



## FSC™ CERTIFICATION IN TANZANIA

Opening opportunities, creating benefits for businesses

### GROWING DEMAND FOR WOOD AND RELATED PRODUCTS IN TANZANIA

Tanzania's economy is growing rapidly, marked by the country's attainment of lower middle-income status in 2020.

As the country rolls out its industrial development agenda, demand for wood continues to grow, estimated at 62.3 million cubic metres per year.

Demand for wood products is mainly driven by Government projects and businesses in key sub sectors such as construction, energy, furniture, packaging, pulp and paper, to meet requirements of Tanzania's growing population.

### THE NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE SOURCING OF WOOD PRODUCTS

According to Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania has an annual wood deficit of 19.5 million cubic metres.

To fill the existing supply-demand gap, businesses source wood locally in Tanzania and also import from neighbouring countries e.g. Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. However, most of the wood obtained locally is from unsustainable/illegal sources.

Illegal wood is causing massive destruction to Tanzania'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 Tanzania's forest resources 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 Tanzania 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 the 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.

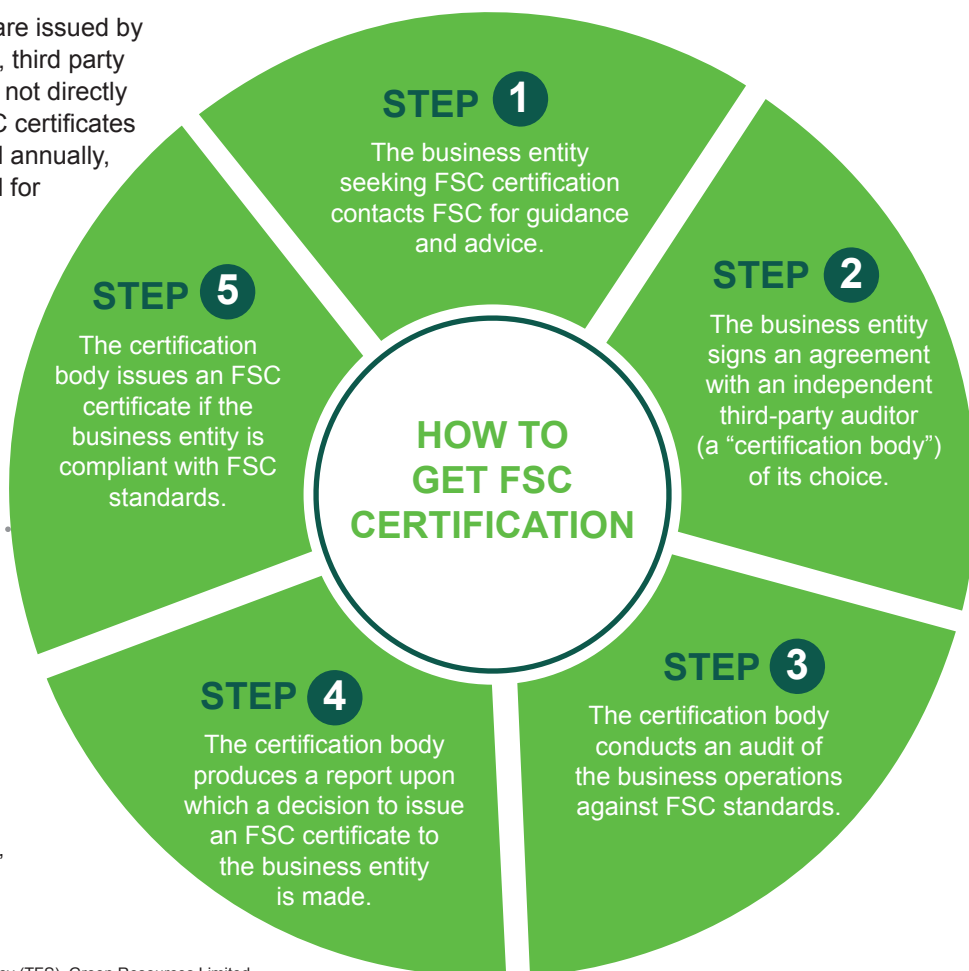
The FSC system monitors how forests are managed. It puts in place mechanisms to label and trace timber and other products all the way to the consumer. It does this through two kinds of certification:

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

## HOW DOES A BUSINESS IN 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: Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS), Green Resources Limited, James Morgan/WWF US and WWF Tanzania

Annah Agasha  
Coordinator, Eastern Africa  
Email: a.agasha@fsc.org

Facebook: Africa FSC  
Twitter: @FSC\_Africa  
Website: www.fsc.org/en | www.africa.fsc.org

