

# ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES IN NAMIBIA

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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**

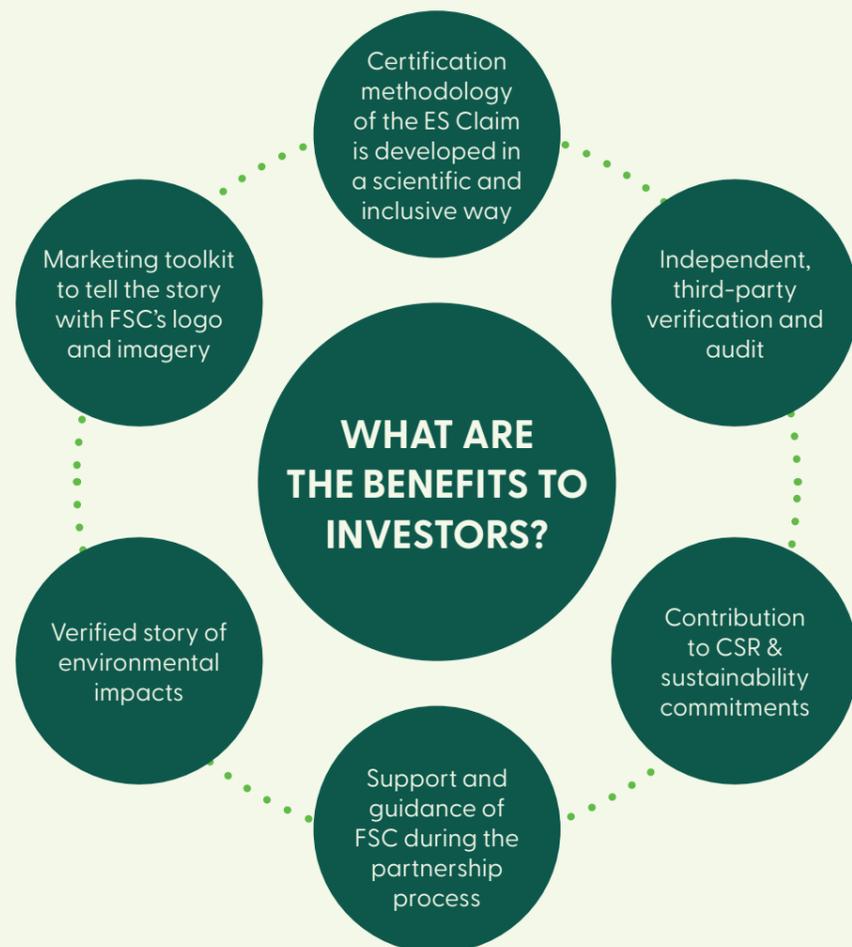
FSC believes markets should work for the ecosystems they are part of, and the ecosystem claims are our tool to show the true value of forests to markets.

## 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.



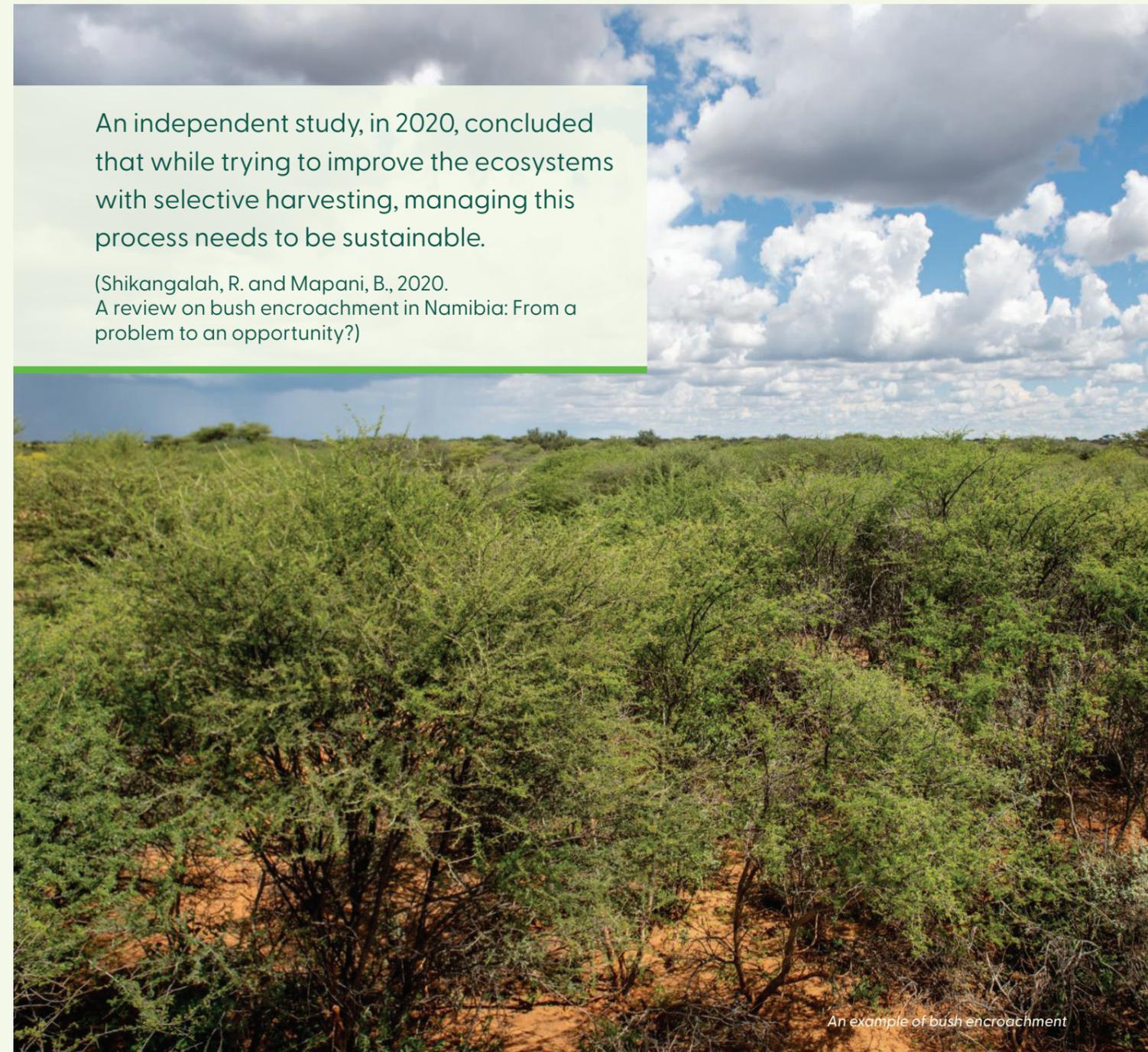
## FSC Biodiversity Conservation Impact Verified in Namibia

Bush encroachment is a natural phenomenon characterized by the excessive expansion of bush (indigenous and alien invasive tree and shrub species) at the expense of other plant species, especially grasses. Bush encroachment results in land degradation and is estimated to affect up to 45 million hectares of Namibian land, increasing by approximately 3%/year at the expense of savannah landscapes, i.e. approx. 1.3 million ha per annum.

Bush encroachment has severe negative consequences on key ecosystem services, especially agricultural productivity, biodiversity and groundwater recharge. Wildlife populations are declining in affected areas such as certain antelope species, zebras and also the cheetahs, already threatened with extinction. Agricultural productivity in Namibia has declined by two-thirds throughout the past decades, mainly due to the negative impact of bush encroachment. The phenomenon affects both commercial and communal farming in Namibia, where an approximate 70% of the population depends on the agricultural sector.

An independent study, in 2020, concluded that while trying to improve the ecosystems with selective harvesting, managing this process needs to be sustainable.

(Shikangalah, R. and Mapani, B., 2020. A review on bush encroachment in Namibia: From a problem to an opportunity?)



An example of bush encroachment

## ES1: Biodiversity Conservation

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### Impact ES1.5: Restoration of natural forest characteristics

The first ecosystem service was verified in Africa in 2021, in Namibia, with FSC certificate holder – CMO Namibia (Pty) Ltd (FSC-C140298). The impact was for the restoration of natural forests via the selective harvesting and eradication of indigenous and alien invasive tree species.

Robust management systems are applied in the selection of the invasive trees for harvesting, along with ensuring responsible measures are implemented in the harvesting and extraction processes so as to not damage remaining tree species, which are vital to creating a healthy ecosystem. The management system ensures that a mosaic approach is utilised in the selection process, ensuring that a mix of different tree species, densities and height classes remain for biodiversity species to thrive within.

Monitoring mechanisms are later employed by the landowners and managers to ensure that re-growth is monitored and minimized as to prevent a regress to the previous status quo.

#### To date:

#### 2021:

72 000 hectares have been restored via the selective harvesting model.

*Clearing of invasive species by harvesting teams in the Matatiela area*

*Restoration to ensure biodiversity continues*

# 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 landscape 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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