



Criteria for the three chambers

FSC is a democratic, consensus-seeking organization. It has a balanced voting structure to ensure that all voices are heard. The General Assembly is divided into three chambers: economic, environmental and social. When individuals and organizations apply to become members, they must choose to join one of these three chambers.

✚ The **economic chamber** shall be open to individuals, companies and organizations who principally have a commercial interest in forest management, the production, processing or commercialisation of forest products, or in the activities of the Organization, including, but not limited to the following:

- a) Forest management and forest product companies.
- b) Manufacturing companies.
- c) Wholesalers, retailers, traders and brokers.
- d) Consulting firms.
- e) Commercially oriented communally-owned forest enterprises, indigenous organizations or community groups.
- f) Industry associations.
- g) Research organizations and academics whose primary interests are the economic or trade of forest products.
- h) Certification bodies.
- i) Government owned or controlled entities.
- j) Employees, consultants and representatives of the above.

Applicants with economic interest must have demonstrated active commitment to implementing the FSC Principles and Criteria in their operations.

It is expected that

- certification bodies be in the process of being accredited by FSC.
- traders have made a commitment to have a significant percentage of their sales in certified timber by a set date in the reasonable future.
- producers have a significant part of their production forests certified by an FSC accredited certification body or be certified within a reasonable time frame, usually two years.



✚ The **environmental chamber** shall be open to individuals and non-profit, nongovernmental organizations whose principal purpose and interest is the protection, preservation or conservation of the natural environment, including, but not limited to the following:

- a) Environmental nongovernmental organizations.
- b) Environmental interest groups.
- c) Research organizations and academics whose primary interest is the protection, the technical aspects of forest management and the preservation or conservation of the natural environment.
- d) Environmentally oriented communally-owned organizations, indigenous organizations and community groups.
- e) Employees, consultants and representatives of the above.

✚ The **social chamber**: shall be open to individuals and non-profit, nongovernmental organizations whose principal purpose and interest is socially beneficial forestry, including, but not limited to the following:

- a) Socially oriented communally-owned organizations, indigenous organizations and Community groups.
- b) Trade unions, labor unions and workers associations.
- c) Nongovernmental Organizations engaged in social development, social justice, strengthening civil society or similar.
- d) Organizations and associations working to promote recreational uses of forests.
- e) Research organizations and academics whose primary interests are social issues within Forestry.
- f) Development nongovernmental organizations
- g) Employees, consultants and representatives of the above.