

## **FSC invites Members and Certificate Holders to join a new Forum**

Bonn, March 15, 2021. FSC is opening today a call for applications for a new forum. The forum members will be consulted on new developments in the FSC Chain of Custody system. The focus will be on advice notes, an instrument used to address critical gaps in the normative framework. Advice notes are currently only consulted with FSC accredited certification bodies and Assurance Services International as they are usually targeting very limited aspects or individual requirements in a single standard.

Most of the recently issued advice notes, however, address integrity aspects more broadly within FSC supply chains, such as the Advice Note on False Claims which is currently under review. At the same time, these advice notes may have impacts for all FSC Chain of Custody certificate holders. This is why it is deemed important to now involve the full range of interest groups as well as the actual system users in the development of these policy instruments.

The new CoC Forum will have a fixed composition of:

- 15 FSC members, five from each chamber and
- 10 FSC CoC certificate holders.

Forum members are not expected to act as a group but will have the opportunity to exchange within the forum if they want to provide coordinated input into relevant developments and reviews. Inputs during the actual consultation periods will be possible via webinars and the FSC Consultation platform. Certification bodies in their role as FSC members are not eligible for this forum, as they will be further consulted separately.

FSC seeks to establish a stable forum membership for a first 1-year period after which the members may change and the concept of the forum as whole will be reviewed.

Please read the privacy statement and submit your application using the application form before May 09, 2021. For any questions, please contact the FSC Chain of Custody program at [chainofcustody@fsc.org](mailto:chainofcustody@fsc.org).