Sustainable Forestry and Certification (FSC) Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Environmental Management and Conservation	**Duration**	5 Days
Base Fee	$1,500 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

In an era of increasing environmental consciousness and corporate social responsibility, the global demand for **responsibly sourced** and **ethically produced** forest products is at an all-time high. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) stands as the world's most trusted and recognized forest certification scheme, providing a rigorous and credible framework for **sustainable forest management**. Sustainable Forestry and Certification (FSC) Training Course is designed to empower individuals and organizations with the knowledge and practical skills required to navigate the complexities of the FSC system. Participants will gain a deep understanding of the FSC's core principles, from environmental stewardship and biodiversity conservation to the protection of workers' rights and community well-being, ensuring that they can implement best practices and contribute to a more sustainable future for our planet's forests.

This course is a critical investment for professionals committed to **green supply chains** and **eco-friendly business models**. It goes beyond theoretical knowledge to provide actionable insights into the **FSC certification process**, including both Forest Management (FM) and Chain of Custody (CoC) standards. Through a blend of expert-led instruction, interactive workshops, and real-world case studies, attendees will learn how to conduct effective audits, manage compliant systems, and leverage the FSC label to enhance brand credibility and market access. By mastering these skills, participants will not only drive their organizations toward **sustainability leadership** but also become key agents of change in the global movement toward **responsible forestry** and **climate action**.

Programme Curriculum

Sustainable Forestry and Certification (FSC) Training Course

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Course Duration

5 days

Course Objectives

1. Master the **FSC Principles and Criteria** for sustainable forest management.
2. Navigate the **FSC Chain of Custody (CoC)** standards and ensure supply chain integrity.
3. Implement **responsible sourcing** strategies and prevent illegal logging.
4. Conduct comprehensive **FSC audits** and compliance assessments.
5. Leverage the **FSC label** for **brand reputation** and consumer trust.
6. Understand the role of **High Conservation Values (HCVs)** in forestry management.
7. Integrate **climate change mitigation** and **carbon sequestration** practices.
8. Apply **geospatial technologies** and **remote sensing** for forest monitoring.
9. Comply with global **timber regulations**, such as the European Union Timber Regulation (EUTR).
10. Develop and manage **forest carbon projects** and access emerging markets.
11. Protect and enhance **biodiversity** and **ecosystem services**.
12. Ensure respect for **Indigenous Peoples' rights** and local community engagement.
13. Promote a culture of **corporate social responsibility (CSR)** within the forest products industry.

Organizational Benefits

- Gain a competitive edge and unlock new markets by meeting the growing demand for certified sustainable products from eco-conscious consumers, retailers, and governments.
- Strengthen due diligence systems, ensuring compliance with international timber regulations and reducing the risk of association with illegal or unethical sourcing.
- Build consumer trust and loyalty by publicly demonstrating a commitment to environmental stewardship and social responsibility, leveraging the globally recognized FSC logo.
- Implement best practices that lead to more efficient and resilient supply chains, while reducing negative environmental and social impacts.

- Attract mission-aligned investors and partners by showcasing a verifiable commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other global sustainability frameworks.

Target Audience

1. Forestry Professionals.
2. Sustainability Officers.
3. Procurement Specialists.
4. Auditors
5. Smallholders and Community Forests.
6. Government and NGO Staff.
7. Retailers and Manufacturers.
8. Academics and Researchers.

Course Outline

Module 1: Introduction to Sustainable Forestry and the FSC System

- Define sustainable forestry and its global importance for climate action and biodiversity.
- Explore the history and governance structure of the Forest Stewardship Council
- Review the 10 Principles and Criteria of FSC Forest Stewardship.
- Differentiate between FSC Forest Management (FM) and Chain of Custody (CoC) certification.
- **Case Study:** The FSC's role in combatting illegal logging in the Amazon Rainforest.

Module 2: The FSC Chain of Custody (CoC) Standard

- Understand the purpose and requirements of FSC CoC certification.
- Learn about the three claim systems: Transfer, Percentage, and Credit.
- Master the process of material input control and separation of certified from non-certified products.
- Examine the use of the FSC trademark and label on products.
- **Case Study:** How a global furniture manufacturer transitioned to a 100% FSC-certified supply chain.

Module 3: FSC Auditing and Compliance

- Learn the principles of auditing based on ISO 19011 guidelines.
- Conduct a mock Stage 1 (readiness) and Stage 2 (main) audit.
- Identify and document non-conformities and develop corrective action plans.
- Understand the role of Assurance Services International (ASI) in the FSC system.
- **Case Study:** A mock audit of a paper mill, identifying common pitfalls and best practices for compliance.

Module 4: High Conservation Values (HCVs) and Ecosystem Services

- Define and identify the six categories of High Conservation Values.
- Learn to conduct HCV assessments and develop management plans to maintain or enhance them.
- Explore the concept of ecosystem services and their importance in forestry.
- Understand the new FSC certification for Ecosystem Services (ES) and its market potential.
- **Case Study:** Protecting critical wildlife habitats and water resources in an FSC-certified forest in Canada.

Module 5: Social and Community Aspects of FSC

- Examine FSC's core labor requirements and their alignment with ILO conventions.

- Understand the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the need for Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC).
- Develop strategies for effective stakeholder engagement with local communities and workers.
- Analyze the social benefits of FSC certification, including fair wages and working conditions.
- **Case Study:** A community forestry project in Guatemala that used FSC certification to secure land rights and economic benefits for local residents.

Module 6: Risk Assessment and Controlled Wood

- Learn the five categories of "unacceptable sources" of wood under the FSC system.
- Implement due diligence systems to avoid sourcing from high-risk areas.
- Understand the FSC Controlled Wood standard and its role in mitigating supply chain risks.
- Conduct a risk assessment for sourcing non-FSC certified material.
- **Case Study:** A company's process for verifying the legal and ethical origin of timber from a new supplier in a high-risk country.

Module 7: Technology and Innovation in Sustainable Forestry

- Introduction to GIS and remote sensing for forest mapping and monitoring.
- Use satellite imagery and drone technology to track deforestation and forest health.
- Explore the use of blockchain technology for supply chain traceability (e.g., FSC Trace).
- Understand how to use data to measure progress toward sustainability goals.
- **Case Study:** Applying GIS to monitor and prevent illegal logging activities in a large-scale certified forest in Indonesia.

Module 8: The Business Case for FSC and Future Trends

- Develop a compelling business case for FSC certification, including ROI analysis.
- Explore global market trends and the growing demand for sustainable products.
- Understand how FSC certification helps meet UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Discuss the future of sustainable forestry, including carbon markets and Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES).
- **Case Study:** How a small business used FSC certification to secure a major contract with a green building developer.

Training Methodology

This course employs an **experiential learning** approach combining theoretical instruction with practical application. The methodology includes:

- Interactive Lectures
- Group Discussions.
- Role-Playing: Simulating audit scenarios and stakeholder negotiations.
- Case Study Analysis: Deep-diving into real-life examples to apply concepts.
- Practical Exercises: Hands-on activities with relevant documentation and tools.

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Online	$1,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$1,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$4,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000

Ready to enroll or request a customized program? Book online or contact us:

Register Online Now