

New Approaches project

Smallholders Update - H1 2020



A challenging time

While the disruption caused by COVID-19 will no doubt delay a number of our New Approaches initiatives, the impact of the virus only highlights the importance of our work and our ongoing objectives. Each of the working groups has responded well to the disruption, moving to online calls and maintaining engagement levels.

This first Smallholders Update newsletter gives you brief updates on each of the New Approaches initiatives. There is also a useful link to download the latest factsheets on each initiative.

These updates for stakeholders will be issued twice a year until the FSC General Assembly in 2021.

Group Standard revision

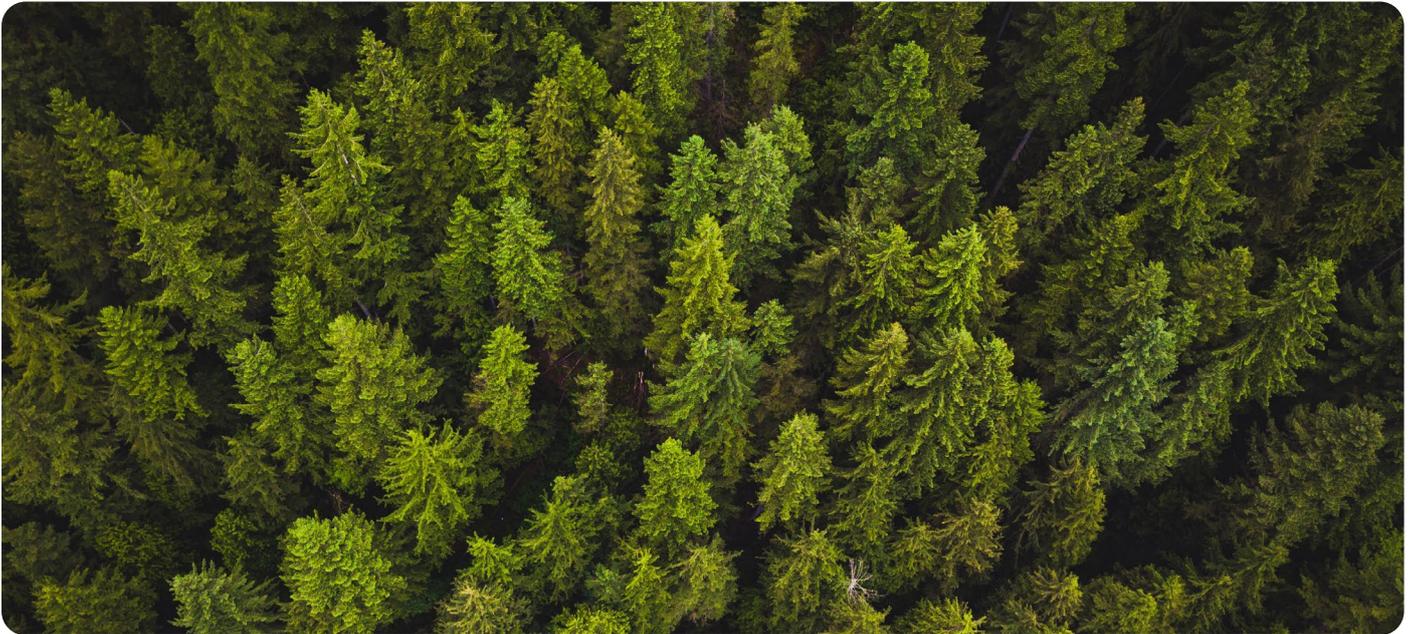
Between January and March, the working group held a series of online calls to analyse the feedback received from the first public consultation of the process, which took place between November 2019 and January 2020. In general, there are still things to improve in the draft standard, mainly related to the internal monitoring methodology, the inclusion of contractors in groups, and the overall simplicity of the standard.

The working group planned to meet in March to finalise the second draft of the standard, but due to the COVID-19 situation the meeting was postponed to the end of June, and subsequently cancelled. Instead, a week was reserved by the Working Group for five consecutive calls. The objective was changed to analyze the feedback of the second public consultation (that went as planned from mid-May to mid-June).

- > [Download the latest factsheet](#)
- > For more information contact Rosario Galán, r.galan@fsc.org

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Chinese National Forest Stewardship Standard pilot test

All of the field evaluations were completed at the end of 2019. Right now, FSC is compiling the data.

The assessment for Ecosystem Services was carried out in May 2020.

Complementary reports were also produced that reflect the effort of FSC China to pilot test all the latest FSC developments to make certification more relevant for smallholders, including alternative ways to achieve conservation objectives, the implementation of Ecosystem Service procedure and applying a risk assessment throughout all the indicators in their national standard.

All of the progress reports will be discussed with Performance and Standards Unit for guidance on the next steps.

- > [Download the latest factsheet](#)
- > For more information contact Ma Lichao, ma.lichao@fsc.org

Asia-Pacific Regional Forest Stewardship Standards for smallholders

A final draft, based on the target consultation and on-field test results done last year, was approved by the Technical Advisory Group in the first quarter of 2020 and a formal 60 days public consultation was launched in late April. At the request of several stakeholders, the consultation was extended until mid-July to allow for all relevant inputs to be collected.

- > [Download the latest factsheet](#)
- > For more information contact Loy Jones, l.jones@fsc.org

Forestry Contractors certification

At the end of last year, the FSC Board of Directors approved an extension to the ongoing pilot test.

Revisions to some of the documentation that is guiding the Group Model Type III pilot test has been done, expanding its scope to evaluate the feasibility of FSC developing a standalone Contractors standard and/or endorsing existing standards.

Currently, in the pilot test, the contractors are directly included under existing group certificates that companies are running. FSC will continue to evaluate the possible cost and process related benefits that could arise from the fact that the contractors would have their own certificates, independent from the groups.

FSC had set out to develop the additional evaluation framework as quickly as possible, so that the certificate holders and the certification bodies would start to implement it.

- > [Download the latest factsheet](#)
- > For more information contact Lauri Ilola, l.ilola@fi.fsc.org

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Continuous Improvement procedure

The working group has started working on this process via a series of online calls, to clarify the scope of the work, to gather other sources of information outside FSC, to revisit the results gathered during two years of New Approaches work on the topic, and to assess potential synergies and alignment with other relevant FSC topics, specifically Risk Based Approach, Controlled Wood Forest Management, and Policy for Association. Several sub-teams were created to discuss some elements more deeply, including applicability and criticality to International Generic Indicators, and auditing.

An in-person meeting was planned for the end of March, but due to the COVID-19 situation was cancelled. Instead, a week was reserved for three consecutive online calls.

- > [Download the latest factsheet](#)
- > For more information contact Rosario Galán, r.galan@fsc.org

Smallholder Access Program pilot test

Participating certificate holders continue to engage new landowners with the goal of adding to the eight landowners who have already engaged in the project.

The project team was planning for the 'End of Year 1' evaluation and project review in the Summer, but is now re-assessing how this will be accomplished without the inputs from planned site visits by the independent experts and project team – which have not been possible due to COVID-19.

- > [Download the latest factsheet](#)
- > For more information contact Rosario Galán, r.galan@fsc.org

Value chain approach for smallholder-produced natural rubber latex

The draft proposal for the project has passed through an internal committee and been given the green light to start. Now, FSC will work more closely with stakeholders that make up the Global Platform for Sustainable Natural Rubber, and also look to secure funding for the project.

There is a challenge to tackle in achieving full traceability in the rubber latex supply chain. The first phase of the project is get data on the ground to establish how big the challenge is, and to also work out the limitations of FSC standards and the normative framework.

Once this is done, a second phase can begin that sets out clearer objectives and a pilot test.

- > [Download the latest factsheet](#)
- > For more information contact Joachim Meier-Dörnberg, j.meier-doernberg@fsc.org

Collective Impact model

The plan for 2020 is to work in close collaboration with FSC regional office and the two national offices in Brazil and Chile to focus on testing a methodology for 'Collective Impact'. This will help to clarify how FSC contributes to create more benefits for smallholders and communities as they seek responsible forest management models and FSC certification.

The project in Brazil is focused on the non-timber forest products value chain. In Chile, it is focused on how to achieve shared value through the FSC certified wood chain.

Due to the current situation, both work plans have been revised to include alternative outreach tools and postponing the in-person events for next year, since it is crucial to secure the participation of smallholders and communities.

- > [Download the latest factsheet](#)
- > For more information contact Janja Eke, j.eke@fsc.org

For more information

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The next update will be published in the Autumn of 2020