

The Future of FSC Plantations

- an environmental NGO perspective

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Overview of Key Points

- 👉 Focus on issues of principle first rather than technical
- 👉 Can a plantation be a 'forest'?
- 👉 Key environmental performance for FSC certification
- 👉 Separate standards and certification of 'fast wood' tree crops

Can a Plantation be a forest?

- 👉 Large-scale exotic ‘fast wood’ monocultures - **NO**
- 👉 Those being restored to or mimicking natural forests - **YES**
- 👉 Values of a forest - FSC definitions for forests and plantations
- 👉 How do plantations fit with FSC mission and goals?

Restoration Pathway

Degraded
lands

Agricultural
crops

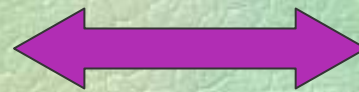
Plantations
fast
slow

Semi-
natural forest

Secondary
forest

Intact
forest

Degradation



Restoration

Key Performance Requirements for plantations to be Forest Stewardship Council certified

- ✎ Not planted on sites converted from forests or other rare/threatened ecosystems post 1994
- ✎ Conserving and restoring natural forests and ecosystems both internally and externally
- ✎ Laid out and managed in a mosaic guided by landscape ecology rather than a large-scale monoculture.
- ✎ Have phased out toxic, bioaccumulative and persistent chemicals and be GMO free
- ✎ Address local community needs, benefits and rights.

Separate standards and certification of 'fast wood' tree crops?

- ☞ These industrial 'fast wood' plantations will not be able to be certified as 'forests' under FSC
- ☞ Clarifies their status and expected performance as a tree crop or fibre farm
- ☞ FSC certified forest products given greater market status and credibility than 'fast wood' crops

Conclusion

- 👉 Most important at this stage to clarify definitions
- 👉 And therefore from that our vision of what an FSC plantation should be or should become to further the FSC mission.

