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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### WWF study reveals importance of FSC certification in survival of great apes

FSC certification plays an important role in the conservation of the world's remaining great apes, according to a new WWF study.

"Great Apes and Logging" concludes that though vast protected areas such as national parks and nature reserves offer ideal habitats for great apes, FSC certified forests can be useful supplements to such protected areas and can also form 'corridors' between individual, isolated great ape habitats. Since many great apes dwell in logging concessions, their continued existence depend to a great extent on how well they can survive in managed forests.

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### New accreditation standards to strengthen FSC certification system

FSC has approved a set of accreditation standards that will raise the quality of the FSC certification process to a higher level. The standards will ensure a greater consistency in performance between certification bodies which carry out FSC certification services to operations seeking to demonstrate their responsible practices.

The accreditation standards, which were subject to a major revision, have a new structure that offer a more logical system for certification bodies. With clearer and more stringent requirement, the new standards address requests expressed by the FSC membership as motions at the General Assembly 2008, ISEAL and ISO requirements and incorporate valuable experience gathered over the last five years.

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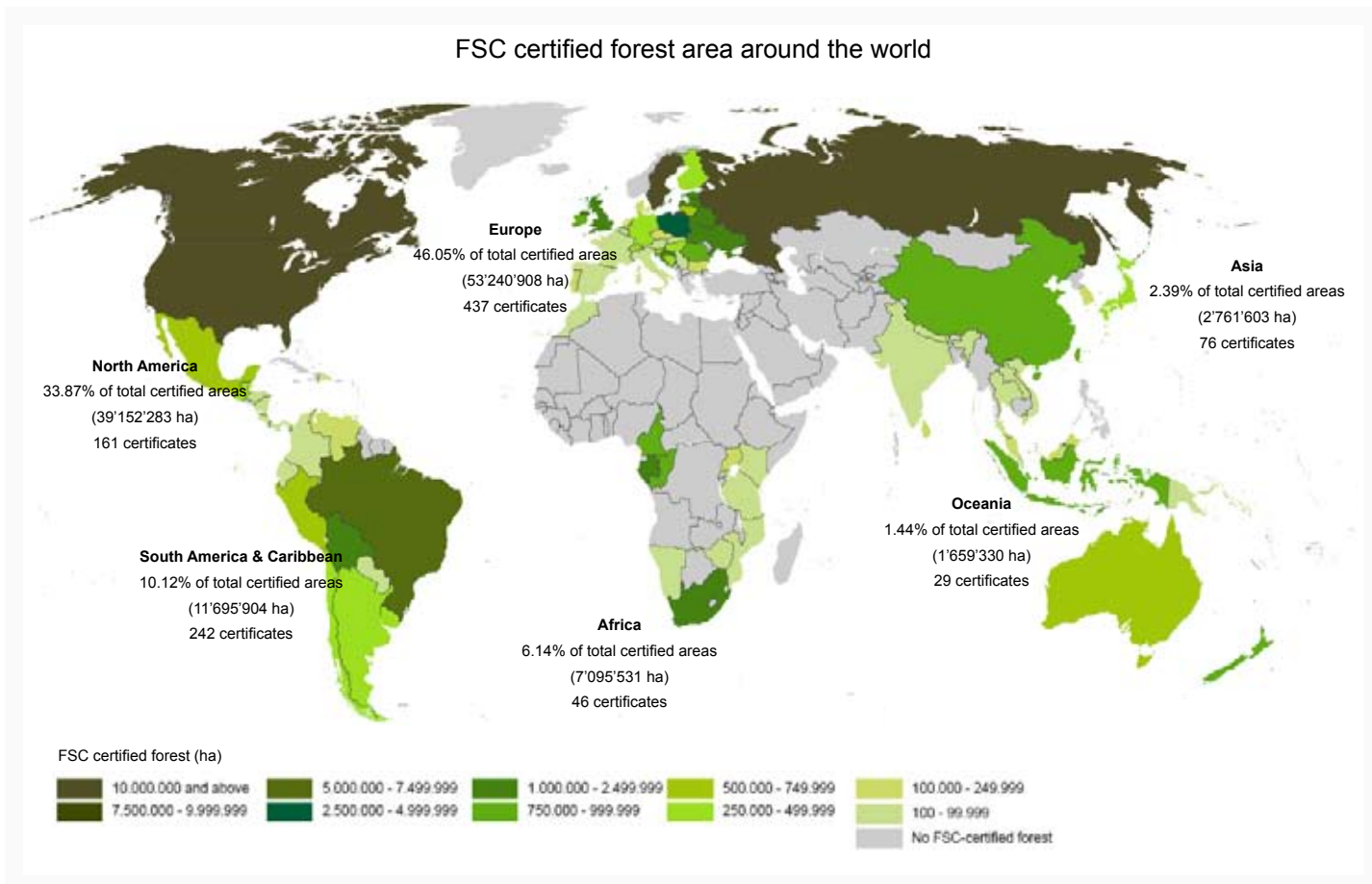
## Partner with FSC

Learn about the benefits of becoming a sponsor of weekly news updates, monthly newsletter, or other opportunities with FSC. Contact Marcelle Peuckert at [m.peuckert@fsc.org](mailto:m.peuckert@fsc.org).

## Join the FSC team!

FSC is currently seeking applicants to fill a variety of roles at the International Center located on the Rhine River in Bonn, Germany. See all job postings at [www.fsc.org/jobs](http://www.fsc.org/jobs)

## FSC IN NUMBERS - A TRULY GLOBAL SYSTEM



Map source: January 2009 © FSC Denmark  
Regional figures source: September 2009 © FSC

### Overview of forest management and supply chain certificates (15 September 2009)

Globally certified forest area:	115'605'559 ha
Total forest management certificates worldwide:	991
Number of countries with forest management and chain of custody certificates:	82
Total chain of custody certificates worldwide:	14'827
Number of countries with chain of custody certificates:	99

### More market info

> FSC certificates: types and distribution  
> FSC market info pack  
...are available online at [www.fsc.org/facts-figures.html](http://www.fsc.org/facts-figures.html)

### FSC certificate database

You can search for FSC certified companies and products and check the validity of FSC certificates at [www.fsc-info.org](http://www.fsc-info.org). This database is the only place where you can check the validity of FSC certificates. For regional or national market information, please contact your national FSC representative at [www.fsc.org/fsc-locations.html](http://www.fsc.org/fsc-locations.html)



## FSC MEMBERS

### Overview of members (31 September 2009)

	Economic	Environmental	Social
North	182	132	57
South	151	215	96
Total	833		

There are no new members this month.

### Become a member

Learn about the benefits of becoming an FSC member as well as how to apply for membership at [www.fsc.org/become-member.html](http://www.fsc.org/become-member.html)

## STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

Currently, there are no stakeholder consultations open to the public.

### Online consultation

You can keep up to date with all policies, standards and other stakeholder consultations at [www.fsc.org/current-consultations.html](http://www.fsc.org/current-consultations.html)

## POLICY & STANDARDS UPDATES

### New accreditation standards to strengthen FSC certification system

Continued from page 1

Changes to **FSC-STD-20-001 V3-0**, the core standard for certification bodies that outlines the general requirements for all types of FSC certification, includes the following main changes:

- Raised the bar for auditor qualifications – each auditor is now required to obtain independent ISO training and register with Accreditation Services International (ASI)
- Stricter auditing processed for larger operations – clearer requirements and additional checks for pre-assessments and annual audits

- Faster complaints resolution process – reduced timeframe for certification bodies to resolve stakeholder complaints from twelve to three months

**FSC-STD-20-007 V3-0** defines how certification bodies must audit forest management operations. The revised standard includes the following changes that are set to ensure a more consistent and credible system:

- Simplified requirements for evaluation of small operations
- Collection of information against indicators – will allow FSC to systematically monitor its impacts
- Stricter and clearer requirements for Corrective Action Requests (CARs) – consistent timelines for operations to implement changes; option for unlimited extension removed; five major CARs lead to suspension

**FSC-STD-20-006 V3-0**, prescribes how certification bodies must carry out stakeholder consultations, includes new conditions demanding greater interaction with stakeholders:

- Stakeholder comments published in audit reports with a response from the certification body
- Each individual stakeholders who has submitted comments will receive a response from the certification body

**FSC-STD-20-002 V3-0** defines how certification bodies must develop and adapt their generic indicators in the absence of FSC approved national or regional standards. The revised standard will provide more opportunities for stakeholders to get involved in the adaptation process. New requirements include:

- Clear timelines for stakeholder consultations published in advance
- Longer consultation periods - offering more time for stakeholders to comment

The revised documents incorporate comments from three rounds of consultation with FSC accredited certification bodies, FSC approved National Initiatives, the FSC Board of Directors and interested members.

Approved by the FSC Board of Directors on 31 August 2009, the standards will become effective as of 1 January 2010.

> The new documents and all other FSC accreditation standards may be found at [www.fsc.org/accreditation\\_docs.html](http://www.fsc.org/accreditation_docs.html)



## New streamlined FSC standards bring greater benefits to Group Certification

FSC has endorsed a new certification standard for forest management operations seeking to benefit from FSC's Group Certification program. Released with a revised accreditation standard, the new requirements significantly reduce certification costs for group members while maintaining the credibility of FSC's certification process.

The certification standard, "FSC standard for group entities in forest management groups" (FSC-STD-30-005 V1-0) is aimed at group entities – an individual or body representing a group of forest properties assembled specifically for Group Certification.

Incorporating stakeholder comments from three rounds of public consultation, the standard also reflects the findings from three pilot tests on group certification held in Estonia, France and the United States in 2009. With clearer and more stringent requirements, the standard addresses the following main issues:

- Group management system – improves quality of procedures, training, communications, record keeping, internal monitoring and chain of custody
- Group members and group entity – greater division of responsibilities
- Definition of sampling units – added flexibility for internal monitoring

This standard takes immediate effect for new applicants following its approval on 31 August 2009. Group entities certified before this date will need to implement the new requirements by 1 January 2011. FSC is currently developing a new guidance document and training program to support forest managers to implement the certification standard.

On 31 August 2009, FSC approved a complementary accreditation standard for certification bodies. Effective from 1 January 2010, "Forest management evaluations" (FSC-STD-20-0007 V3-0) includes the following improvements with regard to Group Certification:

- A new option to apply Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMFs) streamlined procedures for mixed groups (SLIMF and non-SLIMF) – reduces costs for SLIMF members participating in Groups with large scale operations
- A new option to evaluate compliance at Group entity level – introduces FSC requirements on landscape level
- Sampling requirements based on the homogeneity of management system rather than each individual property – beneficial for very small forest holders

- Higher sampling intensity for larger Group members – increases credibility
- Risk approach for mega-groups – new requirement considers impacts on High Conservation Values, land use or tenure disputes, and short rotation cycles when evaluating groups with more than 5'000 members

The certification and accreditation standards replace previous requirements as set out in "Group Certification: FSC guidelines for certification bodies" (FSC-POL-20-001).

> For more information on FSC's smallholder programs, visit [www.fsc.org/smallholders](http://www.fsc.org/smallholders)

## FSC Forest Carbon Working Group set upcoming priorities

On 9 September 2009, the FSC Forest Carbon Working Group convened for the first time to identify a course of action to explore FSC's potential role in forest-based carbon initiatives. The Working Group's mandate is to look into the roles that FSC's governance, policy and forest certification can play in frameworks and projects to mitigate climate change.

During the three day meeting at the FSC office in Bonn, the newly established Working Group defined recommendations for FSC's representation and message at the UNFCCC COP-15 set to take place in December 2009. The meeting in Bonn is supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ).

FSC established the sub-chamber balanced Working Group in July 2009, following the approval of Policy Motion 43 at the 2008 General Assembly. Consisting of twelve FSC members with two representatives from each sub-chamber, the Working Group will ensure the actual and potential views of all FSC stakeholder groups receive due consideration.

> Keep up-to-date on FSC's progress in the climate change discussions at [www.fsc.org/climatechange.html](http://www.fsc.org/climatechange.html)

## ACCREDITATION NEWS

### FSC accredited certification bodies

An up-to-date list is available on the Accreditation Services International (ASI) website at [www.accreditation-services.com](http://www.accreditation-services.com)

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### FSC meeting in Canada concludes forum for indigenous peoples' participation in P&C Review

FSC has facilitated the last of five regional meetings with representatives of indigenous and traditional peoples worldwide as part of the consultation process on the FSC Principles and Criteria (P&C) Review.

Driven by Motion 8 from the 2008 General Assembly, FSC organized the meetings to provide indigenous people a platform to discuss and agree on common feedback on Draft 2-0 of Version 5-0 of the Principles and Criteria. The scope of the regional meetings covered all ten principles and associated criteria, though participants focused on Principle 3 which deals with indigenous and traditional peoples' rights.



Latin American indigenous peoples' meeting, Peru © FSC

For the first regional meeting, eleven indigenous people from seven countries congregated in Peru's capital on 3 August 2009, including representatives from Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru.



European indigenous peoples' meeting, Germany © FSC

### Regional meetings

**Latin America** 3-4 August 2009

Location: Lima, Peru

Organizer: FSC IC, FSC Peru

**North America** 17-18 August 2009

Location: Toronto, Canada

Organizer: FSC Canada

**Europe** 19-20 August 2009

Location: Bonn, Germany

Organizer: FSC IC

**Africa-Congo Basin** 26-27 August 2009

Location: Douala, Cameroon

Organizer: FSC IC with the support of FSC Cameroon

**Asia and Oceania** 27-28 August 2009

Location: Bangkok, Thailand

Organizer: Jim Sandom, former Asia-Pacific Regional Director; Jaime Levy, FSC Board of Directors

On 19-20 August 2009, four representatives of the Udege, Volgoda and Sami people from Russia, Sweden and Finland congregated for the European meeting organized by FSC, held at the FSC International Center in Bonn, Germany.

The Africa-Congo Basin meeting on 26-27 August 2009 gathered 25 indigenous and traditional peoples' representatives from seven countries: Cameroon, Gabon, the Democratic Rep of Congo, Kenya, Morocco, Republic of Congo and Senegal. FSC with the support of FSC Cameroon organized the event held in Douala, Cameroon.

Former Asia-Pacific Regional Director Jim Sandom and FSC Board of Directors member Jaime Levy organized the Asia and Oceania meeting. Ten indigenous peoples' representatives and experts gathered in Bangkok, Thailand, on 27-28 August from Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Nepal.

The final meeting was held in Canada on 31 August where nine First Nations people from North America gathered for a two day meeting. FSC Canada organized the successful meeting in Toronto which included representatives of indigenous people from several North American regions, including British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland, Labrador and Wisconsin.

More information on the P&C review may be found at [www.fsc.org/pcreview.html](http://www.fsc.org/pcreview.html).



African-Congo Basin indigenous peoples' meeting, Cameroon  
© FSC

## B&Q to source only FSC certified tropical hardwood plywood

Kingfisher's B&Q UK announced it will now only buy FSC certified material when seeking tropical hardwood plywood, in line with its progressive procurement policy.

As of September 2009, all tropical hardwood plywood in B&Q's stores in the UK will be FSC certified. Certification for the store's entire supply of tropical plywood is a global first as historically it has been difficult to secure FSC certification for this volume.

**We are delighted to be the first retailer to gain FSC certification for all our tropical plywood. Now those looking for fully certified tropical plywood will have an easy way to get hold of what they need..**

- Julia Griffin, B&Q

The plywood is sourced from community owned and private forests in Acre, Brazil's westernmost state. This area of the Amazon has been a major focus for environmental associations such as WWF Brazil and Greenpeace to help create responsible markets for sustainable activities and help local communities gain FSC certification.

There are 370 families involved in the community forestry projects surrounding the production of the retailer's

tropical plywood supply. Requiring hundreds of thousands of sheets of tropical hardwood plywood a year, it is hoped the projects will expand to include a further 300 families.

Julia Griffin, Timber Advisor for B&Q said, "All B&Q wood products are sourced sustainably and we are delighted to be the first retailer to gain FSC certification for all our tropical plywood. Now those looking for fully certified tropical plywood will have an easy way to get hold of what they need."

Kingfisher, whose main retail brands include B&Q, recently updated its timber procurement policy which translates its long standing preference for FSC into real commercial buying terms. It specifies only FSC for key tropical hardwood species.

Source: B&Q press release 4/09/09

### Did you know?

FSC released a compilation of findings on the outcomes and impacts of FSC certification in and beyond the forest, in a literary review of independent research.

The report uncovers strong evidence that FSC can positively impact workers and communities, shift governance processes globally and change economic and environmental conditions in the forest.

Read the report, "FSC reflected in scientific and professional literature" online at [www.fsc.org/fscpublications.html](http://www.fsc.org/fscpublications.html)

## WWF study reveals importance of FSC certification in survival of great apes

Continued from page 1

The authors found that in contrast to other types of logging, responsible logging in accordance with FSC Principles and Criteria is a good guarantee for the preservation of adequate living conditions for great apes.

"In the past 50 years, the number of great apes living in the wild has been cut in half," said Matt Lewis, senior program officer for African Species Conservation. "However, market-oriented solutions like responsibly managed forestry can help save them, along with stricter poaching controls and increased protected areas."

The FSC Principles and Criteria require illegal hunting and logging to be controlled, and require the maintenance or enhancement of high conservation value forest areas that serve as a critical habitat for rare and threatened species. For great apes, this means that fruit trees – an important food source – are maintained. Regular, independent auditing ensures the continued compliance to FSC's standards.

WWF's recommendations, among others, include:

- Governments in producer countries – promote FSC certification and create an enabling environment for continued long-term management of FSC certified forests
- Forest managers in producer countries – pursue FSC certification

- Governments, private sector and consumers in consumer countries – implement strict procurement policies and give preference to FSC certified products

WWF is also calling on FSC to ensure that certified operations in the tropics meet high-quality standards. The well-known environmental NGO has submitted valuable input in the standard-development process currently taking place for the Congo Basin region.

All four great ape species – bonobo, chimpanzee, gorilla and orangutan – are considered “endangered” or “critically” endangered and are at risk of extinction.

You may find more information on the report at [www.panda.org](http://www.panda.org).

**Market-oriented solutions like responsibly managed forestry can help save [the great apes], along with stricter poaching controls and increased protected areas..**

- Matt Lewis, WWF

Source: WWF US press release 11/09/09

## Reminder: Call to participate in FSC market survey 2009

FSC invites all interested individuals, companies and organisations to take part in the 2009 Market Survey. The survey is available in several languages and is open online until 19 October 2009.



© Fiwo/ GoodWood

FSC launched the survey in August 2009 to solicit valuable feedback from certificate holders, although non-certificate holders are welcome to contribute as there are some questions aimed at them as well.

The survey is a continuance of previous Market Surveys and is intended to help FSC learn more about its certificate holders, their needs and their perception of the value

of their participation in FSC. FSC is distributing the survey to members of our global network and encourages all certificate holders to participate as these surveys provide invaluable information.

The survey is currently available in the following languages: English, German, Spanish, French, Italian, Japanese and Chinese.

You can access the survey here: <http://fscsurvey.limequery.org/index.php?sid=66768&lang=en> and select

the language of your choice. Please forward the link on to your contacts and encourage them to participate.

FSC will share the survey information with our network partners in the FSC Market Info Pack (updated annually) and other FSC publications. You may find the results of the 2008 survey in the current Market Info Pack on our website at <http://www.fsc.org/facts-figures.html>.

Thank you for your support and assistance in this important effort.

## FSC welcomes two new staff members

FSC is pleased to welcome two new staff members to its international team. Ms. Shoana Humphries and Ms. Maria Lucia Terreros have joined FSC to strengthen the resources in the Policy and Standards Unit and FSC IC legal department.

As Social Policy Manager, Ms. Humphries will implement various initiatives to improve the certification process for communities and small producers, and to improve the benefits of certification for these producers. She will also provide support on social policy issues for other initiatives.

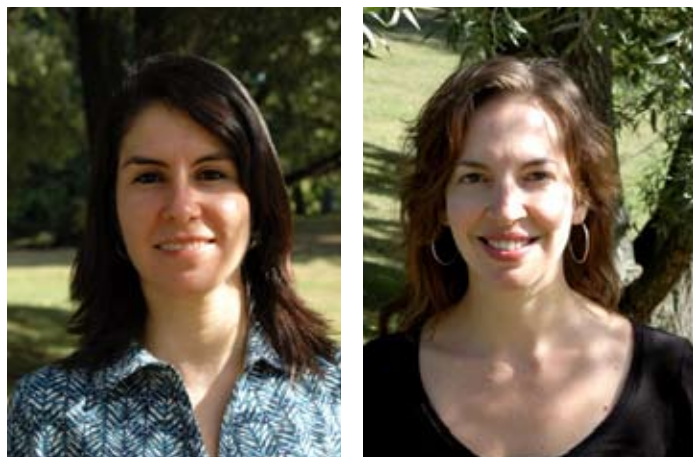
Previously, Ms. Humphries coordinated efforts to develop certification standards and promote certification in the southeastern US, worked on community conservation and development projects in Bolivia and Peru, and investigated community forestry and certification in the Brazilian Amazon and southern Mexico. In her Ph.D. studies she focused on the socio-economic aspects of community forestry.

Ms. Terreros will work as Trademark Protection Officer in the FSC IC legal department, procuring worldwide FSC trademark protection and handling trademark misuse cases on a global basis.

Ms. Terreros received her law degree from Javeriana University in Bogota, and her Master Degree in Law in Intellectual Property Law from Franklin Pierce Law Center in New Hampshire. Admitted to practice in 2002, Ms. Terreros has worked as an Intellectual Property Lawyer at the Intellectual Property Law Division in Gomez Pinzon Abogados, Bogota, handling a wide variety of diverse IP issues for corporate clients.

Ms. Humphries joined FSC as Social Program Manager on 17 August 2009. Ms. Terreros began her work as Trademark Protection Officer on 1 Sept 2009.

For more information on FSC's SLIMF program, visit [www.fsc.org/slimf.html](http://www.fsc.org/slimf.html). For more information on FSC certification and small forestry operations, visit [www.fsc.org/smallholders](http://www.fsc.org/smallholders).



Maria Lucia Terreros © FSC (Left); Shoana Humphries © FSC (right)

## FSC approves Controlled Wood Risk Assessment for Chilean plantations

On the 18 August 2009, FSC approved the national risk assessment for sourcing FSC Controlled Wood from plantations in Chile. The risk assessment is mandatory for all companies sourcing FSC Controlled Wood from any Chilean plantation.

FSC Chile has paved the way to ensure the consistent performance of FSC Controlled Wood standards on the ground while harnessing stakeholder support in the country. The risk assessment was developed by a team of experts and culminates extraordinary efforts to gather risk information for Chilean counties.

Following a broad stakeholder consultation process that began in 2008, the FSC Chile Board of Directors approved the document on 16 June 2009 and submitted it to FSC IC for approval. The risk assessment is specifically for sourcing timber from Chilean plantations and FSC Chile is currently developing a national risk assessment for natural forests.

The risk assessment comes into immediate effect for companies seeking to identify risks of sourcing Controlled Wood from plantations in Chile to comply with the FSC Standard for Company Evaluation of FSC Controlled Wood (FSC-STD-40-005 Version 2-1). Companies that have already conducted risk assessments for Chilean plantations will have a period of up to 12 months after approval date to align their Controlled Wood program to the new requirements.

FSC accredited certification bodies are responsible for informing their clients of the new changes and enforcing the new requirements. The assessment is featured in the FSC/NEPcon Global Forest Risk Registry (<http://globalforestrisk.nepcon.net/>).

For more information on the risk assessment, please contact FSC Chile, [www.fsc-chile.org](http://www.fsc-chile.org).

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Larger forest holdings qualify for FSC SLIMF certification in Honduras

The eligibility threshold for small forestry operations in Honduras has changed from 100 to 1000 hectares. Increasing the maximum threshold for smallholders seeking to benefit from FSC's Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMF) program better reflects forest holding sizes in Honduras.

As of 31 August 2009, Honduras has been included in the "SLIMF eligibility criteria – addendum" (FSC-STD-01-003a) which lists all countries where small forestry operations are greater than 100 hectares.

Forest management units of up to 100 hectares automatically qualify for SLIMF certification, which aims to reduce the costs of certification for smallholders. Due to diversities in forests around the world, a country may seek to increase the threshold up to 1000 hectares. All exceptions must follow the FSC standard "SLIMF eligibility criteria" (FSC-STD-01-003 V1-0).

Introduced by FSC in 1994, the SLIMF program recognizes that access to FSC certification and its benefits can be more challenging for smallholders than for larger enterprises. The program offers streamlined procedures for smallholders seeking to demonstrate their long-term and careful management practices.