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.