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# FSC and REDD+ Certifications

## Synergies and example projects

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### ABSTRACT:

There is significant overlap between Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification requirements and verification of carbon credits for participation in REDD+ as shown in Brotto et al. 2010. With this in mind, the barriers for forest management programs to enter into REDD+ carbon trading are reduced for those that are already FSC certified. Additionally, revenue generated from the sale of carbon credits through REDD+ can be subsequently used to pay for expansion of area under FSC certification thereby increasing the potential number of carbon credits, leading to more FSC-certified land, as in the Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative.

The following document contains a list of sources that outline the benefits and synergies between the two schemes as well as program plans and experiences in combining FSC and REDD+. Research for example projects that describe experiences with FSC and REDD+ certification returned few documents, though there appears to be high potential for synergies between the two systems.

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FSC Forest Carbon Working Group. 2011. *Recommendations and Strategic Framework for an FSC Climate Change Engagement*. Bonn, Germany: FSC International Center. [http://www.fsc.org/fileadmin/web-data/public/document\\_center/Current\\_consultations/FSC\\_Report\\_FCWG\\_Recommendations\\_2011-06-22\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.fsc.org/fileadmin/web-data/public/document_center/Current_consultations/FSC_Report_FCWG_Recommendations_2011-06-22_FINAL.pdf)

- Highlights FSC's positioning to facilitate carbon quantification and certification for sale of credits in REDD or other market.
- See "Strategic Framework for an FSC Climate Change Engagement" for details on FSC's approach to combining FSC certification with REDD benefits (p. 21-31).

Hajek, F., Ventresca, M. J., Scriven, J., Castro, A. 2011. Regime-building for REDD+: Evidence from a cluster of local initiatives in south-eastern Peru. *Environmental Science & Policy* 14 (2): 201-215.

- Includes information on a variety of REDD projects, including MDD Amazon which is already FSC certified. Goal for MDD Amazon is to use REDD+ to "secure additional revenue streams for FSC certified forestry concessions."
- See p 207 and 210 for details on MDD Amazon project
- Greenox website describing MDD Amazon project: [http://unfccc.int/files/methods\\_science/redd/application/pdf/summary\\_madre\\_de\\_dios\\_amazon\\_redd.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/methods_science/redd/application/pdf/summary_madre_de_dios_amazon_redd.pdf)

Brotto L, Pettenella D, Secco L, Masiero M. 2010. *Integrating FSC certification in REDD+ projects: a guideline for Projects Developer*. Dept. of Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry (LEAF). University of Padova. p. 60. [http://www.agraria.unipd.it/it/home/copertina/Dept.LEAF\\_2010\\_FSC-REDD\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.agraria.unipd.it/it/home/copertina/Dept.LEAF_2010_FSC-REDD_Guidelines.pdf)

- "This guide line consists of a set of concepts, guidelines and procedures useful for integrating the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Forest Management certification into the organization of REDD+ projects."
- Section 3 "Integrating FSC Certification in REDD+ Projects" is particularly appropriate. This section outlines the specific requirements for REDD+ carbon credit verification, and how these requirements overlap with FSC requirements, thereby reducing workload between the two programs.
- Section 2 "Project Timeline and Actors: REDD+ and FSC Comparison" is also useful, particularly Fig 2.3 and associated explanation of the parallel FSC and REDD+ processes and potential overlaps.

Karsenty, A.; Bayol, N; Cerutti, P; De Blas, DE; Forni, E. 2010. The 2008-2009 timber sector crisis in Africa and some lessons for the forest taxation regime. *International Forestry Review* 12 (2): 172-176.

- Author argues that REDD+ is one outcome/approach in a changing regime of forest management, shifting from clear cuts to selective logging (including FSC) to protection for economic benefit (REDD+). Argument continues that the goal of forest management for timber is largely incompatible with carbon storage.
- No indication of whether prior FSC certification would facilitate the transfer to REDD+.

Forest Stewardship Council. 2008. *FSC Statement on Forests and Climate Change*. Bonn, Germany: FSC International Center.

[http://www.fsc.org/fileadmin/web-data/public/document\\_center/News/Statements/2008-08-21\\_FSC\\_statement\\_-\\_Forests\\_and\\_climate\\_change.pdf](http://www.fsc.org/fileadmin/web-data/public/document_center/News/Statements/2008-08-21_FSC_statement_-_Forests_and_climate_change.pdf)

- “FSC aims to promote the use or adoption of FSC’s forest stewardship standards and certification system as a means to assure co-benefits and as a pre-requisite for any carbon financing or financial incentives for forest related climate change mitigation approaches, such as Avoided Deforestation (AD) or Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD).
- “As with any single forest use, carbon management cannot be separated from the many ecosystem services that well managed forests provide. The FSC system provides the context for which carbon management and carbon crediting can be harmonized with other uses and values of the forest.”

Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative. No date. *REDD Project Scheme Outline: Combining REDD, PFM and FSC Certification in South-Eastern Tanzania*. Mpingo Conservation & Development Initiative.

<http://www.mpingoconservation.org/reports/MCDI%20REDD%20Project%20Scheme%20Outline.pdf>

- MCDI runs a Participatory Forest Management (PFM) forest that is certified by FSC as community-managed natural forest. The organization was given a grant of \$1.95M from Norway to “combine FSC certification with access to the carbon markets through REDD.” The goal is to use revenue from selling carbon credits to expand the area under FSC certified PMF, thereby increasing the area eligible for REDD and generating additional revenue. “The goal is a combined certification scheme which utilises REDD methodologies to catalyse expansion of PFM across the miombo woodlands of south-eastern Tanzania.”

- REDD requires verification of carbon credits. MCDI plans on achieving this through Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards (CCBS) and Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) validation and verification. Verification standards for FSC and CCBS are very similar, so achieving CCBS to increase security of carbon credits will be relatively easy given that FSC standards are already met.
- University of East Anglia research project page (with contacts)  
<http://www.uea.ac.uk/dev/global-environmental-justice/researchprojects/REDDandFSC>

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