



FSCTM 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.

According to Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania has a wood deficit of 19.5 million cubic metres per year.

Government of Tanzania, therefore, needs to take bold steps to address 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 about 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 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 CouncilTM (FSCTM) approved 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 Government of Tanzania's partnership with FSC is important and the process of certification is duly explained.



WHAT IS FSC CERTIFICATION?

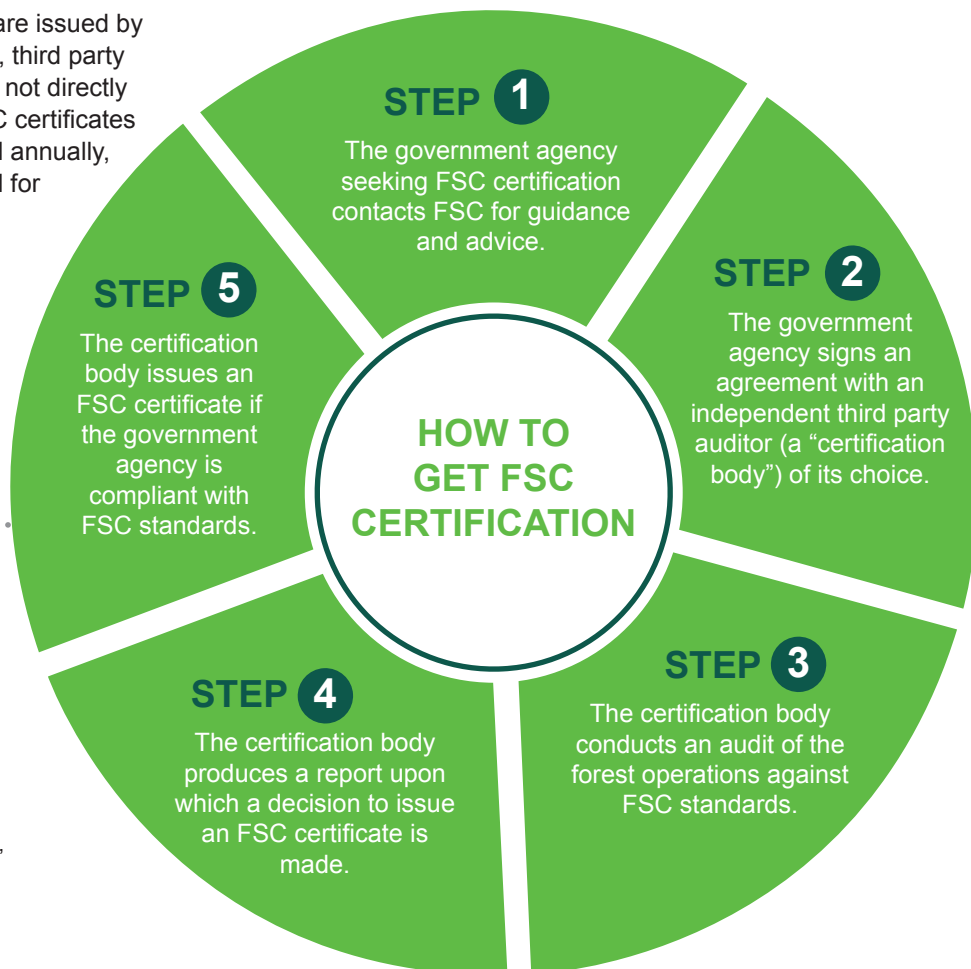
FSC certification confirms that forests are being managed in a way that preserves biological diversity and benefits the lives of local people and workers, while ensuring they sustain economic viability.

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** 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, Tanzania had 227,688 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, Tanzania had four certificates.

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.

Images: Green Resources Limited, James Morgan/WWF US and WWF Tanzania

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