

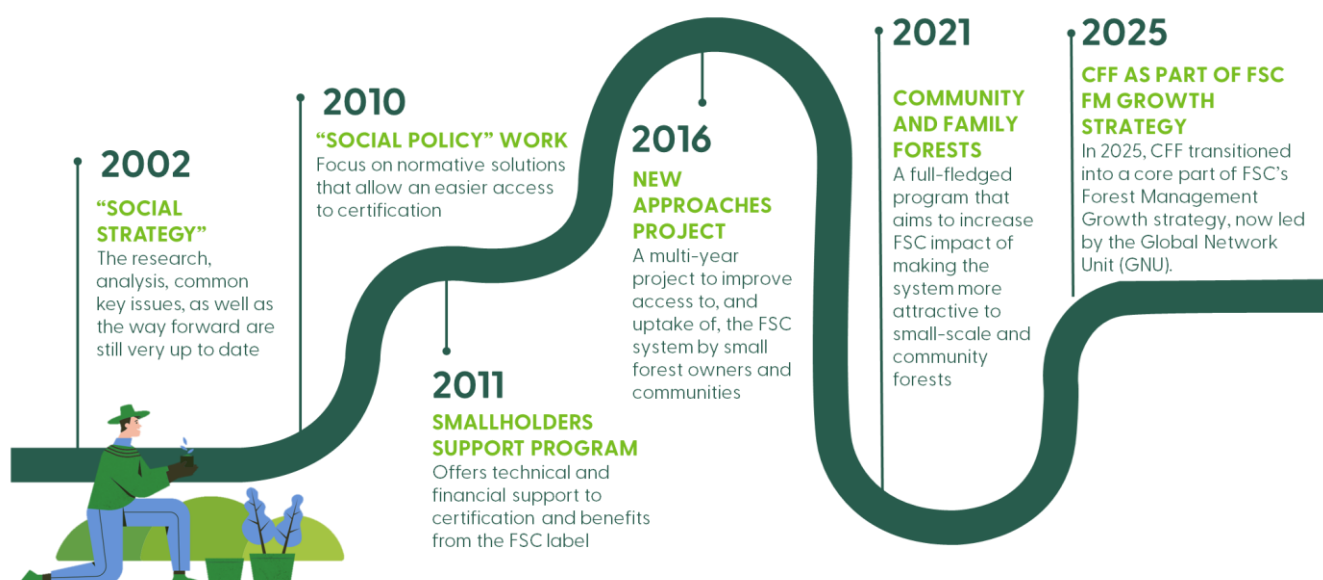


Community and Family Forests Program: A Legacy of Support for Smallholders and Communities

Poster Support material

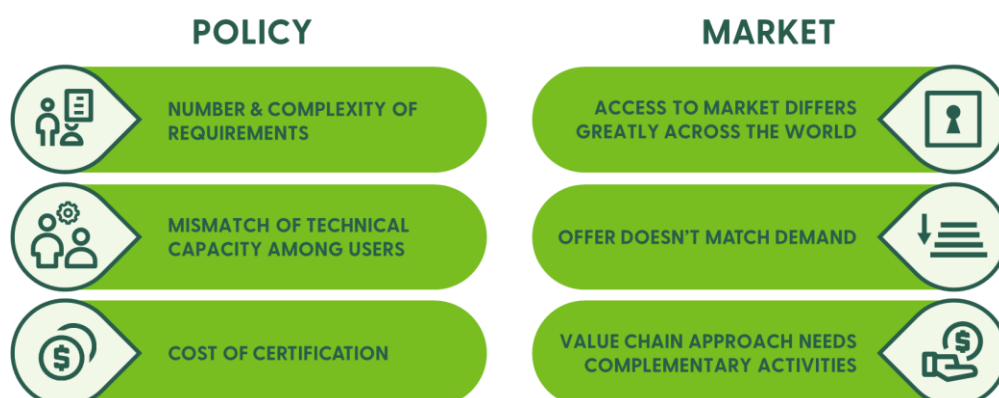
Introduction: FSC has been working for many years on making forest management certification feasible and relevant for smallholders.

From 2016 to 2019, FSC explored support for smallholders and communities through the New Approaches initiative. This work evolved into the Community and Family Forests (CFF) Program in 2019, focused on developing tailor-made solutions to access, implement, and benefit from FSC Forest Management certification. In 2025, CFF transitioned into a core part of FSC's Forest Management Growth strategy, now led by the Global Network Unit (GNU). The tools and approaches developed remain central to supporting inclusive forest stewardship.



CFF Certification: Solutions and tools for smallholders

FSC is breaking through normative and market bottlenecks by understanding the challenges and opportunities faced by smallholders.





In this way, it has created solutions and tools in close collaboration with community and family forest members to support inclusive, effective and lasting forest stewardship.

Scaling Up Smallholder Benefits: FSC Forest Management (FM) Certification Core Offerings

FSC's Forest Management Certification is the world's most trusted mark of sustainable forestry. This certification confirms conformity with FSC's requirements and provides evidence that forests are managed in environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable ways.



**FM
CERTIFICATION
OFFERINGS**

Forest Management Groups Certification (FSC-STD-30-005)	Continuous Improvement Procedure (CIP) (FSC-PRO-30-011)
Regional Standard for Asia Pacific (AP RFSS) (FSC-STD-RAP-01-2021)	Small or Low Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMF) & Community Forests Eligibility Criteria (FSC-STD-01-003)

Learn more
Forest Management basics [here](#)

- For those in collective arrangements, FM group certification provides a shared structure for shared effort and lowers costs.
- We offer tailored pathways like the Continuous Improvement Procedure (CIP) to allow step-by-step compliance over time, introducing flexibility, allowing managers to progressively meet requirements over a 5-year cycle.
- And in Asia-Pacific, we now have the AP RFSS, a dedicated Regional Forest Stewardship Standard for smallholders.
- The SLIMF and CF eligibility criteria that are adopted or adapted to National and regional Standards.

FSC Community & Family Forest Toolbox: The integration of innovation and tradition

Small-scale and community-managed forests are a cornerstone of FSC's mission to make certification inclusive and accessible. The Community & Family Forests Toolbox is a set of solutions to address the different challenges these groups face in an inclusive and innovative way. Co-created with communities and indigenous knowledge, and region-specific adaptations.



CFF TOOLBOX

Screening Tool	Collective Impact Methodology
Economic Viability Tool (EVT)	
Training and Workshops (Timber training program, Volume aggregator tool, eTraining on FM Certification offerings)	Community of Practice (CoP)

Learn more
About the CFF Toolbox [here](#)



- We start with tools like the Screening Tool and Economic Viability Tool to assess feasibility and guide steps for sustainable benefits.
- Where markets fall short, the Collective Impact Methodology helps stakeholders collaborate to remove systemic barriers.
- Training programs cover FSC requirements, timber business, and value chain development. Tools like the Volume Aggregator help smallholders connect to larger markets.
- Finally, our global Community of Practice allows practitioners to share knowledge, train others, and advance long-term responsible forest management.

The Toolbox isn't just about certification readiness: it's about creating an enabling environment for communities to thrive sustainably.

Journey to FSC Certification

Our work supports small-scale, and community forests every step of the way: what we call the 'Journey to FSC Certification.' It's a dynamic journey, adapting, innovating, and creating new opportunities together.



Phase	What happens	Tools & support
Pre-certification	Readiness checks, capacity building	Screening Tool, EVT, Collective Impact methodology
Forest Management Certification	Application → audit → CARs resolved → certificate granted → published in database	FM Certification Core offerings + Training and Workshops
Adding value	Market access, ecosystem benefits, peer learning	Community of Practice (CoP), Timber training program and volume aggregator tool; Ecosystem Services Procedure



Additional resources



Play the game: explore the “Journey to FSC” game to discover tailored solutions for community and family forests offered by FSC. Collect tokens in our virtual forest and learn more about the certification solutions available to make FSC more accessible for community and family forests. Play the game [here](#).



Video Highlights: Discover how smallholders and communities are making a difference with FSC. Watch our featured videos in [Kenya](#), [Wales1](#), [Wales2](#), [Vietnam](#) and [Kerala](#) to see real stories, practical guidance, and inspiring journeys toward responsible forest management.

Watch these inspiring videos in [Vietnam](#) and [India](#) to learn more about the AP RFSS implementation on the ground.



The Collective Impact methodology has been applied in three Latin American countries. To see how it works in practice, watch the explanatory video featuring the [Chile](#) case study below.



Training: Are you interested in learning more about the FM Certification Core Offerings for smallholders? Would you like to understand if group certification is right for you, or what entails the Continuous Improvement Procedure?

You can access the FSC training platform and find related courses in all three official FSC languages: English, Spanish, and French.

[Click here to go to the FSC training platform.](#)

[LOGIN / REGISTER](#)

Get in touch

Looking for more in-depth information and practical examples?

Discover our collection of case studies, solution fact sheets, infographics, and guidance documents showcasing real-world experiences and proven approaches from community and family forests around the globe. Visit the [CFF webpage](#) or contact us at:

- communityfamilyforests@fsc.org
- policyinnovation@fsc.org