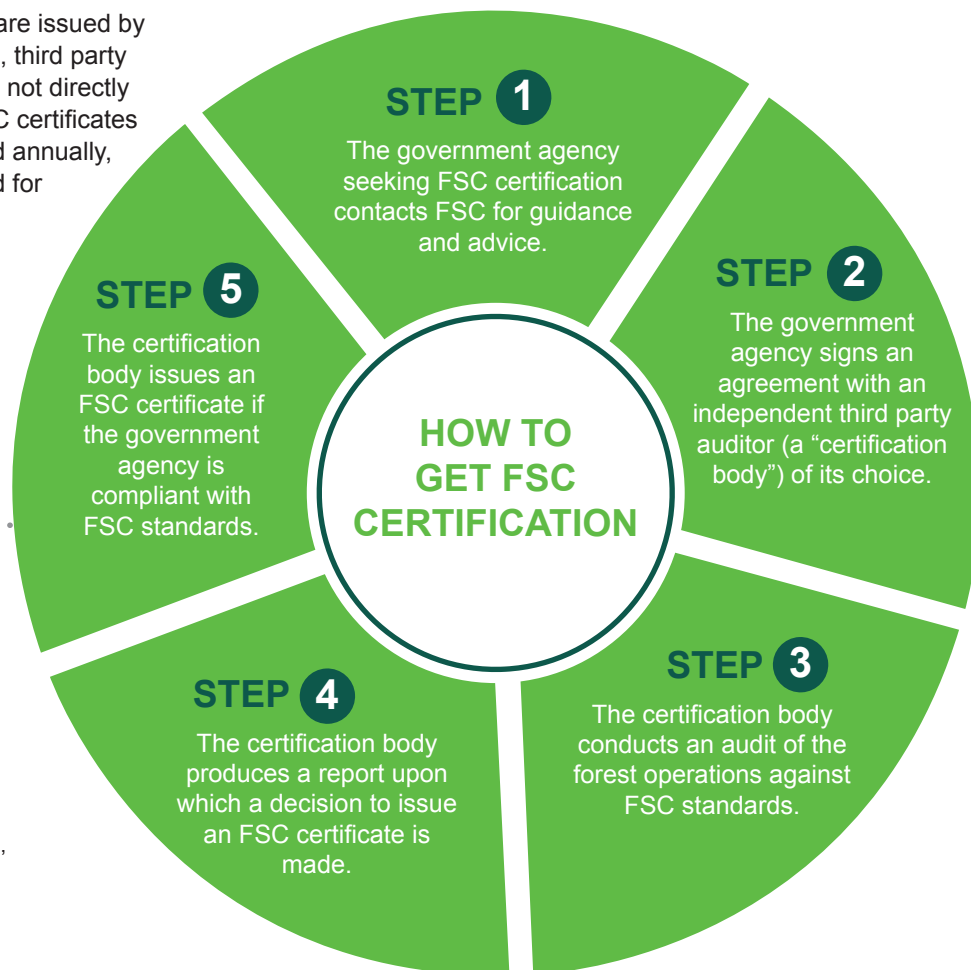
The FSC system monitors how forests are managed. It puts in place mechanisms to label and trace timber and other products all the way to the consumer. It does this through two kinds of certification:

- ➔ **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.
- ➔ **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 GOVERNMENT OF 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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