

Updates of FSC Priority 2026: Implementation of FSC Climate and Biodiversity Strategic Framework - March 2026

Dear FSC Members,

We are excited to share ongoing efforts across FSC that contribute to the Climate and Biodiversity agenda.

1) FSC Climate and Biodiversity Strategic Framework 2026-2032

After the workshop with the FSC members at the General Assembly in Panama, the Secretariat developed an updated version of the FSC Climate and Biodiversity Strategic Framework 2026-2032 (CBSF), which was approved with minor changes at the Board Meeting (BM) 104 in December 2025. The CBSF is being published on 10 March 2026 in English, French, and Spanish. We have launched a [CBSF webpage](#) where you can download the strategic framework.

Following Board of Directors (BoD) approval, the Secretariat has a mandate to develop an implementation plan for the CBSF. Last February, we convened a two-day workshop with relevant FSC International teams, Indigenous Foundation, Investments and Partnerships and regional representatives to align on how success in advancing FSC's climate and biodiversity agenda can be measured, and to consolidate contributions from different teams into a workplan for 2026.

2) Promote forest management practices that contribute to global climate and biodiversity goals

PCI Revision

The FSC Secretariat continues the revision of the FSC Principles and Criteria and International Generic Indicators (PCI). The conceptual public consultation was extended until 31 December 2025 to allow broader participation from stakeholders. The Policy and Performance team has analysed the consultation results, which will be shared to the BoD at BM 105, together with the request for approval of the final draft Terms of Reference for the revision, and the final composition of the PCI working group members and experts. A climate expert has been included to provide guidance to the working group. Relevant materials related to the PCI revision can be accessed on the [PCI Hub](#).

Conservation of Intact Forest Landscapes

Following the BoD decision of last December 2025 (**BM 104**), the FSC Secretariat is actively progressing towards implementation of [Motion 45/2025](#), "Moving beyond fixed thresholds to outcome-based conservation for Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs)," initiating the processes to develop interim measures for IFLs, while considering experience from the pilots of Motion 23/2020. The approach focuses on maintaining ecological integrity and sociocultural values within IFLs that overlap with forest management (FM) certificates. Two normative processes are underway and will result in two advice notes: one outlining requirements for enhanced management and monitoring in High Conservation Value (HCV) 2/IFL areas (Advice Note 1), and another establishing requirement for landscapes and countries that did not participate in the Motion 23 pilots (Advice Note 2).

Remedy System Development Action Plan

The System Integrity Unit announced their [Remedy System Development Action Plan](#) as a follow-up to the presentation of these work areas during the 2025 General Assembly side events. These actions will support the implementation of remedy to be more transparently and effectively across forest landscapes and communities. The Plan includes two initiatives to strengthen environmental remedy implementation, including guidance on additionality and assessing past destruction of HCVs.

Implementation of Motion 46/2025 and Motion 47/2025

Several teams in the FSC Secretariat have come together to develop workplans to support the implementation of Motion 46/2025, “FSC Shall Certify Restoration”, and Motion 47/2025, “Promote FSC certification and ecosystem services verification as relevant climate change investment tools by widening the landscape approach to encompass diverse woodland ecosystems”. This work will help clarify the scope, sequencing, roles, and coordination needed to deliver the motions’ intended outcomes, and will be advanced through cross-unit collaboration in 2026.

3) Leverage markets and finance to incentivize forest management practices that contribute to global climate and biodiversity goals

Verified Impact

FSC continues to scale Verified Impact to help forest managers and sponsors demonstrate, communicate, and invest in positive ecosystem services (ES) outcomes.

FSC has developed a [new guidance document](#) to support sponsors and forest managers in promoting ES projects in line with FSC-PRO-30-006 Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools. [Guidance on Market Use and Communication of Ecosystem Services Impacts \(FSC-GUI-30-006b\)](#) supports the development of credible ES claims and their market application across the seven ES categories: biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration and storage, water services, soil conservation, recreational services, cultural practices and values, and air quality. It also provides practical guidance on developing ES claims, suggested pathways to connect sponsors and forest managers, and good practices for sponsors investing in ES projects.

Network engagement and upcoming events

In November 2025, FSC’s European Network, FSC Canada, and North America Regional Director joined the Marketing and Commercial Unit team in Bonn for the third European Ecosystem Services Summit, focusing on scaling sponsorship through marketing, sales approaches, and the matchmaking funnel.

Looking ahead, the FSC Latin America Ecosystem Services Week will take place during the week of 7 September 2026 in Puerto Iguazu (Argentina) and Foz do Iguacu (Brazil), coordinated by FSC International, FSC Argentina, FSC Brazil, and the FSC Latam Regional Office. The week will combine a field visit, a poster showroom of projects with verified impact, a sponsorship-focused summit, matchmaking sessions, and a lessons-learned day for FSC Latam network members.

Implementation of Motion 53/2021 Policy Motion to incorporate to ecosystem services the recognition of cultural services and practices to strengthen and endure over time the interconnection of Indigenous Peoples

The working group for [Motion 53/2021](#) launched in November 2025 and has held five meetings to date, including a focus on Cultural practices and values under the ES Procedure and early work on outcome indicators. The group brings together six experts (including one Indigenous leader) with expertise spanning Indigenous and Traditional Peoples, ecosystem services, assurance systems, Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV), and FSC governance and auditing. Bi-monthly virtual sessions will continue until June

2026, with an in-person meeting planned for May. Public consultation is planned for September-October, and the application form to join the consultative forum is open until the end of February.

Implementation of Motion 49/2021 FSC Ecosystem Service Procedure as a mitigation mechanism to meet global market demand for net-zero and net-positive targets

Two chamber-balanced working groups for [Motion 49/2021](#) are progressing the development of the Procedure for High-Quality Carbon Credits and [the Procedure for Biodiversity Credits](#), following BoD approval of WG membership on 22 October 2025. For carbon credits, two online meetings have been held and an in-person meeting is scheduled in Bonn on 1-4 June 2026. For biodiversity credits, three online meetings have been held and an in-person meeting is scheduled in August 2026. The Ecosystem Services and Markets Unit is also seeking approval for a technical expert to join as the sixth WG member, as one of the originally approved members is unable to participate.

4) Advance policy and partnerships to promote forests as climate and biodiversity solutions

Promoting financing for sustainable forestry

FSC Investments and Partnerships (I&P) continues to advance enabling conditions and partnerships to help unlock finance for responsible forest management and scale FSC solutions in capital markets. Through FSC I&P, FSC joined the Advisory Council of the Principles Executive Committee of the [ICMA \(International Capital Market Association\)](#). This appointment reflects FSC's commitment to contribute real-economy insights that can strengthen the integrity of green, social, sustainability, and sustainability-linked bond markets, and to support the Executive Committee with informed guidance on nature-related risks, opportunities, and best practices such as sustainable forest management and verified impacts. FSC I&P has also been engaging with the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) to help influence the inclusion of sustainable forest management practices within emerging nature-related standards that can be adopted by corporations, countries, and jurisdictions to inform investment decision-making.

FSC I&P, working with FSC network partners and regional staff, has continued engaging with financial institutions and certificate holders to facilitate access to financing that can expand sustainable forest management practices in value chains. In December, through support in the due diligence process, a certificate holder secured an Asian Development Bank transaction to deliver an investment of USD 50 million in China, with climate impact, sustainable forest management practices, job creation, and gender mainstreaming.

In parallel, FSC I&P is advancing inclusive financing for Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs). Under the Sustainable Finance workstream, FSC I&P is partnering with FSC Mexico and FSC Guatemala to implement a P4 project that aims to identify financing opportunities for FSC-certified IPLCs and reduce the barriers that prevent them from benefiting from their forest management efforts. The project aims to collaborate with WRI, Rainforest Alliance, the FSC Indigenous Foundation, and World Vision. FSC I&P also continued deepening engagement with financial institutions such as Canopy Trust, Climate Asset Managers, Mirova, the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

Fostering impactful partnerships

FSC's impact at COP30 in Brazil began with strong thought leadership at the ISFC pre-COP30 Symposium in São Paulo, where FSC led a high-profile panel on the verified impact of ecosystem services, setting the tone for messaging on data integrity, finance, and risk. Over the course of COP30, FSC participated in more than 20 panels and sessions across multiple pavilions and side events, spotlighting FSC's role in climate finance, Indigenous-led governance, nationally determined contributions (NDCs), the bioeconomy, restoration, and ecosystem services. Alongside this visibility, FSC advanced strategic relationships with

leading organizations such as IKEA, The Nature Conservancy, the World Economic Forum, WWF, Global Evergreening Alliance, the Asian Development Bank, and Nature4Climate, reinforcing FSC's position as a key partner in high-integrity forest-based climate solutions as reflected in [FSC's post-COP30 blog](#).

Looking ahead, FSC is advancing plans for London Climate Action Week 2026, including partnership with the World Climate Foundation, and exploring longer-term collaboration with Nature4Climate to build collaboration and partnerships that position FSC as a solution for tackling climate change and biodiversity loss. FSC will also join the UNEP FI Global Summit as a Silver Sponsor, with FSC Director General speaking, to advance efforts to promote the use of FSC solutions in investment decision-making. In addition, FSC is laying the groundwork with the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) for their major investor conference in Amsterdam, with the goal of raising awareness about the risks and opportunities of forestry-related investments and how FSC solutions can help investors achieve their investment goals.

EU Nature Restoration Regulation and National Restoration Plans (NRPs)

Following the EU's [Nature Restoration Regulation](#), all EU Member States must submit their [National Restoration Plans](#) (NRPs) to the European Commission by 1 September 2026, detailing how they will meet binding targets to restore degraded ecosystems. Together with FSC Network Partners, the team are assessing whether national authorities are considering FSC certification as a tool within their restoration plans. Given ongoing discussions about a potential reopening or simplification of the Regulation, we will also follow the political process closely to anticipate and respond to any changes.

FSC global position paper on bioeconomy

FSC is finalising a global position paper on the bioeconomy to strategically position FSC within this rapidly expanding policy agenda. As bioeconomy gains prominence worldwide, a clear and coherent FSC position will help ensure that forest-based solutions are grounded in responsible management and enable FSC to proactively shape the global debate.

COLI Global Summit on Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy (Vienna, 23–25 February 2026)

From 23 to 25 February 2026, the [COLI Global Summit on “Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches”](#) will take place in Vienna, Austria. The summit will focus on scaling up, financing, supply chains, agroforestry, and wood in buildings, and aims to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and good practices, as well as identify opportunities and challenges in implementing forest-based bioeconomy approaches. FSC representatives will attend to engage with partners on these issues.

IPBES plenary engagement

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) compiles and assesses scientific research on biodiversity and ecosystem services, informing global decision-making, including under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). FSC's participation in IPBES plenaries helps strengthen the evidence base on forests and the role of standards and verification, advocates for “business and nature” integration in policy discourse, monitors emerging trends with potential regulatory implications, and builds strategic partnerships.

At the latest IPBES plenary, key highlights included the approval of the Business and Nature Dependencies Assessment, and progress in ensuring references to standards are reflected in the [Summary for Policymakers](#). FSC's team also supported the Open Stakeholder Network's closing plenary statement and engaged with a broad range of participants including Member States, leading scientists and research institutions, UNEP-WCMC, CBD and UNCCD Secretariats, IUCN, civil society organizations, business representatives, and other observer networks.

EU Nature credits and carbon removals (EU policy engagement)

FSC was accepted into the European Commission's Nature Credits Expert Group. Simultaneously, FSC is exploring potential recognition under the EU Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming framework (CRCF). This is cross-functional work involving policy alignment, climate, and advocacy and partnerships teams, and further updates will follow. As part of this engagement, the FSC team will also attend and speak at the Carbon Farming Summit in Padova this month.

5) Examples of regional success stories

By the end of 2025, Cultural Ecosystem Services were applied for the first time in FSC history in two Indigenous-managed community forests, with additional audits underway. In **Canada**, **Taan Forest (a 100% Haida-owned forestry company in British Columbia)** demonstrated strong community engagement through governance agreements, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), and culturally appropriate consultation.

In **Brazil**, the Cooperative for Sustainable Production and Extraction in the Garah-Itxa Indigenous Forest, managed by the Paiter Suruí people, highlighted the need to adapt tools and methodologies to smallholders and provide ongoing support (audit results pending).

Overall uptake continues to grow. By the beginning of 2026, Verified Impact covered 5.5 million ha in 32 countries, with 408 Verified Impacts and 308 Sponsorships. In **Bolivia**, media reported that **the Valle de Tucabaca (a municipal wildlife reserve in Roboré, Santa Cruz) has become the first protected area in the country to achieve FSC certification**. Local and national authorities described the certification as “extremely valuable,” highlighting its contribution to biodiversity protection and climate mitigation through conserving over 200,000 hectares of forest. This milestone signals renewed momentum for FSC certification in protected landscapes and reinforces FSC as a practical tool to support climate action and access to nature finance, consistent with the direction set under Motion 47/2025.

Stay connected and do not miss the next FSC Climate and Biodiversity newsletter!