



COMMUNITY AND FAMILY FORESTS



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Community and family forests play a key role in combating climate change and generating other environmental and societal benefits. However, only a fraction of these forests are FSC certified. Regardless, we believe that FSC certification can be a critical factor in ensuring that these forests are positively contributing to global solutions. So...What is FSC doing to make our system more relevant and accessible to these important stewards of the world's forests? We are developing solutions and tools to address the challenges that they face.



Scope and main objectives

The following challenges to certification faced by community and family forests are globally consistent and have been verified through extensive interactions with these forest stewards:

POLICY CHALLENGES:

- Number and complexity of requirements;
- Limited technical capacity;
- Cost of certification.

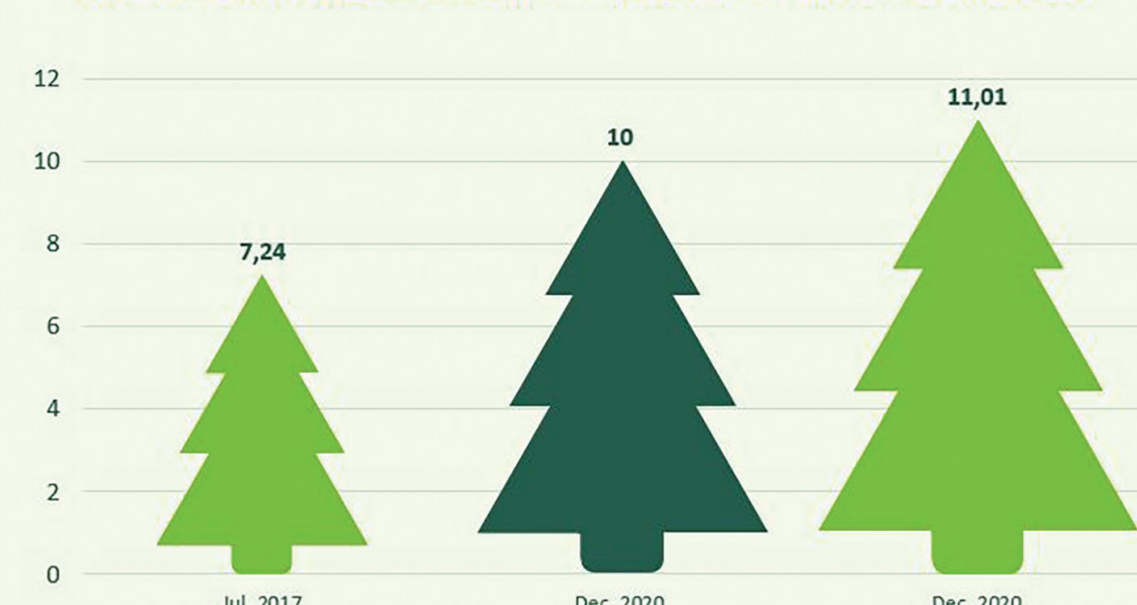
MARKET BARRIERS:

- Access to market;
- Misalignment between forest products offered and market demand;
- Limited foundational conditions necessary to engage in value chain development.

Our more than 50 events in over 25 countries have involved above 1,300 participants, with an average of 35% of them being smallholders and communities. These interactions with our users have allowed us to co-create our tools and solutions, increasing their sense of ownership and succeeding in reaching them in relatable ways. This has already translated into an increase of FSC certified area from community and family forests.

WE HAVE SURPASSED OUR TARGET FOR 2020 BY 10%

TOTAL SLIMF AND COMMUNITY FSC CERTIFIED AREA MIO. HA



TO MEET OUR GLOBAL STRATEGY GOAL, WE ALMOST NEED TO DOUBLE OUR YEARLY GROWTH RATE



Innovative approach / Results

FSC now has a brand-new portfolio of solutions and tools that addresses these specific challenges that community and family forests must overcome to benefit more from responsible forest management, and we are actively supporting implementation of these resources. This portfolio is the result of 25 years of on-the-ground work, including workshops, trainings, and tests of both original and proven methodologies, that generated the data needed to develop and verify effective solutions and tools for community and family forests.

Our new portfolio is aligned with 3 complementary work streams that support the development and implementation of solutions and tools: policy, markets, and enablers. The following innovative solutions and tools are the outputs (thus far) from the 3 work streams.

- **POLICY:** to make FSC standards and policies fit for purpose for our users:
 - Continuous Improvement Procedure** provides a flexible path towards certification by allowing users to conform progressively;
 - Forest Management Groups Standard** alleviates management and administrative burdens by allowing for combined efforts under a group certificate;
 - Asia Pacific Regional Standard** simplifies the requirements for smallholders;
 - SLIMF and Community Forests Standard** defines qualifications for community and family forests so policies and standards can be developed for and accessed by them.
- **MARKET:** to support our users to connect to sustainability markets and be rewarded for responsible forest stewardship:
 - Screening Tool** helps in the selection of priority projects for driving certification, taking specific factors into consideration;
 - Economic Viability Tool** for a collective analysis and decision-making by communities on how to increase economic viability of its responsible forest management;
 - Connecting sustainable forest management and wood products with the market**, a training program that enables communities to set up a business strategy based on the market demand and introduce wood from lesser-known species into the market;
 - Volume Aggregator Tool** empowers the users to negotiate with potential buyers by aggregating the volumes of all the species over specific timelines.
- **ENABLERS:** Collaboration with partners, ranging from communities to businesses to governments, to establish necessary fundamental conditions on the ground, and empower our users by training them to enable further uptake:
 - Collective Impact Methodology** to co-create enabling conditions for responsible community and family forests management
 - Global trainings** to enable uptake and widespread use of the tools and solutions proposed by our program.

Lessons learned

The high participation in our events and the increase in community and family forest FSC certified area prove that thanks to our efforts we are already achieving the results expected. As we scale up our solutions, we will continue to motivate and empower our users as they implement our portfolio of solutions in their sustainable forest stewardship journey.

We will continue to demonstrate progress and catalogue lessons learned to build on success and continue developing new tools to support our users.



Do not hesitate to contact the Community and Family Forests Program at FSC with any support needs you might have, or with any ideas for new solutions that we can work on in the future at communityfamilyforests@fsc.org.

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