

## Who they are

**The Forestry Stewardship Council®** is an independent, non-governmental, not for profit organization established in 1993 in response to growing public concern about deforestation and in recognition of the need for a trustworthy wood-labelling scheme. Its international membership consists of representatives from environmental and social groups, the timber trade and the forestry profession, as well as indigenous people's organizations, responsible corporations, community forestry groups and forest product certification organizations.

FSC's aim is to promote the responsible management of the world's forests, balancing environmental, social and economic needs of both present and future generations. Its structure ensures that these sometimes competing interest groups each have a voice and an equal say in order to promote socially beneficial, environmentally appropriate and economically viable forest management.

## What they do

FSC provides standard setting, trademark assurance and accreditation services for companies and organizations interested in responsible forestry. Timber and timber products carrying the FSC label are independently certified to assure consumers that they come from forests that are managed to meet the social, economic and ecological needs of present and future generations.

## Support and Impact

FSC receives support from a number of non-governmental organisations including the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and the Woodland Trust.

By November 2011 FSC certified forests exceeded 147 million hectares in 80 countries, representing roughly 5% of the world's production forests. Sales of FSC certified products are estimated to exceed US\$20billion.

Given the strength of the brand in UK retail it's fair to say that FSC has become the benchmark standard for responsible timber and timber products.

For more information go to <http://www.fsc.org>