

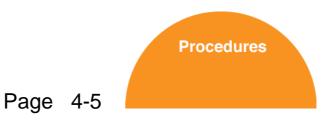
Forest Stewardship Council®



Interpretations of the normative framework

Ecosystem Services 01 October 2020

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PROCEDURE

FSC-PRO-30-006 V1-0 (2018) ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROCEDURE: IMPACT DEMONSTRATION AND MARKET TOOL

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PROCEDURE

FSC-PRO-30-006 V1-0 (2018) ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROCEDURE: IMPACT DEMONSTRATION AND MARKET TOOLS

Code	INT-PRO-30-006_01
Requirement (s)	FSC-PRO-30-006_V1-0_Clause 3.1
Publication date	04 August 2020
"The conservation 3.1.1 Represent the 3.1.2 Have sufficien 3.1.3 Contain the fu species; <i>and</i> 3.1.4 Have sufficien	C-PRO-30-006 V1-0) states: area network and areas outside the management unit: full range of environmental values in the management unit; at size or functional connectivity to support natural processes; Ill range of habitats present for focal species and rare and threatened at size or functional connectivity with other suitable habitat to support of focal species, including rare and threatened species in the region"
	ense to ask FSC Certificate Holders to comply with requirements outside nit. How is this requirement to be interpreted?
ecologically sufficien area network fulfils a	on wants to demonstrate the positive impact ES1.3 <i>Maintenance of an at conservation area network</i> , they need to demonstrate that the conservation all above-mentioned Clauses (3.1.1-3.1.4). Scale is important for natural versity conservation to work.
The Organization ha	s two options:
with Clause 2) the Organiza neighbouring	ation area network within their management unit is sufficient by itself to comply 3.1.1-3.1.4; or ation links their conservation area network within their management unit to g conservation areas managed by others and as a result of being well- is able to demonstrate the positive impact and comply with Clause 3.1.1-3.1.4.
Code	INT-PRO-30-006_02
Requirement (s)	FSC-PRO-30-006_V1-0_Clause 3.6
Publication date	04 August 2020

The suggested carbon management practices in module 7 of the FSC Ecosystem Services Guidance (p.21-23, FSC-GUI-30-006 V1-0) are oriented towards tropical forests. How should this Clause be applied in non-tropical contexts?

Clause 3.6 states that "Management activities maintain, enhance, or restore carbon storage in the forest, including through forest protection and reduced impact logging practices for carbon, as described in FSC-GUI-30-006 *FSC Guidance for Demonstrating Ecosystem Services Impacts.*"

Besides the suggested carbon management practices in module 7 of the FSC Ecosystem Services Guidance (p.21-23, FSC-GUI-30-006 V1-0), the Organization is free to choose and implement other responsible forest management practices in case these are more suitable for their country and/ or local context to maintain, enhance and/or restore carbon storage in the forest.

Code	INT-PRO-30-006_03
Requirement (s)	FSC-PRO-30-006_V1-0_Clause 17
Publication date	04 August 2020

Can ecosystem services (ES) be evaluated remotely via a desk audit?

As the evaluation of the FSC Ecosystem Services Procedure follows the requirements as laid out in FSC-STD-20-007, a field visit would be a standard part of the evaluation of ecosystem services impacts (cf. Clause 5.4, p.14 FSC-STD-20-007).

Under specific circumstances, the Certification Body may decide to evaluate ecosystem services impacts remotely, via a desk audit. Such specific circumstances are:

- 1. If a field visit does not lead to new information (because the state of the ES and the implementation of management activities that contribute to the impact cannot be checked in the field); AND/OR
- the auditor already knows the forest well, and the aspects related to ecosystem services for which a positive impact is to be verified/validated have been observed during previous onsite forest management audits; AND/OR
- 3. The Organization qualifies for a desk-based audit based on a derogation issued by FSC International

Desk-based ecosystem services evaluations shall include interviews with relevant staff and stakeholders, (satellite) imagery, virtual forest visit and/or other best available information.

Code	INT-STD-60-004_03 & INT-PRO-30-006_04
Requirement (s)	Principle 5, Annex C. List of national standards that include Annex C FSC-PRO-30-006
Publication date	01 October 2020

When a National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) includes an Annex C for the verification of Ecosystem Services (ES) claims, should this annex be used for relevant certification activities or should the FSC-PRO-30-006 *Ecosystem Services Procedure* be used instead?

FSC-PRO-30-006 prevails in all cases.

In the revision of FSC-STD-60-004 *International Generic Indicators* from V1-0 to V2-0, the ecosystem services requirements in Annex C were transferred into Part II of FSC-PRO-30-006. Organizations shall comply with the applicable requirements of Parts I, II, III, and IV of FSC-PRO-30-006 when they want to demonstrate the positive impact of their forest management on ecosystem services and use FSC ecosystem services claims.

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