

WEBINAR | MEDIA ONLY

F S C ® W E B I N A R

How do we get on track to meet the 2030 'end deforestation' commitments?

WILL PLEDGES DO THE TRICK?



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Agenda

17 February 2022

16:00 CET

Welcome note – Karen Bennett Vd Westhuizen,

Topic introduction – Kim Carstensen

- Previous pledges to end deforestation: *what have we learned?*
- Why is deforestation still taking place?

What will it take to make the CoP26 pledge work?

– Kim Carstensen

Indigenous Peoples' role in forest stewardship

– Francisco Souza

- How is deforestation threatening indigenous communities?
- What does this pledge mean to Indigenous Peoples?

Live Q&A – Karen Bennett Vd Westhuizen

17:00 CET

Speakers



Kim Carstensen
Forest Stewardship
Council (FSC)
International

Director General

Kim Carstensen has been the Director General of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) since October 2012.

He is a recognized global leader within the environment and development sectors. Prior to joining FSC, Mr. Carstensen managed FairGreenSolutions, a consultancy that helped link the concepts of 'Green Economy' and sustainable development for clients in the Global South.

His strategic approach comes from a long history of global leadership, most recently as the leader of WWF International's Global Climate Initiative, and previous roles as CEO of WWF Denmark and Deputy Chairman of the Board of Denmark's Official Development Assistance Agency (Danida).



Francisco Souza
FSC Indigenous
Foundation

Managing Director

Economist and member of the Apurinã Indigenous Peoples of the Brazilian Amazon. For 30+ years Francisco has contributed to initiatives in 40+ countries in areas connected to Indigenous Peoples, forests, sustainable development, climate change, and nature-based solutions.

With Hivos, WWF, Rainforest Alliance, IADB, IDRC, private foundations, and governments, he previously supported inclusive conservation, right-based development, and Indigenous-based solutions in over 100M hectares of forests worldwide.

He works collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples who manage a territory of over 1 billion hectares in all regions of Planet.

What is FSC?



FSC is the sustainable forest management solution trusted by NGOs, consumers, and businesses alike to protect healthy and resilient forests, for all, forever.

FSC has over 26 years of experience in setting the gold standard for sustainable forest management around the world. FSC's unique democratic standard-setting process enables forest owners, communities and businesses to jointly make decisions on issues impacting forests today and in the future. This ensures inclusivity in finding the best solutions. Through its global standard, unrivalled stakeholder engagement and support from businesses and NGOs, FSC is the world's most credible solution for sustainable forest management; trusted to secure better outcomes for the markets, communities and forests for today and the future.

In numbers:

27+ years of existence

211.54+ million ha certified

42,743+ chain of custody (CoC) certificates

1,725+ forest management certificates

1,165+ members in **89** countries



Deforestation: A threat to nature, people and wildlife



Deforestation and forest degradation have led to the loss of nearly a third of the world's forests since 1750.

Each year approximately 12 million hectares of forests worldwide are destroyed.

The world's massive demand for forest-based products – such as wood and paper – has led to unsustainable management of forests which is one of the biggest drivers of forest destruction around the world.

Agriculture is the leading cause of deforestation globally, while forest degradation is mainly driven by illegal logging. But it is also driven by a plethora of other causes including population increases, extractive industries (mining, oil and gas), infrastructure and transport projects and the expansion of cities.

According to WWF, there is only about half the number of trees on the planet today that there were when humans first evolved. And the fastest rate of forest destruction has been in the past couple of centuries.

BUT FORESTS MATTER

They purify water and air, are home to more than three quarters of the world's life on land, ensure natural biodiversity, and they provide jobs to millions of people. By storing massive amounts of carbon, they remove carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere and this way, regulate the Earth's climate.

If forests are cleared or disturbed, they release CO₂ and other greenhouse gases. Currently, forest loss and damage are the cause of around **10 per cent of global warming.**

We simply cannot fight climate change without fighting deforestation.

FSC is a tool to fight deforestation

Concerns over global deforestation have been at the core of FSC's DNA since its founding.

Providing solutions to combat deforestation through a set of rules that define responsible management of the world's forests is FSC's response to the challenges that are posed by an ever-increasing pressure on forests for the production of timber and other forest-based products.

Our standards do not allow deforestation to occur in certified forest areas. FSC has strict requirements to ensure that certified forest managers maintain their forest cover and conserve or enhance its structure, biodiversity, and productivity.

The evidence that FSC stops deforestation is strong, such as recent research in **Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve** that found FSC-certified forest management conserved forest cover with a deforestation rate of virtually zero. FSC also requires forest owners and managers to minimize negative effects to avoid and compensate.

FSC has been a pioneer in the introduction of multi-stakeholder agreements and a robust governance structure to guide its mission towards delivering deforestation free wood and wood-based products to society.

In April 2021, FSC shared five recommendations to the EU commission for a robust EU legislation aiming at minimizing the risk that products associated with deforestation are placed on the EU market. For more information, please visit **[this link](#)**.



Focus on forests in the fight to combat climate change

*A message by FSC International's Director General Kim Carstensen on the **recent** Declaration on forests and land use at COP26.*

“FSC welcomes the Declaration issued by 105 countries at the Glasgow CoP26 meeting, stating their commitment to work together to halt and reverse the loss and degradation of the world's forests.

The focus on protection and sustainable management of forests is a crucial element in any solution to the world's climate crisis. Without increased efforts to protect forests, it will not be possible to meet the ambition of the Paris Agreement to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C.

The Declaration is not the first of its kind, but it is positive to see it come out as the first specific result of CoP26, in particular since it includes participation from a majority of the countries of the world, including most of the important forest countries. It is also important that countries from all parts of the world have agreed to the Declaration.

The Declaration commits the participating countries to work together to build resilience and enhance rural livelihoods, including through empowering communities and recognising the rights of Indigenous Peoples. These are crucial elements of success for any forest initiative going forward.

Based on the Declaration, forest protection and sustainable forest management must now become a central part of all efforts to combat climate change. FSC certification of forests, including certification by Indigenous Peoples of their territories, can be an important part of the solution going forward. FSC stands ready to work with governments, businesses, Indigenous Peoples and interested stakeholders to help meet the ambition of the Declaration.”



The FSC Indigenous Foundation

Indigenous Peoples have always aimed to preserve the balance of their ecosystems as well as their biodiversity in a sustainable way. When they use forest resources – for example to build settlements – they generally do so in a less extractive and damaging way.



With their traditional knowledge based on sustainable forestry and the global extent of their lands, Indigenous Peoples have a critical role to play in providing solutions to preserve forests, which could help civil societies save money and secure future populations.

For instance, more than 25 per cent of all pharmaceutical drugs used today actually come from forest plants whose curative properties have been known by Indigenous Communities for generations. If humans keep deforesting and do not listen to what Indigenous Peoples can teach us about forest plants, they will also end up putting themselves in danger of losing their medicines.

Indigenous Peoples manage a quarter of the world's land surface, containing even richer biodiversity than protected areas

FSC's commitment to working with Indigenous Communities has always been central to its work. Some Indigenous Communities have already been using FSC certification as a tool to manage their land that fits with their tradition of protecting the forests they use.

In 2020, FSC established its Indigenous Foundation. This strategic and operative unit develops creative and innovative forest-based solutions to support Indigenous Communities across the globe while promoting their rights and enabling them to build and guide the sustainable management of their land.

The goal of the foundation is to get the global value of Indigenous Peoples and their rights, livelihoods and territories recognized and incorporated into forest governance, climate finance and funding mechanisms, as well as market systems. To learn more, please visit <https://www.fscindigenousfoundation.org/>

Helping people make sustainable choices

Consumers increasingly want to ensure that their purchases do not contribute to deforestation.

In 2021, FSC conducted a global consumer research that revealed that more than 80 per cent of shoppers expect companies to ensure their wood and paper products do not contribute to deforestation. Consumers are therefore showing a preference for products that protect forests. The importance of independent certification to support sustainable choices has never been greater, and research shows that trust in FSC has been rising globally, reflecting a strong trend towards conscious consumerism.

The FSC label can be found on millions of forest-based products and verifies that they are sustainably sourced. It is perceived as a powerful tool to help consumers make more sustainable shopping choices, with seven in ten shoppers feeling motivated to buy a product when they see the FSC label and expressing high levels of trust in our role to protect forests above all other actors – including governments and companies.

For more insights from our 2021 global consumer survey, visit this link <https://fsc.org/en/consumerinsights2021>

In 2021, FSC also launched its Fashion Forever Green Pact; a call for fashion and textile companies to curb the industry's impact on deforestation and biodiversity loss. To learn more about this initiative, visit <https://www.fashionforever-green.org/>



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