

ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES IN SOUTH AFRICA



**FORESTS
FOR ALL
FOREVER**

The Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) is an international, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting responsible management of the world's forests.

We are the world's most credible solution for forest management; trusted to secure better outcomes for the markets, communities and workers, whilst providing for forests for future generations.

28+ years of existence

219+ Million hectares certified across 82 countries

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

Vision:
The true value of forests is recognized and fully incorporated into society worldwide.

51 000+ Chain-of-Custody certificates across 130 countries

1169 members in 89 countries

Certification Options

FSC provides proven tools that protect forests.



Forest Management Certification

Gold standard of responsible management of natural forests and plantations.

For forest operators



Chain of Custody (CoC) Certification

Confirms materials are sourced sustainably throughout the supply chain.

For companies



Promotional License

Leverage credible FSC trademarks for promotional purposes of FSC-certified product

For non-certified retailers and brand-owners



FSC Forest Management certification provides the assurance that the forest management practices comply with the FSC mission of promoting and protecting the forests of the world.

Forest Management Certification is constructed around 10 core principles:



Principle 2
Workers Rights and employment conditions



Principle 3
Indigenous Peoples Rights



Principle 5
Benefits from the Forests



Principle 6
Environmental Values and Impacts



Principle 8
Monitoring and Assessment



Principle 9
High Conservation Values



Principle 1
Compliance with Laws



Principle 4
Community Relations



Principle 7
Management Planning



Principle 10
Implementation of Management Activities

FSC Chain-of-Custody certification (CoC) verifies that FSC-certified material has been identified and separated from ineligible and unacceptable material as it makes its way along the supply chain from the forest to the market. FSC CoC covers a variety of situations and entities, ensuring that many organizations can demonstrate their commitment to FSC's requirements.

Certificate holders are assessed by highly qualified auditors of an independent accredited certification body. Once compliance had been confirmed, a certificate is issued and the forestry company can now make public claims about the quality of their forest management practices.

Brand owners and retailers may enter into strategic promotional partnerships with FSC in the form of a **Promotional Licence Agreement** to promote their sourcing of FSC CoC certified materials and products.

Our forests are so much more than trees

Forests provide society with a wide range of benefits. These include reliable flows of clean water, productive soil, protecting biodiversity and conservation and carbon sequestration. These are referred to as ecosystem services, and in FSC certified forests these are protected. Our forests may well provide clear financial capital and benefits in terms of forest products, but the value of these ecosystem services has largely gone unnoticed and is seldom factored in terms of the financial costs and benefits associated with such services.

The change that is FSC

With Ecosystem Services we translate the benefits we receive from nature into economic terms so we can better understand the trade-offs we are making between nature and economic growth and development.

Studies have shown that the benefits derived from ecosystem services are 10 times as much as the value of the top 50 companies in the world.

A beautiful landscape or ecosystem is a lot more than a passing interest; it has a determinable value in the decision-making that drives our environmental and conservation efforts. Ecosystem Services Claims provide us with a tool to quantify this value.

FSC ecosystem services claims offer forest owners and managers an additional incentive to implement and maintain responsible forest management rather than pursue the short-term economic benefits of forest degradation.

Verified FSC ecosystem services claims aim to increase the confidence of governments, investors, and buyers in ecosystem services markets.

Ecosystem services claims can also be used to demonstrate the impact made by investments in preserving ecosystem services and contributions towards the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ecosystem services claims for carbon capture and storage can also be used as evidence of contributions towards meeting commitments under Article 5 of the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Showing the Full Impact of Sustainable Forestry

Showing the full value of forest ecosystems is fundamental to climate action. Ecosystem services claims are the only certification solution that provides reporting on biodiversity, carbon, water, soil, and recreation, allowing the full impact of sustainable forestry to be calculated and recognized. This enables partnerships to promote and reward the protection of key ecosystems.



BIODIVERSITY



CARBON



WATER



SOIL



RECREATION

FSC believes markets should work for the ecosystems they are part of, and the ecosystem claims are our tool to show the true value of forests to markets.

FSC Ecosystem Services Procedure

Building on existing world-renowned certification, the FSC Ecosystem Services Procedure provides a global approach that FSC certificate holders use to demonstrate the impact of their forest management activities on one or multiple ecosystem services at the forest site level.

Once the forest manager has implemented a seven step process to demonstrate a positive impact, this is then evaluated by a certification body. The resulting third-party verified positive impacts, referred to as Ecosystem Services claims, can be used for promotion and communication purposes as well as to seek sponsorship.

The verified impacts or credits can then also be converted into a monetary value for the landowner (forest steward) and participating stakeholders.



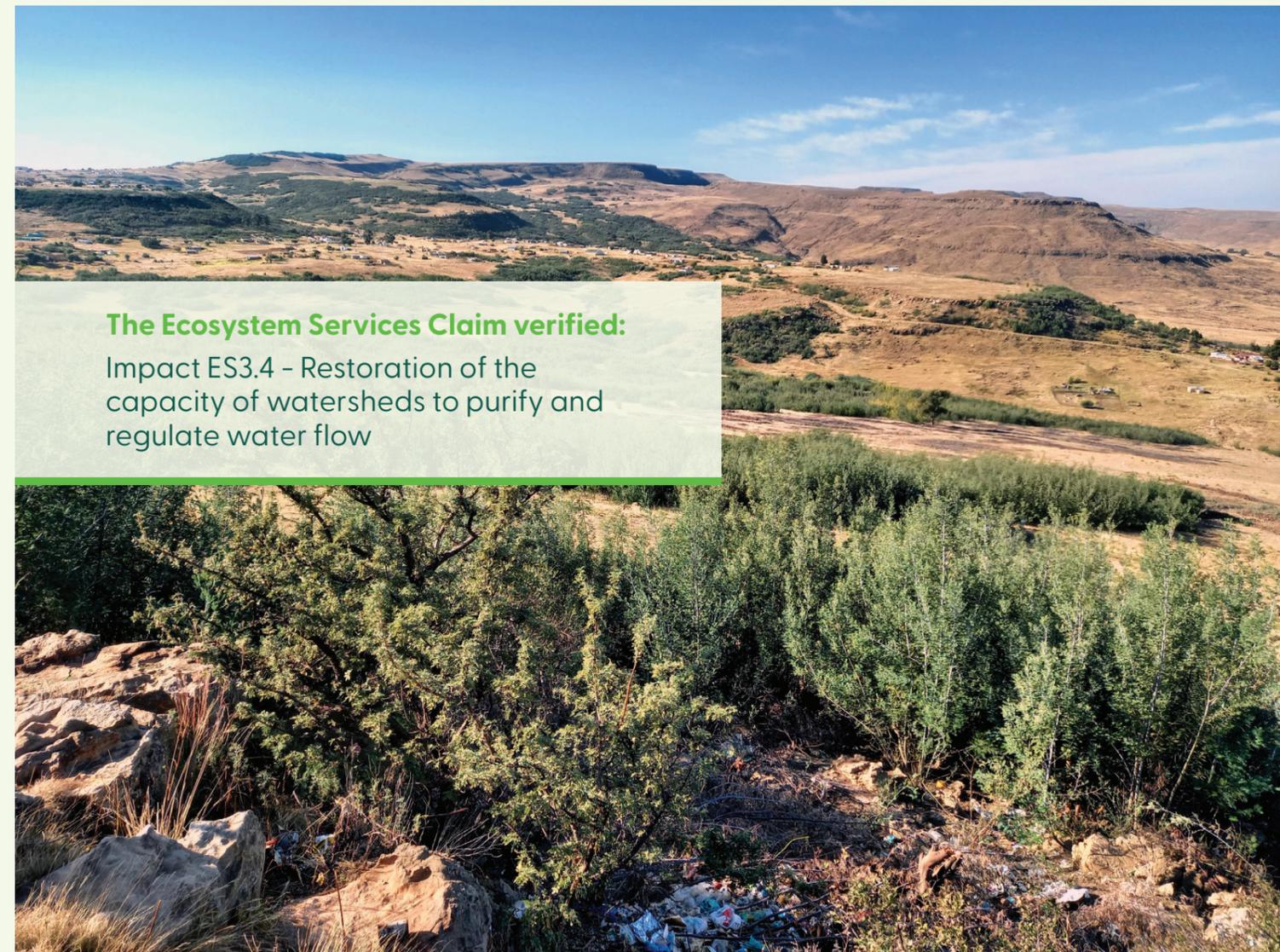
FSC Watershed Ecosystem Service Impact Verified in South Africa

South Africa is a water scarce country with annual rainfall below the global average. The country is accelerating to a 17% gap between water supply and demand by 2030, based on current usage.

Alien plants, mainly trees and woody shrubs, have invaded an estimated 10.1 million ha of South Africa and Lesotho, an area larger than the province of KwaZulu-Natal – the equivalent condensed area is 1.7 million ha. The catchments of the Berg and Breede Rivers are amongst the most heavily invaded in South Africa.

The total incremental water use of invading alien plants is estimated at 3 300 million m³ of water per year. According to a South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) report, invasive trees and shrubs, if left unchecked, could threaten up to a third of the water supply to cities such as Cape Town, and consume up to 5% of South Africa's mean annual rainfall runoff. Urgent action to secure South Africa's water future is needed.

In 2021, FSC certificate holder – CMO Logistics (Pty) Ltd (FSC-C150700), had their forest management area in the greater Matatiele area and in the lower Breede River area in South Africa verified for watershed services. These areas form part of the Berg and Breede River catchments.



Millions of hectares in South Africa are covered by invasive tree and shrub species.

The positive impact was for the restoration of water volume to water scarce catchments. This was achieved via the removal of alien invasive tree species and application of after-care practices to ensure minimized regrowth of the alien invasive trees.

Matatiele and Breede River Areas

In the Eastern Cape, communities suffer the consequences of these invasive tree species as their grazing area, agricultural land, water run-off and availability is greatly reduced. Communities are directly involved in the planning and execution of the restoration-programmes, together with NGOs - Environmental and Rural Solutions and Lima Rural Development Foundation and support from development partners Inhlabathi and Avocado Vision.

The clearing of these invader species means the communities will have more grazing areas for their livestock, more water and better security through increased visibility.

In the lower Breede River area, in the Western Cape, a similar intervention is taking place with private farmers, where alien invasive tree species are being removed along the Breede River with the aim to restore the riverine areas to natural forests and in doing so, increase the water volume to the catchment.

The certification process has involved the use of best available information, creation and application of scientific methodologies, engagement with stakeholders, including the scientific community, to ensure a credible and robust methodology for the calculation of the positive impacts. As mentioned above, this was verified by an independent accredited certification body.



Clearing of invasive species by harvesting teams in the Matatiele area



To date, the following has been verified within the above mentioned areas:

2020:

30 hectares of degraded land was restored to more natural conditions, with 156 750 m³ of water restored to the catchments

2021:

66 hectares of degraded land was restored to more natural conditions, with 344 850m³ of water restored to the catchments.

INTERESTED?

Interested in driving innovative, nature-based solutions to meet your corporate environmental commitments?

Supporting FSC certified landowners and managers is vital to ensuring continued implementation of responsible forest management practices and protection of ecosystem services. You can assist with this by purchasing FSC certified products and by investing via the purchase of the verified FSC Ecosystem Services Impact.

By providing financial support or sponsorship for the protection of valuable forest ecosystem services, you receive clear evidence of the positive impact your investment has created – leveraging several benefits for your company. Moreover, you can use the widely recognised FSC trademarks to tell the story of the unique forest involved and promote your support for protecting its ecosystem services. Research shows that 50% of global consumers recognise the FSC label and have high levels of trust in FSC.

Interested in purchasing these verified FSC Ecosystem Services Claims?

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