



General
Assembly
2025 **Panama**

Driving impact and vision in sustainable forest management across Africa

Our ambitious goals:

20 million certified hectares, 1,000 Chain of Custody (CoC) certificates (including the Middle East), by 2026, while fostering a strong and dynamic collaboration among multi-stakeholders and FSC members, aligned with the FSC Global strategy 2021-2026. This poster showcases FSC Africa's progress, growth, and innovations towards accelerating responsible forestry beyond 2026.



Scope and main objectives

- Showcase FSC Africa's accomplishments and demonstrate progress under the FSC Global Strategy 2021-2026.
- Highlight future priorities and opportunities for scaling sustainable forestry, markets and policy engagements to accelerate impact.
- Mobilize collective action to unlock inclusive and innovative pathways for sustainable forestry in Africa's forest-based economies.



Conclusions

Strategic priorities and recommendations

- **Scale certified area and impact.**
By growing from 11 million hectares of certified forests to 20 million hectares by 2030 and expanding FSC Verified Impact to climate resilience from 5 to 50 projects.
- **Boost business uptake.**
By increasing FSC Chain of Custody (CoC) businesses from 470 to over 1,000 by 2030 and positioning FSC as Africa's green trade label (compliance + domestic markets).
- **Mobilize investment.**
By scaling up funding from one million to 50 million United States dollars by 2030, using the Zamba Heritage Initiative as the flagship investment platform for forests, carbon credits, and biodiversity conservation across Africa.
- **Engage governments.**
By securing the adoption of FSC certification as a solution for forest protection in at least 10 state/public forests and launching an African FSC Policy Roundtable to align with the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063 and countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to climate change.
- **Strengthening organization and partnerships.**
By establishing regional hubs in West Africa, Central Africa, and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Build strategic partnerships with the private sector, financial institutions such as the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and academic institutions. Empower local communities, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and youth forestry entrepreneurs.
- **Conclusion:** To scale transformation and better protection of forests beyond 2026, we must position FSC Africa as the leading platform for sustainable, inclusive, and investable forest stewardship.

Transforming African Forestry: Our Journey, Impact, and Future Ambitions

Africa's forests continue to face deforestation, degradation, and conversion challenges, but proven solutions exist, and FSC Africa is part of them. FSC Africa is driving a continental transformation! With a presence in over 20 countries across Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, Congo Basin, and Western Africa sub-regions, we are leveraging Africa's climate-resilient development strategy to scale sustainable forest management of the continent's forests.

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Innovative approach

FSC Africa Certification Accomplishments up to 2025

Standards and certified area: 20 African countries have developed FSC standards for implementation (09 Forest Stewardship Standards (FSS); 11 Interim Forest Stewardship Standards (IFSS)); 11 million hectares of forests have been FSC-certified across Africa.

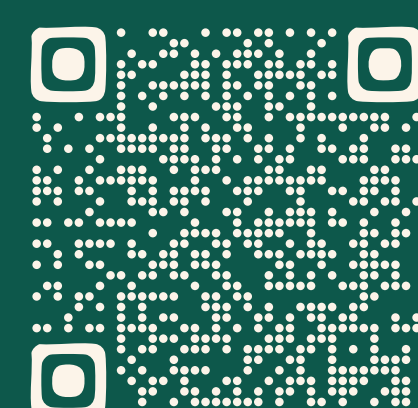
- **Verified impact:** 05 Verified Impact (VI) obtained in Uganda, South Africa, Namibia, and Gabon based on biodiversity and water; One Verified Impact sponsored in Uganda.
- **Business:** 460+ businesses have obtained the FSC Chain of Custody (CoC) Certification.
- **Investment mobilized:** One million USD raised for Forest Management/Chain of Custody (FM/CoC) growth.

Organizational growth

- 60% expansion of the FSC Africa team (2020-2025)
- Operations extended to North Africa & the Middle East
- Africa's legal entity established

Our key focus for 2026 and beyond

- **Zamba Heritage Initiative** Africa's bold, locally led initiative to scale sustainable forest management and business, reducing biodiversity loss, increasing community engagement, and livelihoods. Developed by FSC Africa in collaboration with a coalition of committed partners across the continent and beyond.
- **Governments' engagements** for forest policy innovation and Forest management certification growth in state/public forests.
- **Strategic partnerships & targeted collaborations** with the FSC membership to co-create solutions for climate-smart forestry and green value chains.



References:

1. FSC Global Strategy (2021-2026)
2. Deforestation in Africa: Causes, Effects, and Solutions. <https://earth.org/deforestation-in-africa/>