



FSC® General Assembly 2017

Vancouver, Canada, 8–13 October

September 2017

Indigenous Peoples

Background

FSC actively supports [Indigenous Peoples'](#) rights and we prioritize these rights in relevant policies. An example is Principle 3 of the FSC Principles and Criteria (FSC P&C), which requires all FSC-certified forest owners and managers to identify and uphold Indigenous Peoples' rights of land ownership, use of land, and access to resources the land may provide.

To ensure fair and equal representation of Indigenous Peoples within FSC, a permanent Indigenous Peoples committee (PIPC) was established in response to a motion from the 2011 FSC General Assembly ([Motion 19](#)). Acting as an advisory committee to the International Board of Directors, its purpose is to serve as a permanent mechanism for engaging Indigenous Peoples around issues of forest management and FSC certification.

Current Status

The PIPC consists of nine indigenous leaders, each representing a defined region - including alternates. Since [October 2013](#), there have been nine PIPC meetings. The tenth PIPC meeting will take place in Panama before the General Assembly.

During the ninth PIPC meeting on 13-15 June in Bonn, representatives of the International Board of Directors participated as observers, confirming the Board's support for the strengthening of an indigenous voice within the FSC system, in line with the FSC Global Strategic Plan 2015-2020. Moreover, board members confirmed their intention to move ahead with the decisions from the Board Meeting (BM) 73 in the Congo and 75 in Brazil around the implementation of PIPC v2.0.

The following items summarize most of the current areas of involvement of the PIPC:

- **Moving to the implementation phase of PIPC ('PIPC v2.0')**, establishing a PIPC secretariat that will secure resources for the articulation of Indigenous Peoples' voices inside FSC. The FSC General Assembly will be used by PIPC as an opportunity to present the overall plans and progress.



- An update of the existing **PIPC Terms of Reference (ToR)** will be undertaken to cover new and additional aspects related to internal governance and exceptional circumstances.
- **Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)**, including progress towards a next version of the guidelines. There is consensus from PIPC that more work is needed, which resulted in an initiative to restructure the current Technical Working Group into a chamber-balanced format.
- The **Mapuche Study** conducted by an independent team of researchers was launched in Chile in the first half of September 2017. PIPC members have raised important questions related to the conflict between Mapuche people and forest companies, including concerns to what extent the rights of the Mapuche people are respected and protected by the FSC system.
- Around **Motion 83** (Development of a Forest Certification Standard adapted to the realities of Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Forest Communities), PIPC has worked on developing ideas, and FSC is, in turn, supporting an initiative with the organization 'Forests of the World' to further develop this work.
- The work around **Indigenous Cultural Landscapes (ICL)** over which Indigenous Peoples exercise responsibility for stewardship (Drafted by PIPC 2016). For more information, see [ADVISE-20-007-018](#)

GA 2017 Activities

At the GA, there will be several side events touching upon Indigenous issues:

PIPC V2 on Monday, 09 October 2017, 9:30 am - 11:00 am (Organized by the PIPC)

At the event, the PIPC will report on activities to date, including challenges, opportunities, and innovations possible for FSC in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples. Topics included will be Indigenous Cultural Landscapes/IFL, FPIC, Indigenous forest management best practices, and the increasingly competitive certification environment.

Community certification (Motion 83) on Monday, 09 October 2017, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Attend this side event to learn about the great steps taken by communities across Latin America to develop a community forestry standard, outline a technical support package, a potential financial mechanism and an innovative compliance verification system. The proposal will be discussed & further developed by the participants, and submitted to FSC to roll out internationally in 2018.

FPIC & HCV – Alignment of HCV & FPIC Guidance on Wednesday 11 October, 9:30 am - 11:00 am

Join the session to hear from forest managers who are expected to implement the guidance documents, representatives from the two working groups, the FSC Policy and Standards Committee, standard development groups, and communities.

Mapuche Study on Wednesday 11 October, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

In this side event, the study's results will be presented and discussed with a view to identifying the next steps that FSC should take in response to the study in order to improve FSC's strategic objective of better understanding, respecting & upholding indigenous rights in Chile and worldwide.

Additional information

- [Press Release: FSC Permanent Indigenous Peoples Committee Holds Inaugural Meeting](#)
- [Indigenous Peoples, The UN and FSC](#)
- [Seventh PIPC meeting. FSC Permanent Indigenous Peoples Committee Calls for Indigenous Peoples To Be Allowed To Lead The Way In Forestry](#)