



5-8 July 2022

FSC SIDE EVENT

CBFP 19th MoP: Understanding FSC Solutions to
Strengthen the Value and Contribution of Congo Basin
Forests to Sustainable Economies and the Wellbeing of
Society

11/07/2022



SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

FSC's side event, *Understanding FSC Solutions to Strengthen the Value and Contribution of Congo Basin Forests to Sustainable Economies and the Wellbeing of Society*, was attended by 43 participants, 40 onsite and 3 online on the 7th of July at 14:30 – 16:00.

The event featured the following speakers:

- Harrison Kojwang, Regional Director, FSC Africa
- Belmont Tchoumba, Central Africa Forest Programme Coordinator at WWF
- George Akwah, FSC Congo Basin Coordinator
- Esteban Toja, Certification Advisor, FSC Congo Basin
- William Lawyer, Policy and Standards Manager, Africa.

KEY FEATURE

During the event, FSC introduced a range of FSC solutions that are being deployed across the world and in the Congo Basin to strengthen the governance of forests for people and economy, address the climate challenge and strengthen tropical forest product value chains in traditional and emerging markets. These include

- Solutions and tools for sustainable management of forests under FSC certification, such as FSC principles and criteria for forest stewardship,
- Solutions and tools to protect and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services, such as the high conservation values (HCVs) or the ecosystem services procedure,
- Solutions adapted for community and smallholder managed forests, and
- Solutions to manage risks, prevent negative environmental impacts and fraud, and market solutions for sustainable value chains.

The FSC ecosystem services procedure drew numerous reactions from the audience, among which featured questions and comments about the process and how logging companies and small-holder forest managers, the state, and communities could take advantage of the model. The ecosystem services framework allows FSC certificate holders to demonstrate the impact of their forest management activities on both ecosystems and biodiversity and people.

The true value of tropical forests and their long-term benefits to economies and society can only be achieved through the protection and enhancement of ecosystem services as foundation of forest management operations. The FSC ecosystem services procedure, associated with the overall FSC certification scheme, enables forest management units to ensure that their operations are low or carbon-neutral, and are biodiversity-positive. With the associated economic and societal benefits, the FSC ecosystem services framework is also a market tool that enables companies to promote the ecosystem services that they contribute to into markets.

Harrison Kojwang, using the case of Uganda, where the government is working to certify national parks not for logging but to get a credible valuation of their ecosystem services it can take to the environmental market and claim credit, argued that such benefits are great for all stakeholders.

Other discussions focused on FSC certification and its benefits to both the state, companies, and local communities. The session highlighted how FSC standards are developed and showed how states such as Gabon are adopting the FSC certification to strengthen their forest management systems.



FSC Africa Regional Office

Residence Triton 1, Lot N°01
Impasse Henri Joachim ODOUMA
Quartier Tahiti, Libreville, Gabon

Tel: +241 77 72 74 57

E-Mail: fscafrica@fsc.org