



FSC AND PLANTATIONS: THE LINK WITH RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Because Forests and People Matter

FSC's Principle 10, the Plantation Principle, acknowledges the importance of plantations to socially, environmentally and economically responsible forest management. Central to the application of FSC Principle 10 is the rationale that responsible plantation management can '... complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests'. However, plantation management remains controversial.

This fact sheet explains the rationale and application of FSC Principle 10 since its approval in 1996 and highlights FSC's ongoing work to respond to stakeholder feedback on FSC certified plantations.

PRINCIPLE 10: PLANTATIONS

Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1 – 9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.

Refer to FSC's website for a description of all 10 Principles and 56 Criteria (FSC-STD-01-001).

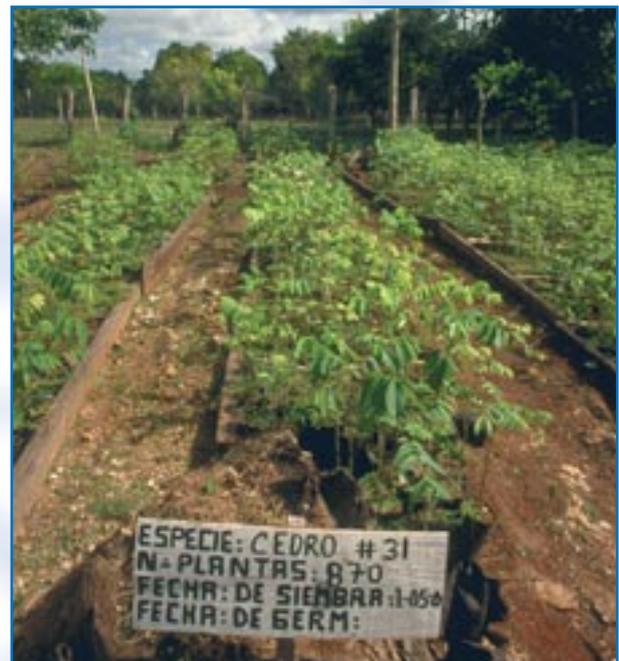
FSC's Principle 10: Relating plantation management to responsible forestry

Plantation management can help reduce pressure on natural forests by producing greater wood and fibre yields from smaller areas. In the FSC system, plantations must meet the requirements of all ten FSC Principles in order to generate social, economic and environmental benefits.

The overriding objective of FSC is to promote the responsible management of the world's forests and the certification of plantations must fit into this framework. FSC does not support conversion of natural forests into plantations. Criterion 10.9 of the FSC Plantation Principle states that forests converted to plantations after November 1994, the publication date of the first official FSC Principles and Criteria, will not normally be certified.

Plantations established prior to November 1994, however, are not affected by this requirement. Plantations converted from natural forests after November 1994 may be certified if the forest manager can demonstrate that they were not responsible for the conversion.

In line with FSC's core values to promote a democratic, inclusive and transparent system, FSC is presently reviewing all aspects of FSC's plantation policies and standards to meet current and future challenges.



FSC Plantations Review

The FSC Plantations Review is a two-stage project designed to identify and understand all of the issues and concerns surrounding plantations and to develop solutions which can be supported by most stakeholders.

An FSC Plantations Policy Working Group (PWG) has been established to perform the first stage of the review. The project will assess the social, environmental and economic impacts of plantation management, and seek to identify policy level solutions to the identified concerns.



A second phase of the project will then focus on reviewing and if necessary revising FSC's existing standards and guidelines to implement the policy recommendations.

For the latest update on the FSC Plantations Review, please refer to <http://www.fsc.org/plantations>

How to participate in the FSC Plantations Review process

Interested individuals or groups are encouraged to participate in the Plantations Review process. If you want your viewpoint to be heard, you can take part in the following ways:

- Direct contact with PWG members to ensure that the topics most important to you are included in the review. Contact details of the PWG are available on www.fsc.org/plantations
- Email discussion forum: Send a request to forum.administrator@fsc.org and start sharing information or participate in our forum discussions.
- Contact your FSC National Initiative and find out what's happening in your country. Contact details of National Initiatives are available under the 'Contact FSC' section on FSC website.