

FOREST CERTIFICATION IN NAMIBIA

POSTER #2

WHAT IS FOREST CERTIFICATION?

Forest certification is a voluntary process whereby independent third parties (public or private) assess the quality of forest management and production, following a set of pre-determined standards that are set and approved by a certification organisation. Forest certification was initiated to promote forest management that is socially beneficial, economically viable and environmentally responsible. There are several certification organisations, with the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC: https://www.pefc.org/) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC: https://fsc.org/en) being the most common ones. Certified organisations in Namibia are mostly under the FSC system, with most of them being from the charcoal industry.

STEPS TO FOREST CERTIFICATION

PREPARATION

The forest manager must ensure that all **requirements** are in place before application.

MAKING CONTACT

The manager makes contact with a certifier who gives relevant information of the certification process including costs.

DECISION MAKING

The manager or company considers the investment needed for certification and decides if this is in their interests and which certification scheme to go for.



How much does certification cost?

The cost of certification is dependent on the type of organisation (Non profit or for profit). Other considerations include the number of employees, amount of revenue generated and size of forest area.

The operator and certifier then sign a contract for certification with ...

CONTRACT SIGNING

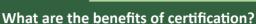
PRELIMINARY AUDIT

Following the contract signing, the certifier has to verify that all **required documents** are available for the process to continue.

ON SITE ASSESSMENT

A team chosen by the certifier conducts a detailed assessment of the operations and consults with other stakeholders





- 1. Accessing international markets
- 2. Ensuring efficient operations
- 3. Adherence to legal requirements
- 4. Improved working conditions
- 5. Improved forest conservation outcomes
- 6. Sustainable forest use
- 7. Improved public image of companies through produce and purchases

Where can applications for certification be done in

Certification applications can

be made with the Southern African sub regional office

in South Africa, which also

FSC Southern Africa Coordinator

Detailed information can be

obtained from the website:

serves Namibia. Queries can

Namibia?

be directed to:

Ms Manushka Moodley

m.moodley@fsc.org

https://fsc.org/en

What certification types are available?

Chain of custody certification: Tracks FSC certified material from the forest to the consumer.

Certification of forest management: Verifies that forests are managed according to standards.



What are some of the required documents for application?

- Property title deeds
- Employee contracts
- Environmental impact assessments
- Forest management plans
- Tax documentation (income and land)
- Relevant permits e.g., harvesting

DID YOU KNOW...

1.6 million ha of Namibian Forests were under FSC certifiction by June 2020; mostly in the central parts of Namibia.

Namibia has developed a set of FSC standards that are relevant to the country; effective from 1 April 2020. Downloadable from: https://fsc.org/en/document-centre/documents/ resource/418

Jumbo Charcoal was the first Namibian company to be FSC certified in 2001; the company manages a group scheme of several charcoal producers.

Namibia is the first African country to have an FSC chain of custody certificate, through CMO Namibia (Pty) Ltd, which manages a group scheme.

Certification is not limited to timber or wood products, but non timber forest products can be certified as well.

including employees. The assessment is rated against the certification standards/ principles.

ADJUSTMENTS

The assesment team makes recommendations for any adjustments required within the company (major or minor corrective actions).

ISSUING OF CERTIFICATE

Once corrective actions have been taken and the certifier is satisfied, the company is granted a certificate.

certifier conducts regular

verification audits and may

include new recommendations

for corrective actions. Failure to

comply can lead to suspension of the certificate.

renew the certificate for a new period. The company may also

choose to be certified under a

new certificate type.

VERIFICATION AUDITS To ensure compliance, the

1

5

5 years

How often are audits done?

Compliance audits are conducted annually.



Is it possible to renew a certificate?

Once its validity expires, a certificate can be renewed after a new audit.

'Promoting Sustainable Forest Management in the Kavango-Zambezi-Region in Namibia'



Author: Miya Kabajani July 2021

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Namibia and the Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (DRFN) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE NSFM-PROJECT:

Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Namibia, House of Democracy 70-72 Dr Frans Indongo Street, Windhoek West; P.O. Box 90912, Klein Windhoek, Windhoek, Namibia

Tel: +264 (0) 61 237 373 Email: sustainability@hsf.org.na www.thinknamibia.org.na

👖 facebook.com/thinknam 🔰 twitter.com/thinknamibia 🔘 instagram.com/thinknamibia/

- What are the national forest stewardship standards?
- FSC certification standards for Namibia
- 1. Compliance with laws
- 2. Workers' rights and employment conditions
- 3. Indigenous people's rights
- 4. Community relations
- 5. Benefits from the forests
- 6. Environmental values and impact
- 7. Management planning
- 8. Monitoring and assessment
- 9. High conservation values

For how long are certificates valid?

10. Implementation of management activities