



THINK NAMIBIA
Sustainable Forest
Management

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.

DID YOU KNOW...

1.6 million ha of Namibian Forests were under FSC certification 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.

STEPS TO FOREST CERTIFICATION

1 PREPARATION

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

2 MAKING CONTACT

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

3 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.

4 CONTRACT SIGNING

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

5 PRELIMINARY AUDIT

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

6 ON SITE ASSESSMENT

A team chosen by the certifier conducts a detailed assessment of the operations and consults with other stakeholders including employees. The assessment is rated against the **certification standards/principles**.

7 ADJUSTMENTS

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

8 ISSUING OF CERTIFICATE

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

9 VERIFICATION AUDITS

To ensure compliance, the certifier conducts **regular verification audits** and may include new recommendations for corrective actions. Failure to comply can lead to suspension of the certificate.

10 CERTIFICATION RENEWAL

A new audit is undertaken to renew the certificate for a new period. The company may also choose to be certified under a new certificate type.



Where can applications for certification be done in Namibia?

Certification applications can be made with the Southern African sub regional office in South Africa, which also serves Namibia. Queries can be directed to:

Ms Manushka Moodley
FSC Southern Africa Coordinator
m.moodley@fsc.org

Detailed information can be obtained from the website:
<https://fsc.org/en>



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.



What are the benefits of certification?

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



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



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
10. Implementation of management activities



For how long are certificates valid?

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.