



The mark of  
responsible forestry



# Soil Association Forestry Profile

**The Soil Association** is a UK based environmental non-governmental organisation (NGO) founded in 1946. The Soil Association was created to 'research, develop, and promote sustainable relationships between the soil, plants, animals, people and the biosphere, while protecting and enhancing the environment'. Since its foundation, the Soil Association has pioneered practical solutions to promote sustainable use of land and natural resources. The Soil Association's organic certification scheme (Soil Association Certification Limited) for products and producers is now the largest in Britain.

**The Soil Association's Forestry Programme** was founded in 1992, in order to apply the Soil Association's philosophy of sustainable resource use and certification expertise to the area of forestry and timber.

Soil Association's **Forestry team** in Soil Association Certification manages our forestry management and chain of custody certification schemes. We were one of the first Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) accredited certification bodies. We have a long track record of carrying out certification assessments of forest enterprises and the timber processing industry as well as training and capacity building in certification worldwide. FSC accredited since 1996, we have issued Forest Management (FM) and Chain of Custody (COC) certificates in many countries around the world. Since 2009, we have also been accredited by UKAS (a member of the International Accreditation Forum) for COC certification to the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) standards and are also accredited by UKAS for delivery of PEFC FM certification in a range of countries. We ensure we are notified by national PEFC bodies to carry out certification as we become accredited in the different countries.

For a full list of our FSC certificate holders please visit the FSC's database at <http://www.info.fsc.org> and <http://www.pefc.org> for PEFC certificates holders.

Our Certificates have been issued in many countries including: Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China,

Over  
**26m**  
hectares of forest  
certified in  
**38**  
countries

Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Malaysia, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Swaziland, Sweden, Tanzania, Turkey, UK, and the United States. We have been a pioneer in forest certification, promoting and developing FSC certification and have often been the first to issue FSC certificates in many of these countries. As part of its developmental work the Forestry team has also carried out pre-assessments in many other parts of the globe.



Picture: Matthias Kremer

## Certification Services

The cost of certification varies widely according to the nature and scale of the operation. We charge fees based on the estimated time input required to carry out an evaluation. If you would like an estimate please contact us using the contact information below. The Forestry programme operates as a commercial certification service and its only income is the fees from the work it carries out. These fees support the provision of the service and the charitable aims of the Soil Association. We offer single or group scheme certification to either FSC or PEFC standards or can carry out competitively priced joint COC certification to both schemes.

The Forestry team can also carry out Verification of Legal Compliance for both forests and chain of custody operations.

## Forestry Standard Development

In each country where we have worked and where there is no current FSC endorsed forest management standard, we have historically developed a regional or national standard using as a basis our FSC accredited Generic Forest Management Standard. We are now developing new FSC Forestry Standards in a range of countries according to the FSC Principles and Criteria. These standards are adapted for local conditions in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. This ensures that the standard used takes into consideration local conditions and is credible to as wide a range of economic, social and environmental stakeholders as possible.

Over  
**3,800**  
COC certificates  
in over  
**60**  
countries

In addition to the forest management standards development process involved in specific certification projects, we have also led several projects to develop forestry standards as well as contributing to the development of the Soil Association's organic standards, FSC Non-Timber Forest Product standards, and others.



Pictures: Milan Reška

## **Forestry Training**

We provide a range of **forest certification training services targeted at relevant professionals**. So, whether you are a trainee auditor, a current - or future - certificate holder, a certification consultant or researcher, or just someone working for an organisation that has an interest in forest certification (e.g. an NGO), we have an option designed for you.

Our FSC training courses have been approved by **Assurance Services International (ASI)**, so we are an approved provider of FSC training courses in line with **FSC PRO 20-004** (General Requirements for an FSC Training Programme). Those who select and successfully complete the full **FSC Auditing to ISO 19011, Forest Management or Chain of Custody courses** will receive a valid training certificate as a crucial step towards becoming a **qualified FSC auditor**. These courses will also be of interest to certificate holders and other providers of certification services. In addition, our PEFC training has been recognised by PEFC International, under their internal training recognition programme.

In addition to our FSC and PEFC forest certification courses, we also offer an innovative course on Responsible Forest Management and Sustainable Forest Product Supply Chains, available to participants from a worldwide audience. It takes place over 2 weeks at Shuttleworth House and Woodlands in Bedfordshire, as a fully residential programme. We have also delivered in collaboration a number of in-country courses in Asia and Africa and would be happy to work in partnership with others on future courses of this nature.

## **Developing Local Certification Capacity**

In order to promote certification and make it accessible and affordable to a wide range of enterprises, the Forestry team places an emphasis on developing local certification capacity. Local auditors are trained to carry out certification audits in each country where we work. In addition, we work with several organisations, for example WSP Denmark in Scandinavia, SABS in South Africa, and AMITA in Japan, BCC in China, ICEA in Italy, DEKRA in Poland, Kiwa Sativa - Unipessoal Lda in Portugal, NCS in Estonia, NSF in the US and partners in Turkey in order to deliver certification locally.

Our Forestry Staff have led many workshops and presentations about certification, both for representatives of the forest and wood processing industries interested in certification, and also for NGOs, government organisations and other interested parties. In addition we have led seminars for those organisations and individuals interested in becoming FSC auditors. Countries where the Forestry team has carried out such work include: Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Kenya, Malaysia, Morocco, Mozambique, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden, & Tunisia.

## **Due Diligence Systems**

With the implementation of the European Timber Regulation (EUTR) in 2013, Soil Association Certification developed a Due Diligence System (DDS) which provides importers ('operators') with a ready to use system which is then audited by our expert team. Successful implementation of the DDS ensures that the products imported carry a negligible risk of illegal origin.

In the UK, we are recognised as a Monitoring Organisation by the Office for Product Safety and Standards, the Government body responsible for enforcing the UK Timber Regulation. The UKTR is identical to the EUTR. Outside the UK, we offer the same, equally valid DDS, which helps Companies meet their obligations under the EUTR..

Should you require any further information, please contact us at:

### **Soil Association Certification Ltd - Forestry Team**

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