Expanding FSC certification to Ecosystem Services

The new landmark project “ForCES – Forest Certification for Ecosystem Services” looks at what changes to the FSC® system are needed over a four year period, 2011-2015, for FSC to become a global leader in the certification of ecosystem services.

FSC and partner organizations research, analyze, and field test innovative ways how to evaluate and reward the provision of critical ecosystem services, such as biodiversity conservation, watershed protection and carbon storage/sequestration. Pilot tests are carried out at ten forest sites under different socio-political and environmental conditions.

Essential to this is the development of suitable compliance indicators both at the national and international level. In addition, newly developed impact indicators are used to demonstrate positive outcomes and the achievement of social and environmental objectives.

By the end of 2015, FSC will have in place an enhanced global system for forest managers which targets key ecosystem services with present or future market potential and we will have successfully certified demonstration sites for ecosystem services.