XXV IUFRO World Congress 2019

Session D5a: Improving forest management certification: from the development of ecosystem services certification to ensuring better impact assessment

Curitiba, 01th October 2018

Certifying forest-based ecosystem services: results from the world-first application of the FSC ecosystem service procedure in Italy

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ETIFOR – Padova University Spin-off

Outline:

1) Forest certification beyond timber

2) The FSC® Ecosystem Services Procedure

3) Insights from the world-first application in Italy

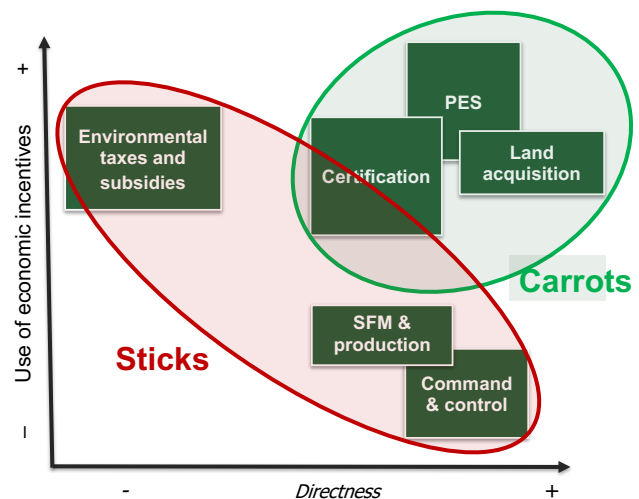4) Final considerations

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Ecosystem services: need for incentive mechanisms
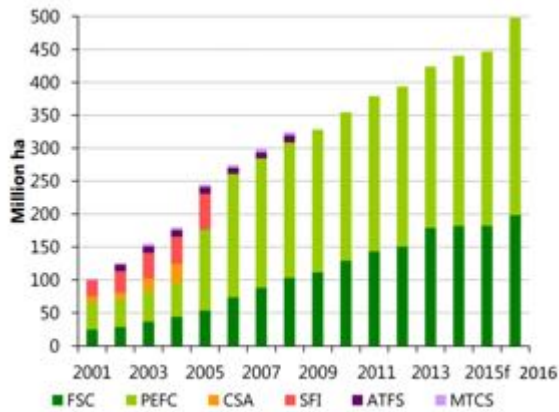

Source: www.teebweb.com

Source: Wunder (2006) modif.

Forest certification: moving beyond timber

Cumulative forest area certified, 2001-2016

Source: FAO, FSC, PECF

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FSC ES: from implicit to explicitly certified services

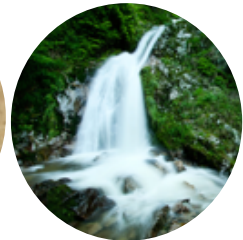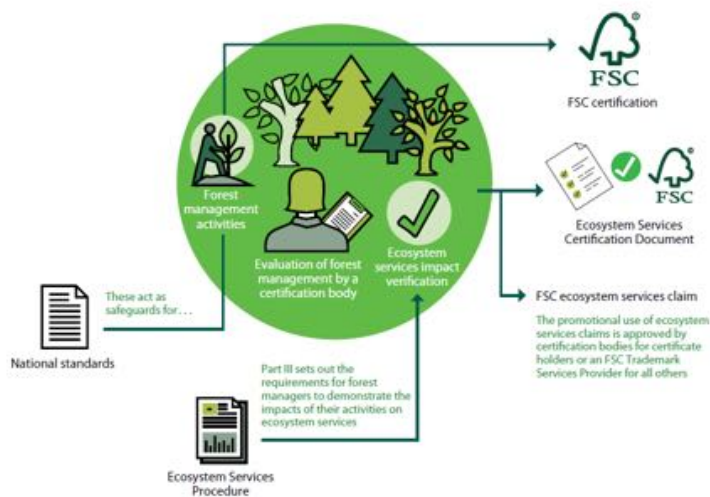Biodiversity conservation · Carbon sequestration and storage · Recreational services · Soil conservation · Watershed services
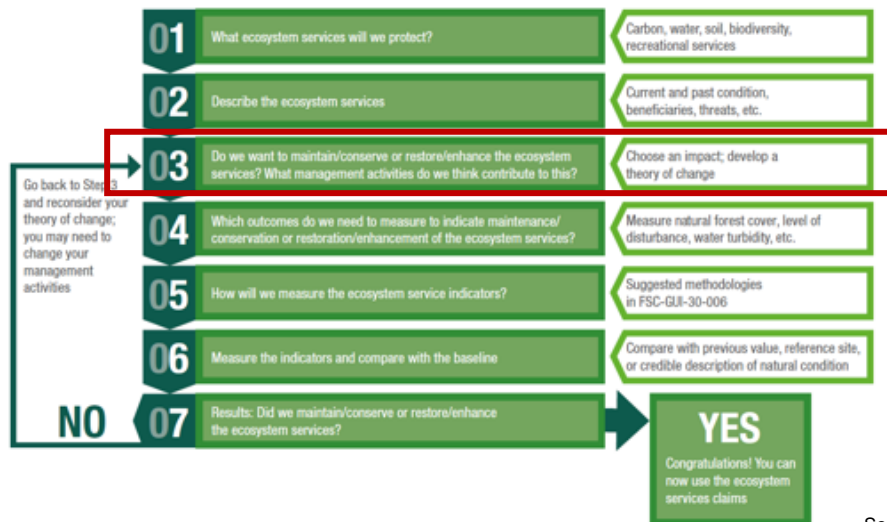

The ES Procedure within the FSC system

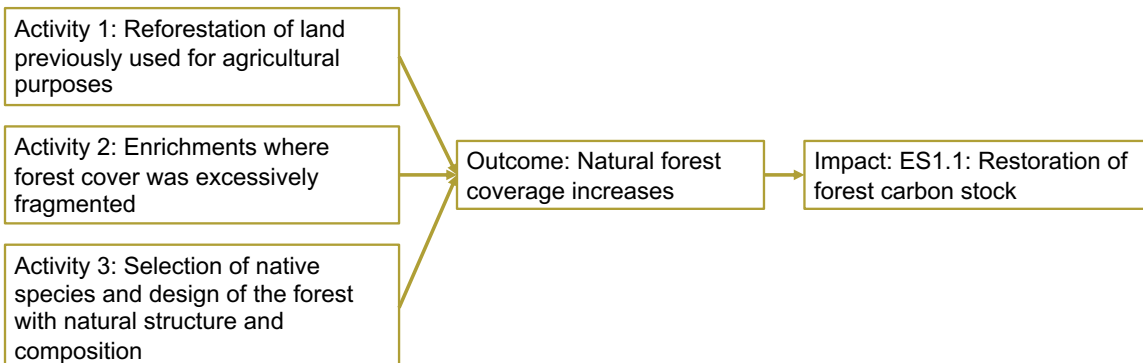Source: FSC International

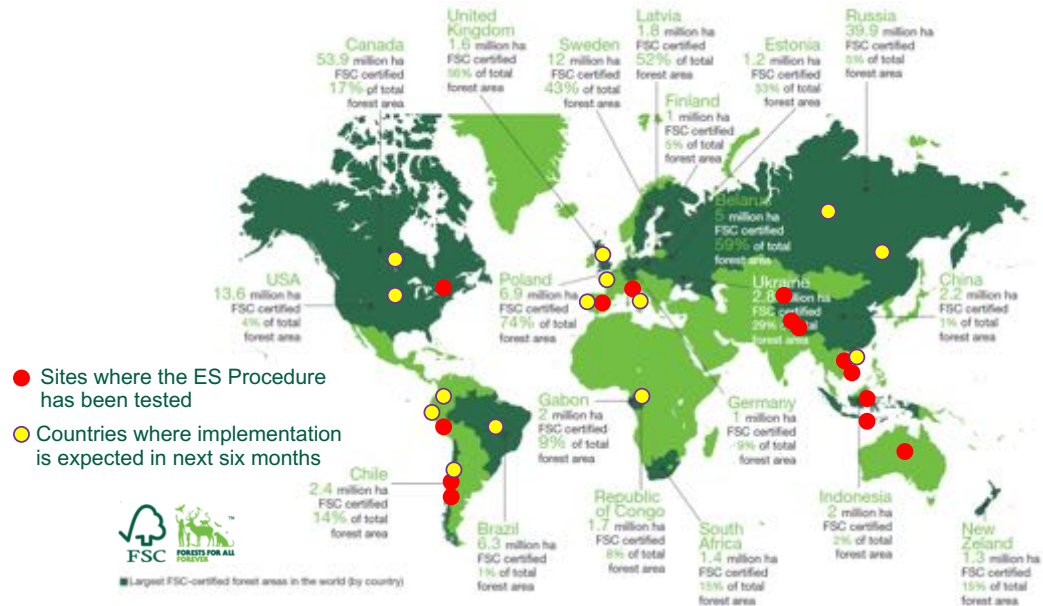## Seven steps towards ES claim

Source: FSC International

Theory of Change: an example

"(…) a chain of results over time that shows **how an organization expects its activities to contribute to a desired impact**"

Applications of the procedure at global level

- ● Sites where the ES Procedure has been tested
- ○ Countries where implementation is expected in next six months

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World-first FSC ES certification for all the 5 ES

Waldplus and Lowland Forest Association: the largest Italian FSC smallholders certification group
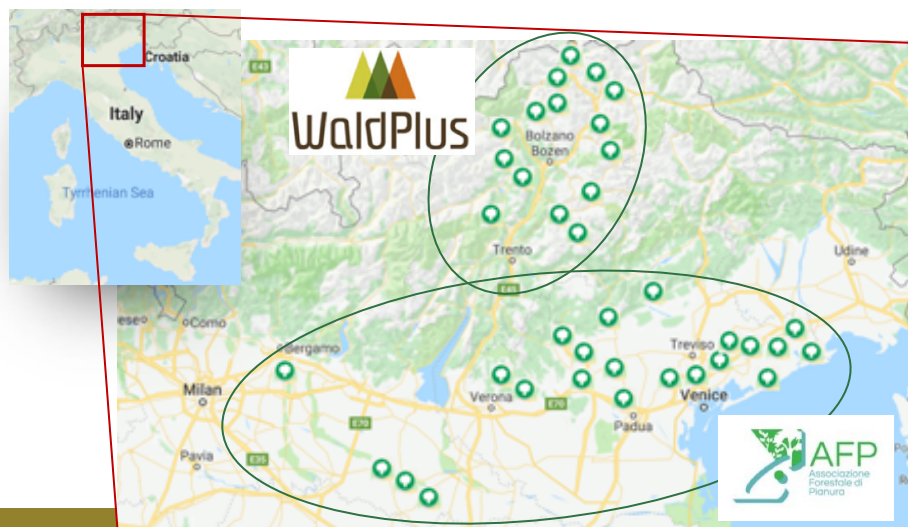
A diversity of forest types

Verified ES and management activities

ES	List of verified ES	Management activities
ES1: Biodiversity conservation	ES1.1: Restoration of natural forest cover	• Reforestation of natural forest cover • Restoration on forest land without forest cover • Selection of local species and planning of natural forests
ES2: Carbon sequestration and storage	ES2.1: Conservation of forest carbon stocks	• FMP implementation of unplanned forests • Thinning to make forest structure stable and permanent • Support for the conversion of agricultural land into permanent forests • Forest improvements through thinning in order to reduce felling and wildfire risk • Ordinary cuts with extraction of sustainable quantities • Facilitation of regeneration by planting trees
	ES2.2: Restoration of forest carbon stocks	• Reforestation on agricultural land • Restoration on forest and without or with low level of forest cover • Forest management operation on natural reforestation
ES3: Watershed services	ES3.4: Restoration of the capacity of watersheds to purify and regulate water flow	• Planting activities on agricultural land and related management activities • Water channelling, during the non-irrigated months, from external areas to the internal one
ES4: Soil conservation	ES4.1: Maintenance of soil condition	• Restoration on forest land without forest cover • Reforestation on agricultural land
	ES4.3: Reduction of soil erosion through reforestation/restoration	• Restoration on forest land without forest cover • Reforestation on agricultural land
ES5: Recreational Services	ES5.2: Restoration or enhancement of areas of importance for recreation and/or tourism	• Maintenance of paths • Infrastructures and equipped areas • Preparation and installation of information signs • Thinning and forest improvements to increase close-to-nature form and stability of forests • Events organization

Sales of ES: For what? How?

Restoration of degraded, damaged or abandoned forests

Creation of new green areas, urban forests and Forest Infiltration Areas

Green infrastructures alongside bike roads and touristic and recreational areas

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To whom? Why?

Companies (green marketing and CSR)

Companies (supply chain improvement)

Public bodies

Responsible and impact investors

Individuals

Transparency: the FSC database

https://info.fsc.org/

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Final considerations

- ES certification can attract new **actors** e new **markets**
- It can potentially **overcome** some of the **barriers that PES markets face:**
  - Reducing **transaction costs**
  - Improve **communication** and increase **transparency**
- From performance-based to **system-based** certification → A step-wise approach?
- Will this be a case where the **private sector** functions as **a catalyzer** and **anticipates public institutions** initiatives?
- Does the FSC ES procedure promote a **segregated** or **integrated forest management?**

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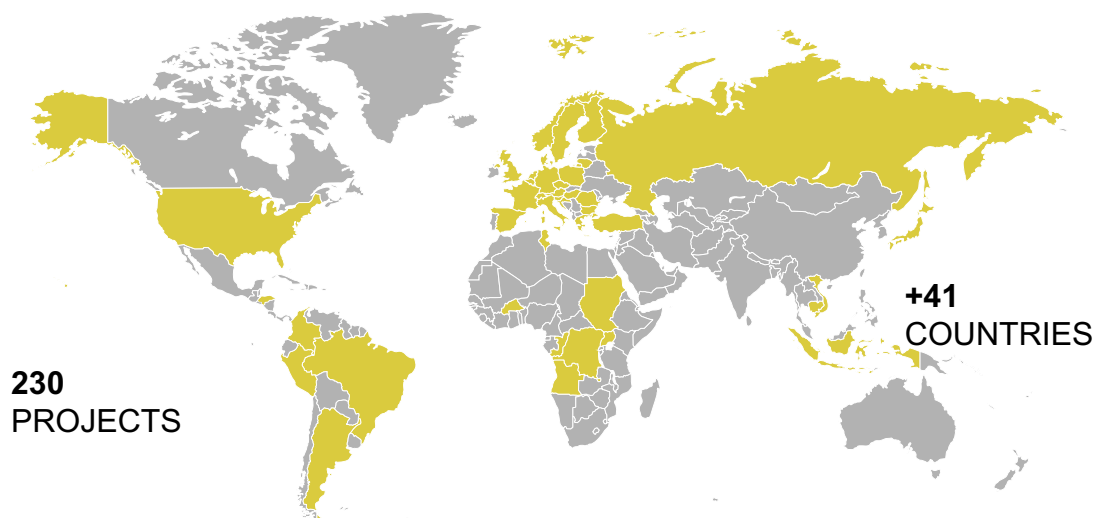
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UNIVERSITÀ
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ETIFOR restores harmony between humans and nature

EXPERIENCE

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Forest Management Auditing

The book, co-edited by Etifor's authors, outlines the market-based tools that are required to ensure corporate social responsibility in the forestry sector.

For forest managers, auditors and project developers.

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