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FOREST MANAGEMENT IN QUALITY ASPECT

Summary: Forests are important for many people around the world. It may be direct, in the form of various products or indirect, such as in delivering ecosystem services that provide clean water, biodiversity and mitigation of climate change. Products and services like food, shelter, energy, medicines and water are often particularly important for the subsistence of the rural poor. It was showed in the paper the importance of forest market and quality mark as well as certificate.

Key words: forest, mark, quality.

1 Introduction

Forest certification was introduced in the early 1990s as a tool for improving forest management in order to secure appropriate consideration for ecological values while promoting economic growth and thus generating wellbeing of people. So far little is known about how forest certification impact people's livelihoods in and around the forests and how forest certification may contribute to alleviation of poverty.

Since the beginning of forest certification, SSC-Forestry has been one of the main consultants in providing training about forest certification around the world. Since 1996 SSC-Forestry has organized an international training program for forest certification financed by Sida. Currently, more than 600 certification specialists from more than 60 countries, have been trained by SSC-Forestry.

Responsibly managed forests continue to deliver environmental, social and economic benefits. These benefits may include maintaining

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and enhancing biodiversity and the environmental services provided by forests, such as water storage and supply and carbon sequestration, good and safe conditions for workers, respect for Indigenous People's rights and the well-being of communities. The economic benefit comes mainly from supplying and selling forest products guaranteed to have been responsibly sourced – a vital part of most businesses' corporate social responsibility (CSR) in today's changing world.

2. Quality mark in the forest industry

2.1. Forest quality mark

Development and Implementation Centre of State Forests (DICSF) awards the Forest Quality Mark (fig. 64) promoting the products offered on the forest market. It is possible to obtain a branch certificate on the basis of tests including:

- verification of practical application values,
- safety of use, economical and ergonomic parameters.

The forest quality mark (FQM) is awarded to the products, services and processes useful in the forest economy, which are characterized by a very high quality of manufacture confirmed by their users. Awarding the forest quality mark means that the product fulfills the requirements of the law and internal regulation of the State Forests, with a particular regard to the requirements of environmental protection and safety regulations. The Statuette presents an ellipse with an inscribed circle inside which, in vertical position there is a stylized spruce. The whole is made of metal and placed on elliptic support made of stone. At the side of the support there is an inscription: forest mark of quality and on the opposite side there is the name of the assessing body. For the forest mark of quality (FQM) may contest, producers, distributors, science officers, inventors, rationalizes – natural persons, legal persons and organizational units that have no legal capacity. It is possible to contest for FMQ in the scope of products, services, processes, solutions,

and ventures that have a valid Certificate of Assessment issued by the Development and Implementation Centre of State Forests in Bedon. Applicants should file an Application for a forest mark of quality with the Development and Implementation Centre in Bedon. The application is accepted provided a registration fee, in the amount established every year by the Director of DICST in Bedon, has been paid to the Centre in Bedon. A subsequent stage consists in testing products/goods. The tests have practical character and they check the usefulness of the product for use in the forest economy. Each product connected with forest economy can be subject to testing. The tests are carried out with regard to:

- methodologies developed by the Forestry Research Institute or the company's own methods,
- technical - forest requirements,
- developed patterns,
- provisions of internal regulations and legal regulations generally in force with regard to the forest economy,
- procedures in force in the Development and Implementation Centre in Bedon.

The tests are carried out according to the methodology approved each time by the Commission of Experts. The result of the tests is approved by the Head of the Forest Technology Office and Implementation Centre of the State Forests in Bedon. The procedure for obtaining the Quality Mark is presenting on figure 65. In exceptional cases the decision to consider an application is taken by the Commission of Experts. Carrying out tests requires that the Orderer:

- makes individual, agreements depending on the kind of product, that concern the range of tests,
- draws up an agreement between the Orderer and the DICST in Bedon or puts in an order,
- pays a fee,
- delivers a tested product to the place indicated by the assessing body,
- supplies a service manual, technological instructions and technical descriptions,

- presents the results of tests carried out by other units, especially in the sphere of safety,
- indicates places of use of the product
- makes production sites accessible - applies to producers.

The analysis of test results of the product, included in “The Certificate of Assessment”, is carried out by the Commission of Experts. Positive test results approved by the Commission of Experts give grounds for putting forward a recommendation of the product for a Forest Mark of Quality (FQM).

In the case of negative assessment of the product, it can undergo tests again after the introduction of changes eliminating the indicated defects. Carrying out tests is payable and covered by the party concerned - the Orderer. Forest Quality Mark can be awarded to any product connected with the forest economy, which favorably differs from other products of a similar use. The Forest Quality Mark is awarded by the Director of the Development and Implementation Centre on the basis of the report from the meeting of the Commission of Experts.

The Commission of Experts is appointed by the Director of the Development and Implementation Centre of the State Forests. It comprises specialists who test products and representatives of consumers. Winning a Forest Quality Mark entitles a manufacturer to mark a product with this emblem and use the Mark in marketing activity including the market product. FQM is awarded on the basis of analysis of the product test results included in the Certificate of Assessment.

Any introduction of changes in the product equals expiry of the right to use FQM. Re-awarding of FQM is possible after the performance of tests and issue of the “Certificates of Assessment” for the changed product. The Certificate of Assessment is valid for at least one year, however no longer than 5 years. The period of validity of the “Certificates of Assessment” is established for every group of products by the Commission of Experts in a document approving the methodology of testing a given group of products.

The right to use FQM cannot be transferred on other subjects. The subject entitled to use FQM has not right to give permission to use FQM by others. The right to use FQM is limited to the products holding a valid “Certificate of Assessment” and marketing and advertising activities of the subject entitled to use FQM and directly connected the product holding a valid Certificate of Assessment. The act confirming the right to use FQM is the Act of Awarding a forest mark of quality. The Development and Implementation Centre of the State Forests in Bedon is entitled to carry out inspection.

2.2. Forest Quality Certificates

Three types certificates are issued: Forest Management (FM) – certificate for responsible forest management, Chain of Custody (CoC) – for companies that manufacture, process or trade in timber or non-timber forest products and FSC Controlled Wood (CW). It is widely regarded as one of the most important initiatives to promote responsible forest management that includes social, environmental, economic, cultural and spiritual values.

FSC Controlled Wood enables manufacturers and traders to avoid usage of wood that is: illegally harvested, wood harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights, originated from forests of High Conservation Values, wood harvested from conversion of natural forests (areas particularly worth of protection), or wood from genetically modified trees. FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) is an independent, non – governmental, non – profit organization that promotes responsible forest management. It is established in 1993 as a response to global deforestation. FSC is built on democratic standards whose members are from different organizations and work together to promote environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management. Forest Stewardship Council members can be individuals and organizations representing environmental, social and economic interests, and within the Council have an equal share of

members (Fig. x.1). It consists of more than 800 members who are divided into three chambers: environmental, economic and social. FSC is a global organization, with:

- 30,000 certificates issued in over 100 countries, more than 184 million hectares of certified forests globally,
- 41 network partners
- and 4 regional offices,
- 7 present in numerous regions around the world.

FSC continues to grow and expand its reach. There are now over 184 million hectares of FSC-certified forest in 80 countries worldwide.

The number of FSC Forest Management (FM) certificates has increased by about 33 percent from 987 in 2010 to 1,311 in 2015. Some 72 percent of this area is concentrated in Canada, Russia, the United States, Sweden, Poland and Brazil. Some 65 percent of the certified forest area is natural forest and 8 percent plantations.³ Some 42 percent of the certificates are in place in Europe, with Latin America and North America representing 18–19 percent each. Largest FSC-certified forest areas in the world (by country - total forest area).^{4, 5}

The impact of FSC certification in developing countries has:

- helped to secure or improve environmental services in certified forests,
- improved worker conditions within certified forests,
- acted to reduce social conflict in and around certified forests,
- helped in securing land tenure and usufruct rights (in certified community forests),

³https://bib.irb.hr/datoteka/531710.Fulfilling_European_Union_market_requirements_with_FSC_standard_implementation.pdf dostę 18.12.2015

⁴ <https://ic.fsc.org> dostę 18.12.2015

⁵ FSC impacts and outcomes – Extracts from FSC literature review 2009, Forest Stewardship Council.

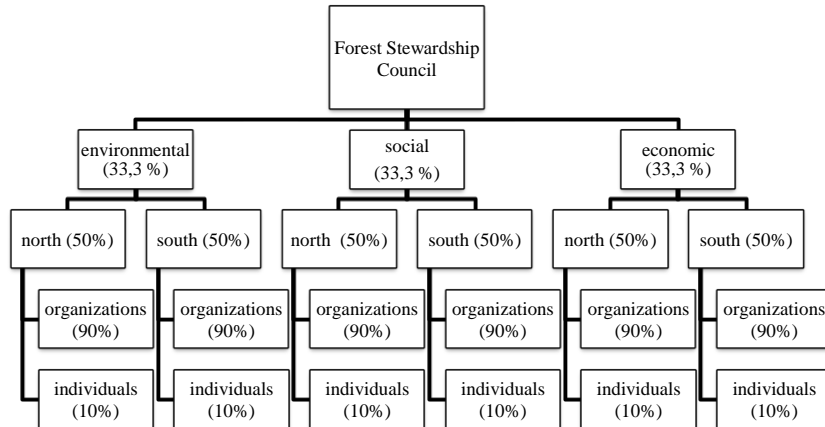


Fig. 1. Weighting of votes in Forest Stewardship Council.

Source: https://bib.irb.hr/datoteka/531710.Fulfilling_European_Union_market_requirements_with_FSC_standard_implementation.pdf

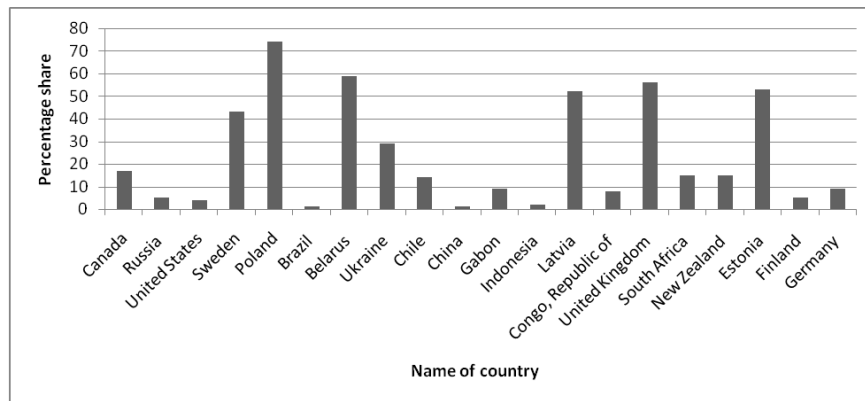


Fig. 2. Largest FSC-certified forest areas in the world.

Source: <https://ic.fsc.org/en/resources/research>

- provided greater access to premium timber markets (where they exist); and,
- improved the image of the forest management enterprise locally and in associated markets,
- helped promote sustainable forest management more generally through dialogue between the private sector, government bodies, non-governmental organizations and civil society.^{6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11}

2. Summary

In Table 1. was showed strengths and challenges of FSC certification.

Table 1. Strengths and challenges of FSC certification

Level	Strengths	Challenges
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increased production and an increase in income. – Reduction of ecological impacts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No price-premium, i.e. no compensation on FSC certification by internal market. – Inequality of benefits and impacts

⁶ Spilsbury, M.J. (2005). The sustainability of forest management: assessing the impact of CIFOR criteria and indicators research. Impact Assessment Papers no. 4. Bogor, Indonesia: CIFOR.

⁷ WWF – Weltbank –Global Forest Alliance (2006): The Forest Certification Assessment Guide (FCAG). A framework for assessing credible forest certification systems / schemes.

⁸ Ros-Tonen, Mirjam A.F. (2004): Final Report: Congress on Globalisation, Localisation and Tropical Forest Management in the 21st Century. Amsterdam Research Institute for Metropolitan and Int. Development Studies, Amsterdam, Netherlands

⁹ Ros-Tonen, Mirjam A.F. (2004): Final Report: Congress on Globalisation, Localisation and Tropical Forest Management in the 21st Century. Amsterdam Research Institute for Metropolitan and Int. Development Studies, Amsterdam, Netherlands

¹⁰ Hirschberger, Peter (2005): The Effects of FSC-certification in Estonia: an analysis of CARs. WWF Forest Programme. 18 p.

¹¹ WWF European Forest Programme (2005): The Effects of FSC-certification in Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Russia, Sweden & the United Kingdom: An analysis of Corrective Action Requests (by Peter Hirschberger).

Micro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Availability of financial support for the certification process. - Formalizing access and tenure rights of communities. - Enhanced organization during certification process. - Enhanced social participation and cohesion of community. - Good quality national certifying body (one = Imaflora). - Enhanced dialogue between stakeholders. - Exchange of expertise and experience and positive collaboration in Private Public Partnership projects. - Good example of sustainable forest management to be recognized in forest and development policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of certification between small producers and large companies. - Difficulties in balancing interests of community members. - Re-confirming traditional hierarchy and patronage system. - Capacity of intermediary organizations. - Integration of small producers and communities in new market developments (e.g. CDM). - Competition of agricultural expansion. - Regulation and enforcement on forest-related issues inadequate.
Meso	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good quality national certifying body (one = Imaflora). - Enhanced dialogue between stakeholders. - Exchange of expertise and experience and positive collaboration in Private Public Partnership projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity of intermediary organizations. - Integration of small producers and communities in new market developments (e.g. CDM). - Competition of illegal forest products. - Competition of agricultural expansion.
Macro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good example of sustainable forest management to be recognized in forest and development policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulation and enforcement on forest.

Source: Carey, Christine (2008/1): E047 Governmental Use of Voluntary Standards Case Study 2: Bolivia and Forest Stewardship Council Standards. ISEAL Alliance

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