







FSC Norway Strategy 2021-2026, V 1.0

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Versions

Version	Date	
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1.0	02-09-2022	The strategy approved by the board of FSC Norway



Introduction

FSC Norway is newly established, and the board has initiated a strategy process. Since the staff is quite small it is crucial to have a focused strategy. Guidelines:

- Meeting members' expectations (the process started with interviewing the members of FSC Norway)
- Be in line with FSC's Global Strategy 2021-2026
- Be in line with the statutes of "Foreningen Skogen" (the legal entity of FSC Norway)
- Fulfilling the intentions of FSC application of FSC Norway
- Facilitate to fulfill the obligations in the contracts between FSC Norge and FSC International



Value chain description

The productive forest area of Norway is 7.0 million hectares and the harvest of industrial roundwood is about 10 million cubic meters (2020, according to the official Norwegian statistics SSB, Statistisk Sentralbyrå). The size distribution of the forest properties according to SSB:

	0-10 ha	10-25 ha	25-50 ha	50-100 ha	100-200 ha	200-500 ha	500-2000 ha	2000 ha -	Sum
Area (hectares)	239 199	535 232	770 149	1 078 007	1 094 673	975 672	839 872	1 459 549	6 992 353
% of area	3 %	8 %	11 %	15 %	16 %	14 %	12 %	21 %	100 %
Number of properties	43 002	32 694	21 660	15 386	7 953	2 984	970	224	124 873

The definition of productive forest area in Norway is forests where the production capacity is higher than 1 m³ per hectare and year. In many places there are boglands and other unproductive areas in the forests, and it is not trivial to define the exact line where the production capacity passes 1 m³/ha. In addition, the forest frontier is creeping up the mountainsides, as an effect of warmer climate. The SSB data of productive forest area is underestimated. The national forest survey works with strict measurements on many small, sampled plots, their statistical estimation is 8,7 million hectares of productive forests (2016-2020).

88 % of the forest is privately owned, 9 % state and 3% municipality or county. The operative forestry, including forest owners' organizations, manage much of the forest operations for the 125 000 forest owners. In practice 100 % of harvested area is PEFC-certified and a little less than 10 % of this is in addition FSC certified (double certified).

The drivers in the forest value chain are the sawmills and the P/P-mills. Energy production accounts for some of the value but limited compared to sawmills and P/P-mills. There is limited furniture production based on Norwegian wood. The sawmills, P/P-industry and the board industry requires PEFC certified wood. A few of the P/P-mills have customers that requires FSC certified products, but much of the Norwegian forest industry would get some benefits from more FSC-certified wood.

The sawmill companies often have secondary processing, like planing, finger jointing and impregnation. They sell their products to a large extent in the domestic market, but also large amounts in the world market. For the domestic sale it is no significant benefit in having FSC-certified products, but in some of the export markets it is beneficial. Wooden chips is a substantial bi-product in sawmilling, sold to the P/P-industry, of which some have demand for FSC certified raw materials.

The P/P-mills are primarily exporting their products. In some markets FSC-certificates are important (like mechanical market pulp), for others it is of some importance and for some it is of minor value.



2026 Objective

The main objective is to triple the FSC certified area in Norway to 1,8 mill hectares in 2026. This is in line with the FSC global 2026 objective to increase FSC certified area globally.

FSC Norway

2050 Vision

Resilient forests sustain life on earth

2026 objective

Aims to ceate momentum towards 2050 vision through certification and work in alliances.

Increase the certified area from 0,6 million hectares in 2021 to 1,8 million hectares in 2026.

FSC International

2050 Vision

Resilient forests sustain life on earth

2026 Global objective

Aims to ceate momentum towards 2050 vision through certification and work in alliances.

Increase the certified area from 220 million hectares in 2021 to 300 million hectares in 2026.



Road map to reach the objective 2026

To reach the objective to triple the FSC certified area we have to seek alliances, not least since FSC Norway starts with only $\frac{1}{2}$ FTE.

Road map:

- 1. Finalizing the Norwegian FM standard and get it endorsed by FSC International. When the standard is endorsed, set up a standard group that maintains the standard, set up a complaint council and appoint a mediator for FPIC conflicts.
- 2. Seek alliances with the operative forestry during 2022 and 2023. Especially those organizations that operate the PEFC umbrella certification (almost 100 % coverage) and the FSC-umbrella certification (about 10 % coverage). They have the organization to FSC-certify Norwegian forestry. A few larger forest properties will probably start an FSC-process on their own, once the Norwegian standard is endorsed, but the majority will rely on the advice and help of the operative forestry's organizations.
- 3. Apply for a Tier 3 project that performs a gap analysis between the Norwegian FSC FM-standard and the new Norwegian PEFC FM-standard. The aim is to get a concrete description of what additional claims a forest owner has to live up to, in order to up-grade the old PEFC-certificates to double certificates (new PEFC and new FSC). The analysis will cover forest owners with different property sizes. The project will be run in 2023. The operative forestry's organizations will be heavily involved in the project.
- 4. The double certification description will facilitate for the operative forestry to increase FSC certified area in Norway. FSC Norway will actively support them.
- 5. FSC Norway will continuously work for market appreciation of FSC certified wood and products.

The structure of forestry in Norway, with rather few organizations having contact with almost all forest owners and with 100 % PEFC coverage, gives us structures to double certify Norwegian forests. The potential in the long run is to have much of the Norwegian forests certified – if FSC certificates are beneficial for the forest owners.



Supporting goals

To be able to meet all requirements from core stakeholders (members and FSCI), for a small office it is crucial to build alliances:

- Seek and maintain alliances with the operative forestry in Norway (for FSC FM support to the forest owners)
- Formalize operational partnership with FSC Denmark (to be able to manage Norwegian PLA-license holders and get support on CoC)
- Work closely together with all the Nordic FSC NPs (supporting each other)

With the membership base we have now, FSC Norway have funding for 0.5 FTE. To be able to reach the main goal, and at the same time fulfill our obligations towards FSC International, we need more employee hours. Supporting goals that strengthens the finance of FSC Norway and increases the pull-factor of FSC products are:

- Increase the number of national members to 30 in 2026 and retain them (from 17 in 2021).
- Double the number of CoC certificates, to 120 certificates in 2026.
- Double the number of PLA licenses to 15 licenses in 2026

Activities

The activities of the Norwegian FSC's strategy are aligned with the FSC's international strategy implementation framework:



Action 1. Membership Engagement

Strengthen dialogue to revitalize membership engagement.

From the Global Strategy

The Global Strategy 2021-2026 identifies membership involvement in co-creating solutions for forest stewardship as a core strength of FSC. In 2021 and 2022, we are working with the support of regional membership coordinators on a number of initiatives to strengthen membership engagement, aiming to have these concluded as part of the General Assembly process. The main focus in 2021 and 2022 will be on agreeing on innovative solutions for how members can be engaged in the work of FSC and on enabling constructive discussions to find ways forward on difficult political issues of high interest for the membership. To this end, the Focus Forests advisory group and the sustainable Intensification advisory group have been set up to enable constructive discussion among FSC members on their respective topics.

Norwegian context

FSC Norway involves the members in the elaboration of the strategy in 2022, first in interviewing all the members of their expectation of the what the newly founded FSC Norway shall accomplish, and later in the process they will be giving input to the strategy.

In the coming years we will have at least two meetings yearly with every member, and in one of the meetings we will discuss if the strategy and objective 2026 is still valid and if we are on a steady course towards the objective.

- All members shall be involved in elaborating the FSC Norway strategy 2021-2026
- At least two personal contacts with each member per year.

Action 2. Membership Enhancement

Facilitate strong and equal representation across chambers, groups, and regions.

From the Global Strategy

Drive the work of the Membership Team to attract new members to have a more balanced representation by the different groups, chambers, and regions. Work with network partners to ensure an effective dialogue that will attract new actors aiming to bring new perspectives and positions to the table on the most relevant issues for FSC.

Norwegian context

Increase the number of members and retain them. To retain them we will continuously work with action 1, involving them in the strategy. This is crucial since the membership fees are the primary funding of the organisation.

- FSC Norway will continue to contact potential new members for all three chambers.
- Steady growth towards 30 members in 2026 (from 17 in 2021).

Action 3. Co-creation Initiatives

Work with members, network partners, and stakeholders for rapid incubation of stewardship solutions.

From the Global Strategy

As part of FSC's mission, the delivery of new FSC solutions for emerging global challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, forest degradation, and deforestation is necessary. In order to face these challenges, FSC will engage with members and stakeholders, including key organizations that are specialized and focused on these topics, for the co–creation of new FSC solutions.

The involvement of FSC's community, including members and network partners is crucial for the cocreation and local implementation of these solutions. FSC will act as a connector and co–creator of these solutions, engaging the FSC membership and network to define strategies and actions for the uptake of new solutions by markets.

Norwegian context

Do a strategic investment in a thorough gap analysis between the revised Norwegian PEFC FM standard and the FSC standard and a "best practice" how to upgrade from PEFC to FSC management of forests in Norway (100 % are PEFC certified). Has to cover different sizes of forest properties. What does a forest owner and the group certification organization have to live up to, to upgrade to FSC.

The double certification description will facilitate for the forest owners' organizations to increase FSC certified area in Norway. FSC Norway will actively support them.

Main outputs:

 Tools and systems that facilitates for forest owners and a group certification organizations to upgrade PEFC certificates to an FSC certificate.s See also "Action 32 Community and Family Forests" and "Action 36. Operationalizing Partnership"

Action 4. Indigenous Peoples Engagement

Strengthen and expand the engagement of Indigenous Peoples in the FSC system.

From the Global Strategy

In 2013, the Permanent Indigenous Peoples Committee (PIPC) was established as an advisory committee on Indigenous issues to the FSC International Board. PIPC has worked to provide guidance on the implementation, enforcement, and monitoring of Principle 3 and on Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in the FSC system, as well as advised FSC national and regional offices on incorporating principles, criteria, and indicators into National Forest Standards in Europe, Asia, and Latin America. The FSC Indigenous Foundation (FSC-IF) is working to strengthen the engagement of PIPC with Indigenous Peoples' organizations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. First Nations and Indigenous Peoples in different regions worldwide have been concerned about the added value of FSC certification to Indigenous products and value chains. PIPC and FSCIF will be essential to the co creation of Indigenous-based solutions to best support FSC on this challenge. Supported by FSC-IF, PIPC will work to support FSC's target objective of achieving 50 million hectares of certified tropical forests and forests managed by smallholders, communities, and Indigenous Peoples by 2026.

Norwegian context

Get the Sámi reindeer herders more engaged in FSC.

- Together with "Stiftelsen Protect Sápmi" train Sámi reindeer herders' representatives in the Norwegian FM standard and FPIC.
- Establish a mediation process and appoint an intermediator for FPIC conflicts.

Action 10. Supply Chain Verification

Use the power of technology and data to introduce traceability in risky supply chains (e.g., blockchain, wood ID).

From the Global Strategy

Current verification systems for CoC certification rely on paper-based evidence of conformance, reviewed by auditors via sampling documents while at the audit. Given FSC growth, as well as emerging risks to the integrity of verification systems, FSC is in the process of introducing more robust verification mechanisms.

FSC has been working on the cutting-edge technology of blockchain and has been piloting blockchain in selected supply chains to further scale it up as a mandatory tool in defined conditions. Through appropriate selection of available data models, this tested solution ensures data confidentiality and privacy, addressing key concerns expressed by stakeholders in the past on digital verification concepts. The planned CoC online reporting will be aligned with the implementation of blockchain. Continued work on Wood ID provides additional opportunity for precise definition of material origin and adding another verification layer to the digitally declared information.

Norwegian context

In Norway there exists a wood information system that handles wood ordering, logging, transporting and measurement. Close to 100 % of wood delivered to industrial purposes is handled through the system. FSC Norway aims to collaborate with the system supplier. The system is named VSYS and the supplier is Skog-Data AS.

Main outputs:

 Together with Skog-Data AS analyse if there are any weaknesses in the system when it comes to securing wood traceability and identify possible improvements.

Action 24. FSC Sourcing Preference

Increase the number of major corporates that express an FSC preference to drive demands of FSC materials and products.

From the Global Strategy

Key market players such as brand owners and industry leaders have a significant impact on market demand as their sourcing policy can shape the supply chain direction. Expressing a preference for FSC can therefore increase FSC awareness through industry player networks and can facilitate the supply chain transformation across upstream (supply), downstream (demand), similar players (industry followers), and consumers

Norwegian context

Most of the industrial roundwood in Norway is bought by a few sawmill groups and a limited number of P/P companies. Today they demand PEFC-certified wood. Many of them would also get a benefit out of more FSC wood, at least on some of the markets they sell to. The most effective driver for increased FSC certified forest area would be that these buyers created pull effects for FSC certified wood and thereby incentives for forest owners to be double certified (FSC in addition to PEFC).

Main outputs:

• FSC Norway has established and maintains contact with most of the P/P-industry and the dominating sawmill groups, with the aim that they promote FSC to the forest owners and the forest owners' organisations.

Action 28. Trademark

Increase the value of the FSC brand through effective trademark promotion and management.

From the Global Strategy

As a demand driven system, the value of the brand is of strategic importance to FSC. Therefore, this action aims to increase the value by promoting the use of the trademarks with business and consumer audiences to increase awareness of the brand. At the same time, FSC´s operations to manage the trademarks need to adapt to the growth of license holders from recent years and allow for further scalability.

A key group driving demand is retailers and brands, which are allowed to use FSC trademarks through promotional licenses. To continue increasing the uptake of this program, a formalized go-to-market marketing and communication effort will be undertaken to reach a broader audience. Future marketing efforts will harness expanding corporate desire for climate action, generating more promotional license holders, and getting more stakeholders invested in responsible forestry.

Norwegian context

Most of the forest industry (P/P-industry and the sawmills) are already CoC-certified. Being able to prove that the wood raw materials either comes from certified forests or are CW-wood (PEFC and/or FSC) is a market requirement. See "Action 24. FSC Sourcing Preference".

FSC is a strong brand, not only for the forest industry. Several other Norwegian companies are CoCcertified or have a PLA, and there seem to be a trend towards more. These companies mainly buy their raw material from producers abroad and working with them doesn't create a direct pull effect on FSC-certifying the Norwegian forests. Anyway, it is important to support all relevant companies to become CoC-certified or getting a PLA license, it contributes to the global momentum towards more and more wood originating from responsible managed forests.

Since FSC Norway is newly started we are coopering with FSC Denmark in supporting Norwegian companies with CoC and PLA. It is important that FSC Norway increases its capacity for serving/promoting CoC, but when it comes to PLAs we think that cooperate with Denmark will be beneficial for a longer time.

Main outputs:

 FSC Norway cooperates with FSC Denmark to promote and support CoC and PLA for Norwegian companies. See also "Action 36. Operational Partnerships"

Action 32. Community and Family Forests

Provide tailored policy solutions and develop systemic approaches to enhance participation of and benefits for communities and family forests.

From the Global Strategy

FSC works programmatically and in collaboration with partners to enhance the benefits from certification for communities and family forests. This includes working through policy solutions and market tools, including training and capacity building efforts, to support communities and family forest owners to engage with the FSC system and use it to increase their benefits from forest stewardship. We will continue to work on policy solutions to implement and scale up the tailor-made normative solutions recently developed for community and family forests. In recent years, FSC has primarily focused on how to overcome the known challenges communities and family forests' owners face related to forest certification e.g. the number and complexity of the requirements or cost of certification. See New Approaches Results 2016-2020 infographic. Several new or revised policy solutions were developed and are now available for these constituencies.

In parallel, we will work locally, regionally, and globally on market tools to create direct benefits for community and family forests. FSC will take the lead and showcase the efforts on alternative approaches to value chain development, increasingly relevant for communities and family forest owners. Acknowledging the potential to deliver impacts that go beyond individual supply chains and certified areas of operation and aiming to achieve broad and long-lasting benefits for communities and family forest owners and for nature, FSC is using a so-called Collective Impact methodology that can be replicated all over the world, especially where the enabling conditions are still not in place and a value chain approach is not suitable.

Norwegian context

In Norway most of the forests are family forests, owned by almost 125 000 private forest owners. About 75 % of the forest area and more than 99% of the properties are smallholders (SLIMF). A few forest organizations influence much of the forest operations for the 125 000 forest owners.

Main outputs:

• Establish links towards the smallholders, through alliances with their organisations. See also "Action 36. Operational Partnership" and "Action 3. Co-creation Initiatives".

Action 36. Operationalizing Partnership

Identify and activate key partnerships to support the achievement of FSC's Global Strategy.

From the Global Strategy

FSC will develop and start implementing an overarching framework for stakeholder engagement, enabling a more consistent approach and helping identify and mobilize the value of each stakeholder group/ partnership. The aim is to focus, prioritize and target resources on those that bring and give most value.

Norwegian context

In Norway a few forest organizations manage much of the forest operations for the 125 000 forest owners, they also act as umbrella organisations for certification (both PEFC and FSC). In practice 100 % of the harvested area is PEFC-certified and a little less than 10 % of this is in addition FSC certified (double certified). This structure gives us a possibility to double certify Norwegian forests. The maximal potential in the long run is to have all Norwegian forests FSC-certified – if FSC certificates are beneficial for the forest owners. To be able to deliver our objective to triple FSC-area in Norway by 2026, it is crucial to have alliances with the forest owners' organisations.

FSC Norway starts as a small office with 0.5 FTE. To be able to support CoC and PLA efficiently, at least in the start, we should find partnership with someone with skill and capacity for this.

- Seek and maintain alliances with the dominating Norwegian forest organizations, for FSC FM support to the forest owners. Supports "Action 32. Community and Family Forests" and "Action 3. Co-creation Initiatives".
- Formalize operational partnership with FSC Denmark to be able to manage PLA-license holders and give FSC Norway support on CoC. FSC Denmark has good competence in this. Supports "Action 28. Trademark"

Appendix 1, inputs to the strategy work



The members expectation of FSC Norway

Among the members are environmental, outdoor and indigenous organisations as well as forest owners' organisations and industry companies.

In March 2022 FSC Norway made a survey among the members about their expectations on FSC Norway. A short summary:

- The environmental chamber (members: environmental NGOs):
 - o Increase the FSC-certified area in Norway.
 - Work for more sustainable forestry.
- The Social chamber (members: organisations representing outdoor activities and indigenous people):
 - o Increase the FSC-area in Norway.
 - o Secure the Sami rights for reindeer management.
- The economic chamber (members: companies representing forest owners, the dominant sawmill groups, most of the P/P industry and a few further down the value chain):
 - Forest operations:
 - A Norwegian FSC FM standard, managed by a Norwegian FSC-office. The forestry wants to be able to serve the customers (sawmills and P/P industry) requiring FSC certified wood and thereby get higher prices for wood.
 - More credit to the environmental work, done in forestry.
 - o Sawmills:
 - More FSC-certified Norwegian wood on the market.
 - A Norwegian FSC FM standard, managed by a Norwegian FSC-office. Low cost for the office.
 - o P/P-mills:
 - More FSC-certified Norwegian wood on the market.
 - A Norwegian FSC FM standard, managed by a Norwegian FSC-office, low cost for the Norwegian office.
 - o Further down the value chain:
 - More FSC-certified Norwegian wood on the market.
 - Sustainably managed Norwegian forests



From the statues of FSC Norway (legal entity of FSC Norway is "Foreningen Skogen")

"Foreningen Skogen" is a national initiative that aims to promote positive, constructive and forward-looking cooperation on FSC between the environmental interests (the environmental chamber), the social interests (social chamber) and the economic interests (economic chamber) in Norway. No interest is allowed to dominate the other interests in the association. The purpose of the association is to:

- safeguard the interests of FSC in Norway and internationally
- inform and disseminate knowledge about FSC and FSC certification in Norway
- stimulate participation and membership in FSC Norway
- inform about and manage the Norwegian FSC forest standard
- inform about and manage national risk analysis (NRA)
- increase the area of FSC-certified forest in Norway

"Foreningen Skogen" is responsible for keeping in contact with the international FSC, as well as complying with the international FSC's rules and directives.

"Foreningen Skogen" shall follow up the accredited certification companies' interpretation of the Norwegian FSC forest standard and NRA, and assist in disputes and complaints in the context of certification.

Ambitions when applying for establishing FSC Norway

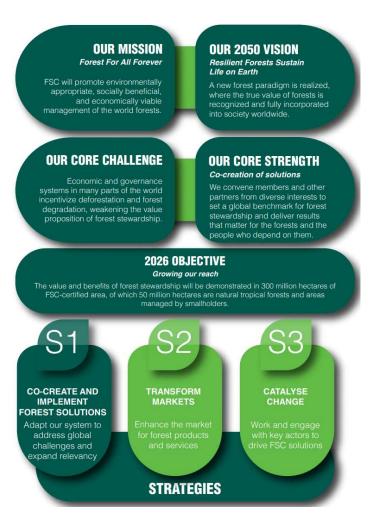
The application, which "Foreningen Skogen" submitted to FSC International to establish FSC Norway, mentions the following ambitions:

- Triple FSC certified area until 2026
- Double the number of FSC CoC certificates to 2026
- An increase in the number of TLA licenses by at least 2-3 pieces per year up to 2026 (TLA stands for Trademark License Agreement).
- Increase co-operation between the Nordic offices to jointly build and use capacity.
- Get and retain more than 30 national members relatively quickly, to have a budget base.

In line with FSC global strategy 2021-2026

The Norwegian strategy shall be in line with FSC global strategy 2021-2026:

- The global strategy 2021-2026 is one step towards the 2050 vision.
 The 2050 vision: Resilient forests sustain life on earth. A new forest paradigm is realized, where the true value of forests is recognized and fully incorporated into society worldwide.
- FSC's 2026 global objective is to grow our reach through certification and work in alliances: The value and benefits of forest stewardship will be demonstrated in 300 million hectares of FSC certified area (2021 level is 220 million hectares).
- FSCs global strategy 2021-2026 contains 3 strategies 12 goals and 48 actions.



Contracts with FSC International

FSC Norway has contracts with FSC International, where FSC Norway have some obligations. The three main contracts are:

- «Agreement FSC AC» (FSCs member organization). Agreement that "Foreningen Skogen" shall represent FSC AC in Norway, develop a national forest standard, promote the participation in the FSC Membership Program and other things.
- «Agreement FSC Global Development» (GD is FSC's commercial organization). Agreement
 that "Foreningen Skogen" shall represent FSC GD in Norway, contribute to increase or
 maintain the number of certificate holders and support certificate/license holders, and other
 obligations. Reporting on performance of contract twice a year.
- "Service Agreement for Administration of FSC AC Membership" with FSC AC. FSC Norway being main contact for international membership for Norwegian members.