

Executive Summary

Forest Stewardship Standards in the FSC System

FSC has evolved in these years, from a small organization to a global leader, setting the standard for responsible forest management. Now FSC is consolidating its role as a standardization body, and is defining the hierarchy of standards to be developed within the organization, being the FSC International standards the basis to define others of regional (applicable within a specified region), national (applicable within a specified country) or provincial application (applicable within a specified territorial division of a country)

In any country, working groups can be established to develop their own standards, following the FSC guidelines and aiming to define more precisely what means responsible forest management in their particular circumstances.

This material is intended for those groups developing standards, explaining briefly throughout the document the FSC requirements for content and process. Also provides some insights on:

- How to know when you are ready to start a standard setting process
- Defining precisely the type of standard your working group want (and need)
- Building a comprehensive document, with a proposed format of the standard
- Thinking on all the appropriate stakeholders and identifying them
- What are the basic requirements in terms of structure and content
- Documenting the standard setting process
- How to review a standard, before, during and after the FSC accreditation process