



SUMMARY OF MOTIONS PASSED AT THE 2017 FSC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The text of each motion is included in FSC International's "Report on Result of Motions Voted on at the 2017 GA."

Motion 6: Conduct of the organization shall be guided by the principles of good governance

What Will Happen? This motion amends clauses Seven and Eight of the Statutes. Clause Seven describes at a high level the activities of FSC, such as "Promote the Principles and Criteria..."; the motion adds a statement that "Conduct of the Organization shall be guided by the principles of good governance." Clause Eight provides the main tenets of FSC, such as "The Organization shall value equally the environmental, social and economic aspects of forest management."; the motion adds a tenet that FSC shall be guided by the principles of good governance and then describes what those principles are.

What's the Impact? FSC US Staff believe that these principles are already widely practiced by FSC, therefore we foresee limited impact or consequences from adopting this motion.

Motion 7: Addressing Past Conversion through Restoration and Conservation as a Requirement for Certification of Plantations that have converted natural forest areas Post 1994

What Will Happen? The original version of this motion proposed to change the language of the Principles and Criteria (P&C) and related International Generic Indicators (IGIs) to provide requirements for how areas that had been converted from natural forest after November 1994 and prior to the effective date of the revision could qualify for certification. The motion that passed was revised so that it does not change the P&C or IGIs, but instead recognizes the importance of resolving the issue and requests that FSC put a mechanism in place to do so, including consideration of compensation for past conversions, in terms of restoration and/or conservation for environmental values, and restitution for socio-economic values.

What's the Impact? This motion pertains mainly to countries in tropical regions, notably Indonesia. While the revisions to the motion mean that the resolution of the situation will not occur immediately, it does open the door to certification of lands converted after 1994 but with important social and ecological conditions and requirements. Once in place, the outcome of this motion will serve as an incentive for restoration on and conservation of plantations.

Motion 16: Harnessing audit data to improve assurance integrity, M&E, and the value proposition for FSC

What Will Happen? The original version of this motion included a fairly detailed description of how FSC was to achieve the purpose of the motion (i.e., to better leverage the data collected through the FSC forest management audit process). The motion that passed was revised to be less prescriptive and instead focus on the desired outcome of improving audit reporting and data management systems to better leverage data already collected so that it may be used to:



support evidence-driven improvement of standards; support and develop risk adjusted auditing; and build next-generation assurance, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems.

What's the Impact? Improving FSC's ability to evaluate impacts of FSC certification would be a very positive benefit. The motion includes an emphasis on minimizing added costs/burdens, so hopefully there will be limited additional burden on certificate holders or CBs as a result of motion implementation.

Motion 21: The Climate Motion

What Will Happen? As with the original version of this motion, the revised motion that passed focuses on investigating and communicating how FSC may assist Parties (Governments) to address the Cancun Safeguards, which are commitments under the Paris Agreement. The revised motion does this without forming a working group, as was included in the original motion, but adds the condition that FSC shall apply to the UNFCCC to join the Climate Change discussions, which would give FSC direct access to the signatory Parties.

What's the Impact? Providing communications about FSC and its impacts relative to climate change and the Paris Agreement to countries that have ratified the Agreement would likely reflect positively on the FSC System. Such initiatives are already reflected in the Global Strategic Plan. No significant negative impacts are immediately obvious other than the required technical and advocacy resources.

Motion 34: Regional assessments of the impacts of the implementation of Motion 65/2014

What Will Happen? The original version of this motion directed FSC to conduct (within each tropical forest basin) an assessment of economic impacts associated with the management and protection measures that are part of implementation of Motion 65 (2014) on Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL). The motion that passed was revised to expand consideration to include environmental and social impacts, to include both short and long-term impacts, to explicitly require consideration of both positive and negative impacts, and to require impact assessments globally at a regional scale instead limiting it to tropical forest basins. The revised version also specifies that implementation of the motion should include comparisons of various scenarios and that they should focus on impacts on people associated with the IFLs.

What's the Impact? The purpose is to help avoid unintended consequences as FSC moves to implement protections for Intact Forest Landscapes in forest management standards, which should lead to positive impacts. While the motion does not provide direction on what should be done with the results of the completed assessments, such impact assessments could more clearly define and focus attention on IFL management challenges, especially in tropical areas. The extent of resources required for the assessment would depend on whether it is more qualitative (gross impacts and costs) or quantitative in nature, and this level of detail is not defined by the revised motion.



Motion 40: New IGI to clarify that FPIC is to be achieved over time through a mutually agreed process

What Will Happen? As with the original version of this motion, the revised motion that passed focuses on changes to language of IGIs associated with Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) that is considered to have negative and disrespectful overtones and to align them with the FPIC guidelines. Additionally, both the original and revised versions add a new IGI that allows a mutually-agreed FPIC process in place of an FPIC agreement. The most significant difference in the revised version is that it specifies actual deletions and additions of text to the IGIs. The importance of the mutually-agreed FPIC process is that even though it may take longer, a community may find that the result of the process would have greater value than would be found by being rushed to conclude an agreement prior to a certificate holder's audit.

What's the Impact? This motion calls for relatively minor edits to IGIs and greater flexibility for both parties in reaching FPIC agreements. While this is a relatively modest request, it could have very positive benefits in FSC's ability to successfully and effectively incorporate and implement FPIC as part of Forest Management standards.

Motion 46: FSC New Approaches Program as a high-level priority for advancing smallholder and Community certification

What Will Happen? Depending on who was doing the categorization, there were at least six and perhaps as many as 10 motions focused on small holders (family forests and other small and low impact owners). The original version of this motion began as a call for development of an action plan to make FSC certification accessible to smallholders, but did not recognize that this was essentially already occurring through the New Approaches program. The motion that passed was revised to become a 'super motion' that supports implementation of the New Approaches program (importantly including a commitment to effectively resourcing the program), and includes key components of most of the other smallholder motions as required considerations (such as contractor certification, revision of the group certification standard, risk-based approaches, and making smallholder audit processes more cost-effective).

What's the Impact? While much of this work was already a part of the New Approaches program, this motion prioritizes the work and ensures that it will be effectively resourced. The outcomes of the New Approaches program could have a paradigm-shifting impact on FSC and successful achievement of the goals and aspirations in the Global Strategy.

Motion 48: Fast-Track Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) in the implementation plan 2017-2020

What Will Happen? This motion essentially calls on FSC to implement Motion 58 that passed at the 2014 GA, and to prioritize this work to find solutions (specifically new and successful tools) to the problems facing owners seeing to certify and market NTFP.

What's the Impact? While there may be limited impact potential given myriad competing concerns, this issue is considered to be extremely important in the social chamber for the benefits it may provide to local communities in developing nations.



Motion 56: Ensuring that the Controlled Wood System is functional and credible until a strategy is in place

What Will Happen? As with the original motion, the revised motion that passed includes the components of limiting the duration of time that company risk assessments may be used (although the revised version extends this time by a year) and supporting the strategy process, while ensuring that a full range of options are considered therein. The revised motion additionally incorporates an expectation that resources required for implementation of Centralized National Risk Assessments (CNRAs) and National Risk Assessments (NRAs) will be made available, directs that a small team representing all three chambers and a diversity of perspectives be established to help with preparation for the Strategy workshop in 2018, and requires that data are obtained that will support sound decision-making.

What's the Impact? The specifics of this motion should help to ensure a more credible, participatory and transparent Controlled Wood Strategy development process. A successful strategy outcome could have significant and lasting implications for the FSC System as whole, positively affecting the organization's ability to achieve the goals and aspirations in our Global Strategy.

Motion 61: Certification Assessment Integrity and Credibility

What Will Happen? The original version of this motion was developed in reaction to concerns about conflicts of interest and therefore the integrity and credibility of the certification assessment, and proposed a specific solution for addressing the perceived problem. Other members questioned whether the problem exists and if so, to what extent, and therefore objected to the extensive resources that would have been required for the proposed solution. The version of the motion that passed was revised to first require an impartial and independent review and evaluation of the certification assessment system to determine if there actually are any problems, and then propose potential solutions to address issues that are identified.

What's the Impact? Certainly, there is potential for credibility improvements and audit consistency by avoiding conflicts of interest and appearance of conflicts. However, while the initial evaluation required by the passed motion will help to avoid unnecessary action that outweighs benefits, the passed motion does not include any explicit requirement for impact assessments of any proposed potential solutions – it is possible that some solutions (such as the one proposed in the original version of the motion) could result in significant negative consequences for certificate holders.

Motion 62: Statutory motion to review and revise membership criteria for chamber allocation and development of a protocol

What Will Happen? This motion directs the Secretariat to: 1) complete a review and revision of the membership criteria for chamber allocation, and 2) develop a protocol to guide Board decisions on chamber allocation. It also includes an amendment to Clause 20 of the Statutes that requires the Board to use the developed protocol.

What's the Impact? This motion has the potential for positive impact in terms of clarifying chamber allocations for cooperatives, smallholders and governmental organizations. However,



the protocol and any associated new procedures, including board decision-making, could result in greater complexity in the system, instead of simplification, causing delays in decisions.

Motion 63: Make sure that strategic decisions on the FSC Network are directed and evaluated by FSC Board of Directors

What Will Happen? The purpose of this motion is to bring the strategic development of the FSC Network under explicit responsibility of the Board of Directors. It does this by inserting the following sentence into Article 38 of the Statues: "The strategic direction including the decisions on development and priority-setting of the FSC network will be determined and evaluated by the Board of Directors." The motion that passed was officially considered a revised motion, but it is not clear that there are any differences between the original version of the motion and the revised one.

What's the Impact? As written, it is not entirely clear whether the "decisions on development and priority setting" responsibilities given to the Board of Directors by the insertion into Article 38 are limited to the structure and organization of the FSC Network, or if they are intended to be more expansive. This lack of clarity could have a negative impact on the relationship between the Board and Network Partners. An alternative perspective is that as the motion will primarily clarify current practice, its impact would likely be limited, but positive.

Motion 67: Establish an Internal Audit System

What Will Happen? Both the original and revised versions of this motion focus on establishing a system to carry out systematic Internal Audit to help with performance evaluation of the Board and Secretariat and of plan and policy implementation. The revised version that passed specifies that this should be an independent audit held to internationally recognized standards and that resulting information should be shared with the membership.

What's the Impact? Now that FSC has a Global Strategic Plan and is working toward a more comprehensive risk management system, an internal audit function would seem to be likely to have a positive impact in helping to ensure that the programs and processes essential to implementation are functioning and effective. The resources required to complete the audit function could be significant, depending upon the scope and level of detail required, but the benefits (such as increased trust in FSC management and governance) would likely out-weigh the costs.

Motion 69: Governance Review Phase II

What Will Happen? Both the original and revised versions of the motion direct FSC to continue the governance review to explore future governance structures and to monitor implementation of recommendations approved as motions at the 2017 General Assembly, or through agreement by the Board. The revised version that passed is more explicit about what shall be included in the continued governance review, includes an emphasis on better engagement of key stakeholder groups during the process, and requires development of a strategy and action plan for increased transparency and accountability.



What's the Impact? Continuing to explore these issues and implementing changes will be important for helping FSC achieve the objectives and aspirations in the Global Strategic Plan.

Motion 71: FSC supports Indigenous Cultural Landscapes

What Will Happen? This motion was submitted from the floor of the General Assembly after a number of motions very important to the social chamber did not pass, due in major part to objections regarding technical or process details, not necessarily to the overall high-level intent. The motion consists entirely of a statement: “FSC supports Indigenous Cultural Landscapes and respects Free Prior Informed Consent in Intact Forest Landscapes.”

What's the Impact? This motion sends a clear message from the membership to the FSC International Board of Directors and Secretariat about the importance of prioritizing Indigenous Cultural Landscapes and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent.