



# CONGO BASIN: PROPOSAL AND WORKPLAN TO MEET PROCESS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARDS

(FSC-TPT-60-006 (Version 1-0) EN)

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**From Annex 3 of FSC-STD-60-006:  
Template for proposals and work plan for develop an FSC Forest Stewardship Standard**

This form is to be used for drawing up the proposal and work plan for the Standards Development Group to use as a working document.

It is also intended for use as a document which can be sent to stakeholders to explain the process and to gain their initial support for the process.

Once complete it is submitted to FSC and used as the basis by which FSC to formally engages with the process.

Development of the proposed FSC Forest Stewardship Standard should not proceed prior to formal authorization from the FSC Executive Director.

**Proposal to develop an FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for:**

***Congo Basin Subregion countries of Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Gabon.***

**This proposal is submitted by:**

**Name:** Edwige Eyang Effa

**Signed:**

**Position:** President of the Congo Basin Subregional Standards Development Group

**Authority (Please select from the following):** FSC Board of Directors/ FSC member/ FSC accredited

National Initiatives/member of FSC staff or staff of Accreditation Services International.

FSC Member

**Address:**

**Telephone:**

**Email:**

**Aims and objectives of the standard** (e.g. NTFP management, conservation, timber production in natural forests, plantations), including its geographic scope:



The aim is to produce a subregional Forest Stewardship Standard for the Congo Basin countries of Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Gabon.

The Standards Working Group shall produce indicators for the FSC Principles and Criteria, for both natural forest and plantations and shall also take account of small and low intensity managed forests (SLIMF) and non timber forest products (NTFPs) as appropriate.

The indicators should be applicable to all national and sub national levels within the sub region described. Only where this proves impossible shall indicators vary and justification be given. Verifiers, guidance notes and tools to help implement the standard in the varied social, environmental and economic circumstances within the Congo Basin may require local expertise and co-ordinated at the national or sub national level, with the aid of the established and emerging FSC National Initiatives in the subregion.

The standard shall follow the FSC requirements for the structure and the content of the standard (FSC-STD-20-002) and related policies, guidance and advice notes (see reference list) and follow the procedure outlined in this document in accordance with FSC-STD-60-006.

**Existing indicators or guidelines** already developed by third parties, including other FSC Forest Stewardship Standards, which might be useful in providing local interpretation to the FSC P&C, and the reason why any such standard(s) or guidelines that are identified should not be adopted by FSC:

Within each country in the Congo Basin there are national level forest standards adapted by governments to address the ITTO Principles, Criteria and Indicators. These shall be analyzed to see whether duplication can be avoided. However, the ITTO Principles and Criteria are generally applicable at a national level for governments to apply, whereas FSC certification requires indicators that apply to the Forest Management Unit level and cover additional social and environmental concerns, hence the need for an FSC standard.

### **Working language(s) for the Standards Development Group:**

The working language for the Standards Development Group shall be French as the main language used in the subregion. All draft standards for consultation shall also be produced in English, along with the final standard for submission to FSC; as English is the second most commonly understood language in the region and as FSC requires documents to be submitted in English for assessment and approval purposes. The need for translation into other languages in order for stakeholders to contribute meaningfully to the consultation shall be assessed in the run up to the first consultation period and the findings acted upon.

### **FSC Documents related to the process:**

The document FSC-GUI-60-004 V1-1 *Template for the structure and content of FSC Forest Stewardship Standards* has been used as the basis for many of the indicators by the Congo Basin Sub-regional Standards Development Group. This document provides a template which takes all of the following documents into account and includes a set of 'Suggested Indicators' developed from past experience and approved NI and CB standards.

*FSC STD 01 001 V4 0 EN FSC Principles and Criteria*

*FSC-STD-60-006 Procedure for the development of Forest Stewardship Standards*

*FSC STD 20 002 V2 1 EN Structure and Content Forest Stewardship Standards*

FSC-TPT-60-006 V1-0EN

Template: Process requirements for the development and maintenance of Forest Stewardship Standards



*FSC STD 01 003 V1 0 EN SLIMF Eligibility Criteria*

*FSC STD 01 003a EN SLIMF eligibility criteria addendum 2008 02 13*

*FSC-GUI-60-100 Guidance on the interpretation of the FSC Principles and Criteria to take account of scale and intensity*

*FSC-GUI-20-200 EN FSC Guidelines for Certification Bodies 2005*

*FSC POL 30 401 EN FSC certification and ILO Conventions 2002*

*FSC POL 20 002 EN Partial Certification 2000*

*FSC-GUI-30-004: FSC Principles 2 and 3: Guidance on Interpretation*

*FSC GUI 30 001 V2 0 EN FSC Pesticides Policy Guidance 2007*

*FSC GUI 30 001a V1 0 EN Approved derogations for use of pesticides 2008 01 21*

*FSC POL 30 001 EN FSC Pesticides policy 2005*

*FSC PRO 01 004 V2 1 EN Processing pesticide derogation applications*

*FSC POL 30 602 EN FSC GMO Policy 2000*

*FSC ADV 30 602 EN Conversion of plantation to non forest land 2004 03 29*

*FSC ADV 30 602 EN Conversion of plantation to non forest land 2004 03 29*

*FSC ADV 30 901 EN Interpretation of Criterion 9 2 2003 04 28*

*FSC ADV 31 001 EN Interpretation of C10 9 2002 12 03*

**Additional specific requirements to complete the work:** (e.g. funders requirements, constitution of any sub-groups of the Standards Development Group)

As the standard is to be developed at a subregional level, it is vital that stakeholders on the national level are represented within the process. At the level of the Congo Basin Subregional Standards Development Group it is important that the members of the SDG have the support of the FSC members at the national level. This may either be achieved by consensus of the members to a representative(s) within their chamber or where accredited NIs exist, this consensus may be deferred to their representatives at the NI Board level.

It is also important that those stakeholders who are not members of FSC are supportive of the process and of the SDG representatives. By signing up to the consultative forum, stakeholders can acknowledge their support of the process and SDG representation.

Further, it is essential that the SDG engage their chambers at a national level during the standards development and are proactive in seeking the views within their chamber.

Consultation at the national level should be coordinated through the NIs and it is vital that the NIs each have a representative to attend the SDG meetings as a technical expert.



**Timetable for the standard development process.** Further drafts and rounds of stakeholder comments may be added if they are needed, which may only become apparent during the process:

Item	Time needed	Estimated Date
Formation of Standards Development Group		March 2008 - 1st SDG meeting, Brazzaville
Register ToR and Work Plan with FSC		Still to do
1st Draft Standard		March 2008 following 1st meeting
Stakeholder Consultation	2 months minimum	April 2009 consultation ended
Consultation report		Still to do
2nd Draft	4 months	2nd SDG meeting, Douala 26th-28th May 2009;  3rd SDG meeting, Douala 1st-3rd September 2009
Forest testing national level	2 months	October to December 2009, with focus on involving and consulting local communities in each country
Forest tested draft	1 month	To be combined with Stakeholder Consultation
Stakeholder Consultation at national and regional level	90 days	November 2009 to February 2010, National SDG events to provide consultation on additional national elements e.g. HCVF, legal requirements.
Consultation report	1 month	Along with Pre-approval draft March 2010.
Pre-approval draft	1 month	April 2010.
SDG Formal recommendation	1 month	Agreement by consensus of the SDG on the Regional Standard and National variations in May 2010.
Submit to FSC PSP		In May 2010
FSC Approval	1 month	In June 2010



**The detailed work plan shall be added as an appendix to this paper once it has been formally agreed by the SDG. [the current work plan has much more detail in the early phases which can largely be repeated for each phase in turn]**

**Funding and resources** available, and/or of potential sources of funding:

A more detailed budget may be included, but the main aim here is to ensure that the funds and resources are available to complete the process.

Resources needed	Source	Contribution	Confirmed?
For National Offices participation	PPP FSC		Yes
For SDG meeting	WWF		Yes
For SDG meeting	PFBC (CBFP)		Yes

**Facilitation and Chairing:**

Whether these roles are fulfilled by one person or several needs to be determined in accordance with the needs of the Standards Development Group and regional circumstances and funding constraints.

One individual must take a lead and be responsible for overseeing the process. Please list this person first.

- Richard Robertson, in his role as Forest Stewardship Standards Manager for FSC International, will lead on the process (contact email: [national.indicators@fsc.org](mailto:national.indicators@fsc.org)), supported by Marie Mbolu (contact email: [noagody@yahoo.com](mailto:noagody@yahoo.com)). Marie will prepare drafts of the subregional standard and organize meetings and prepare papers as appropriate for the Standards Development Group.

- The Standards Development Group will be overseen as is outlined in the table below. Additional independent facilitation of the meetings of the SDG will be provided as appropriate and budget permitting.

- FSC National staff will work as facilitators in each country involved in the process to work on national consultation and producing national elements for the subregional standard. They will work directly with the Standards Development Group representatives from their country as appropriate. Details are given in the table below.

Name	Role	Contact
Ms. Edwige Eyang-Effa from Gabon	President/Chair	<a href="mailto:erlymarjo@yahoo.fr">erlymarjo@yahoo.fr</a>



Name	Role	Contact
Mr. Rene Ngongo from DRC	Deputy Chair-Person	<a href="mailto:renengongo2002@yahoo.fr">renengongo2002@yahoo.fr</a>
Mr. Raymond Mendzana from Cameroon	Secretary	<a href="mailto:mendzamar@yahoo.fr">mendzamar@yahoo.fr</a>
Ms. Virginie Euphrasie Dolama from Rep. of Congo	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:dolamave@yahoo.fr">dolamave@yahoo.fr</a>
Mr. Rene Ngongo	Facilitator for the Democratic Republic of Congo	<a href="mailto:renengongo2002@yahoo.fr">renengongo2002@yahoo.fr</a>
Mr. Parfait Mimbimi	Facilitator for Cameroon	<a href="mailto:akung34@yahoo.fr">akung34@yahoo.fr</a>
Mr. Jean Bruno Mikissa	Facilitator for Gabon	<a href="mailto:mikissa_jeanbruno@yahoo.fr">mikissa_jeanbruno@yahoo.fr</a>
Mr. Isaac Moussa	Facilitator for The Republic of Republic of Congo	<a href="mailto:is-moussa@voila.fr">is-moussa@voila.fr</a>

**Standards Development Group:**

Given the nature of Forest Stewardship Standards in the FSC system, the Standards Development Group shall have three separate chambers representing social, environmental and economic interests, with at least two representatives in each chamber, and equal number of people (or equal weighting) in each chamber.

A minimum of 2 representatives per chamber are required, but more can be added, so long as the decision making is balanced between the 3 chambers. The resume should give brief details of their background and knowledge of the FSC system (training in forest stewardship standards development from FSC may help meet this requirement).

In the Congo Basin Subregional Standards Development Group, it is important and has been recognized here that all countries to be covered by local adaptation of the subregional standard need to be represented by at least one member in each chamber. There is also a need for subregional representation of each chamber, provided by organizations working across the region.

Each of these groups and each chamber has equal weight in reaching consensus on the contents of the standard.

**Congo Basin Subregional**

Environmental	Economic	Social
Name: Elie Hakizumwami	Name: Hervé Bourguignon	Name: Christoph Wiedmer
Organization: WWF CARPO	Organization: IFIA	Organization: GFBC



Environmental	Economic	Social
Resume:	Resume:	Resume:

**Cameroon**

Environmental	Economic	Social
Name: Raymond Mendzana	Name: Esquenet Jules	Name: Angeline Ndo
Organization:	Organization:	Organization:
Resume:	Resume:	Resume:

**Gabon**

Environmental	Economic	Social
Name: Martial Agondogo	Name: Edwige Eyang-Effa	Name: Paul Simon Loundou
Organization:	Organization:	Organization:
Resume:	Resume:	Resume:

**Republic of Congo**



Environmental	Economic	Social
Name: Isaac Moussa	Name: Virginie Euphrasie Dolama	Name: Henri Boukoulou
Organization:	Organization:	Organization:
Resume:	Resume:	Resume:

**Democratic Republic of Congo**

Environmental	Economic	Social
Name: Rene Ngongo	Name: Emmanuel Zola	Name: Willy Loyombo
Organization:	Organization:	Organization:
Resume:	Resume:	Resume:

**Technical Experts**

The Facilitator may appoint technical experts to participate in Standards Development Group discussions. These technical experts shall have voice in the Standards Development Group discussions but no formal role in its decision making processes. Expert teams may also be needed to explore specific aspects of the standards interpretation, such as social issues or HCVF. Any such expert teams should be described:

Name of Expert Team	Members	List of documents (ToR, work plan, documents produced)
Conservation/HCVF	ATIBT Workshop Members February 2009	
Social	ATIBT Workshop Members September 2008	



Name of Expert Team	Members	List of documents (ToR, work plan, documents produced)
Indigenous Peoples	Meeting 28th August 2009	

**Consultative Forum:**

The Consultative Forum includes individuals and/or organizations reflecting the full range of stakeholders affected by the standard(s) under development. A detailed **analysis** of the directly affected and indirectly affected stakeholders needs to be carried out and the table below gives an indication of the types of stakeholder that may be affected by the standard.

There should be evidence that these groups support the process, such as signed letters from a senior representative of the organization or individual as applicable.

It is essential that Non Government Organizations (NGOs) are engaged in the process where they exist, but this does not preclude relevant Government Organizations from contributing.

Some organizations may cover more than one interest, in which case note this on the table.

*[For the Congo Basin Subregional Standard, the following table will need to be completed by the SDG for each country and the region.]*

Interest	Organization/ Individual	Contact details	Signed
a) Economic interests of:			
Owners/managers of large and medium sized forests			
Owners/managers of small forests			
Owners/managers of operations where there is a low intensity of timber harvesting			
Forest contractors			
Timber producers associations			



Interest	Organization/ Individual	Contact details	Signed
b) Social interests of:			
Forest workers			
Indigenous Peoples			
Local communities			
Forest recreation			
Consumers			
c) Environmental interests relating to:			
Biological diversity			
Water			
Soils			
Ecosystems and Landscapes			

**Communications Plan:**

The communications plan needs to be appropriate to the stakeholders ability to access the information, as some groups may not have access to email or maybe literacy is an issue.

A communications plan may be as brief as:

“The Forest Stewardship Standard shall be promoted at each stage of its development to all identified stakeholders by [email/letter/verbally] and publicized on the website [www.xxx.xxx](http://www.xxx.xxx).”

**Forest testing:**

The standard shall be tested in the following range of conditions, to include the full range of indicators by an FSC accredited certification body. These include both large and small forests, and a representative range of forest types within the specified scope. [‘Date of test’ and ‘Location’ may only apply to those who have been in the process prior to the approval of FSC-STD-60-006. In this case a summary of the results of testing needs to be included]



The standard shall be tested by an FSC-accredited certification body and one representative of the Standards Development Group with technical expertise in forest management in the area of scope and appointed by the Chair of the Standard Development Group.

The forest testing also gives opportunities to consult groups which may otherwise be hard to reach or excluded from other forms of consultation, such as forest communities, including indigenous peoples.

Forest Type	Date of test	Location	FSC CB	SDG rep

Forest testing shall take place between October and December 2009. At least one forest test will take place in each country and aim to cover private concessions and community and small forest operations in each country. This needs further discussion within the SDG.

**Complaints and disputes**

Complaints/disputes related to the content of the approved standard shall be responded to by the Facilitator, by providing an explanation of why a particular point of view was not incorporated into the final standard submitted for approval, and/or explaining how the point may be raised again in relation to future revisions of the standard.

For the Congo Basin Subregional Standard, complaints/disputes related to procedural issues shall be responded to initially by the Facilitation Team in consultation where necessary with the SDG. If the complainant is not satisfied with the explanation provided by the Facilitator, the complaint /dispute shall be addressed through the FSC Dispute Resolution process.

**Record keeping**

The Standards Development Group shall keep the following records:

- a) Approved proposal to develop the standard;
- b) names and affiliations of members of Standards Development Group and Consultative Forum, and of other stakeholders that were consulted on the standards during their development;
- c) minutes of meetings held by the Standards Development Group;
- d) copies of public draft standards circulated for comment;
- e) copies of all comments received on public draft standards;
- f) summary of comments received in response to each public draft, together with a general response to those comments;



- g) copies of technical drafts;
- h) the Standards Development Group report and all comments received on the Standards Development Group report;
- i) a description of all departures from the specified procedures for standards development, and the actions taken in respect of those departures (see section 15); and
- j) the decisions of the FSC Board of Directors, FSC Executive Director and Policy and Standards Unit in relation to the requirements of this standard