



Engagement Report

Economic Chamber

July 2024



Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to maintain a comprehensive record of ongoing engagements within the Economic Chamber, with a particular focus on the three chamber meetings held on July 3rd, July 17th, and August 1st, 2024. This report is intended exclusively for members of the Economic Chamber and should not be shared externally.

The introduction section outlines our engagement process, highlights key events, presents a timeline leading up to GA2025 and provides links to necessary resources. Subsequently, we dive into each meeting, detailing the participation results from the Slido surveys and key priorities raised by members.





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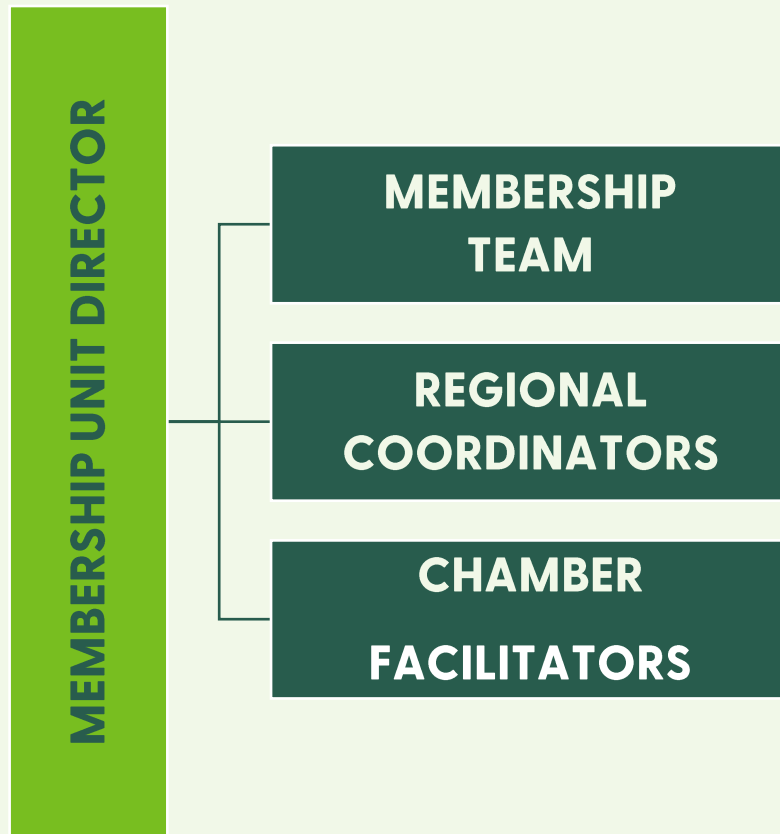
- Membership Engagement Process
- Chamber Meeting 1 (3rd July)
- Chamber Meeting 2 (17th July)
- Chamber Meeting 3 (1st August)
- Resources

Membership
Engagement
Process Leading to
GA2025



Engagement Plan

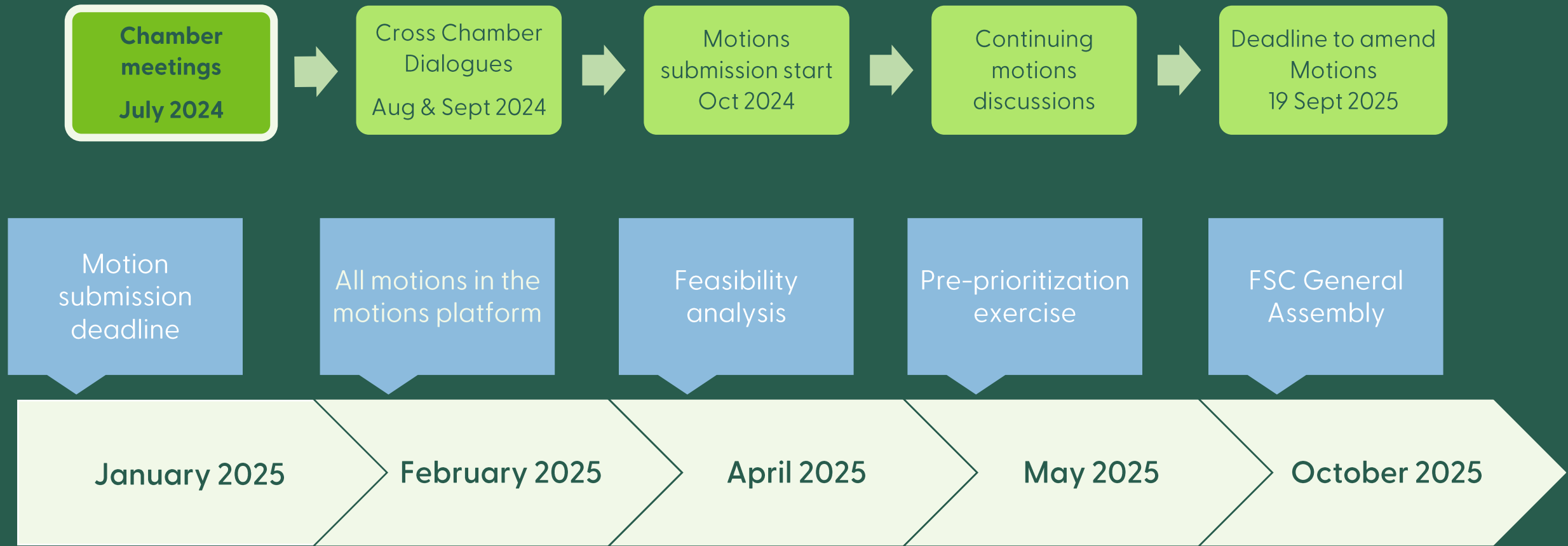
The FSC International Membership Engagement Team is responsible for the international membership related activities including direction, content and communications.



KEY OBJECTIVES OF THE ENGAGEMENT PLAN

- **Enhanced Collaboration:** Chamber discussions foster deeper collaboration within stakeholder groups, leading to more informed and impactful priorities.
- **Empowered Motions:** By identifying shared priorities, members can develop motions with a stronger chance of success at the FSC GA 2025.
- **Strengthened Advocacy:** This approach allows members to advocate for their priorities throughout the engagement cycle - from discussions to potential motions for voting and identification of strategic priorities.

Motion Process for GA2025



Meeting 01

3 July, 2024



Participants

Meeting 1

13

Morning session (CEST)

59

Afternoon session
(CEST)



Collective inputs from members

We asked members to participate in a Slido survey and respond to these three questions:

Over 50
participants

1. Rank your TOP 5 of the following overall summary priorities that were previously identified by the members in 2020 & 2021 - in order to express whether they are still relevant.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| • Climate change | • Global strategy | • Markets development | • Principles & Criteria |
| • Conversion and Restoration | • Governance | • Member engagement, retention | • Smallholders and low intensity managed areas |
| • Deforestation | • Government engagement | and strengthening Social and Environmental Chamber | • Sustainable intensification |
| • Ecosystem Services | • ILO – Worker’s rights | • Motions system and implementation | • System Integrity |
| • FPIC: Free Prior Informed Consent | • Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs) | | |
-

2. Share any additional priorities you have for 2024 - 2025 that were not listed in the previous survey question as priorities from 2020 & 2021

3. Share your TOP 5 OVERALL PRIORITIES for the chamber for 2024/2025.

1. Rank your TOP 5 of the following overall summary priorities that were previously identified by the members in 2020 & 2021 - in order to express whether they are still relevant.

1. Climate Change / Cambio climático / Changement climatique



2. Conversion & Restoration / Conversión y restauración / Conversion & restauration



3. Deforestation / Deforestación / Déforestation



4. Ecosystem Services / Servicios Ecosistémicos / Services écosystémiques



5. Markets development / Desarrollo de mercados / Développement des marchés



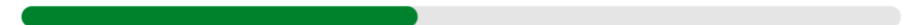
6. Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) / Paisajes forestales intactos (PFI) / Paysages forestiers intacts (PFI)



7. Governance / Gobernanza / Gouvernance



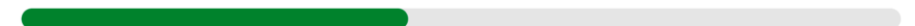
8. Motions system & implementation / Sistema de mociones e implementación / Système de motions et mise en œuvre



9. Global Strategy / Estrategia global / Stratégie globale



10. Sustainable intensification / Intensificación sostenible / Intensification durable



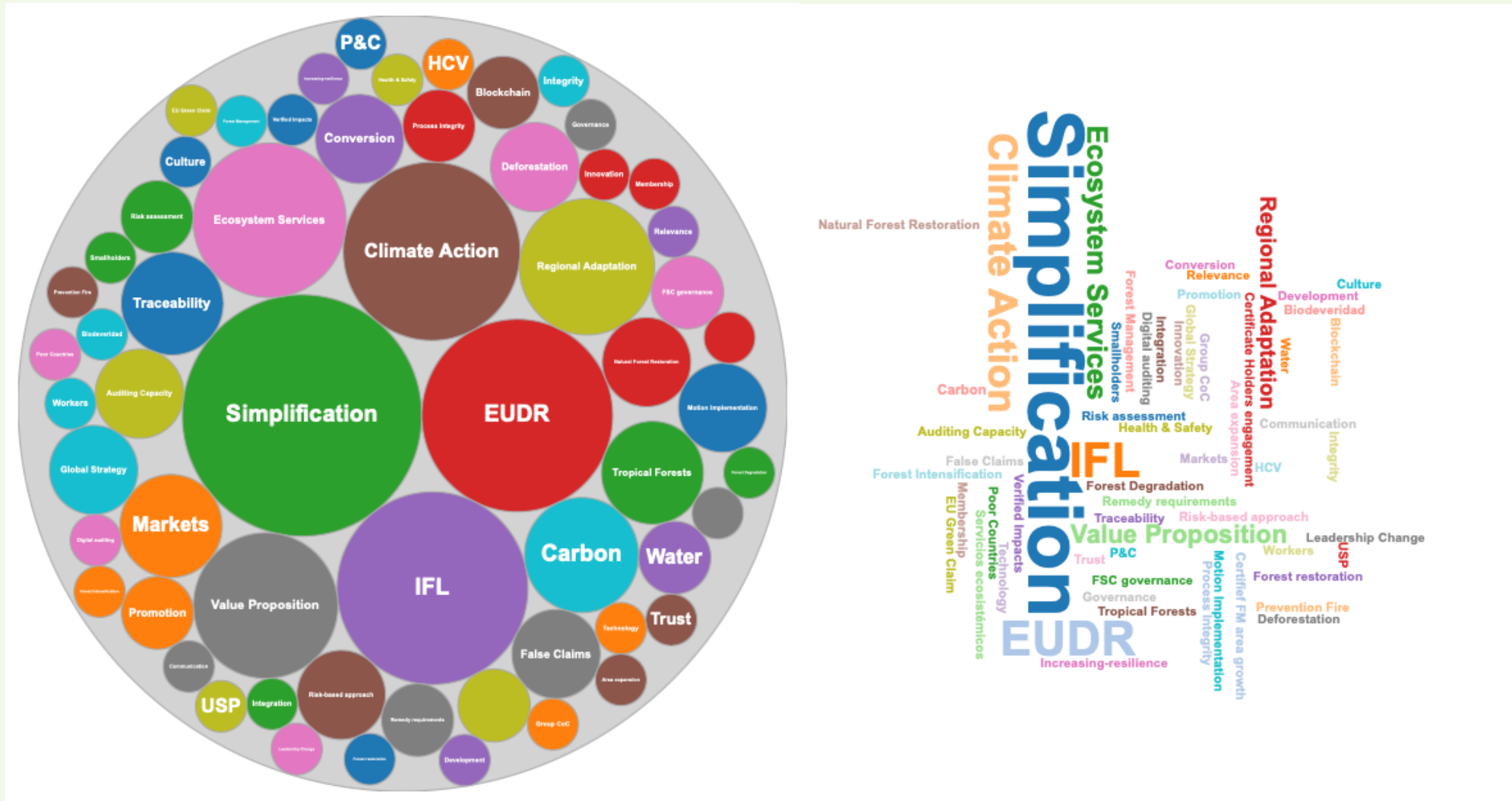
2. Share any additional priorities you have for 2024 - 2025 that were not listed in the previous survey question as priorities from 2020 & 2021

- Inclusion of the interests of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making in the areas where they live and are affected by the FSC certificate.
- 1. Corporate Social Responsibility 2. Restoration of the living environment of local communities and indigenous peoples
- CB ability to respond to demand, in relation to the availability of auditors, attractiveness of the FSC Auditor job.
- Cultural values FSC fundamental work values, health and safety, which are also met by the auditors and projects that work for FSC.
- Value proposition for certificate holders.
- Responsibly meeting incremental global wood market demand (which is a key contributor to unhalted deforestation)
- EUDR - regulation on deforestation-free products
- Transparency, transparency

2. Share any additional priorities you have for 2024 - 2025 that were not listed in the previous survey question as priorities from 2020 & 2021

(Contd.)

- Increasing relevance to areas with least sustainable forest management Anticipating and responding to long-term future market needs.
- Simplification of process/documentation FSC Added value promotion.
- Allowances and support for national adaptation with key issues of CoC and CW standards by National Offices.
- Improving FSC's value proposition.
- The economic value creation for certificate holders.
- Incorporating a Risk-based approach in normative requirements allowing for regional adaptation in normative requirements.
- Audit costs too high for smallholders even in rich countries. System overhead in auditing costs should be addressed.
- Misuse of CoC and market distortion coming caused by the CoC percentage system.



Notes from the Chat section



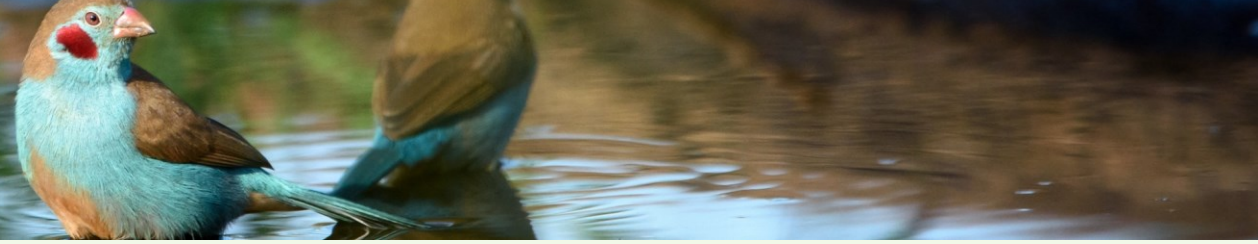
Morning session (CEST)

- The issue around membership: very complex. How we can make integration of new members easy

Afternoon session (CEST)

- I would hope that as the GA gets organized and Motions solicited and analyzed, a good effort is made to analyze what is already being done and we somehow communicate this to proponents. We should downplay respectfully motions that appear to emphasize ongoing works.
- Increasing FSC forest management needs to be tied to and include increased economic value generation to incent new certificate holders to sign up and certify their forests. Currently this is a cost to the business for many new certificate holders and a huge barrier to certify additional forests in North America. Unfortunately I have to jump off in 8 minutes for another meeting but would like this raised.
- Hello, everyone! (name removed) of FCCF. My connection is remote and a little unstable but I would like to comment on the topic of markets, above all it is very important for members of the value chain and forestry. It is no secret that the cost of FSC membership is high for these members and they are still unable to realize that value in the price of their products in the market. FSC certified wood and/or products are not yet valued as having a differentiated value and are only used to "certify" the legality of the wood. That is why we consider that a greater effort is necessary in the development of markets. Thank you!
- I'd echo (name removed) point that FSC is desperate for increased relevance in a world with more demand for several things at the same time: proof of no-deforestation, climate action verified impact and bullet-proof traceability.
- Risk based auditing allowing for virtual audits for low-risk external and internal audits. The climate/carbon cost for on-site audits (especially internal audits for Groups and multisite) is exceptionally high for North America and probably for other large countries as well. How can we call FSC an "environmental" program when we are forced to fly long distances for simple CoC transfer certifications.
- I believe that one of the biggest things is regional adaptation as was mentioned regarding what standards are in place and or emphasized. There are many standards that are of limited value in certain parts of the more developed world as they have laws and regulations already that make the FSC checks on these just extra work, this also would help simplification.

Notes from the Chat section



Afternoon session (CEST) contd.

- Just food for thought for these early days of discussion in prep for GA – 1) Governance – improve system so Regional Offices can really lead in energizing membership, 2) FSC Certified Restoration – Should be a lead product/value as part of Ecosystem Services/Verified Impacts – right now too hidden and not clear/obvious/straightforward, 3) Forestry Standards – After 30 years of FSC certification of natural forests, I think FSC should revisit how FSC can improve natural forest management silviculture, particularly in the tropics, 4) HCVs – examine how we can improve HCV rigor and transparency in the FSC system, and finally 5) Markets – should ALWAYS be in our top priorities – we need to keep improving FSC’s value proposition, and maybe here again is a role that Regional Offices could be enable to do even more. Lastly, EVERYONE, try to get to Panama for the GA!
- Totally agree with you. Re Global Strategy, for clarification, when I said "resilient forests" and getting "chopped off" I meant deforestation (of course I believe in responsible forest mgt & harvest).
- One way FSC can support the establishment of a new trillion trees on the planet is through natural forest restoration. There are many regions in the world where degraded forests or agriculture and pasture abandonment create opportunities for restoration. Forests are resilient but need protection (from cattle) to restore. See the <https://www.anralliance.org>
- The implementation of the EUDR involves due diligence, with rigorous tracking. FSC aligned with the EUDR must transmit the message that the system reduces the compliance of the requirements and provides a solid solution to help the certificate holders.
- Totalmente de acuerdo, El desafío es el balance adecuado.
- Resilient forests and communities, Restoration, HCVs, Ecosystem Services, Monitoring, Traceability, etc – these topics all fit really well under Climate Action – which is also one for the 4 priorities chosen by FSC. However, even after a motion asking for climate change and loss of biodiversity to become central to GSP implementation, there's still no clear strategic leadership or proposition on how to seize this opportunity and raise FSC's relevance on the biggest topic affecting everyone around the globe. So I'd like to see a dedicated Climate Unit, using great brains and great tech to position FSC as the leader in climate change adaptation and mitigation from the forestry angle.
- I support (name removed) recommended points in general. Specifically, my comment regarding the importance of forest restoration is covered in (name removed) 2nd recommendation (FSC Certification of Forest Restoration). I support that a new FSC certification standard and procedure for forest restoration certification be implemented ASAP.

Notes from the Chat section



Afternoon session (CEST) contd.

- Good morning, I strongly agree with (name removed) comments, I highlight the importance of strengthening the market and the advantages that the FSC offers for the development and sustainability of national markets, for example in Venezuela (where I live), many forestry companies and organizations have heard of the FSC and are interested in its benefits and implementation, but do not reconcile the costs of implementation, versus the return on investment, and the demand of the local market or the main wood exporters from Venezuela.
- I much support the essence of what you're suggesting. Working towards a restoration procedure (in line with eg. the "FSC Remedy Framework") I'm totally ok with. Developing a new and separate standard, I'd be cautious about and urge us to discuss more, in virtue of system simplification (and "de-spaghettification").

meeting 02

17 July, 2024

Morning session [Register here](#)

Afternoon session [Register here](#)



meeting 03

1 August, 2024

Morning session [Register here](#)

Afternoon session [Register here](#)



Useful Resources



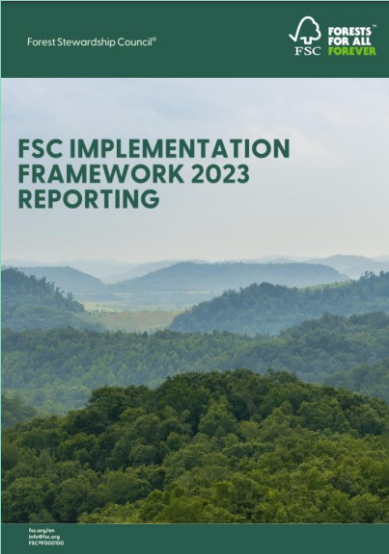
Available Resources (click to open document)



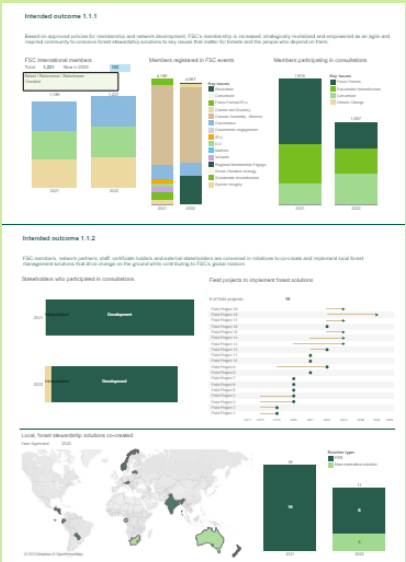
Global Strategy Annual Implementation Frameworks



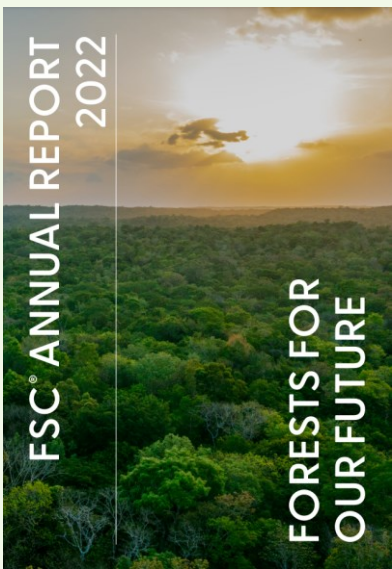
Status Reports



Data and Progress Reports



Annual Reports



Available Resources



Launch of Membership Engagement Plan



Motions Implementation Report



Environmental Chamber meeting 1 (shared with Environmental chamber members via email)

