
Exclusive for journalists
FSC
WEBINAR
Is carbon-smart forestry part of the climate crisis solution?

# A webinar on climate-smart forestry and its impact on carbon emissions

Forests play a substantial role in climate change mitigation through $CO^2$ retention in forests and wood products, as well as through material and energy substitution.

Maintaining forest cover and its quality through sustainable management is essential to efficiently mitigate climate change. Sustainable management can maintain or restore the carbon sequestration of a forest. It can also help safeguard the forests that remain.

- **But how can different logging techniques significantly affect carbon emissions?**
- **How does forest management help forests absorb $CO^2$ faster and more efficiently?**
- **Can climate-smart forestry help nullify decades of the world's carbon emissions?**

This is what our webinar seeks to answer, with experts from two of the world's leading environmental organisatoins.

This webinar is exclusively addressed to journalists with a passion for climate change and environmental issues. It offers a great opportunity to learn more about some of the best forestry practices, their impact on carbon emissions, as well as other trending topics and issues related to this topic.

## Speaker

**Kim Carstensen**
Director General

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

## Speaker

**Fran Price**
Global Forest Practice Leader

WWF International

## Moderator

**Karen Van Der Westhuizen**
Communications Director

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

# AGENDA

**21 January 2021**

**16:00 - 17:00 CET**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Karen V. | **Welcome note** | 02 minutes |
| Kim C.<br>Fran P. | **Introduction**<br>*- Why are forests one of the biggest carbon sinks?*<br>*- The implications of carbon imbalance* | 05 minutes |
| Kim C. | **Carbon is key but forests have more than that**<br>*- Biodiversity, health and water*<br>*- Forest-dependant people: Indigenous Peoples & local communities* | 05 minutes |
| Fran P. | **What is climate-smart forestry?**<br>*- Reducing carbon emissions through different logging techniques*<br>*- Maintaining & increasing carbon stocks while producing sustainable timber* | 15 minutes |
| Kim C. | **Solutions to improve global climate policies**<br>*- It is not destroyed vs. protected: the missing layer in the forestry & climate equation*<br>*- Community-managed forests can be as effective as formally protected ones: a case study* | 15 minutes |
| Karen V. | **Q&A session** | 15 minutes |
| Karen V. | **Closing remarks** | 02 minutes |

# What is FSC?

The Forest Stewardship Council (**FSC**) is the most trusted sustainable forest management solution.

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 future generations.

# In numbers

26+ years of existence

211.52+ million ha certified

42,743+ chain of custody (CoC) certificates

1,725+ forest management/ CoC certificates

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

# FSC & climate change

FSC regards climate change as a serious threat to global humanity. Climate change undermines the natural ecosystems on which we rely for our basic needs – food, health, and shelter – and many of the products that support our livelihoods and economies. Today, climate change is damaging ecosystems at an unprecedented rate, but these same ecosystems are also our strongest allies in mitigating future climate change.

With its certification scheme for forest management, its chain of custody standard, and its outreach to consumers with its labels, FSC contributes to mitigating climate change by promoting sustainable forest management, and by promoting the recycling of wood materials. FSC's current global framework for forest management standards, revised in early 2015, gives special attention to protecting the function of forests as net-removers of $CO^2$ from the atmosphere. FSC has also started developing new tools for rewarding the preservation of valuable ecosystem services, including carbon storage, in responsibly managed forests.

# Forests are at risk due to increased pressure

In coming years, demand for forest products will increase substantially, partly due to climate-inspired policies. In the construction sector, wood is increasingly being used as a building material due to its relatively low energy footprint. It is also favoured in many green public and private procurement policies. Similarly, biomass is gradually replacing fossil fuels and cotton in textiles and chemical products.

But perhaps the biggest impact on forests may come from policies in the energy sector, where the promotion of bio-energy as an alternative to fossil fuels is partly based on forest resources. Biomass currently provides nine per cent of global primary energy supply, mostly in the form of firewood and charcoal. This proportion is expected to grow fast, and will play a considerable role in replacing fossil fuels for electricity and heat production. While some biomass will come from agriculture and waste, these sources are limited, and in agriculture there is competition with food and fibre production.

These shifts towards using wood as a renewable and sustainable source of materials and energy are positive. However, if not followed by strong action to secure sustainable forest management, they also bring with them risks of increased deforestation, forest degradation, and failure to reduce carbon emissions from energy production.
The increased pressures on forests implied by climate policies make it even more important that these same policies incorporate the protection and sustainable management of forests.

# Tackling climate change with sustainable forest management

Sustainable forest management is an approach that aims to prevent degradation of forest quality by seeking the right balance between harvesting forest resources for human use and the need for the natural cycles to remain intact. Sustainable forest management processes succeed when they include social guarantees and incentives for forest communities and forestry workers.

**FSC is at the cutting edge of adapting sustainable forest management certification in an era of climate change.**

FSC recognizes that carbon capture and storage is an important component of forest ecosystem services – one that is paradoxically both central to climate stability, and threatened by increased demands for ‘carbon-neutral’ bio-energy. Since 2015, FSC’s revised forest management standards included the maintenance, conservation, or restoration of carbon sequestration and storage. FSC is now developing new tools that will show businesses and investors that these natural benefits are being preserved and will reward participating FSC certificate holders for doing so.

This makes FSC certification not only a reliable tool for promoting sustainable forest management, but also a step towards the sustainable production of bio-energy that will help minimize greenhouse gas emissions.

***“A world enriched by extensive, resiliant forest landscapes benefitting biodiversity, people and climate”* - WWF**


# FORESTS

## 2030 AMBITION

- Zero deforestation and conversion.
- The highest biodiversity areas in all biomes, covering 30% of Earth, are effectively protected or community-conserved, connected and benefit-ting local communities.
- Managed forests are under improved management or sustainable use.
- 350 million hectares of forest landscapes are under restoration.


**Need more information?**

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