



FSC® General Assembly 2017

Vancouver, Canada, 8–13 October

September 2017

Streamlining the Normative Framework

Background

This project has activities to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the FSC normative framework, which consists of the over 90 standards and procedures and spans all programmatic areas, including forest management standards, controlled wood, chain of custody and supply chain, audit and assurance, and the *Policy for Association*.

During the first half of 2017, one sub-team is taking a ‘step back’ to observe from a macro or system-wide perspective, while another sub-team is focusing on lessons learned from a micro or on-the-ground perspective.

This project, as whole, will develop and test tools that incorporate principles of risk management to identify opportunities to make the normative framework more stable, responsive, simple, predictable, cost-effective, and outcome-oriented, thus providing confidence for applying a normative framework that is consistent with the FSC objectives and values.

Current status

Within the context of learning from the ground up:

FSC called on standard development groups (SDGs) to help identify problems related to the normative framework for national forest stewardship standard (NFSS) development and to identify risk-based approaches to act on them.

Within the context of learning from the top down:



A set of risk management tools is currently being developed and tested that will help identify and analyse problems, risks, and emerging solutions. While the initial focus is on approaches to streamline forest management, the project will also consider the needs for risk tools across the normative framework.

Timeline

Phase 1 – Initiate the project; develop draft risk management tools (2017)

Phase 2 – Start applying risk tools to NFSSs; refine and test risk management approaches for normative framework (2018–2019)

GA 2017 activities

The preliminary results will be presented and discussed with members during the 2017 FSC General Assembly. Two side events will take place at the General Assembly:

- **Local learning and global transformation**

In this session, you will hear proposals made about forest management by the SDGs and other stakeholders on the ground – i.e. the micro perspective.

Panellists will present and discuss several innovative solutions to incorporate risk-based approaches in approaches for streamlining the development of NFSSs in an effort to make them more outcome-oriented and relevant.

Attendees will have the opportunity to share their experiences and evaluate the innovations described during the event. Their contributions will be gathered and will inform the conclusions of this first phase of the work.

[Side event 9 October 9:30 – 11:00](#)

- **Building an effective normative framework**

In this session, you will see how the draft risk management tools can be used in multiple ways, including more targeted analysis of problems and risks that will lead to better solutions and revisions across the normative framework – i.e. the macro perspective.

After looking at the inter-relationship between standards related to forest management, we have begun to investigate standards that offer opportunities for streamlining across the FSC system, making recommendations for targeted changes, with a view to developing a global risk framework for the whole organization in the future.

We will survey topical issues, investigating how FSC can position itself to innovate while ensuring that change is being made for the benefit of the whole organization.

[Side event 10 October 11:30 – 13:00.](#)

Additional information

- [Risk-Based Approach](#) (section in the Implementation Plan website)
- [National Forest Stewardship Standards: A Call for Submissions from Standard Development Groups](#) (technical update)