



People Building Bridges Toward Responsible Forestry.



FSC International Center
Bonn, Germany



Nestled in a wooded park on the bank of the Rhein River, the FSC International Center stands as testament to the power of people to come together to and frame solutions that protect forest ecosystems, improve economies, and transform human lives.

The Work of the International Center

The FSC International Center serves as a hub for the growing FSC global network – providing coordination, training, guidance, and technical support to FSC National Initiatives, Regional Offices, international members, accredited certification bodies, and partner organizations.

FSC’s location in Bonn, Germany puts it in close proximity to a host of related non-governmental organizations, creating a high potential for collaboration and programmatic synergy. Neighboring organizations include the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements, the International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labeling Alliance, the Climate Action Network, and the United Nations Environmental Program, among others.

A Living Showcase

In addition to providing an inspiring environment for work, collaboration, and conferences, the FSC International Center is a “living showcase” – a celebration of responsible forestry that can be experienced by colleagues and visitors from the four corners of the world.



Exhibits throughout the facility tell a powerful story about the difference made by the FSC system, and about the environmental, social, and economic benefits delivered through FSC certification.

Striking, large-format interpreted graphics communicate FSC’s success in improving forest practices, providing market opportunities for small and large companies, and transforming lives through access, voice, and vote.

FSC-certified wood and non-timber products are showcased throughout the facility. FSC-certified flooring is featured in lobbies, conference rooms, and the executive suite of offices. “Conversation centers,” featuring FSC-certified sofas, chairs, and tables, provide comfortable, casual areas for collaborative work sessions and small-group meetings. A range of certified wood furnishings are featured in office spaces and meeting rooms, demonstrating the breadth and depth of products offered by FSC-certified companies. The value of lesser-known species of timber is given special emphasis through its use and interpretation in the Center’s master staircase. Changing displays throughout the public spaces and the use of FSC-certified products in the daily course of business at the International Center further communicate the variety, value and accessibility of FSC-certified goods to corporate purchasers and the consuming public.





The Standard of Reference for Responsible Forestry

In just 10 years, the Forest Stewardship Council has evolved from a mere “bright idea” into the world’s most widely acclaimed system for the development of forest-management standards.

FSC works through stakeholder consensus to develop regionalized high standards of responsible forestry. FSC’s Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship, and the standards developed therefrom, encourage forest management that is environmentally appropriate, socially responsible, and economically viable. Its “checkmark and tree” logo on wood originating in forests certified to these high standards is a powerful reward that has proven to deliver enhanced market access and higher market share.



The FSC’s approach to the development of standards is distinguished from that of competing schemes by its recognition of the rights of forest-dependent communities, the need to preserve and promote biodiversity, and the essential values of ancient natural woodlands, in addition to the lasting commercial values of responsibly managed forests.

To ensure its credibility as an international accreditation and standards-setting organization, FSC employs the principles of democracy, transparency, and inclusion in its governance and standards-development processes. FSC strives for the inclusion of wide range of stakeholder groups – industry, government, community, and environmental interests, as well as

groups that are traditionally marginalized in forest-policy debates. By promoting multi-stakeholder fora for discussion of forest-management issues, FSC has been successful in energizing policy processes that had been stagnant due to low participation and lack of trust among stakeholders.

During the course of its first decade of operations, FSC has earned – and maintained – the endorsement of mainstream environmental organizations the world over, including World Wildlife Fund, World Resources Institute, Greenpeace, Natural Resources Defense Council, the Sierra Club, and The Wilderness Society. Market leaders including The Home Depot, Lowe’s, Nike, IKEA, B&Q in the United Kingdom, Intergamma in the Netherlands, and OBI in Germany have publicly expressed preference for wood and wood products originating in FSC certified well-managed forests.

Improving Forest Management Worldwide

FSC’s reach extends to some 68 countries and encompasses more than 36 million hectares of certified forestland – roughly 6% of the world’s working forests. More than 2,500 manufacturing and distribution operations have been certified under the FSC system, and more than 8,000 wood, wood-containing, and non-timber products carry the FSC trademark in the marketplace

