



WEBINAR

*Media
only*

**Pre-COP26
media webinar
on key forest topics**

SPEAKERS



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16:00 - 17:00 CET

AGENDA

Karen V.	Welcome note	05 minutes
Asger O.	Topic introduction What is the COP? Understanding the forest agendas of COP26	05 minutes
Kim C.	Nature-based solutions	10 minutes
Pina G.	Restoration and deforestation	10 minutes
Asger O.	Climate finance	10 minutes
Kim C.	What actions are being taken?	05 minutes
Karen V.	Q&A session	15 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**

Forests and climate change

The effects of climate change are in plain sight. It is disrupting ecosystems, economies and affecting lives, costing people, communities and countries greatly. The disruption and costs will be even greater in future. People are experiencing significant impacts of climate change including changing weather patterns, rising sea level, and the increased occurrence of extreme weather events. Forest loss is both a cause and an effect of this. Degradation and deforestation have led to the world losing nearly a third of its forests since 1750.

If this continues, we will lose a strong ally in the fight against climate change.

Forests play a critical role in regulating the Earth's climate. By removing carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere, they form the world's largest terrestrial store of atmospheric carbon. Conversely, when forests are cleared, large amounts of carbon are released into the atmosphere.

We must protect our forests so they can protect us

The destruction and degradation of forests worldwide accounts for a higher share of global CO₂ emissions than the entire transport sector. This contributes to the greenhouse effect, increasing the risk of catastrophic climate change. It is therefore imperative that humankind manages the world's remaining forests in a responsible manner. Protecting forests from conversion to other land uses such as agriculture, introducing management practices that maintain the integrity of the forest, and restoring degraded forests, all contribute to reducing the impacts of climate change. These activities should be in addition to, and not a substitute for, necessary reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from other sectors.

FSC and climate change

FSC regards climate change as a very 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.

“There’s no silver bullet when it comes to climate change. We need to do many things, all at once. We need to decarbonize our entire world economy, and we need to sequester a lot of carbon dioxide that’s already in the atmosphere. That’s where FSC can help”

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, chain of custody control standard, and outreach to consumers with its labels, FSC contributes to mitigating climate change by promoting sustainable forest management and the recycling of wood materials.

Actions beyond carbon storage to mitigate climate change.

Thinking beyond carbon storage in forests can help societies obtain greater benefits and declines in greenhouse gas emissions.

FSC is a nature-based solution for sustainable forest management, including biodiversity protection, nature conservation and forest landscape restoration.





The FSC Ecosystem Services Procedure

Ecosystem services are the benefits that people obtain from nature. Forests provide society with a wide range of benefits, from reliable flows of clean water to productive soil and carbon sequestration. In FSC-certified forests, valuable ecosystem services are protected – and in 2018, FSC introduced a procedure to demonstrate and communicate the positive impact of responsible forest management on ecosystem services. These verified positive impacts aim to facilitate payments for ecosystem services and provide access to other benefits, thereby adding business value for those who responsibly manage forests and those who take action to preserve forest ecosystem services.

FSC believes in the importance of nurturing responsible forestry to protect healthy and resilient forests that sustain life on earth.

Therefore, it designed FSC-specific ecosystem services claims. Showing the full value of forest ecosystems by measuring the full impact of excellent forest management practices and fostering partnerships that reward them, is fundamental to climate action and sustainability. Ecosystem services claims provide nature-based information through the measurement of impacts such as carbon sequestration and storage, biodiversity conservation, watershed services, soil conservation and recreational services.



FSC's perspective on forest restoration

Ecosystem restoration forms an important part of not only mitigating climate change but also reducing the negative impacts of inevitable change for humans and nature.

FSC's perception of forest restoration is pragmatic. We are not necessarily aiming for restoration into the original, virgin ecosystems as they existed before human intervention. Ongoing pressures due to population growth, in particular where forests are most under threat, and even faster growth of demand for resources, create increasing competition for land and natural resource uses.

Environmental pressures such as the effects of global warming also impact the conditions for forests growth and survival. **Adaptation is unavoidable.** FSC aims to protect and increase the resilience of forests and associated ecosystems by preserving and enhancing their biodiversity and ensuring their roles in providing ecological services, such as biodiversity, water, soil management, carbon capture and storage.

Forest restoration should also lead to improved livelihoods for those directly dependent on the forests, so the productive and relevant ecosystem functions of forests need to be taken into account.

Forest restoration is not just about planting fast growing, or economically valuable trees.

Degraded forests need to be improved or 'enriched' so that they have increased multiple benefits, from environmental to social and economic.



Deforestation

Forests and soil absorb around 30 per cent of global carbon emissions, making them an important part of the fight against climate change. At the same time, the land sector produces 25 per cent of global carbon emissions and about half of that comes from deforestation and forest degradation. This is why sustainable forest management is core to sustainable development.

FSC has a number of strict requirements in place to ensure that FSC-certified forests maintain their forest cover and maintain or enhance their forest's structure, function, biodiversity and productivity. These include indicators for planning and monitoring forest management interventions, assessing risks and evaluating the impacts on forests.

These requirements include:

- **FSC does not allow deforestation**, the conversion of natural forest areas into plantations or non-forest uses, or any other forms of forest ecosystem degradation in FSC-certified forests. This is complemented by specific requirements for the maintenance and/or enhancement of areas with high conservation value.
- FSC requires forest owners/managers to **minimize the negative impacts of forest management interventions** to avoid and compensate for any form of forest degradation. From 2016, FSC started to apply international generic indicators to make forest management requirements more consistent, while still allowing for specific interpretations of these requirements – depending on the forest type and state, the size of the forest management units, and specific social and ecological situations.
- To avoid being involved in the 'greenwashing' of earlier forest conversions, **FSC does not allow the certification of plantations converted from natural forest after 1994.**



FSC has been advocating for a holistic approach towards forest protection for some time, where governments, businesses, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders contribute to the debate. FSC certification can be an important tool to secure the necessary protective measures to prevent deforestation, but we believe that protected areas must also be part of the solution to combat deforestation.

Nature-based solutions

Nature-based solutions are built on **conservation, restoration and sustainable forest management**, which is exactly what FSC has been doing for 25+ years. They are also about making forests more resilient by adapting them to climate change.

FSC-certified forests are a key nature-based solution, providing multiple benefits for climate, nature and society. Nature-based solutions offer opportunities for creating pathways to deliver investment from global capital markets to support the protection and restoration of a forest's biodiversity.

Technology in forests to tackle climate change



Given the important role that sustainable forest management has in tackling climate change, FSC is introducing new technologies to influence a shift in global forest trends - from social and environmental degradation to sustainable use, conservation, restoration and respect for forests and those that depend on them.

FSC on the Map, the first FSC geospatial platform, creates the possibility of collecting geospatial information about forests from certificate holders. A variety of analyses can be carried out based on this submitted data, including vegetation analysis and the composition of forest and wood species. FSC teams can also carry out indirect carbon storage analysis, which we hope will increase understanding of the amount of carbon stored in FSC-certified forests.

This geospatial technology is more accurate than other tools. It can source a more detailed and better resolution representation of small forest areas and identify forest loss and/or gain, independent from the data presented by the certificate holder. This matters in a climate emergency.

By making this platform available to all, we encourage you to let us know if you notice something wrong or questionable. We welcome feedback so we can continue improving.

Need more information?

Visit www.fsc.org or send us an email media@fsc.org



Looking for stories about forests and communities with a COP angle?

Here is a selection of stories from around the world related to COP's forest topics such as restoration, deforestation, and conservation efforts by communities.

Get in touch with us at media@fsc.org if you want more information about any of the stories below.

Reforestation in Spain protects against forest fires

In Andalucia, a forest devastated by a wildfire two years ago is now being reforested in a way that mitigates both wildfires and drought caused by climate change. Partnering organizations (including FSC Spain) have been restoring two hectares of riparian forests since March with native species from that Mediterranean region, instead of the eucalyptus plants that used to grow there. These native species – such as cork oaks and ash trees – are known to be natural green firebreaks. To prevent new plants from drying out during arid summers, an innovative self-irrigation system called the Waterbox is also being used. It stocks up to 15 liters of water that are then slowly released in the soil around the seedling.



Sweden's indigenous Sami community

For communities such as the Sami in Sweden, who have already battled the effects of climate change for two decades, it's not a matter of preparing to face a future threat. Climate change has already claimed their loved ones, threatened their livelihoods, and put intolerable stress on their already high pressure lives. Their story is one of incredible resilience, and of the toll that climate change will take on countless other communities if we fail to take decisive action. The Sami are the best spokespeople to draw attention to the impacts of climate change, as they have experienced it first-hand.

Berry picking in Russia

For villagers of Spasporub, a village of 1,000 people in Russia's northern Komi region, simply not being able to collect the forest's bounties of berries and mushrooms during its typical harvesting period threatens much of their food security for the rest of the year.

These forest products serve as both sustenance and income for locals. For many villagers who live minimally from day to day, when they are unable to gather these harvests from July to September, their staple food for the year can be scarce.

Sustainably managed forests like those of Luza Les has enabled locals of her village to continue their cultural practice (of gathering fruit and mushrooms from the forests) and helped boost their income, by refraining from logging in forests where villagers go to collect food.

Even as climate change becomes more pronounced each year and communities like the ones in Spasporub remain vulnerable, being able to continue their local tradition of foraging for food in the forests and bonding with their community while doing so, provides them some solace.

Looking for stories about forests and communities with a COP angle?

An indigenous community safeguarding the forest for future generations in the Peruvian Amazon

About 50 families live in Calleria community, deep in the Peruvian Amazon. They speak their own language and their primary economic activities are wood harvesting, fishing and the sale of handicrafts, the latter being almost exclusively the responsibility of women. As the years went by, they realized that it was increasingly difficult to find tree species to maintain their wood harvesting and other activities. It appeared as though the forest was giving them a strong and clear message.



The Calleria community developed a more sustainable approach to managing their forest and became the first community concession to obtain FSC forest management certification. Their efforts come from their belief in protecting their homeland and leaving a legacy for future generations.

Wine producers in Chile are leading conservation efforts

Human intervention and large populated centers have historically deteriorated the dry coastland areas of central Chile. Forests and shrublands have been decimated by 200 years of land conversion, logging, land appropriation, invasive species, and forest fires. Thankfully, an area within this landscape is an exception to this context. Containing 4.272 ha of native forest and other successional vegetation growth, the area is managed by a wine producer that has fought all odds to conserve its forests' critical ecosystem services.



Italian local entities join forces with FSC to preserve ecosystem services

Publicly owned forests in the regions of Lombardy and Tuscany used the FSC Ecosystem Services Procedure to prove their positive impacts related to carbon sequestration, watershed quality and recreational services.

These entities have demonstrated beneficial impacts linked to the restoration of forest carbon stocks, the maintenance of water quality and the preservation of important areas for recreation and tourism.

The FSC Ecosystem Services Procedure offers a solution to maintain, enhance and restore carbon storage in forests. It consists of seven steps to help FSC certificate holders show the positive impact of their responsible forest management on the preservation and restoration of specific ecosystem services.

Need more information?

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