DESK TESTS – REVISION OF THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES PROCEDURE

7 December 2023

FSC CES and FM Teams

![FSC Forests For All Forever logo]

What is a desk test?

It is a **theoretical exercise** in which the participants will reflect about how the draft clauses can be **implemented**.

What is the objective of the desk tests?

The **objective** of the desk tests is to obtain **feedback** that enables FSC to evaluate barriers and opportunities in the **implementation** of the Ecosystem Services procedure.

Who are the participants?

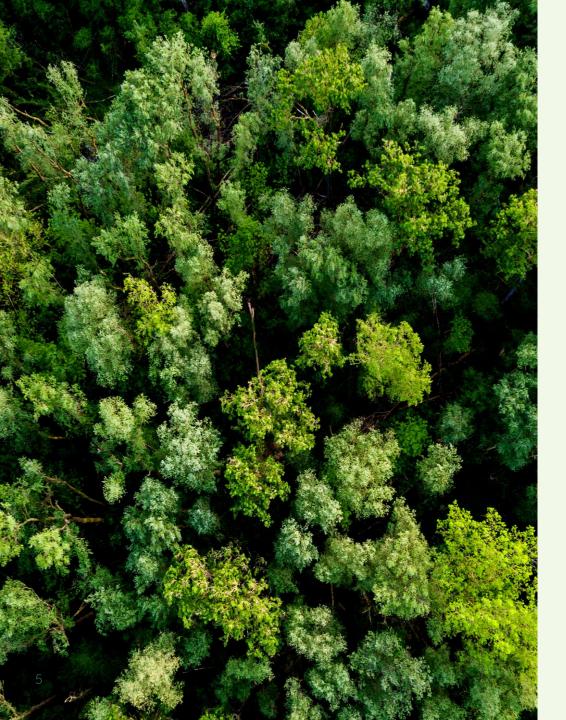| Participant	Eligibility criteria
1) Certification bodies	The participant **shall be accredited for FSC FM**; and have **previously audited the ES PRO, or are interested** in doing so.
2) FSC FM Certificate Holders (CH)	The participant shall **already have verified positive ecosystem services impacts**, or are **interested** in doing so.
3) CH managing SLIMF and community forests	It is **not necessary** that the participant has **verified ecosystem services impacts**.
4) Project Developers	The participant shall have **expertise in implementing the ES PRO** on behalf of FSC FM CH **or be interested** in doing so.
5) Sponsors	The participant **shall have already funded the verification of ES impacts or be interested** in doing so.

How to participate in the Desk test?

1) The participant **reads** the TOR.

2) The participant submits an expression of interest through a completed **application form. Email is sent to forestmanagement@fsc.org**

3) FSC **confirms participation**.

4) Participant and FSC sign a **cooperation agreement**.

5) FSC publishes/shares **questionnaire and ES PRO Draft 2-0.**

6) The participant reads Draft 2-0 ES PRO, completes the **questionnaire** and returns it to FSC.

Conditions of participation

- Participation takes place on a **voluntary and non-paid** basis.

- FSC will offer materials in **English, Spanish and French**. Participants may return the completed questionnaires in any of these 3 languages.

Timeline for the desk test:

- TOR are published – Mid Jan 2024.
- Call for application is launched (TOR + appl. Form) – Mid Jan 2024.
- Questionnaire is published – Mid Feb 2024
- Contracts are signed.
- Desk tests are conducted from 1 April 2024 (in parallel to 2nd public consultation).

What are the topics of the desk test?

1. Impact verification requirements for the **storytelling approach**
2. Impact verification requirements for the **performance approach**
3. Use of the **validation option**
4. Ease of access for **SLIMF users**
5. Requirements and process of **auditing**
6. **Revenue sharing mechanism**
7. **Uses and claims**

Desk Test Topics

Topic 1: Impact verification requirements for the storytelling approach

Objective

Evaluate the technical requirements, safeguards, data quality and integrity criteria for verifying the impact in the management unit. The desk testing should consider if the clauses are practical to apply and evaluate benefits, risks and constraints.

Targeted participants are: CH, Project Developers, CBs.

Topic 2: Impact verification requirements for the performance approach

Objective

Evaluate the technical requirements, safeguards, data quality and integrity criteria for verifying the impact in the forest management unit. The topics concerning the Theory of Change, normative requirements are to be evaluated. The desk testing should consider if the clauses are practical to apply and evaluate benefits, risks and constraints.

Targeted participants are: CH, Project Developers, CBs.

Topic 3: Use of the validation option

Objective

To evaluate possibilities of use of validation option for claim to attract sponsorship earlier in the process and secure investment.

Targeted participants are: CH, Project Developers, CBs, Sponsors.

Desk Test Topics

Topic 4: Auditing requirements

Objective

To evaluate auditing requirements: Different impact verification approaches (storytelling & performance approach); frequency of auditing, and other practices. The desk testing should consider if the clauses are practical to apply and evaluate benefits, risks and constraints.

Targeted participants are: CBs.

Topic 5: Revenue Sharing Mechanism

Objective

Evaluate proposed clauses concerning necessary agreements, min./ max. thresholds for certain actors, governance set up. The desk testing should consider if the clauses are practical to apply and evaluate benefits, risks, and constraints.

Targeted participants are: CH, Project Developers, CBs.

Topic 6 SLIMF users

Objective

To evaluate ease of access for SLIMF users, benefits, risks and opportunities for SLIMF users.

Targeted participants are: SLIMF.

Topic 7: Uses of verified ES impacts and ES CLAIMS

Objective

Evaluate safeguards and integrity criteria at the sponsor level

Targeted stakeholders are: CH, Project Developers, CBs, Sponsors

QUESTIONS?

Thank you

FSC

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