



SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE FSC POLICY FOR ASSOCIATION

This document provides an overview of the consultation questions. Please provide your feedback through the [FSC Consultation Platform](#) only.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the consultation of FSC-POL-01-004 V3-0 D4-0 FSC Policy for Association and FSC-PRO-10-004 V2-0 D3-0 Disclosure Requirements for Association with FSC.

The Policy for Association sets out a commitment for everyone who is part of FSC: to uphold FSC's core values by avoiding destructive activities in all operations. It holds organizations engaged in damaging social and environmental activities to account.

The consultation is open until 2 December 2021. We look forward to your feedback.

Opening date: 4 October 2021
Closing date: 2 December 2021

Thank you in advance for your participation.
Please contact Saija Hotti (s.hotti@fsc.org) for questions.



INFORMATION ON THE CONSULTATION

Welcome to the consultation of FSC-POL-01-004 V3-0 D4-0 FSC Policy for Association and FSC-PRO-10-004 V2-0 D3-0 Disclosure Requirements for Association with FSC.

The Policy for Association sets out a commitment for everyone who is part of FSC: to uphold FSC's core values by avoiding destructive activities in all operations. The Disclosure Requirements provide an approach to screening organizations that join FSC for compliance with the Policy for Association.

The Policy of Association strengthens all those who are associated with FSC. We invite you to share your views on this draft and help find the best direction for the policy. You do not need to respond to all the questions and please feel free to focus on the content that is most relevant to you. You can save your progress and edit responses until the consultation closes.

If you would like more information before filling out your responses, we are holding webinars that will go through the main proposals of this revision. All sessions will cover the same content:

Time and date	Language	Registration
10:00-11:00 CET, 10 November 2021	English	Register here
16:00-17:00 CET, 11 November 2021	English	Register here
10:00-11:00 CET, 16 November 2021	English	Register here
17:00-18:00 CET, 24 November 2021	Spanish	Register here



1. FSC POLICY FOR ASSOCIATION

Introduction

1. Do you have any comments on Introduction?

Objective and Scope

The draft includes a proposal for how far into the past the Policy for Association applies. The current version of the policy does not include information about the timeframe.

The policy covers all ongoing unacceptable activities. For unacceptable activities that have stopped occurring, criteria for case-by-case assessment is proposed. This allows FSC to focus on factors such as the scale of the damage, or whether the issue is still current, rather than limiting the applicability of the policy by a strict cutoff date. This draft version proposes a criterion linked to ongoing harm rather than to dispute.

2. Do you support the proposal for determining how far into the past the FSC Policy for Association applies?

Strongly support, Support, Neutral, Oppose, Strongly oppose

Please explain your rationale.

3. Do you have any further comments on Objective and Scope?



Part 1: Policy Elements

4. Do you support the overall approach of the policy elements section?

Strongly agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly disagree

Please explain your rationale.

The unacceptable activity concerning worker's rights was revised for this draft version to refer to ILO Declaration. A specific reference to Annexes explaining the concepts further was added. Definitions for illegal logging and trade, significant damage to HCVs and significant conversion were partly revised.

5. Do you have any comments on

- a) illegal logging and illegal trade?
- b) violation of traditional or human rights in forests and illegal harvesting or illegal trade* in forest products*?
- c) violation of workers' rights and principles* defined in any of the ILO Declaration on Principles and Rights at Work within the forestry or forest products sector*?
- d) significant damage* to high conservation values* in forests?
- e) significant conversion* of natural forests* to plantations or non-forest use?
- f) introduction or use of genetically modified* trees for purposes other than research (which can include field trials), such as for commercial purposes.

6. Do you have any other comments on the Policy elements?



Part 2: Policy Implementation

7. Do you have any comments on section on Policy Implementation?

Annex 1 – Corporate Group

This section is intended to give more information and practical examples of who the Policy for Association applies to.

8. Do you understand who the FSC Policy for Association applies to based on the information in Annex 1?

Yes, Partly, No

Please explain your rationale

9. Do you have any further comments on Annex 1?

Annex 2 – Engagement in unacceptable activities

This section is intended to give more information and practical examples of what it means for an organization to engage in an unacceptable activity.

The definitions revised from the previous draft consulted have been identified with 'CHANGE'



10. Do you understand what it means to engage in an unacceptable activity based on the information in Annex 2?

Yes, Partly, No

Please explain your rationale

11. Do you have any further comments on Annex 2?

Annex 3 – Terms and definitions

12. Do you have any comments on any of the following terms and definitions?



2. PROCEDURE FOR DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSOCIATION WITH FSC

Alongside the policy, we are consulting a procedure for screening organizations that join FSC for compliance with the Policy for Association.

This procedure sets out FSC's objectives and the general approach proposed for screening organizations. This includes the kind of information organizations would need to share with FSC during their application for an FSC certificate or for FSC membership.

At this stage, the procedure does not provide a detailed methodology for how the screening process might look when implemented.

Introduction, Objective and Scope

1. Do you have any comments on the Introduction, Objective or Scope?

Sections 1 – 3

2. Do you support the proposal to delay association until identified high risk for PfA violation is cleared?

Strongly support, Support, Neutral, Oppose, Strongly oppose

Please explain your rationale.

3. Do you have comments on the examples of criteria provided for triggering extended screening?

4. Do you have any further comments on the disclosure process?



Annex 1 - Disclosure questions for Association with FSC

5. Do you have any comments on Annex 1?

Annex 2 – Outline of screening process

This Annex provides a high-level outline of the screening process. The detailed process with criteria for high risk will be developed in a follow up process.

6. Do you have any comments on Annex 2?



3. GENERAL FEEDBACK

Share your overall impression of the revision and any further comments on the drafts. This can include any aspects you think are missing from the policy or procedure.

1. What is your overall impression of the revised Policy for Association?

Very positive, Positive, Neutral, Negative, Very negative

Please explain your rationale.

2. Do you have any further comments on the Policy for Association?

3. What is your overall impression of the Procedure for Disclosure Requirements for Association with FSC?

Very positive, Positive, Neutral, Negative, Very negative

Please explain your rationale.

4. Do you have any further comments on the Procedure for Disclosure Requirements for Association with FSC?



4. THANK YOU!

Thank you!

Our policies are clearer, more representative and more effective because of your input.

Thank you for contributing your time and energy to this consultation. The technical working group will evaluate all of your comments to create a second draft.

For updates on this process, sign up to our [mailing list](#). If you have any questions, get in touch with Saija Hotti (s.hotti@fsc.org), who is coordinating the process.

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