



Forest Stewardship Council®



Standard Operating Procedure for Smallholder Access Program pilot test in the USA



Introduction

FSC is committed to develop new tools for improving smallholders and communities' certification uptake in its Global Strategic Plan 2015-2020. The commitment has been further strengthened by the FSC membership's decision during the 2017 General Assembly through motion 46, with a focus on developing new solutions, including new ideas not currently contemplated in the FSC normative framework and system.

The New Approaches for Smallholders and Communities Certification project (hereafter referred to as 'New Approaches' project), in charge of implementing motion 2017:46, has been approached by Rainforest Alliance through its Appalachian Woodlands Alliance (AWA) project, to assess a standard that has been developed over the last three years. The final aim of this standard is to help smallholders in the Appalachian region participate in the FSC system, improve the forest management in the region, and to increase availability of certified raw material from such operations for use by downstream FSC certified chain of custody operations.

The proposed approach, called the Smallholder Access Program (SAP), is specifically calibrated to very small management units – 100 hectares or less – in the predominantly hardwood forest of the Southern and Central Appalachian regions of the US South located in parts of seven states (Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky and West Virginia).

These forests are a globally significant forest resource, home to critical conservation values. The working landscape and the mix of public and private woodlands are also a core component of the region's culture. Yet the forests have been degraded from both an ecological and economic perspective by a legacy of poor forest management over the past two hundred years.

The Specific goals of the pilot test are:

- 1.1. To get feedback on whether the draft Smallholder Access Program (SAP) standard is robust and credible enough to be considered an option for smallholders to obtain FSC-certified wood.
- 1.2. To verify how all relevant requirements from the FSC Principles and Criteria (P&C) have been addressed in the draft SAP standard.
- 1.3. To verify that the regional risk assessment implemented to justify the exclusion of requirements from the P&C is robust enough according to FSC practice for the development of risk assessments, has a rigorous and replicable methodology, includes a sound collection of evidence (visual, documental and through interviews) and stakeholder participation;
- 1.4. To confirm the feasibility of implementation and cost-effectiveness of the SAP standard;
- 1.5. To obtain technical feedback on the different aspects and components of the SAP standard, that will help finalize it;
- 1.6. To align the pilot test findings with the United States National Forest Stewardship Standard (US NFSS) process that will start in 2018, and analyse the potential for replicability in other regions or countries;
- 1.7. To test the implications of implementing the SAP standard for the market, including:
 - 1.7.1. The interest and perceived benefits from potential users of the SAP standard;
 - 1.7.2. Potential conflicts with FSC-certificate holders who are implementing the full FSC forest management certification requirements and processes;
 - 1.7.3. Potential conflicts with other stakeholders; and,
 - 1.7.4. Competition context (SFI, ATFS, others) and risk of affecting FSC's credibility.

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A. Objective

The objective of this Procedure is to set the requirements for the entities participating in the pilot test.

B. Scope

This document is to be used by the participants in the pilot test:

- Rainforest Alliance (Part I);
- FSC-accredited certification bodies (CB) (Part II);
- Certificate holders (CH) (Forest management groups, represented by the group entity) (Part III);
- Smallholders' harvest units (Part IV);
- FSC International (Part V).

All aspects of this Standard Operating Procedure are considered to be normative, including the scope, effective date, references, terms and definitions, tables and annexes, unless otherwise stated.

C. References

The following documents are relevant for the application of this document. For references without a version number, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies:

FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship V4-0; V5-2

FSC-STD-01-002 FSC Glossary of Terms

FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria

FSC-STD-20-007 Forest Management Evaluations

FSC-STD-30-005 FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups

FSC-STD-60-004 International Generic Indicators (IGI)

FSC-STD-USA-01-2010 FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard for USA

D. Effective date

01 January 2019 to 01 January 2021.

E. Participants

- FSC International participates in the pilot through the New Approaches program. Any reference to FSC or FSC International refers to this program. Communications about this pilot with FSC shall be made via Rosario Galán, at r.galan@fsc.org.
- Rainforest Alliance (RA) participates as overall responsible and coordinator of this pilot test. Communications about this pilot with RA shall be made via Andrew Goldberg, at agoldberg@ra.org.
- The national office of FSC for the USA (FSC US) participates as technical support to the pilot test. Communications about this pilot with FSC US shall be made via Amy Clark Eagle, at a.eagle@us.fsc.org.

Part I – Procedures for Rainforest Alliance

1. Responsibilities and official start date

- 1.1 Confirm the responsible body for the pilot test is Rainforest Alliance, with the support of FSC US and the New Approaches program from FSC International.
- 1.2 The official pilot start date is the date when the certificate holder is communicated that it has been chosen to participate in the pilot.

2. Objective and potential conflicts

- 2.1 Comply with the specific goals of the pilot test.
- 2.2 Identify and evaluate any impairment of FSC’s sustainable forest management objectives arising from the application of the SAP standard being tested.
- 2.3 Identify existing and potential conflicts between the SAP standard, regular FSC certification and FSC’s competitors in the region and the country.
- 2.4 Identify existing and potential conflicts between forest management objectives and other corporate economic or social targets for the standard being tested.
- 2.5 Identify any contentious issues stakeholders have with the standard being tested.
- 2.6 Visits by Rainforest Alliance and the independent third-party experts will either take place at the same time as those done by the CH or separate and in addition to them. Rainforest Alliance staff, advisors, and any additional experts are not expected to participate as observers for the CB audits to maintain the independence of that process, unless specifically requested to do so by either the CB, FSC International or Assurance Services International (ASI).

3. Communications and engagement

- 3.1 Develop a communications and engagement plan for the pilot test, in cooperation with FSC US and the New Approaches program, including, but not limited to:
 - 3.1.1 Distributing a general stakeholder announcement both globally, to FSC US stakeholders and specifically stakeholders in the AWA project area, informing about the approval of the pilot test;
 - 3.1.2 Publish regular public stakeholder updates throughout the pilot project period.

4. Call for expressions of interest

- 4.1 Launch, supported by FSC International, a call for expressions of interest to select the participating group certificate holders and certification bodies.
- 4.2 The criteria to choose the certificate holders are:
 - 4.2.1 The certificate holders are group certificates certified according to FSC US NFSS and to FSC-STD-30-005 *FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups*;
 - 4.2.2 The group certificate holders are located in the pilot area: the Southern and Central Appalachians regions of the US South located in parts of seven states (Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Kentucky and West Virginia);
 - 4.2.3 The applicant group confirms the availability of co-finance.

- 4.3 Determine the participating certificate holders list that could be included in the pilot test for FSC approval.
 - 4.3.1 A maximum of 4 forest management groups can participate in the pilot tests.
 - 4.3.2 The proposed pilot area is limited to 3,000 hectares of qualifying family forests of 100 hectares or less inside the AWA project region.
 - 4.3.3 The appointment of the participating certificate holders, and the corresponding CBs, rests with FSC.

5. Monitoring requirements

- 5.1 Ensure compliance with the monitoring requirements included in the suggested additions to FSC-STD-30-005 (Annex 2) and the FSC US NFSS, both for internal (participant certificate holder) and external (certification body) audits, as well as monitoring per the FSC Principles & Criteria and the International Generic Indicators.
- 5.2 Visit a minimum of twenty per cent (20%) of the harvest units to validate implementation of the SAP standard and pilot process, prior to and during the CB pilot audits (and possibly after, if deemed important).
- 5.3 During the pilot test, maps with the size and location of the harvest units, and the harvested areas, will regularly be shared with FSC International so that the process can be monitored. The map will include the size of the harvests and clear cuts implemented.
- 5.4 At the end of Year 1 and Year 2 of the pilot test process, produce an overall monitoring and evaluation report including all the information related to the harvest units where the SAP standard has been implemented, and the monitoring activities carried out by Rainforest Alliance and the certificate holders.
- 5.5 At the end of Year 1 and Year 2, write an assessment report to reflect both on the specific certification experiences, based on the CH and the CB actions, as well as on the applicability and recommendations and conclusions for improvement of the SAP standard, and its potential use within the FSC system.
 - 5.5.1 Send the Year 1 report to FSC within 14 days after the CB field evaluation.
- 5.6 After initial review, revision and final approval by FSC International and FSC US, it is expected that these reports will be made public, excluding confidential information.

6. Independent experts

- 6.1 Contract at least two (2) independent third-party experts to evaluate conformance with the current FSC US NFSS, the International Generic Indicators, in particular Principle 8, and the SAP standard.
- 6.2 These independent third-party experts will be chosen based on their conformance with the following criteria:
 - 6.2.1 Do **not** have a regular working relationship with Rainforest Alliance, the participating certificate holders or the participating certification bodies;
 - 6.2.2 Have at least 5 years' experience as FSC forest management auditor;
 - 6.2.3 Know the characteristics of the pilot area and the relationship between FSC and its competitors in the USA;

- 6.2.4 Indicate any potential conflict of interests before committing to acting as third-party expert observer and evaluator to the pilot test.
- 6.3 The third-party expert:
 - 6.3.1 Evaluates the implementation of the pilot test requirements across the pilot participants at least during Year 1 and potentially during Year 2 (Rainforest Alliance, all participating certificate holders and certification bodies);
 - 6.3.2 By evaluating conformance with the FSC US NFSS and Principle 8, analyses whether the SAP standard covers the elements of regular FSC forest management certification for the area, and can be considered an alternative to obtain FSC certified material;
 - 6.3.3 Implements field evaluations, including harvesting sites not covered by the CB field evaluations;
 - 6.3.4 Develops a report after each activity as observer or evaluator and sends it to FSC International within 30 days.

Part II – Procedures for certification bodies

7. General requirements

- 7.1 Hold a valid accreditation by Assurance Services International for FSC forest management evaluations.
- 7.2 The pilot tests shall not imply endorsement of the draft standard (SAP standard) being tested, as the endorsement of standards is an independent process at the discretion of the FSC Board of Directors.
- 7.3 Agree that FSC and experts working on its behalf will have equal access as the CB to certificate holders' data and practices.
- 7.4 If the SAP standard and associated requirements being tested are decided to be inadequate by the process Steering Committee, adjustments may be required for the continuation of the pilot test.

8. Signed agreement

- 8.1 Prior to starting the pilot test, participating certification bodies, FSC and the participating certificate holder groups shall sign a third-party agreement, including the following provisions:
 - 8.1.1 Participation in the pilot test is at FSC International's sole discretion;
 - 8.1.2 Participants agree to comply with any terms of participation, as set out by FSC;
 - 8.1.3 FSC has the right to attend any part of the pilot test as an observer;
 - 8.1.4 FSC has the right to publish a report with the results of the pilot test. This report will be publicly available, excluding confidential information;
 - 8.1.5 There is no guarantee that participation in the pilot tests will result in a temporary FSC pilot certificate. The final decision rests with FSC.

9. Scope

- 9.1 Evaluate the compliance of the pilot participants with:
 - 9.1.1 SAP standard;

- 9.1.2 FSC-STD-30-005 with suggested additions (Annex 2);
 - 9.1.3 FSC-STD-20-007 with suggested additions (Annex 3);
 - 9.1.4 The adapted internal procedure of the participating groups to comply with the pilot test requirements (Clause 15.2).
- 9.2 Evaluate the feasibility and implications of the SAP standard by filling in Annex 4.

10. Desk audit

- 10.1 Evaluate, through a desk audit, the compliance of the pilot participant with all applicable requirements, in particular the adapted internal procedure and associated training. Field visits for this initial evaluation might be requested by FSC.
- 10.1.1 If the CH regularly scheduled auditing takes place at the beginning of the pilot test, the objective of the desk audit may be embedded in the regular field evaluation. Nevertheless, the SAP standard shall not be implemented (and therefore cannot be audited on the ground) until FSC has given the permission to issue a pilot certificate (Clause 10.2; Section 19).
- 10.2 Submit a desk audit report to FSC, including recommendation for the participant to begin implementing the pilot test. The decision to start implementing the pilot test and to issue a temporary FSC pilot certificate rests with FSC.
- 10.2.1 The desk audit report is to be sent within 14 days after the desk audit.
 - 10.2.2 The CB may use its regular audit report template to inform FSC about the results of the desk audit.

11. Pilot test certificate

- 11.1 Issue a temporary FSC pilot certificate for a maximum duration of 12 months (which can be renewed at the field evaluation until the end of the pilot period) once agreed upon with, and communicated by, the Performance and Standards Unit in writing.

12. Field evaluation

- 12.1 Evaluate the participant's conformity with the pilot test requirements. Any non-conformities or requirements considered by the CB as too risky for FSC's credibility shall be communicated immediately to FSC US and FSC International, who will decide on the continuation of the pilot participant and its certificate.
- 12.1.1 As indicated in the suggested additions to FSC-STD-20-007 (Annex 3), implement harvest unit site visits on at least 20% of all harvest units if the CH is going through a main forest management evaluation on that year; and at least 10% of all harvest units if the CH is going through a surveillance evaluation; but regardless of the evaluation type, with a minimum of 2 harvest unit site visits for groups with 10 or fewer harvest units and following the below table for groups with more than 10 harvest units.
- Sampling rules for CB field evaluation. Number of harvest sites to be visited, based upon all harvest units that have been covered by the CH's pilot certificate since the beginning of the pilot:

Number of Harvest Units	Main evaluation	Surveillance eval.	Re-evaluation
< 10 or 10	Minimum 2 harvest units	Minimum 2 harvest units	Minimum 2 harvest units
> 10	Minimum 3 harvest units or 20% of all harvest units, whichever is greater	Minimum 2 harvest units	Minimum 3 harvest units or 20% of all harvest units, whichever is greater
> 20	20% of all harvest units	Minimum 3 harvest units or 10% of all harvest units, whichever is greater	20% of all harvest units

- 12.1.2 The field evaluation includes visits to harvest units when they are being harvested. The harvest activities include all on-the-ground activities associated with SAP harvest units, including preparation activities (e.g., marking property boundaries, RMZs, HCVs, etc. in advance of the harvest), and/or the actual removal of trees, and/or any follow-up activities needed (e.g. remediation, clean-up) after tree removal.
- 12.1.3 The CB will undertake the normal stakeholder consultations for forest management certification assessments as required by FSC procedures. This can be done along with the stakeholder consultation for the CH regularly scheduled auditing, clearly communicating about the pilot test taking place, or separately if the CB for the pilot is not the same as the regular CH.
- 12.1.4 The field evaluation may take place together with the CH regularly scheduled auditing.
- 12.1.5 If the CB in charge of the pilot test is not the same as the regular CB for the CH, and the pilot field evaluation takes place together with the CH regularly scheduled auditing, safeguards will be put in place to ensure the independency of both processes.
- 12.1.6 The field evaluation takes place within one year of the desk audit (Section 10).
- 12.2 Submit to FSC an evaluation report, detailing the certificate holder's compliance (or non-compliance) with the SAP standard, together with any recommendations for changes to the SAP standard and any recommendations for further work to be carried out by the certificate holder.
- 12.2.1 Send the evaluation report within 14 days after the field evaluation to FSC International.
- 12.2.2 The final decision on the continuation of the FSC pilot certificate rests with the process Steering Committee. The timeline to communicate a decision is 3 weeks after receiving the CB field evaluation report.
- 12.2.3 The CB may use its regular audit report to inform FSC about the results of the field evaluation.
- 13. Additional feedback**
- 13.1 Submit feedback to FSC by filling in Annex 4, including any recommendations for the improvement of the SAP standard, and the potential for its inclusion in

the FSC system. Make also observations or provide discussion on the specific opportunities and challenges faced in implementing SAP-related audits.

Part III – Procedures for certificate holders (participating groups)

14. General obligations

- 14.1 Provide all requested information and submit it to the CB.
- 14.2 Sign the third-party agreement with the CB and FSC.
- 14.3 Agree that FSC or its representative may attend any part of the pilot test as an observer.

15. SAP Standard implementation

- 15.1 Assess the smallholders, and their harvest units, to be included as temporary members to their group. These smallholders, where the SAP standard will be implemented, are:
 - 15.1.1 Private, non-industrial ownership of forests below 100 Ha;
 - 15.1.2 Primarily hardwood forests with natural regeneration.
- 15.2 Adapt their internal procedure to comply with the pilot test requirements, including:
 - 15.2.1 Designate the division of responsibilities within the group;
 - 15.2.2 Establish a training protocol for the harvesters that will implement the SAP standard in the harvesting units;
 - 15.2.3 Establish an internal monitoring system to control and register all the data corresponding to the implementation of the SAP standard and this procedure.

16. Monitoring requirements

- 16.1 Monitor compliance with the pilot requirements by visiting each harvest unit (smallholder) in the pilot at least three times: pre-harvest, during the harvest, and post-harvest.
 - 16.1.1 Ten percent (10%) of the post-harvest visits will happen at least 6 months after the completion of harvest.
- 16.2 On an annual basis, review/examine whether any new or additional risks to either High Conservation Values (HCVs) or keeping forest as forest (non-conversion) should be addressed by the SAP standard.
- 16.3 Provide annual information on SAP standard implementation to the pilot CB prior to the field evaluation.
- 16.4 Send feedback to FSC by filling in the template provided in Annex 5, to be sent 14 days after the end of the pilot test. An additional feedback report might be requested at the middle of the pilot test process.

Part IV – Procedures for smallholders (harvest units)

17. General requirements

- 17.1 Provide all requested information and submit it to the certificate holder group, the CB, Rainforest Alliance or FSC.
- 17.2 Sign an agreement with the certificate holder group including the commitment to comply with the SAP standard requirements, all required auditing and the harvest plan.
- 17.3 Agree to allow FSC or its representative to attend any part of the pilot test as an observer.

Part V – Procedures for FSC International

18. Expressions of interest

- 18.1 Develop an open call for expressions of interests.
- 18.2 Publish the open call through its regular channels, including FSC Website and FSC Newsletter, for a period of 30 days.
- 18.3 Collect applications to participate in the pilot test and analyse them based on the criteria stated in the open call.
- 18.4 Agree on the certificate holders to participate in the pilot test and present them to the pilot test Steering Committee for their approval by the end of March 2019.

19. Decision to grant temporary pilot certificates

- 19.1 Analyse the CB report based on section 10 of this Procedure.
- 19.2 The Performance and Standards Unit's Director Policy Operations, and/or the Chief Policy Officer, confirm in writing to the CB whether a temporary pilot certificate can be granted for a participating certificate holder for the validity of the pilot test process (maximum 24 months after the official pilot start date).
- 19.3 Credits obtained after the issuance of a temporary pilot certificate have a two (2) year validity from the creation of the credits.

20. Communications

- 20.1 Communicate regularly with FSC US and RA to provide support and monitor the pilot test process.
- 20.2 Implement the agreed upon communications and engagement plan, including the publication on FSC channels of follow up and final reports of the pilot test.

21. Monitoring

- 21.1 Monitor the implementation of the pilot test, supported by the information provided by RA and FSC US.
- 21.2 Safeguard FSC's credibility through the pilot test process. FSC has the authority to stop the pilot test process if deemed necessary.
- 21.3 Develop assessment summarizing the findings from the CB and RA reports to inform the PSC and the Board of Directors (identify necessary changes for Year 2; highlighting particularly positive or negative things; etc.).

Annex 1: SAP Standard.

Smallholders Access Program Standard.

Annex 2: FSC-STD-30-005 with suggested additions.

FSC-STD-30-005 FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups with added suggestions for pilot testing the SAP Standard.

Annex 3: FSC-STD-20-007 with suggested additions.

FSC-STD-20-007 Forest Management Evaluations with added suggestions for pilot testing the SAP standard.

Annex 4: Template for feedback by certification body

This report is designed to collect information about the pilot test. It is a mandatory requirement and has to be filled in by the participating certification body and sent to FSC International within 14 days upon completion of the field evaluation.

Report Template

Part I – General Information

1	Certification body	<i>Please include here the name of the certification body, lead auditor and audit team.</i>
2	Location of the group certificate	<i>Please include here the State and location where the group entity is located.</i>
3	Type of evaluation	<i>Please select the evaluation carried out:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Main evaluation and SAP pilot test <input type="checkbox"/> Surveillance audit and SAP pilot test <input type="checkbox"/> Only SAP pilot test <input type="checkbox"/> Others (specify)
4	Characteristics of the FSC certificate	<i>Please include here the following information:</i> Number of members: [] Number of SLIMF members: [] Area (in hectares): [] Area of SLIMF management units: [] FSC Certificate Code: [] First Issue Date: [] Last Issue Date: [] Expiry Date: [] Number of SAP members: []

Part II - Evaluation of conformity with the SAP standard requirements

1. Evaluation of conformity with the applicable requirements

Describe how the group conforms with the following:

- 1) *The FSC US FM standard;*
- 2) *The SAP standard;*
- 3) *FSC-STD-30-005 with the suggested additions as shown in Annex 2;*
- 4) *FSC-STD-20-007 with the suggested additions as shown in Annex 3.*

The certification body can provide a detailed checklist of conformity for each requirement on a separate document as an annex.

Please, indicate any non-conformities identified during the evaluation.

2. Recommendations for further work to be carried out by the group

Please describe any actions that should be carried out by the group to improve its performance regarding the requirements evaluated.

Part III - Recommendations for FSC International.

1. SAP standard requirements

Provide your assessment about the clarity of the requirements: is the language clear?

Provide your assessment about the feasibility of the requirements: are they feasible to implement?

Provide your assessment about the auditability of the requirements: it is clear how to define conformity/non-conformity?

2. Suggested additions to FSC-STD-20-007 and FSC-STD-30-005

Are the suggested additions clear? Feasible to implement? Is it possible to audit them?

Do you agree with these suggested additions? Are there any requirements that you would delete or add?

Do you think amendments to these standards are enough to include the SAP standard in the FSC system? If not, which other standards/policies should include related requirements?

3. Benefits/constrains of the SAP standard

Do you think the SAP standard can bring benefits to group certificates? If so, which benefits?

Do you think the SAP standard can bring benefits to FSC certification and its uptake, particularly with the targeted class of smallholders?

*Do you think it should **only** be available for SLIMF groups?*

Do you think the SAP standard can bring any potential conflicts or problems to FSC certification?

Do you think that compliance with the SAP standard should result in FSC forest management certificates?

4. Time invested in the pilot test

Please, indicate the number of man/days invested to prepare for and implement this pilot test:

- *Read and understand the pilot test documents: #days: #persons:*
- *Read the documentation from the group (changes to the group share of responsibilities, group requirements, group structure, training, etc.): #days: #persons:*
- *Participate in the evaluation: #days: #persons:*
- *Evaluation reports development: #days: #persons:*

5. Impact on costs of the evaluation

Please indicate whether including the SAP standard requirements has an impact on the cost of the evaluation.

Please, describe in terms of man/days whether there has been any change in the number of days needed to implement the evaluation, and if additional time was needed what was it devoted for.

Please, describe if any specific knowledge was needed by the audit team.

6. Recommendations for further work to be carried out by the group

Please describe any actions that should be carried out by the group to improve its performance regarding the principle 6.

7. Other suggestions and observations

Please provide any other suggestions or observations that you may have to improve the suggested SAP standard, or to better incorporate it into the FSC system.

Annex 5: Template for feedback by certificate holder

Introduction

This report is designed to collect information about the pilot test. It is a mandatory requirement and has to be filled in by the participating groups and sent to FSC International within 14 days of the pilot test implementation.

Report Template

Part I – General Information

1	Group entity	<i>Please include here the name of the group entity, its legal representative, an e-mail and a telephone number for contact.</i>
2	Location of the group entity and the participating members.	<i>Please include here the State and location of the group entity. Please, also indicate the location of the group members and harvest units participating in the pilot test.</i>
3	Type of evaluation	<i>Please select the evaluation carried out:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Main evaluation and SAP pilot test <input type="checkbox"/> Surveillance audit and SAP pilot test <input type="checkbox"/> Only SAP pilot test <input type="checkbox"/> Others (specify)
4	Characteristics of the FSC certificate	<i>Please include here the following information:</i> Number of members: [] Number of SLIMF members: [] Area (in hectares): [] Area of SLIMF management units: [] FSC Certificate Code: [] First Issue Date: [] Last Issue Date: [] Expiry Date: [] Number of SAP members: [] Total Harvest Unit Area (in hectares): []

Part II - Recommendations for FSC International

1 Requirements included in FSC-STD-30-005
<i>Provide your opinion about the requirements in FSC-STD-30-005.</i>

Which indicators are difficult for your organization? What kind of training do you think is useful for your compliance with the requirements?

2 Requirements the SAP standard

Provide your opinion about the requirements in the SAP standard.

Which indicators are difficult for your organization? What kind of training do you think is useful for your compliance with the requirements?

3 Benefits/constrains of the SAP standard

Do you think the SAP standard brings any benefits to your group? Do you think the SAP standard brings any benefits to your group compared to regular FSC FM group certification?

*Do you think it should **only** be available for SLIMF groups?*

Do you think SAP standard can bring any potential conflicts or problems to your group (due to relationship with other group certificates, competitors, etc.)? Do you think the SAP standard can bring any potential conflicts or problems to FSC certification?

4 Time invested in the pilot test

Please, indicate the number of man/days invested to prepare for and implement this pilot test:

- *Read and understand the pilot test documents: #days: #persons:*
- *Implementation of the pilot test requirements (changes to the group share of responsibilities, group requirements, group structure, training, etc.): #days: #persons:*
- *Participate in the evaluation: #days: #persons:*
- *Post-evaluation activities (filling in FSC pilot report, solve non-conformities and observations, etc.): #days: #persons:*

5 Impact on costs of fulfillment of indicator 6.5.5

Please indicate the impact on the cost of the operations of implementing the SAP standard.

Please, describe in terms of man/days whether you had to hire technical consultants or external experts, whether you had additional evaluation costs, additional travel costs or any other cost related to the implementation of the pilot test.

6 Other suggestions and observations

Please provide any other suggestions or observations that you may have to improve the suggested SAP standard, or to better incorporate it into the FSC system.



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