



# CAN THE FSC ECOSYSTEM SERVICE PROCEDURE BE USED TO MEET GLOBAL DEMAND FOR NET-ZERO AND NET-POSITIVE TARGETS?

AUTHORS



ALESSANDRO LEONARDI (ETIFOR), LUCIO BROTTTO (ETIFOR),  
WESLEY SNELL (ETIFOR), FEDERICO PINATO (ETIFOR)

The FSC Ecosystem Service Procedure has the potential to become a valid mitigation mechanism to meet global market demand for net-zero and net-positive targets.

However, this potential is being wasted because of a lack of clarity. Organizations do not clearly understand how their support for FSC-certified forests can be used to meet their science-based nature positive targets (e.g., net-positive biodiversity, net-zero climate impacts, water neutrality).

As a result, certificate holders are excluded from or uncertain of their verified ecosystem service value within rapidly developing markets despite their clear positive impacts on ecosystem services.

In addition, this lack of clarity exposes FSC to risk of greenwashing from the use of claims by sponsors.



## Scope and main objectives



The intent of this poster is to present the improvements to the FSC Ecosystem Services Procedure suggested by Motion 49/2021. Motion 49/2021 aims to bring more value to FSC Certificate Holders by making the claims generated from FSC-verified positive impacts on ecosystem services clearer, more transparent, and better equipped to respond to both society's needs and market demand. At the same time, it ensures that claims are used responsibly and transparently by establishing demand-side safeguards for sponsors.

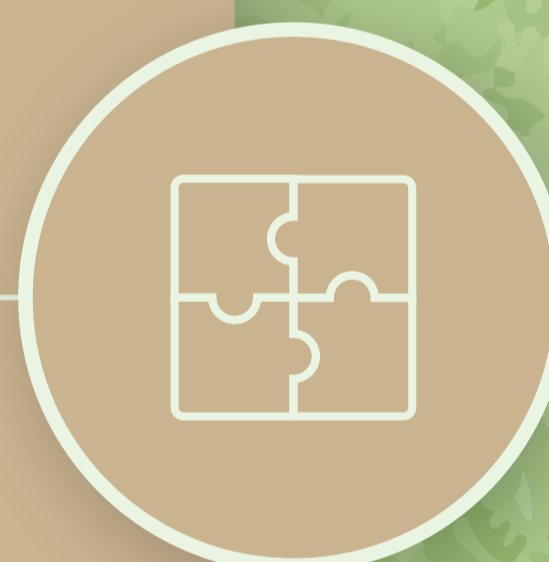
## Innovative approach / Results



The actions proposed include:

- Clarify and approve the use of FSC certification and verified positive ecosystem service impacts for making claims toward achieving sponsors' science-based nature positive targets (including water neutrality, net-positive biodiversity, net-zero climate impacts, and integrated nature-positive strategies).
- Prior to using FSC-verified claims to meet their mitigation targets, FSC should require all sponsors to demonstrate their commitment to Mitigation Hierarchy-aligned approaches. FSC certification should prioritize avoidance or reduction targets, and compensation may only be applied to residual impacts.
- Position FSC as a globally recognized mitigation instrument for avoiding, reducing, restoring, and compensating impacts on climate, water, and biodiversity.
- Overhaul the current public database to include a registry of impacts and sponsors.

## Lessons learned



With the improvements suggested by Motion 49/2021, the FSC Ecosystem Procedure has great potential to become a widely-recognized, high-integrity mitigation mechanism to meet global market demand for net-zero and net-positive targets and bring value to positive impacts from responsible management.

