



Project Name: Latin America Continuous Improvement participatory workshops

January 2018 – March 2019

Objective:

- To generate recommendations for FSC on how to integrate and implement continuous improvement in the FSC system, including:
 - Definition of smallholders and communities
 - Identification of critical criteria for continuous improvement concept
 - Timeframe and stages of a continuous improvement concept
- To identify which services/support smallholders and communities need, especially in the phases before certification, and to identify potential business models

Geography & Unique Needs:

- Eight countries in Latin America: Honduras, Mexico, Chile, Ecuador, Brazil, Guatemala, Peru, and Bolivia
- Conformity with FSC requirements is a challenge for small producers and communities
- FSC certification demands a significant investment by landowners, outweighing the economic benefit
- Challenges to access and remain in FSC certified markets

Activities/Methodology:

- Developed **concept note and work plan** discussed and agreed regionally

- **Led 15 consultation workshops in eight countries**, with 210 participants from different types of **audiences**:
 - Smallholders
 - Smallholders and communities' representatives
 - Communities
 - Standard Development Groups (SDGs)
 - FSC Network Partners

Preliminary Outcomes:

- Generic definition of smallholders and communities is challenging
- Continuous improvement concept alone is insufficient. There needs to be incentive to advance through FSC certification through trainings and technical assistance
- Market access, legal issues, respect for rights of Indigenous Peoples is considered critical
- The most important environmental value identified is water

Reference Documents:

- FSC-PRO-01-001 [Development and Revision of FSC Normative Documents](#)
- FSC-STD-60-004 [International Generic Indicators](#)

2019 GOALS

The proposal for FSC continuous improvement concept for certification of forests managed by smallholders and communities will be informed

The smallholders and communities' specific needs in the Latin American region will be mapped

90% accomplished

PROJECT LINKS

To provide input to:

- FSC guidance for SDGs (smallholders and communities' provisions)
- Risk Based Approach project