



FORESTRY INTENSIFICATION FOR SHARED VALUE - TOWARDS A COMMON UNDERSTANDING



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FSC should guide intensification so that it creates shared value.



Scope and main objectives

Intensification can be either good or bad.

- In the beginning, all forestry was extensive. Cut the best trees, wait for new trees, and cut again. This model broke down under the pressure of increasing human need. Forests were overcut and eventually destroyed.
- Better management systems evolved. By investing more work, better equipment, and more knowledge, more wood could be produced from the same land.
- Making a more intensive effort can improve forest management. In the boreal, cut-and-run forestry can be replaced with reforestation, tending, and thinning. In the tropics, chaotic logging can be replaced with reduced impact logging. In all ecosystems, it is possible to get a better result through a greater effort.
- But intensification does not necessarily lead to a better result. Unintended negative effects can arise, e.g., from application of chemicals or from genetic control. Benefits may not be equitably shared.
- Intensification is neither inherently good nor inherently bad. All depends on how it is done.



Region	Type	Level of intensity		
		Low	Medium	High
Boreal	Natural	← ● →		
	Plantation			
Temperate	Natural		← ● →	
	Plantation			
Dry tropics	Natural			
	Plantation			
Wet tropics	Natural	← ● →		
	Plantation			← ● →
Mountains	Natural			
	Plantation			

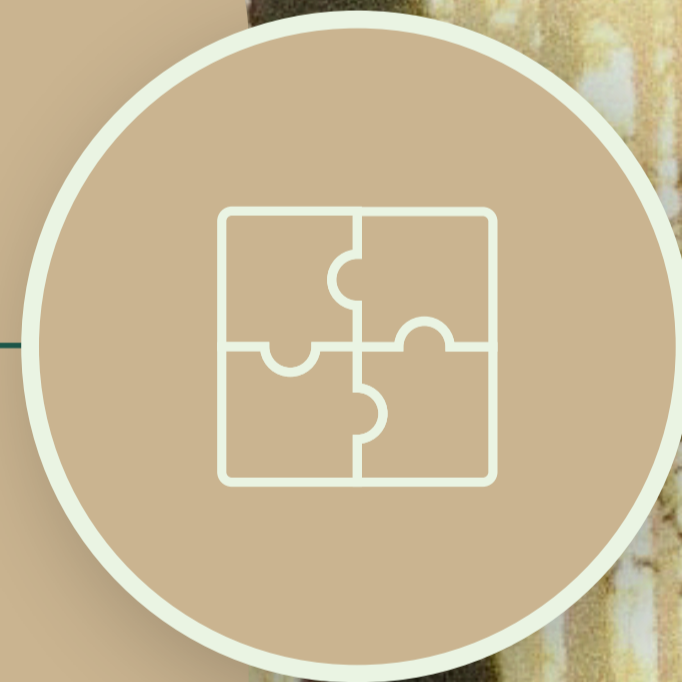
Innovative approach



FSC should set upper and lower limits for responsible intensity.

- All forest management systems across all ecosystems operate at some level of intensity – low, medium, or high. The level may be in the responsible middle or either too high or too low to be considered responsible.
- Too high intensity may pertain to the use of genetically modified organisms, fertilizers, pesticides, biological control agents, or foreign species. This discussion is already active in FSC.
- Too low intensity may pertain to destructive and cut-and-run logging. This discussion appears to not be active in FSC.
- FSC should consider establishing criteria to identify irresponsible levels of intensity.

Conclusions



FSC should elaborate shared value as a guide for intensification.

All forest management systems across all ecosystems can change their level of intensity. Resisting such change is futile. Instead, FSC should guide intensification toward a positive result. FSC's Sustainable Intensification Advisory Group has suggested that creation of shared value be used to assess intensification and be considered at the landscape level, not just at the FMU level.

The following criteria might be used to operationalize this principle, using the situation prior to intensification as the baseline:

1. Net positive additional value is created
2. The additional value is shared among stakeholders
3. No stakeholder suffers a loss without free, prior informed consent
4. There is no net loss of conservation value at the landscape level

FSC should interpret the shared value principle as a combination of aspiration and integrity.

The aspiration is to create something that is useful, valuable and shared among stakeholders.

