

Forest Management Certification Under The Forest Stewardship Council

An Overview

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by

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SCS Background

- ***Mission:*** *Verify and recognize/reward outstanding performance in the private and public sectors in terms of environmental sustainability and social responsibility.*
- ***Services:*** *SCS has specialized in third-party environmental certification, auditing, testing, and standards development since 1984.*

SCS Background

Forest Carbon Verification:

- *Evolved from longstanding expertise in forest management certification (FSC)*
- *First CCAR audits in 2007*
- *SCS has served as verifier for all currently registered CCAR/CAR projects*
- *Accredited to ISO 14065 in 2009*
- *Operates on a global scale under a variety of Forest Carbon programs*

SCS Background



Forest Carbon Offerings



Methodology Reviews and Project Validations: South Africa, Papua New Guinea, Borneo, Cambodia



Project Validations: Papua New Guinea, Borneo, United States, Peru, Australia



Project Verification: Brazil, Uruguay



All Project Verifications: California
All Project Types: Improved Forest Management, Avoided Conversion, and Reforestation

What is Certification?

1. General Definition
2. Definition in the forestry context
3. Forest Management Certification
4. Chain of Custody Certification
5. Credibility—How is it achieved?
 - Rigorous (leadership) standards
 - Rigorous conformity assessment protocols
 - Transparency
 - Accessible dispute resolution procedures
 - Strict independence
6. ***Independent Third-Party Certification***

What is the Forest Stewardship Council?

- Description of the organization
 - International NGO
 - Founded in Toronto, Canada in 1993
 - Membership based, with three co-equal “chambers”
 - Based in Bonn, Germany; formerly based in Oaxaca, Mexico
 - FSC sets standards, protocols and then oversees auditing activities
 - But is looked to for many other roles
- Description of the certification process
 - Rigorous, transparent, consultative
- Description of the accreditation process
 - Rigorous, transparent, consultative

Forest Stewardship Council



Forest Management Certification

- Focuses on defined *forest management units*
- Audits conducted against the FSC *Principles & Criteria*, which cover environmental, social and economic issues
- The P&C are further elaborated by *regional standards*
- Certification is awarded for 5-year periods, subject to annual audits
- *Group certification* schemes are designed to lower cert. costs for small landowners

FM Certification (cont.)

10 FSC Principles and 56 Criteria:

- **P.1—Compliance with Legal Requirements**
- **P.2—Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities**
- **P.3—Indigenous Peoples' Rights**
- **P.4—Community Relations and Worker's Rights**
- **P.5—Benefits from the Forest**
- **P.6—Environmental Impact**
- **P.7—Management Plan**
- **P.8—Monitoring and Assessment**
- **P.9—Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests**
- **P.10—Plantations**

FM Certification (cont.)

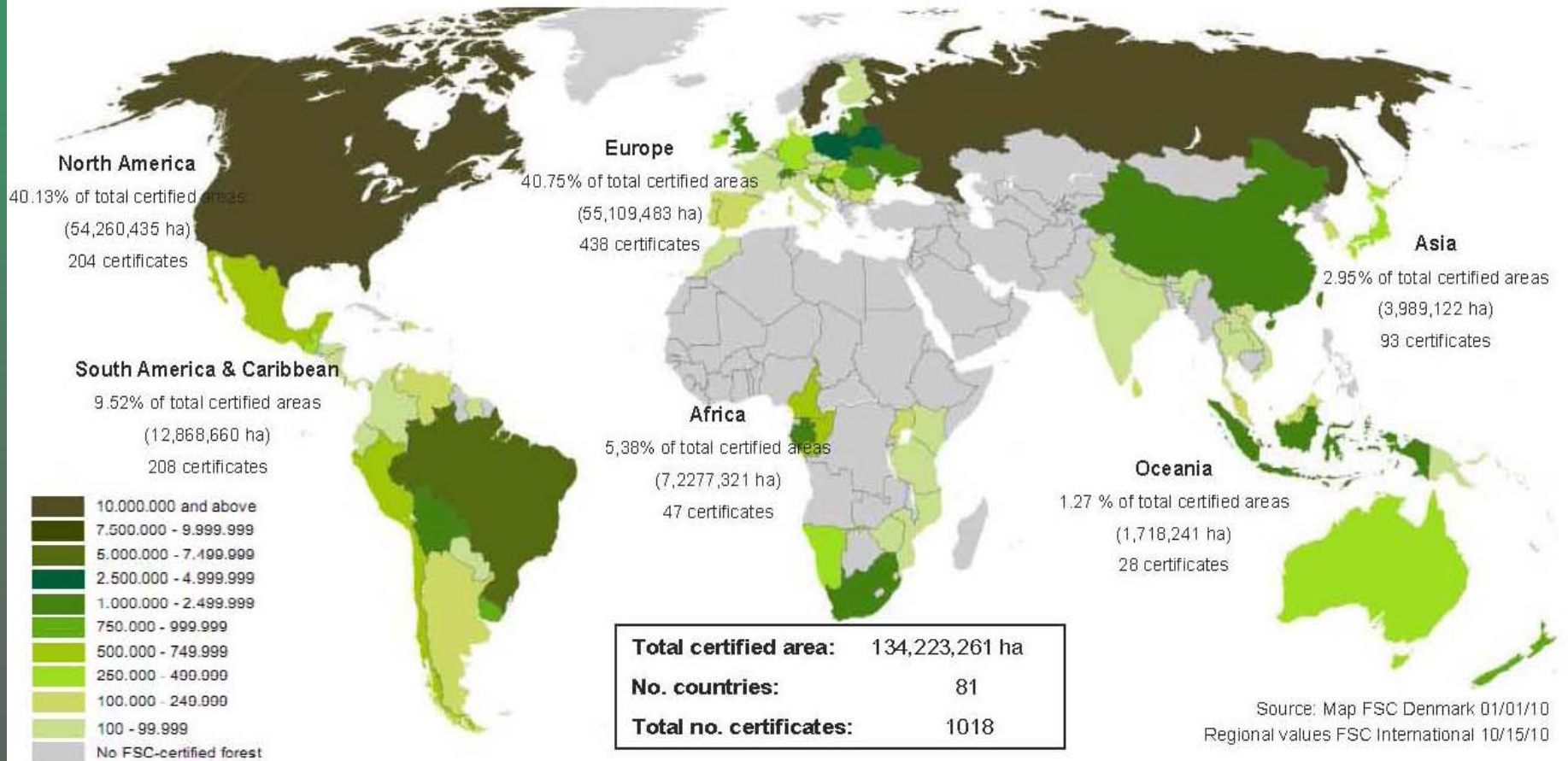
FSC Ethos: Cost shall not be a barrier to participation in the certification process

Mechanisms for Achieving this Objective:

- Regionally-appropriate standards (Indicators)
- SLIMFs (small or low-intensity managed forests) variations to the standards and the audit protocols
- Group certification
- Dual certification audits (e.g., FM and GHG conducted concurrently by a single audit team under the administration of a CB duly accredited to conduct both FM and GHG audits)

FM Certification (cont.)

Global FSC certified forest area: by region



FM Certification (cont.)

FSC certified forest area in Mexico:

Total Certified Area: : **717,424 (ha)**

Total # of FM Certificates: **31**

Questions or Comments?

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