



Responsible Forest Management

Twenty-five years of experience

Preferred by Nature is an international non-profit organisation that promotes the sustainable use of natural resources worldwide. We do this through innovation projects, training and by delivering credible sustainability services. Responsible forest management is one of our key areas of expertise.

Forest certification expertise

Preferred by Nature works with the two main global systems for certification of responsible forestry, FSC™ and PEFC. FSC is one of our core services, with Preferred by Nature amongst the world's most experienced FSC certifiers.



Our clients

We work with private and public forest owners and managers. Our clients range from smallholdings less than a hectare in area to key suppliers of globally leading companies. We certify a total forest area of over 85 million hectares. These forests are located around the world, from Europe to Russia, Africa, Americas and Asia.



Voting session at the FSC General Assembly 2017

Understanding the systems

Preferred by Nature is actively engaged in the FSC system at both global and local levels. For example, we actively participate in key FSC policy working groups and processes, and we regularly provide analytical inputs and risk assessments at FSC's request. We have also developed interim FSC standards for forest management certification in 41 countries*.

In addition, we have been engaged by FSC to conduct Controlled Wood Risk Assessments for 48 countries for Category 1 (legality), 4 (conversion) and 5 (Genetically Modified Organisms), and for 20 countries for Category 3 (High Conservation Values).

Our experience working within the FSC system thus extends to both strategic and practical levels. We use our insight to develop projects that support the credibility and accessibility of forest certification.

** In the process of being phased out and replaced by new FSC National Forest Management standards or Interim Nation FSC standards*



Preferred by Nature Sourcing Hub contains assessments of the risks of illegal timber production and trade in 62 countries, covering 87% of global timber production. Learn more at www.preferredbynature.org/sourcinghub



Natural forest conservation

Our projects have resulted in the formal designation of over 100 protected areas around the world. We are helping to conserve and manage some of Asia's most precious tropical forests and biodiversity hotspots. In Borneo, for example, we have supported the conservation and management of the Maliau Basin Conservation Area since 2000.

We have helped to identify High Conservation Value forests and have developed related tools and methodologies. Together with our partners, we have carried out projects to implement the EU Habitats and Birds Directives in six European countries.



Engaging with smallholders

We also work to explore new approaches to make certification accessible and feasible for local Indigenous peoples and traditional communities.

Forest contractors play a key role in securing sustainable forest management practices. At the same time, this can enhance access to certification for family forest owners. Therefore, we engage in developing and providing contractor certification.



Seeing the forest beyond the trees

We actively engage with FSC and other partners to verify ecosystem impacts which help forest managers make valid claims on the Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes.



Capacity building and analysis

We deliver professional, expert training programmes, focusing on responsible forestry, certification and forest legality. Our international FSC Expert training courses were the first to be endorsed as fulfilling the formal requirements for FSC Lead Auditor training. Gender equality, FPIC (Free, Prior and Informed Consent), and Ecosystem Services are some of our special areas of focus and expertise in such training. In addition, we regularly provide analyses and training on a wide range of related topics. Read more at www.preferredbynature.org/training.

Forest Ecosystem Restoration

Preferred by Nature's Standard for Field Verification of Forest Ecosystem Restoration provides a tool to evaluate the performance of forest restoration activities. This global Standard focuses on the assessment of forest ecosystem restoration performance at the field level, in tropical, temperate, and boreal biomes. Verification against the standard helps project managers to communicate their efforts and demonstrate that resources are invested in the right direction, considering the social and environmental conditions of the restoration areas.