

FSC Membership

Become an International Member

Are you ready to help change how forests are cared for around the world? Through our governance model, **FSC members have real influence**. Members contribute directly to our standards and to the future of responsible forestry. FSC brings together, among others, private enterprises, NGOs, international organizations, indigenous groups, and educational institutions. Applying for membership is **EASY!**



Who can be a Member?

Anyone, an **individual or a representative** of an organization (for-profit or non-profit) can apply to become an FSC member. Members have decision making power, and are fundamental to the organization and its vision.

FSC International Members come from all across the globe and play a crucial role in co-creating forest stewardship solutions and shaping FSC standards, policy, and practices. They can also participate in the General Assembly, propose motions, and have voting rights. The members represent the global South and global North, and depending on their profile, members are spread across three chambers: social, environmental and economic.



Watch how FSC Members share their passion and make an impact

What is the difference between an FSC Member and a Certificate Holder?

'FSC membership' and 'FSC certification' are two different concepts. Obtaining certification does not mean obtaining membership, and vice versa.

- The membership consists of a global network of over 1,000 individuals and member organizations sharing a common passion to put forests first.
- Certificate holders are businesses seeking sustainable sourcing solutions for forest products. FSC has over 50,000 certificate holders committed to sustainable sourcing of forest products.



Organizational Membership



Individual Membership

First you must decide whether to apply for an individual or an organizational membership. The requirements for verification vary depending on the type of membership you chose. For a greater voice and influence we encourage you to pursue organizational membership.

Chamber and sub-chamber

In order to balance the interests of different stakeholders, FSC is governed by three chambers that make decisions cooperatively. The three chambers represent social, environmental, and economic interests. Each chamber is further sub-divided into northern and southern representation to ensure equity.



Environmental



Social



Economic



When you apply to become a member, you must agree not to become involved in any activities which are unacceptable to FSC. These include:

- Illegal logging or trade in illegal wood or forest products
- Violation of traditional and human rights through forestry operations
- Destruction of high conservation values through forestry operations
- Conversion of forests to plantations or non-forest use
- Use of genetically modified organisms in forestry operations
- Violation of workers' rights through forestry operations.

Application Process

Application form

Access the International Membership application form online. Before you fill-in the application, do not forget to read the requirements checklist and chamber criteria.



1



2

Fill and submit

Complete the form corresponding to your membership, provide necessary documents and submit! Documents include filling the application form, providing all relevant information as identified in the checklist, the letter of support, and signing the FSC Policy for Association.

3

Criteria FSC check

Once submitted, your application goes through a verification process called 'FSC Check'. FSC Check is a tool to conduct a risk-based review of individuals and organizations that want to become an FSC member, thereby ensuring that their values are aligned with those of FSC.



4

Approval

Once the application has passed FSC Check, it moves forward to the approval process. This takes 7-10 working days. You will receive an e-mail upon approval.



5

Become an International MEMBER!

All new members are welcomed at the annual induction, and given access to FSC's Members Portal which hosts information exclusive to the members. With each new member, FSC becomes stronger and more grounded in true democracy. As an International Member, you will have the opportunity to:

- Have your voice heard and drive real change in how forests are valued and managed.
- Participate in the general assembly, motions process, member events, FSC committees or working groups.
- Shape and improve FSC standards, policy, and practices.
- Connect with an international network of business, environmental, indigenous and community leaders and work together to support forests, communities, and businesses.
- Co-create forest stewardship solutions to climate change, biodiversity loss, gender inequity, rights of workers, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities.
- Work within our global ecosystem to uphold the integrity and resilience of the FSC system.
- Benefit from a pool of diverse knowledge and perspectives on responsible forest management solutions.
- Be eligible for election to the Board of Directors or serve on other decision-making bodies.