

Climate, Biodiversity and Restoration Priority updates – October 2025

Dear FSC members,

As we approach the 10th FSC General Assembly, we are excited to share the ongoing efforts across FSC contributing to the **Climate, Biodiversity and Restoration (CBR) Priority 2025**.

1) Climate and Biodiversity Strategic Framework 2026-2032

After the consultation of Draft 1 of the Strategic Framework with members and FSC staff, the feedback was analysed and a revised draft, [Draft 2.0](#), and an [executive summary](#) have been developed,.

The CBR team has shared the draft with FSC members before the **General Assembly**, to serve as basis for the discussion at the [side event](#) in Panama on 28 October co-organized by the FSC Secretariat and FSC membership. An overview of the consultation feedback can be found in [the discussion forum on the FSC members' portal](#).

After the engagement with members at the General Assembly, the final draft is planned for approval at the BM 104 in December 2025.

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

FSC is strengthening its normative framework to better support climate change mitigation, adaptation, and biodiversity conservation through multiple pathways:

PCI Revision

FSC is continuing the revision of the FSC Principles and Criteria and International Generic Indicators (PCI), and the Policy and Performance team has launched a conceptual consultation. One of the PCI revision's aims is to highlight how existing requirements contribute to climate and biodiversity goals by making them more explicit. This revision will also align the PCI with the Climate and Biodiversity Strategic Framework.

The [public consultation](#) is open until 30 November 2025, and seeks input on the proposed direction of changes, including those related to climate change and biodiversity conservation, that will guide the drafting of revised requirements. Updates and background materials can be accessed at the [PCI Hub](#).

Developing and Revising FSC Country Requirements

FSC is revising its normative framework for developing and maintaining Forest Stewardship Standards (FSS) and Risk Assessments (RAs) – collectively known as [FSC Country Requirements](#). This revision is exploring how to make Forest Stewardship Standards outcome-oriented, while streamlining them, among other topics. The first draft of both procedures is currently under [consultation](#) until 30 November 2025. For more information including upcoming webinars, please visit: [Shape The Future of Responsible Forest Management](#).

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

As of mid 2025, we have reached 361 Verified Impact projects across 33 countries covering an area of 4,887,088.74 ha.

New FSC Tools Available

Ecosystem Services (ES) Registry

As of 1 October, the revised Ecosystem Services (ES) Procedure (*FSC-PRO-30-006 V2-1*) is supported by an **online [ES Registry](#)**!

The ES Registry is an online platform with Geographic Information System (GIS) capabilities, that enables certificate holders (CHs), certification bodies, and FSC to interact in an end-to-end verification process under the Ecosystem Services Procedure. It will also provide a marketplace where, in the future, CHs will be able to do transactions on confirmed ES Reports with interested sponsors.

The registry will streamline data management, enhance analytics and functions, and enable efficient collaboration – all relevant aspects included in the drafts of the Climate and Biodiversity Strategic Framework.

The ES Registry can be accessed by following the instructions included in the **[User Manual for Forest Managers](#)**. The **[Outcome Indicator Selection Logic](#)** also supports CHs in using the registry.

[Ecosystem Services Procedure Benchmarking Tool](#)

An in-depth analysis was conducted to identify and map how FSC Ecosystem Services impacts can be linked to a comprehensive suite of voluntary reporting and target-setting frameworks (Global Reporting Initiative (**[GRI](#)**), International Financial Reporting Standards (**[IFRS](#)**), Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (**[TNFD](#)**), Science Based Targets Network (**[SBTN](#)**), and Carbon Disclosure Project (**[CDP](#)**)).

The resulting matrix guides companies in aligning FSC Verified Impact with global sustainability frameworks and corporate objectives. This tailored approach guarantees increased alignment between FSC ES impacts and evolving corporate reporting demands, accommodating industry, material, and geographical diversity. A **[user manual](#)** has been developed to support stakeholders.

FSC Trace

FSC Trace is a platform that facilitates data flow throughout the entire supply chain to deliver both verification and traceability of supply chains, whilst safeguarding commercial confidentiality and ensuring participants are always in full control of their data. **[FSC Trace Version 1.0](#)**, with a modern user experience, more intuitive user interfaces, and a rich set of capabilities to support EUDR conformance, has been released to ~500 license holders that registered for Priority Access, with onboarding planned to continue gradually through quarter four. In parallel, the Technical and Innovation Unit (TIU) is working to establish self-service data services for licence holders to access relevant data from the platform.

Go to Market plan

The Climate and Ecosystem Services team will be developing a **Go to Market plan**, to help accelerate the adoption of Ecosystem Services Verified Impact in 2026. This plan will include elements like the ideal customer profile, audience messaging, engagement channels or a pricing strategy for Verified Impact sponsors.

Engagement Activities

Webinars for Forest-driven corporate sustainability

The Marketing and Commercial Unit (MCU) at FSC International is organizing a series of webinars to explore the transformative role of forests in shaping corporate sustainability.

One of these webinars took place on 14 October 2025, together with experts from the **[Global Reporting Initiative \(GRI\)](#)**, focused on **[Sustainability Reporting](#)** and how Verified Impact can provide companies

with verified, audit-ready data about forests impacts, which can support sustainability reports and decision-making. The [recording](#) and the [presentation](#) are now available.

The [next webinar](#) is scheduled for 20 November at 14:00 – 15:00 (CET), and will focus on integrating forests into corporate sustainability, by showcasing the example of the Chilean company Concha y Toro that is using FSC Verified Impact to quantify ecosystem benefits and generate social and business impacts, embedding forest stewardship in their sustainability strategy.

Ecosystem Services Summits

The first [FSC Ecosystem Services Summit in Latin America](#), organized by FSC Latin America with the support of FSC International (MCU) and FSC Chile as the local organizer, took place from 23 to 26 September 2025 in Santiago, Chile.

This event brought together public institutions, companies, communities, and civil society organizations to foster partnerships and drive solutions based on the assessment and valuation of ecosystem services. To scale up the impact of the value assigned to ecosystem services, it is essential to have effective public policies, appropriate incentives, and access to financing. Therefore, the event was concluded with a dialogue among representatives from the public and private sector.

The Summit included capacity building activities for Network Partners, as well as training about the revised ES Procedure for companies, certification bodies, project developers, NGOs, and governments.

The **European Ecosystem Services Summit** will take place on 26 and 27 November 2025 in Bonn, Germany. The focus of this Summit will be to find and engage ES leads and get the sponsorship deals done with the prospect. Network Partners from Europe and North America have been invited.

FSC Positioning for Finance Strategy

The FSC Investment & Partnerships (I&P) achieved a key milestone in September for FSC's sustainable finance strategy – becoming a Network Supporter of the [UN-backed Principles for Responsible Investment](#). This positions FSC within the world's leading responsible investment network to advocate for FSC certification and Verified Impact as credible tools for Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) integration in investment decisions.

To further influence policy and capital flows, FSC has applied for a seat on the [European Union Sustainable Finance Platform](#). FSC also participated in the Platform's workshop on 7 October to emphasize the importance of recognizing smallholders within the EU Taxonomy and help channel green investments toward responsible forestry, a critical lever to accelerate climate and biodiversity goals. Some FSC tools were proposed to be leveraged, as well as the need for targeted capacity building efforts to reduce barriers to taxonomy compliance and increase access to sustainable finance, particularly for Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

During [New York Climate Week](#), FSC convened '*Green Returns: Forest Investments for Sustainable Impact & Portfolio Resilience*', a roundtable discussion with global financial leaders. The dialogue focused on overcoming barriers to forest investment and identifying pathways to scale capital toward FSC-certified forestry. As a direct outcome, FSC I&P initiated new relationships with financial institutions interested in integrating FSC standards into investment strategies.

FSC I&P's strategic engagement with the [Asian Development Bank \(ADB\)](#) continues to deepen. FSC was invited to present at ADB headquarters in Manila, with the APAC team attending in person, where FSC solutions were promoted to investors, companies, and other key stakeholders, together with real-world examples of how FSC certification and Verified Impact have delivered tangible environmental, social and economic benefits in the region.

These case studies helped demonstrate the value of FSC's approach in supporting climate resilience, biodiversity protection, and community livelihoods. These solutions were also presented by FSC China in Beijing.

The team is also leading efforts to formalize a partnership to support ADB's sustainable forestry investments and expand FSC's influence in Asia-Pacific markets.

These developments reflect the strategic approach to redirect financial flows toward FSC-certified responsible forest management.

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

Collaboration with the European Space Agency

FSC has developed a partnership with the [European Space Agency \(ESA\)](#). This collaboration, along with connections to companies from ESA's business incubation program, will enhance FSC's technical capabilities for monitoring biodiversity and forest stewardship outcomes globally. The I&P team is currently identifying pilot opportunities with certificate holders to test and provide feedback on cutting-edge Earth Observation technology that can support ES claims and quantify impacts of FSC certification.

FSC is also a member of ESA's [Bioeconomy Task Force](#), whose goal is to help businesses grow with space technology, while contributing to the [bioeconomy](#).

Participation in New York Climate Week

FSC played a prominent role at [New York Climate Week](#), convening and joining discussions in seven events that positioned forests at the centre of climate solutions and set the stage for advancing our UNFCCC COP 30 goals.

As part of the [Nature Hub](#) curated by the [Nature4Climate](#) Coalition during New York Climate Week, FSC participated in several sessions. The **FSC Indigenous Foundation** highlighted tools and funding models that shift power and decision-making to Indigenous Peoples, while showcasing FSC Verified Impact for channelling investments; **FSC US** demonstrated how certification, as part of corporate climate strategy, strengthens supply chains and builds brand trust with partners including Procter & Gamble, HP, and WWF; **FSC I&P** explored nuanced applications of innovative technology, with panellists discussing the role of technology partnerships and AI in climate-positive initiatives and strategies to mitigate AI's environmental costs with key partners from Salesforce, Slalom and the Centre for Policy Research at the UN University; **FSC Canada** emphasized certification as a framework for linking forest management to credible adaptation and mitigation strategies, with panellists from Ikea, Suzano and the Clear Air Task Force; **FSC Director General**, Subhra Bhattacharjee, joined other panellists to examine the root causes of deforestation, and shared innovative, scalable solutions that deliver for people and the planet.

FSC also met with key partners and CHs in New York and conducted interviews with the press.

FSC at the IUCN World Conservation Congress

From 9–15 October, [FSC](#) participated in the [IUCN World Conservation Congress](#) held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, with its largest delegation ever. The event, held every 4 years, brings together governments, civil society, and other leading organizations from around the world to address pressing environmental and conservation challenges.

The Congress allowed FSC's delegation to engage with attending FSC members and other participants that visited their booth, and participating in many events, with a focus on how FSC can improve the quality of its solutions, make these more inter-operable with the growing number of solutions for forests and to identify new areas of opportunity for FSC solutions to be relevant. Two of the areas identified were other

effective area-based conservation measures ([OECD](#)) and the nature-based solutions market, where FSC can demonstrate the essential role that responsible forest stewardship plays in tackling climate change and biodiversity loss.

FSC participated in several panels; the [FSC Indigenous Foundation](#) underscored the importance of Indigenous-led actions in conservation, calling for holistic approaches that unite culture, governance, and environment, and emphasized that restoration must be rooted in Indigenous values and cultural connection to land. The **FSC Engagement team** stressed the need to bridge data and traditional knowledge to support sustainable forest management and new finance models.

Positioning FSC in Restoration Fora

[SUPERB](#) (systemic solutions for upscaling of urgent ecosystem restoration for forest-related biodiversity and ecosystem services) is a Horizon 2020 project aiming to restore thousands of hectares of forest landscape across Europe. FSC is a member of its Advisory Board and helps disseminate the project findings.

Two recent outcomes of SUPERB are [The Forest knowledge Gateway](#), a platform in over 25 European languages to support and inspire forest restoration, climate change adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and inclusive forest management across Europe and beyond, and the [Restoration Marketplace](#), to help match nature positive projects with potential funders.

A [SUPERB Webinar](#) will take place on 14 November 9:00 - 12:30 (CET) (Passcode: 446973), with leading experts to discuss the evolution of forest restoration in Europe, innovative restoration methods, and the impacts on carbon, biodiversity, and wood provision. SUPERB's platforms will also be presented, as well as societal perceptions of restoration.

FSC sponsored and participated in the [11th World Conference on Ecological Restoration](#) (SER2025), from 30 September - 4 October in Denver, USA. The event brought together global restoration leaders, researchers, policymakers and practitioners, to share solutions for restoring ecosystems and supporting climate resilience.

FSC focused on socialising the FSC Remedy Framework, with an interactive workshop. The number of attendees did not match expectations, indicating that there is more work to be done to familiarize the broad restoration audience with the framework. Interest was shown in FSC playing a more active role in the Forest Landscape Restoration agenda. This experience, together with FSC General Assembly results, will shape FSC's pathways into delivering forest restoration across the world.

Stay connected and do not miss the next CBR newsletter!