

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) – Company Response 30 March 2026

FSC is a global certification scheme: FSC works with independent certification bodies, which are responsible for certification decisions. We work through these bodies, and with ASI where relevant, to follow up on reported issues. For case-specific questions, the certification body is best placed to provide further detail, as indicated below.

Q1. Can you provide details on the obligations for FSC-certified timber companies in instances where their right to operate a certified concession is suspended by a federal authority? Equally, do obligations exist for FSC certification bodies to periodically check for such suspensions?

FSC forest management certification requires certified organizations to comply with applicable laws, as set out in Principle 1 of the [FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship](#). If a federal authority suspends a company's legal right to operate in a certified area, this affects the company's conformity with FSC requirements and would be relevant to the certification body's assessment. However, FSC's normative documents do not establish a specific separate requirement for certificate holders to proactively report such sanctions or suspensions to the certification body or to FSC. Certification bodies assess the company's conformity with FSC requirements through established audit processes.

Q2. Did Samise notify Imaflora in Brazil of the first suspension of its concession imposed by ICMBio between May and July 2023?

FSC is not directly involved in communications between certification bodies and certificate holders, and as such cannot confirm this.

Q3. If Imaflora was notified, why did it not take action to suspend Samise's certificate in response to the suspension of concessionary rights imposed by the federal authority?

Decisions to grant, suspend, or terminate FSC certificates are taken by accredited certification bodies, not by FSC. Accordingly, the rationale for any certification decision in this case rests with Imaflora, which is best placed to reply to this question.

Q4. When FSC is notified of the suspension of a certified company's FSC certificate, does it inform other FSC-certified companies in the suspended company's supply chain handling certified material? If so, please share evidence of this communication during the 2023 and 2025 suspensions.

FSC does not directly notify all downstream certificate holders when a company's FSC certificate is suspended. Instead, two things happen:

- The certificate's status is updated in [FSC's public search/database](#), which is the authoritative source that buyers should consult. Companies are expected to check supplier certification validity through this source as part of Chain of Custody due diligence and record-keeping.
- The certificate holder must notify all existing certified customers in writing within three (3) days and keep records of those notices (as required via the certification agreement)

Q5. How does FSC respond to recurrent issues with Samise's CCS?

We have taken note of the reported findings concerning Samise's chain of custody/traceability controls. In line with FSC's established process, we will work with the accredited certification body and, where appropriate, ASI (Assurance Services International), to collect and verify evidence and apply the relevant requirements. These steps take time to ensure due process, consistency and evidence-based outcomes.

Please also note, as of 24 March 2026, Samise's FSC certification is [terminated](#).

Q6. Is FSC aware of the weaknesses in timber traceability in the state of Pará, as described in the State of Pará Public Prosecutor's Technical Note No. 06.2024.00000681-8, No. 01/2025 (see: [link](#))? If so, what measures has FSC adopted to ensure that timber originating in Pará is not linked to illegality?

Yes. We are aware of the State of Pará Public Prosecutor's Technical Note, which describes vulnerabilities in timber traceability in Pará. We follow these developments and consider credible, publicly available information when assessing supply-chain risks.

Where credible indications of potential irregularities arise in any region, we may apply FSC's established mechanisms depending on the nature and strength of the evidence. These include the possibility of supply chain integrity measures, such as transaction verification loops led by ASI, or other targeted integrity checks to test purchase-and-sale data across supply-chain actors.

Q7. Could you explain why the FSC certification body in Brazil decided not to suspend Samise's certification in January 2024, despite a recommendation to do so by the auditors due to unresolved major nonconformities?

Decisions related to certification status - including granting, maintaining, suspending, or withdrawing certification - fall under the responsibility of the Certification Body, in line with FSC requirements, as specified in [FSC-STD-20-001 V4-0 General Requirements for Certification Bodies](#).

Q8. Can you outline the obligations for a certified timber company and downstream companies handling certified timber from that company, in cases where its FSC certification has been suspended or cancelled? What verification methods are in place to ensure that these downstream companies, including the Dutch importers mentioned above, are not making invalid FSC claims about timber from a suspended supplier?

1) Obligations for the certified timber company (supplier): If its FSC certificate is suspended or cancelled, it may no longer make FSC claims or use FSC trademarks because use requires a valid certification status; it must also notify all existing certified customers in writing within three (3) days of the suspension/withdrawal and keep records of those notices.

2) Obligations for downstream companies handling that timber: They must verify supplier certificate validity in the FSC public database and keep supplier verification records as part of their CoC controls.

3) Verification methods to ensure downstream companies aren't making invalid claims: Conformance is checked through audit-based oversight by accredited certification bodies.

Q9. How does FSC respond to recurrent issues in the way Greenex operates in Brazil?

We note the concerns raised about Greenex's operations. Under FSC's assurance system, evidence is collected and verified, and actions are taken through the accredited certification body (CB) responsible for auditing the certificate. Certification decisions rest with the CB under FSC's accreditation requirements.

In general, when risks appear systemic or affect downstream claims, FSC and ASI may launch a transaction verification (TV) loops or other Supply Chain Integrity investigations to test purchase/sales data across linked companies.

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