

## Supplementary Information

### 1. Deforestation

**Table S1.** Empirical studies on deforestation included and analyzed in the review.

| Deforestation |   |   |                     |        |   |            |           |  |              |
|---------------|---|---|---------------------|--------|---|------------|-----------|--|--------------|
| No            | Indicator   | Method  | Proxy Indicator     | Scheme | Findings  | Time frame | Reference | Country  | World region |
| 1             | Low to no effect on deforestation within management unit; >1% (no effect/-)                           | Spatial analysis, statistical analysis                                  | Annual forest loss  | FSC    | We find low forest loss inside the boundaries of each management intervention, with <1% lost over the study period (2000-2013). Certified and uncertified concessions had the same effect on forest loss rates. However, the uncertified concessions minimally lowered forest loss rates compared to matched control forests. | 2000-2013  | [1]       | Cameroon, multiple study sites                               |              |
| 2             | Reduction in deforestation, but low 1% (+)  | Statistical matching method   | Forest cover change | FSC    | Rarely in this study were we able to reject the null hypothesis that FSC certification has no impact on forest loss. Certification significantly reduces the probability of forest loss by less than 1% (2000-2012). Therefore, the effects of FSC certification on forest loss are estimated to be very small.               | 2000-2012  | [2]       | Cameroon, multiple study sites                               | Africa (3)   |
| 3             | Reduction in deforestation: 48% less deforestation yet not less than concessions with FMP (no effect) | Quasi-experimental, difference-in-difference approach, spatial analysis | Forest cover change | FSC    | The area deforested is lower (74% lower between (2000-2010) in logging concessions that have an approved forest management plan (FMP) in the Congo  | 2000-2010  | [3]       | Congo Basin – except the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). |              |

|   |           |                              |                                       |     |  |                      |     |                        |          |
|---|-----------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|--|----------------------|-----|------------------------|----------|
| 4 | No effect | Spatial analysis, interviews | Percent of forest cover loss and gain | FSC | <p>Basin. More specifically, in concessions with an FMP over a more extended period, deforestation is lower. Concessions with FSC certificates, testifying that FMP has indeed been implemented, have an average avoided deforestation estimated at 514 ha between 2000 and 2010. This represents 48% less deforestation in concessions that have received their FSC certificates between 2005 and 2010. Considering these limitations of the study and that concessions with FSC certification have had their certificates for at least five years, the complementary analyses suggest no statistically significant difference of deforestation across FSC-certified concessions and their peers with approved FMP that had no FSC certificate. Therefore, the additional benefit of issuing an FSC certificate over approval of FMP seems nonexistent compared to the overall impact of implementing FMP.</p> <p>There is no difference between certified and non-certified companies regarding forest cover loss from 2008 to</p> | 2008-2015; 2000-2012 | [4] | Russia, Primorsky Krai | Asia (2) |
|---|-----------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----|--|----------------------|-----|------------------------|----------|

|   |  |  |  |                        |  |           |     | 2015 or forest cover gain from 2000 to 2012.     |                     |
|---|--|--|--|------------------------|--|-----------|-----|--|---------------------|
| 5 | Reduction in deforestation: by 5% (++)   | Quasi-experimental, spatial explicit econometric method              | Forest cover change  | FSC                    | Between 2000 and 2008, FSC reduced aggregate deforestation by 5 %.   | 2000-2008 | [5] | Indonesia, Kalimantan                            |                     |
| 6 | Reduction in deforestation: 0.04% compared to 0.88% in uncertified concessions (+) | Spatial analysis   | Annual deforestation rates   | FSC                    | From 2002 to 2007, the average annual deforestation rate for the entire MBR is 0.88%, over twenty times higher than the deforestation rate for the FSC certified concessions (0.04%) (Table 2). Similarly, the average annual deforestation rate for the core protected areas (0.79%) is nearly twenty times higher than the rate for the FSC-certified concessions. | 2002-2007 | [6] | Guatemala, Maya Biosphere reserve                | Central America (1) |
| 7 | No evidence/effect   | Panel data techniques; matched difference-in-differenced models      | Tree cover loss, regulatory permitting, and geophysical and socioeconomic land characteristics | FSC                    | The analysis results offer no evidence that FSC certification affects deforestation (2001-2012).   | 2001-2012 | [7] | Mexico, several study sites across country       | North America (1)   |
| 8 | No difference/effect   | Quasi-experimental, difference-in-difference model, spatial analysis | Tree cover loss  | FSC                    | We find that logging concessions do not affect tree-cover loss on average, while the PAs reduce forest loss.   | 2000-2013 | [8] | Peru, Amazon (Madre de Dios, Loreto and Ucayali) | South America (4)   |
| 9 | Reduction in deforestation: between 2-23% (++)                                     | Quasi-experimental, matched difference-in-difference                 | Natural forest conversion to plantations   | FSC, PEFC-CERFLOR, JSP | Properties with FSC certification tended to have lower historical deforestation rates than properties pursuing other   | 2001-2011 | [9] | Chile, multiple sites                            |                     |

|    |  |  |                     |  |           |  |
|----|--|--|---------------------|--|-----------|--|
|    |  | analysis, spatial explicit economic method           |                     | nonstate, market-driven (NSMD) governance regimes. NSMD governance regimes reduced deforestation on participating properties by 2–23%. Our results indicate that FSC certification was more effective in slowing forest conversion than the more industry-friendly CERTFOR standard or the JSP moratorium. |           |  |
| 10 | Indonesia: likely, Gabon: no change, Brazil, yes over longer time frame (no effect/+)  | Synthetic control method (SCM)                       | Tree cover change   | FSC  | 2000–2012 | [10] Brazilian Amazon (Orsa Florestal); Indonesia, Kalimantan; Gabon (Rougier landscape) |
| 11 | Peru: No average deforestation impact in study area except one region (0.07% per year). Cameroon: No significant effect (0.02% per year in study area) (no effect/+) | Quasi experimental, spatial explicit economic method | Loss of forest area | FSC  | 2000–2013 | [11] Peru ((Madre de Dios, Loreto and Ucayali), Cameroon                                 |

concessions), though there is no statistically significant effect in four of five regions.

## 2. Forest degradation

**Table S2.** Empirical studies on biodiversity included and analyzed in the review.

| Biodiversity |   |   |               |          |  |         |                          |
|--------------|---|---|---------------|----------|--|---------|--------------------------|
| No           | Method  | Proxy- Indicator  | Impact Scheme | Findings | Reference  | Country | World region             |
| 1            | Mixed-method, retrospective quasi-experimental design   | Tree (adult and seedling) species richness, diversity and density | Positive      | FSC      | Forest certification standards and implementation processes are positively related to biodiversity conservation. For example, there are significantly higher tree (adults) species richness, diversity, and density in certified community forests than in open access forests and state forest reserves.  | [12]    | Tanzania, Kilwa district |
| 2            | Ape nest counts along standardized line transects using a before, during and after (BDA) methodology, General linear model                          | Species occurrence, gorillas, chimpanzees.                        | Positive      | FSC      | Data collected in 2013 static comparison.<br>In addition to providing empirical support for the ecological needs of endangered African apes, these results convey feedback to forestry managers on the efficacy of reduced impact logging practices and certification schemes on wildlife. Line transects were surveyed twelve times between 2004 and 2012,  | [13]    | Congo, Kabo Africa (3)   |
| 3            | Spatially-explicit capture-recapture models to camera trap data to estimate density across a human land-use gradient at five sites in central Gabon | Population density of African cat                                 | Positive      | FSC      | We found density was highest at a pristine, undisturbed site (16.23 [ $\pm 5.84$ SE] individuals per 100 km <sup>2</sup> ) and lowest at a village site with moderate levels of mostly subsistence bushmeat hunting (3.8 [ $\pm 2.23$ SE] individuals per 100 km <sup>2</sup> ). Logging concessions can support important densities of the species (10.18 [ $\pm 3.54$ SE] and 12.84 [ $\pm 4.25$ SE] individuals per 100 km <sup>2</sup> ), with the higher estimate of the two for the concession certified by the Forest Stewardship Council | [14]    | Central Gabon            |

|   |   |   |          | (FSC) versus the non-certified concession.<br>2011-2013 |   |       |  |
|---|---|---|----------|---|---|-------|--|
| 4 | Camera trapping   | Abundances of medium to large ground-dwelling vertebrates' differences between before and after harvesting by RIL.  | Neutral  | FSC   | Mammalian density and species composition were not significantly different between pre- and post-harvested areas prior to RIL harvest. February 2008 to September 2009.   | [15]. | Malaysia, Borneo, Deramakot Forest Reserve                                     |
| 5 | Camera trapping in combination with community occupancy modelling                                     | Mammalian diversity   | Positive | FSC   | Higher species richness (of threatened species) in certified forests<br><br>Deramakot was sampled between September 2008 and January 2009, Tangkulap between April and September 2009 and Segaliud Lokan between January and April 2010.  | [16]  | Malaysia; Borneo Deramakot and Tangkulap and Segaliud Lokan Forest Reserve     |
| 6 | Heat camera-trapping sensors located in 29 plots at 5 km intervals throughout the two forest reserves | Effects of FSC-RIL of diversity of forest-dwelling medium to large-bodied vertebrate species at a landscape-scale based on a comparison between the two reserves. | Positive | FSC   | The mean number of species recorded per plot was significantly greater in Deramakot (17.562.8; n = 20) than in Tangkulap (15.262.0; n = 9) (P, 0.05). Among the 36 species, six threatened species showed a significantly higher frequency per plot in Deramakot.<br><br>June 2008 to April 2009                                  | [17]  | Malaysia, Borneo, Deramakot and Tangkulap forest reserve <sup>1</sup> Asia (7) |
| 7 | Biodiversity observation for land and ecosystem health (BOLEH)  | Forest intactness based on the tree-generic compositional similarity with that of a pristine forest (index of biodiversity).                                      | Positive | FSC   | Significant spatiotemporal changes in carbon and forest intactness during these five years reflected past logging intensities and current management regimes in these forests. Enhancement of these ecosystem services occurred in the forest where sustainable management with reduced-impact logging had long been implemented. | [18]  | Malaysia, Borneo Deramakot and Tangkulap forest reserve                        |

<sup>1</sup> Deramakot is a sustainably managed forest with reduced impact logging, while Tangkulap is a forest damaged by conventional logging at the time of investigation (2001–2007).

| 2009, 2014        |   |   |          |     |   |  |
|-------------------|---|---|----------|-----|---|--|
| 8                 | Fieldwork (report based on empirical data/results of project)                   | Reduced impact logging, biodiversity, richness and composition of canopy tree community                 | Positive | FSC | Positive impact on biodiversity: it can be concluded that RIL can maintain the richness and composition of the canopy tree community at a level equivalent to the pristine forest.  | [19] Malaysia, Borneo, Deramakot forest reserve          |
| 2003              |   |   |          |     |   |  |
| 9                 | Field vegetation survey, statistical analysis (non-linear regression), modeling | forest structure and biodiversity, stem density, basal area, ecological integrity (total stand volume). | Positive | FSC | The tree species composition became diverse with age and began to resemble that of baseline forests around 25 years. Results suggest that the forest structure in secondary stands follows a natural regeneration dynamic over the rotation period but had not yet attained the same structure and composition as baseline forests at 25 years. Growth models suggest that the harvest rotation may need to be extended to 30–40 years for secondary stands to attain similar ranges of forest structure, compositions, and volumes to baseline forests.<br><br>June to August 2015. A total of 28 transects were established | [20] Indonesia, West Papua                               |
| 10                | Statistical analysis, stakeholder workshop                                      | Forest carbon storage, species richness   | Positive | FSC | The study found higher carbon stock ( $p < 0.05$ ) and species richness and a lower ecological threat index ( $p < 0.10$ ) in the certified community forests compared to non-certified community forests. In addition, the study showed that forest carbon stock is positively related to species richness and negatively to the ecological threat index.  | [21] Nepal, Charnawati landscape in the Dolakha district |
| February–May 2013 |   |   |          |     |   |  |
| 11                | Constrained ordination  | Floristic composition, reduced impact logging   | Positive | FSC | The highest abundance of light-benefiting taxa was found in certified forests, whereas conventionally managed forests were floristically more similar to natural forests. We found a lower floristic similarity between certified and natural forests than between conventionally managed forests and   | [22]. Honduras Central America (1)                       |

|    |   |  |          |      |   |       |  |  |  |
|----|---|--|----------|------|---|-------|--|--|--|
|    |   |  |          |      |   |       |  | natural forests in the treefall gaps studied in northern Honduras. Based on the high abundance of pioneer species and gap environmental variables indicating a reduced disturbance in the certified forests, we suggest that factors such as past loggings, hurricanes, and the location of the forests in relation to seed sources may have a more significant impact on forest structure than implementing certified management practices. |  |
| 12 | Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP)                      | Elements of Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP): Channel condition, Hydrologic alteration, Bank condition, Riparian area quantity, Riparian area quality, Canopy cover, Water appearance, Nutrient enrichment, Manure or human waste presence, Pools, Barriers to aquatic species movement, Fish habitat complexity, Aquatic invertebrate habitat | Positive | FSC  | Forest certification positively affected the ecological condition of the surveyed streams, but its effects were only measurable after five years of certification. Streams with five years of certification had more continuous, dense, and diverse riparian vegetation when compared to streams located in non-certified areas. The condition of streams located in areas with five years of forest certification was similar to the condition of least disturbed streams 3-5 years. | [23]. | Portugal, sub-basin of the Tagus River; Mediterranean evergreen oak woodlands. | Europe (13)  |  |
| 13 | Assessment of logging damage in established plots over a year | Green tree retention, Buffer zones in riparian habitat, Swamp forest, Preservation of precutting coarse dead wood, Terrain damage  | Mixed    | PEFC | This study pinpoints specific in-the-field improvements considered a result of forest certification, such as increased retention of trees and wider buffer zones in riparian forests. However, the study also documents that many regeneration units cut after forest certification still do not comply with all the forest certification criteria. Therefore,  | [24]  | Norway, South  |  |  |



|    |   |   |          |   |   |                                     |
|----|---|---|----------|---|---|-------------------------------------|
|    | resulting from off-road transport   |   |          | it is difficult to separate the pure effect of forest certification from the effect of generally increased awareness of sustainable forestry during the period of this study. |   |                                     |
|    |   |   |          | 1998, 118 areas cut before the implementation, in 1996/1997, were compared with 118 areas cut a few years after implementation, in 2001/2003                                  |   |                                     |
| 14 | Literature review, review of public summery reports and CAR's issued on HCFV  | BiHCFVs e.g. ecosystem services, soil erosion, conservation of threatened, endangered and endemic species.                          | Positive | FSC   | Conservation gain in HCVF, especially related to ecosystem services. Prevention of soil erosion and conservation of threatened, endangered, and endemic species.  | [25] Bosnia-Herzegovina and Romania |
|    |   |   |          |   | 2005-2008   |                                     |
| 15 | Use of survey databases of the Estonian State Forest Management Centre to pre-select old-growth stands based on their site type, size (≥2 ha), and the estimated age of dominant canopy trees (>120 years). Four groups of forest site types arranged along soil richness and moisture gradients considered | Abundance of live trees, standing deadwood, and regeneration, Abundance of flying deadwood, tree-species diversity and composition. | Positive | FSC   | Many functional characteristics of old-growth forests were present in the FSC-certified, mostly naturally regenerated, commercial stands. The main problem is the lack of very large trees, particularly late-successional deciduous species. | [26] Estonia                        |
|    |   |   |          |   | No info on time frame   |                                     |
| 16 | Morphological spatial pattern analysis, habitat suitability   | Area proportion of set-aside forests, structural habitat connectivity, potential  | Positive | FSC   | FSC certification does contribute to biodiversity conservation, but the level and efficiency of this contribution depend on standard content and how it is implemented on the ground. At  | [27] Sweden; North-West Russia      |

|    |   |  |                   |     |  |                    |  |
|----|---|--|-------------------|-----|--|--------------------|--|
|    | index model-<br>ling  | functional habi-<br>tat connectivity   |                   |     | the same time, the role of national legislation or policy for biodiversity conservation remains critically important. Consequently, to understand the effects of conservation efforts in managed forests, both informal and voluntary set-asides need to be considered.  |                    |  |
|    |   |  |                   |     | No info on time frame  |                    |  |
| 17 | Comparison of species richness and irreplaceability value of certified and non-certified cells  | Species richness, irreplaceability value   | Neutral/no effect | FSC | The biodiversity value of certified areas was not significantly greater than that of non-certified areas. gathered biodiversity data for 86,582 ha of cork oak savannas that were FSC certified between 2007 and June 2011   | [28]               | Portugal, Coark oak savannas                               |
| 18 | Analysis of corrective action requests (CARs) raised by certifying bodies   |  | Positive          | FSC | Increased amount of biotope trees, deadwood, habitat for endangered species, and the quality by using trees with a large diameter, increased use of hardwoods, ban of exotic species   | [29]               | Estonia  |
| 19 | Topographic density surface models, Distance sampling method for estimating population density based on surveying a number of randomly located transects. | Cover, richness and diversity of Mediterranean shrublands.   | Positive          | FSC | In conservation zones, oak regeneration was more abundant, and species richness and diversity of shrubs were significantly higher. Our results suggest that creating set-aside areas in cork oak woodlands, such as conservation zones, may help avert this ecosystem's tree regeneration crisis.  | (Dias et al. 2016) | Mediterranean cork oak, Southern Portugal, Alentejo region |
|    |   |  |                   |     | No information   |                    |  |
| 20 | Morphological spatial pattern analysis, habitat suitability index model-ling  | Area proportion of set-aside forests, structural habitat connectivity, potential functional habitat connectivity | Mixed             | FSC | FSC certification alone could not maintain forests' structural and functional connectivity for species at multiple spatial scales in Lithuania. By keeping a minimum standard of 5 % forestland set aside for biodiversity, the state forest enterprises certified according to the FSC can only satisfy forest species with small habitat requirements. | [30]               | Lithuania  |

| Data taken from 2004 |  |  |                 |     |  |                                  |
|----------------------|--|--|-----------------|-----|--|----------------------------------|
| 21                   | Analysis of forestry inventory data  | Structural diversity of landscapes. i.e., dead wood, large trees, and the broadleaved tree species aspen, rowan and willow | Positive        | FSC | Certification improved the structural diversity of landscapes<br><br>used NFI data for the time period 2009–2013 from a total number of 7993 (639 VSA, 553 R, 6801 PF) plots.  | [31] Sweden                      |
| 22                   | Systematic research, spatial analysis, field measurements, principle component analysis, ANOVA                     | Ecological effectiveness/ecological integrity  | Negative        | FSC | Limited positive effect; according to the Russian FSC standard (and legislation), it seems acceptable to exploit primeval forests by creating large-scale clear-cuts.<br><br>Quite a few FSC-induced measures seem to induce minor improvements. For example, substantial clear-cuts of 50 hectares or more, after a few years covering much larger areas of consecutively cleared forest. However, there is no evidence for either decreased or avoided large-scale degradation of forest cover in certified areas.<br><br>Data on annual tree cover loss between 2001 and 2014 [50] was used to look at logging patterns and to calculate tree cover loss before and during FSC certification, as well as in the forest landscape outside of FSC-certified concessions. Maps on the spatial distribution of FSC-certified forest management units (FMU) as of May 2016 [51] were processed | [32] Russia, Arkhangelsk Region  |
| 23                   | ECOsysteM-based assessment of Sustainability standards and their effects (ECOSEFFECT) framework, semi-quantitative | Living tree biomass, deadwood, rejuvenation, vegetation, and microclimate regulation                                       | No effect of FC | FSC | There were very few substantial differences between FSC-certified forestry operations to conventional ones. This can be explained by the equally high amounts of harvested timber (ca. 97% extracted) as well as the practice of large-scale clear-cutting (up to >50 ha), generating significant structural and functional ecological changes in  | [33]. Russia, Arkhangelsk Region |

|    |   |   |          |           |  |      |   |
|----|---|---|----------|-----------|--|------|---|
|    | evaluation, theoretical plausibility analysis, spatial analysis         |   |          |           | the forest ecosystem. However, the findings suggest no real change in forest operations towards ecologically responsible harvesting. Instead, FSC-certified forestry contributes to the ongoing loss of primary forests in the remaining Intact Forest Landscapes.   |      |   |
| 24 | Analysis of official forestry inventory data, Impact evaluation methods | Richness, availability (density) and dominance of potentially suitable cavity trees for secondary cavity-nesting birds. three control sites | Positive | FSC       | <p>Logged forests under FSC-certification may guarantee a diversity, availability (density), and dominance of potentially suitable cavity trees for secondary cavity-nesting birds, as well as specific characteristics (such as DBH &gt; 40 cm), similar to unlogged forests for this group of birds.</p> <p>Field sampling was conducted from 2014 to 2016 at seven sites located in Salta and Jujuy provinces:</p>              | [34] | Argentina, North west   |
| 25 | Camera trap surveys   | Presence of jaguars (densities) and its prey,   | Positive | FSC, PEFC | In all twelve sites in four Latin American countries, we found jaguars and reasonable assemblages of their prey which are success stories of maintaining jaguars in managed forests where certification has been initiated. Certified forests can provide jaguars an opportunity to survive outside protected areas. Surveys were implemented successively in the four sites in 2007–2010 during the September–December dry season | [35] | South America (2)<br><br>French Guiana, Guatemala, Bolivia, Nicaragua |

**Table S3.** Empirical studies on carbon stock and emissions included and analyzed in the review.

| Carbon stock and emission |   |   |   |        |  |           |   |              |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|--------|--|-----------|---|--------------|
| Number                    | Method  | Proxy - Indicator   | Impact  | Scheme | Findings   | Reference | Country   | World region |
| 1                         | RIL-C monitoring protocol to quantify logging emissions and potential emission reductions   | Reduced impact logging, carbon emissions  | No difference                                 | FSC    | Emissions from concessions certified by the FSC (FSC, N=6) and those not certified (N=17) did not differ. There was no indication that FSC certification was associated with reduced emissions.<br><br>No information on time frame  | [36]      | Congo, Gabon  | Africa (1)   |
| 2                         | Fieldwork (report based on empirical data/results of project)   | Reduced impact logging, carbon storage, biodiversity  | Positive (accounted for in biod)              | FSC    | RIL effectively sequesters a more significant amount of carbon in the above-ground vegetation.<br><br>2003   | [19]      | Malaysia, Borneo, Deramakot forest reserve                            |              |
| 3                         | Heat camera-trapping, amount of above-ground, fine-roots, and soil organic carbon by a combination of ground surveys and aerial imagery interpretations | Reduced impact logging, carbon sequestration/density, biodiversity (diversity of vertebrates) | Positive                                      | FSC    | The carbon estimation revealed that the application of SFM resulted in a net gain of 54 Mg C ha <sup>-1</sup> on a landscape scale.<br><br>2001–2007; 1985–2002 (historical disturbance intensity compared)  | [17]      | Malaysia, Borneo, Deramakot and Tangkulap forest reserve <sup>2</sup> | Asia (5)     |
| 4                         | Spatial analysis, field sampling, emission calculations, statistical analysis   | Reduced impact logging, carbon emissions  | Mixed: No difference, only in one case effect | FSC    | Concessions certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC, N = 3), when compared with noncertified concessions (N = 6), did not have lower overall CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from logging activity (felling, skidding, and hauling). On the other hand, FSC certified concessions | [37]      | Indonesia, Kalimantan   |              |

<sup>2</sup> <sup>2</sup> Deramakot is a sustainably managed forest with reduced impact logging, while Tangkulap is a forest damaged by conventional logging at the time of investigation (2001–2007).

|   |   |  |                              |     |  |      |                                    |
|---|---|--|------------------------------|-----|--|------|------------------------------------|
|   |   |  |                              |     | did have lower emissions from one type of logging impact (skidding).   |      |                                    |
|   |   |  |                              |     | No information   |      |                                    |
| 5 | Statistical analysis, stakeholder workshop                                    | Forest carbon storage, species richness  | Positive (accounted in biod) | FSC | The study found higher carbon stock ( $p < 0.05$ ) and species richness and a lower ecological threat index ( $p < 0.10$ ) in the certified forests compared to non-certified forests.   | [21] | Nepal                              |
|   |   |  |                              |     | collected data from each plot during February–May 2013   |      |                                    |
| 6 | Biodiversity observation for land and ecosystem health (BOLEH)                | Forest intactness based on the tree-generic compositional similarity with that of a pristine forest (index of biodiversity). Carbon stock. | Positive                     | FSC | A significant increase in mean carbon density value and a marginally significant increase in mean forest intactness value in Deramakot between August 2009 and June 2014   | [18] | Malaysia, Sabah                    |
|   |   |  |                              |     | 2009, 2014   |      |                                    |
| 7 | Statistical analysis, regression  | Reduced impact logging, carbon emissions of felled trees   | Positive                     | FSC | Our analyses indicate that FSC certification was not associated with any difference in carbon emissions from selective logging but that employment of RIL practices resulted in fewer damaged trees and lower carbon emissions even in ejidos with high logging intensities. | [38] | Mexico, Yucatán Peninsula          |
|   |   |  |                              |     | Forest disturbance from logging operations in the 2013 ACAs of Caobas and 20 de Noviembre were sampled between January and April 2014; for the other eight ejidos, we sampled the 2014 ACAs during March–November 2015.  |      | North America (2)                  |
| 8 | Allometric equation to obtain biomass in tropical dry forests. Data collected | Reduced impact logging, total tree biomass, carbon emissions   | Positive                     | FSC | Selective logging generated 1.2 Mg m <sup>-3</sup> and 1.5 Mg m <sup>-3</sup> of total carbon emissions in the Caobas and 20 de Noviembre ejidos, respectively, with 5% and 12% corresponding to collateral damage during felling. Overall lower committed emissions and     | [39] | Mexico, southern Yucatan Peninsula |

|    |  |   |          |     |  |      |                               |                   |                         |            |
|----|--|---|----------|-----|--|------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------|
|    | during field sampling used to estimate the impacted above-ground biomass and calculate carbon emissions from selectively logged areas. |   |          |     | collateral damage from felling and skidding were present in Caobas, the FSC certified ejido.   |      |                               |                   | January and April 2014. |            |
| 9  | Field work, emission calculations  | Reduced impact logging, carbon emission/export in whole logs and carbon accumulation as coarse woody debris (CWD) produced from forest damage | Mixed    | FSC | Certified timber harvest in Amazonia under RIL is a viable forest management option to reduce damage and coarse woody debris production compared to conventional logging (CL) practices; however, the benefits of disturbance reduction from RIL relative to CL are only realized at greater volumes of timber extraction. | [40] | Brazil, Amazonia              | South America (2) |                         | 2003, 2004 |
| 10 | Field work, emission calculations, statistical analysis  | Reduced impact logging, carbon emissions from felling, skidding, and hauling in five FSC-certified concessions                                | Positive | FSC | Total carbon emissions per hectare were greater in non-certified FMUs compared to certified ones.  | [41] | Amazonia, Peru, Madre de Dios |                   |                         | 2014       |

Table S4. Empirical studies on forest structure included in this review.

| Forest Structure |  |                                       |          |        |   |           |         |              |
|------------------|--|---------------------------------------|----------|--------|---|-----------|---------|--------------|
| Number           | Method   | Proxy indicator                       | Impact   | Scheme | Findings  | Reference | Country | World region |
| 1                | Field based study, comparisons of a single FSC-certified | Tree species density and composition. | Positive | FSC    | For each tree felled, an average of 9.1 and 20.9 other trees were damaged in the FSC and CL plots, respectively; when expressed as the impacts per timber volume extracted, the values did not differ between the two treatments. Skid trails | [42]      | Gabon   | Africa (2)   |

|   |   |  |          |     |  |      |                            |          |
|---|---|--|----------|-----|--|------|----------------------------|----------|
|   | concession with an adjacent non-certified concession  |  |          |     | covered 2.9 % more of the CL surface, but skid trail length per unit timber volume extracted was not more significant. Logging roads were wider in the CL than in the FSC site and disturbed 4.7 % more of the surface. Overall, logging caused declines in AGB of 7.1 and 13.4 % at the FSC and CL sites. |      |                            |          |
|   |   |  |          |     | Logging damage was assessed in January–February 2011.  |      |                            |          |
| 2 | Systematic sample plot forest inventories were used to collect data on forest structure and human forest use indicators; participatory rural appraisals (PRA) and household surveys were used to collect data and information on forest governance and institutions indicators. | Forest structure and human forest use indicators | Positive | FSC | The FSC-certified forests have better forest structure, appropriate regeneration, and lower fire incidences than open access forests and state forest reserves.<br><br>No data   | [43] | Tanzania, Kilwa District   |          |
| 3 | Field surveys, circumference method   | Structure and composition of plant communities   | Positive | FSC | Forests logged selectively under certified regimes still have a high plant diversity, possibly indicating that biodiversity values may be conserved by following certification procedures.<br><br>No information   | [44] | Indonesia, East Kalimantan | Asia (2) |



|   |   |  |  |           |   |      |                           |
|---|---|--|--|-----------|---|------|---------------------------|
| 4 | Field vegetation survey, statistical analysis (non-linear regression), modeling           | Stem density, basal area, ecological integrity (total stand volume).   | Positive <i>Double counted with biodiversity</i> | FSC       | Results suggest that the forest structure in secondary stands follows a natural regeneration dynamic over the rotation period but had not yet attained the same structure and composition as baseline forests at 25 years. Furthermore, growth models suggest that the harvest rotation may need to be extended to 30–40 years for secondary stands to attain similar ranges of forest structure, compositions, and volumes to the baseline forest. Field surveys were conducted from June to August 2015 | [20] | Indonesia, West Papua     |
| 5 | Interviews, field visits, State Forest Management Centre (RMK) staff questionnaire visits | Soil damage, amount of dead wood, dead snags, no of life biodiversity trees, damage to remaining trees, presence of buffer zones along open landscapes and watercourses, signs of garbage or pollution on the site, compliance of felling area borders with the felling site borders on the map, and changes in water regime of water courses as a result of felling activities. Perceptions | No effect  | FSC       | Certification has not reduced the share of clear-cut free forestry or increased the preference for mixed stands, as hoped by many stakeholders. Biological elements were preserved on clear-felling sites. Field visits November 2004, interviews February 2004   | [45] | Estonia<br><br>Europe (4) |
| 6 | Analysis of datasets, mail survey   | Presence of dead wood, broad-leaved trees and old forests.   | Negative   | FSC, PEFC | Our analysis indicates minor improvements in forest conditions, corresponding with the interim target for enhanced biological diversity (dead wood,   | [46] | Sweden                    |

|   |  |   |                        |                  |   |             |                                   |
|---|--|---|------------------------|------------------|---|-------------|-----------------------------------|
|   |  |   |                        |                  | <p>broad-leaved trees, and old forests). The improvements were less evident on large-scale forest properties (certified under the FSC) than small-scale private forest properties (mainly certified under the PEFC). However, results from the follow-up survey showed that more harvesting activity had taken place on certified small-scale forest properties than on noncertified ones. This could mean more negative effects on biodiversity.</p> <p>Data for the periods 1998–2002 and 2003–2007 were analyzed and presented as estimated mean values for 2000 and 2005,</p> |             |                                   |
| 7 | <p>Datasets, Phone Survey, Descriptive statistics</p>                                      | <p>Effect of certification on the preservation of environmentally important areas during felling, number of trees and high stumps remaining in the plots 5–7 years after felling, certifications' area set aside for area requirement to set aside at least 5% of the total forestland for conservation purposes. (1992–2010)</p> | <p>No effect of FC</p> | <p>FSC, PEFC</p> | <p>We found that 64% of the inspected plots do not comply with environmental considerations, implying that most sensitive habitats are not saved during felling. Compared to the performance of similar noncertified forest owners, the certification has not led to any additional improvements in these outcomes. Hence, it has not contributed to reducing forest degradation in Sweden.</p> <p>Based on the regeneration monitoring dataset for the period 1992–2010.</p>   | <p>[47]</p> | <p>Sweden</p>                     |
| 8 | <p>Quantitative, we distinguished between areas with no history of certification (non-</p> | <p>Use of available data on tree cover loss and satellite images to assess secondary impacts of clearcuttings on adjacent remnant forests</p>   | <p>No effect of FC</p> | <p>FSC</p>       | <p>The study confirms doubts that the Forest Stewardship Council is an appropriate mechanism for safeguarding ecologically responsible forest use in Russian forests. Furthermore, the Russian National FSC Standard fails to induce ecologically friendly</p>  | <p>[48]</p> | <p>Russia, Arkhangelsk Region</p> |

|    |   |  |                            |     |  |      |                              |                          |
|----|---|--|----------------------------|-----|--|------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
|    | <p>FSC in the and to quantify following) the logging in- and forests density. Additionally, the that had tionally, the been man- size and struc- aged be- ture as well as fore they the density of became skidding trails certified of ten specific (before- clearcuttings FSC in the located within following) the sample area and subse- were surveyed- quently using satellite under FSC images and in (during- the field obser- FSC in the vation to delin- following).eate the bound- aries of clear cuts and for- ested remnants within the clear cuts.</p> |  |                            |     | <p>cutting and harvesting methods in the studied area.</p> <p>Within a sample area delineat- ing approximately 3000 km2 in the east of the Arkhangelsk Re- gion, data generated by Hansen et al. (2013) on changes in global forest cover between 2001 and 2014 was used to calculate an- nual tree cover loss and the size of clear-cuts in relation. FSC concessions as of 2016.</p> |      |                              |                          |
| 9  | <p>Forest in- ventory plots on the three uncertified harvested and three certified harvested properties, calculation of Coarse Woody Debris Volumes, statistical analysis</p>   | <p>Total tree bio- mass and tree carbon storage.</p>   | <p>Neu- tral/No effect</p> | FSC | <p>Overall, our data suggest that FSC-certified harvested stands in northern hardwood forests have similar sugar maple timber value, aboveground live tree carbon storage value, similar live tree structure, and greater residual coarse woody debris than uncertified harvested stands.</p> <p>Forest inventory plots were es- tablished during June-July, 2004</p>                  | [49] | <p>USA, Ver- mont</p>        | <p>North America (1)</p> |
| 10 | <p>Use of Landsat- remote sensing data to de- tect log- ging activ- ity/ detect logging ac- tivity and</p>  | <p>Non-perma- nent opening in the canopy as the main indi- cator of forest degradation due to logging.</p> | <p>Positive</p>            | FSC | <p>Our indicators showed that the patterns of forest disturbance through time are much more fa- vorable for forest cover inside a logging company with an FSC certified forest management plan than outside, where many actors mine the forest resources without any concerns for future stocks. This showed the effi- ciency of the RIL techniques</p>                                | [50] | <p>Brazil, Paragomi- nas</p> | <p>South America (1)</p> |

---

to analyze  
the  
spatial ar-  
range-  
ments of  
the impact

and the FSC certification re-  
quirements to reduce the im-  
pacts of logging in terms of can-  
opy openings.

Landsat images of the period  
1994–2009

---

### 3. Economic viability

**Table S5.** Empirical studies on the economic viability included in this review.

| Economic viability |   |   |          |        |  |                        |             |                                 |                                       |             |
|--------------------|---|---|----------|--------|--|------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Number             | Method  | Proxy-Indicator                           | Impact   | Scheme | Findings   | Reference              | Forest type | Price premiums                  | Country                               | Word region |
| 1                  | Questionnaire survey  | Cost-benefits                             | mixed    | FSC    | Most of the respondents indicate that the benefits from certification will offset the costs. However, some farmers feel that the costs are too high and that the benefits derived from certification do not justify the means.   | [51]                   | Plantations | ---                             | South Africa                          |             |
| 2                  | Economic/financial valuation  | Price premiums, profitability             | negative | FSC    | Group of CF currently is not economically viable, with forest management costs 2.6 times forest revenues over the five-year study period. 2013–14 to 2017–18.  | [52]                   | Natural     | 20% Pulpwood roundwood stumpage | Tanzania, south eastern (incl. Kilwa) |             |
| 3                  | Value chain analytical framework, mixed methods for data collection: participatory rural appraisal (PRA) for key informants, and household survey for all actors, semi-structured interviews, structured questionnaires | Price premium, Revenues, household income | positive | FSC    | Actors from certified forest communities earned higher income (net revenues) than non-FSC forests and experienced significantly greater income equity. This finding suggests that forest certification is an important forest management approach in enhancing equity in income distribution among the actors. | (Kalonga et al. 2015b) | Natural     | --                              | Tanzania, Kilwa district              | Africa      |
| 4                  | Economic valuation, governance indicators   | household income                          | positive | FSC    | Results show that the annual average household forest income from FSC-certified forests is significantly higher than households in non-FSC-certified forests. Forest   | [53]                   | Natural     | --                              | Tanzania, Kilwa district              |             |

|   |   |                              |          |     |   |      |                      |            |                               |      |
|---|---|------------------------------|----------|-----|---|------|----------------------|------------|-------------------------------|------|
|   |   |                              |          |     | <p>incomes contributed about 12% and 6% for FSC-certified and non-FSC-certified forests to total household income, respectively. FSC offers an opportunity for ‘price premium.’ The certified VLFRs are exposed and connected to international markets, whereby certified forest products fetch high prices, but the local markets are unaware. Incomes earned from the forests were spent on procuring farming implements and fertilizer, pesticides, and investing in other income-generating activities such as small shops vegetable gardens. The 95 % revenue of the FSC villages was spent for forest protection (40 %) and community development projects (55 %) such as water, health, and education.</p> |      |                      |            |                               |      |
| 5 | Cost-benefit analysis, interviews, collection of secondary data | Price premiums, cost-benefit | positive | FSC | <p>The production cost and return of FSC rubber plantations were similar for all sizes of rubber plantations, with the larger plantations having the highest rates of return. economic viability increased with time being certified, decreasing cost and increasing revenue. Currently, much of the cost of certification is met by external aid donors.</p>   | [54] | Plantations (rubber) | No premium | Thailand, Rayong and Songkhla | Asia |
| 6 | Interviews, analysis of   | Price premiums,              | negative | FSC | When the total costs of certification are   | [55] | Plantations          | --         | Japan                         |      |

|   |   |   |          |     |  |      |  |     |                          |
|---|---|---|----------|-----|--|------|--|-----|--------------------------|
|   | public assess-<br>ment reports  | profitabil-<br>ity                            |          |     | included, the benefits<br>to growers of certifica-<br>tion are much reduced<br>and potentially nega-<br>tive unless the fixed<br>costs can be spread<br>over a large group of<br>growers.  |      | (Japa-<br>nese<br>larch,<br>hinoki<br>cy-<br>press,<br>Japa-<br>nese<br>red<br>pine) |     |                          |
| 7 | Interviews, col-<br>lection and<br>analysis of ar-<br>chival data, in-<br>cluding forest<br>management<br>records from<br>forest manage-<br>ment sites and<br>reports by the<br>aid contractors | Price pre-<br>miums,<br>revenues<br>and sales | positive | FSC | The final price differ-<br>ential is very pro-<br>nounced, compara-<br>tively high premiums<br>and net revenue<br>earned by FSC small-<br>holders. Without con-<br>tinued donor support,<br>it is not clear that the<br>farmers in Quang Tri<br>can afford the auditing<br>fees required to main-<br>tain the group certifi-<br>cation. Price premium<br>up to 24% for Acacia<br>in 2010, probably not<br>sustainable for the<br>long term. O5   | [56] | Planta-<br>tions<br>(Aca-<br>cia)  | 24% | Vietnam,<br>Quang<br>Tri |
| 8 | Household sur-<br>vey, standing<br>stock estima-<br>tion, financial<br>analysis   | Price pre-<br>miums,<br>profitabil-<br>ity    | positive | FSC | Vietnam forest planta-<br>tion investment re-<br>turns for smallholders<br>are profitable.<br>This was helped by<br>proximity to regional<br>countries with high<br>demand for wood<br>products, creating<br>some of the world's<br>best roundwood<br>pulp/chip prices.<br>- Pulpwood round-<br>wood stumpage sold<br>for around US\$ 12 /m3<br>in 2015 for much of<br>the world such as the<br>US South, but prices in<br>Vietnam were closer<br>to US\$ 40 /m3. This is<br>largely because they<br>sell directly to coun-<br>tries with high | [57] | Planta-<br>tions<br>(Aca-<br>cia)  | --  | Vietnam,<br>Quang<br>Tri |

|    |   |  |          |     |  |      |                             |                                   |
|----|---|--|----------|-----|--|------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|    |   |  |          |     | demand, such as China and Japan (20% price premiums)   |      |                             |                                   |
|    |   |  |          |     | For annual audits, the fee is approximately \$7,000 – amount beyond the capacity of local people, as their annual income is only around \$1,000 per capita.  |      |                             |                                   |
|    |   |  |          |     | - Indirect costs for certification such as buying forestry machines (saw), first aid kits, and working clothes are also costly.  |      |                             |                                   |
| 9  | Examination of reports/evaluation and feasibility studies, interviews with government department and WWF staff, SWOT analysis | Price premiums, direct and indirect cost             | positive | FSC | - Premium was recorded and confirmed by 19 households who sold the wood in 2010 though revenue differed among households according to plantation area and rotation length Price premiums 19-22% price difference between certified and non-certified wood FSC certification Increased selling price for farmers and extended trade networks. | [58] | Plantations (Acacia)        | 19-22% Vietnam Quang Tri province |
| 10 | Interviews, Cost-benefit analysis   | Price premiums, revenues and sales, household income | positive | FSC | Total costs decreased with increasing ha certified. Certification associated costs are currently covered, and the household members do not need to pay for any cost, with the exception of the contribution fee which is collected after selling FSC certified timber (price premium 18%) 2010–2016  | [59] | Plantations (Mostly acacia) | 18% Vietnam Quang Tri province    |
| 11 | Review of secondary data,   | Price premium,                                       | positive | FSC | Acacia hybrid timber plantations account   | [60] | Plantations                 | 12% Vietnam, Phu Loc,             |



|    |   |                                   |          |     |   |      |                      |     |   |
|----|---|-----------------------------------|----------|-----|---|------|----------------------|-----|---|
|    | interviews, focus group discussions, direct observations, surveys, statistical analysis   | household income                  |          |     | for 33–56% of total household income. Play a crucial role in the current livelihood system. Timber income skewed toward the wealth status of timber producers and ranged between 327 USD/household and 9460 USD/household in Phu Loc district. Despite the substantial contribution the income from Acacia hybrid plantations could make to local poverty reduction, it was the main contributor to the overall income inequality |      |                      |     | Nam Dong  |
| 12 | Analysis of primary data were taken from farmers, a SFC, and several other forest stakeholders including people from government departments and non-governmental organizations. Records of costs and benefits for farmers; formal and informal interviews with key informants | Profitability (financial returns) | positive | FSC | Net returns from both certified and non-certified timber products are positive for both actors and are higher from certified timber production than non-certified timber production à plantations are profitable  | [61] | Plantations (Acacia) | --  | Vietnam Quang Tri province                                      |
| 13 | Interviews, collection of secondary data (i.e. reports, books, provincial department of forestry) Cost-   | Price premium, cost-benefit       | positive | FSC | the financial returns from certified forest products are much higher than for non-certified forest products for the farmer, both at 7% and 12% interest rates   | [62] | Plantations (Acacia) | 25% | Vietnam Quang Tri province, Trung Son commune, GioLinh district |

| benefit-analysis<br>(CBA) |   |   |          |     |   |      |               |   |                 |
|---------------------------|---|---|----------|-----|---|------|---------------|---|-----------------|
| 14                        | Price analysis.<br>Time series of prices of certified and uncertified logs (2000 to 2004) provided by three forest management | Price premiums                              | negative | FSC | The higher sale prices of certified logs found in this study cover the additional direct costs of forest management certification, which range from 0.5 to 2.5 USD/m <sup>3</sup> /year.<br>- This result however does not suggest that the achieved market premium will also offset the costs of sustainable forest management, e.g., for enhanced planning procedures and improved field operations<br><br>2000 to 2004 | [63] | Not specified | 2-56% depending on the wood: - The high-quality hardwoods (e.g. Selangan Batu, Keruing) destined for the export market fetch a price premium of 27% to 56%.<br>- Lower quality timbers (e.g. Kapur, Seraya) also fetch a price premium, however the difference is less pronounced (2% to 30%) | Malaysia, Sabah |
| 15                        | Questionnaires with forest authorities, field observations, literature review   | price premiums, household income/livelihood | positive | FSC | Certification is perceived as a vehicle for local value addition. However, progress in income and employment generation and rural poverty reduction was insignificant. The durability of certification programmed skeptic because it was on a small scale, facilitated by external  | [64] | Not specified | Yes, but premium was unspelled. Prices increased by 50-150%   | Nepal           |

|    |  |                                      |          |     |      |               |    |                           |   |
|----|--|--------------------------------------|----------|-----|------|---------------|----|---------------------------|---|
|    |  |                                      |          |     |      |               |    |                           | supports and lack of national certifier. FSC supports national and international market access to Europe and the US; Price premiums (the price of products increased by 50–150 %).<br>2003 to 2008  |
| 16 | Quantitative survey with in-depth formal interviews;<br>qualitative survey with open-ended questions to government and local NGO staff | Household income                     | positive | FSC | [65] | Not specified | -- | Indonesia, South Sulawesi | This study reveals that FSC group certification in Southeast Sulawesi could improve local incomes and social attitudes and could strengthen farmer groups to manage existing community forests more effectively.<br>July to December 2008   |
| 17 | Discounted cash flow analysis  | Profitability, financial viability   | negative | FSC | [66] | Plantation    | -- | New Zealand               | Non-chemical control methods were expensive relative to other regimes.<br>- Reductions in the internal rate of return varied across low- and high-productivity sites between 0.8% and 0.5% for manual control, 1.3% and 0.8% for mechanical control, and 1.7% and 1.0% for weed mats. Meeting the goals of certification while retaining cost-effective vegetation control presents a challenge to the plantation forestry sector.<br>survey 2005 to 2007 |
| 18 | Financial assessment, comparing present values of financial returns, net of costs, of the forest activity 'with and                    | Profitability (net financial profit) | positive | FSC | [67] | Plantations   | -- | Salomon Island            | A minimum of group with 3000 ha may be required to make certification cost effective.<br>1997 to 2002   |

Oceania

| without' certification. |   |   |          |           |   |      |   |                             |
|-------------------------|---|---|----------|-----------|---|------|---|-----------------------------|
| 19                      | Literature review, Expert Interviews, cost-benefit analysis                   | cost-benefits                             | negative | FSC, PEFC | Revenues appeared to be increasing and costs decreasing over the period, and in the final two years costs were about 1.5 times revenues   | [68] | Not specified   | -- Switzerland              |
| 20                      | Semi-structured interviews, Delphi method, contingent valuation (Perceptions) | price premiums                            | negative | FSC, PEFC | The majority believes that certified wood is sold at the same price than non-certified wood (of 33 valid responses, 88% considers that price does not change while 12% believe that price increases). Experts with a high degree of consensus (87.5% of a total of 32 valid responses) believe that normally certified and uncertified products are sold at the same price. Forest owners have to bear the certification costs themselves | [69] | Mixed: primary forests, semi-natural forests or plantations | No premium European Union   |
| 21                      | Questionnaire survey (perceptions)  | profitability                             | negative | FSC       | In the Czech Republic, certification costs of the FSC were higher than financial revenues. However, the effect of the certification on sales, profits, and added value of companies seemed more effective over a longer timeframe (from 4 years to >10 years). 2016 and 2018 survey   | [70] | Not specified   | -- Czech Republic           |
| 22                      | Survey  | price premiums, direct and indirect costs | negative | FSC       | The survey did not find additional sales of timber or price premium because of possessed certificate of good forest management. [71]Costs per hectare   | [72] | Semi-natural  | No premium Poland, national |

Europe

|    |   |   |          |           |   |      |               |  |                    |
|----|---|---|----------|-----------|---|------|---------------|--|--------------------|
|    |   |   |          |           | decrease together with increase in the considered area.<br>2005 to 2007   |      |               |  |                    |
| 23 | Standardized questionnaire to obtain information on cuttings and silviculture, Binary logistic regression | profitability   | mixed    | PEFC      | In Sweden, 37% of forest owners considered certification to affect profitability positively, 28% thought it had no noticeable effect, 27% had no opinion, and 5% considered any effect to be negative. small scale forest owner survey 1999–2006  | [73] | Not specified | --   | Sweden, national   |
| 24 | Interviews with forest authorities, questionnaires  | price premiums, cost-benefit                            | positive | FSC, PEFC | FSC and PEFC certification did not bring significant economic benefits to forest owners. However, forest owners gained a better environmental image of timber and wood products in the international markets, enhancing the long-term market access for timber and wood products. Cost-efficient group certification arrangements allowed reducing the costs and served as the primary driver for forest owners to participate in certification | [74] | Not specified | Yes, in Sweden (about EUR 1/m3) and Norway (about EUR 0.85m3), No in Finland | Sweden, Norway     |
| 25 | Mail questionnaire survey   | price premiums, economic viability of forest operations | positive | FSC, PEFC | In Slovakia, 74% of forest owners received a price premium for certified wood in the range of 1–5%; nine percent received price premiums of 6–10%; and 12.7% did not receive a premium. Questionnaire conducted in 2017   | [75] | Not specified | 0–10%  | Slovakia, national |
| 26 | Survey  | direct and indirect cost                                | mixed    | FSC       | Over the final two years, three of the 14 CFs achieved a  | [76] | Not specified | ---  | Italy              |

|    |  |                    |          |                             |  |      |               |            |                              |
|----|--|--------------------|----------|-----------------------------|--|------|---------------|------------|------------------------------|
|    |  |                    |          |                             | minimal level of economic viability in the sense i.e. revenues were greater than the forest management costs yet revenues were still less than the total costs   |      |               |            |                              |
| 27 | Focus group discussions, Survey (perceptions)  | revenues and sales | mixed    | FSC                         | More than half (58%) of the respondents in Romania indicated that the revenues did not increase after certification. At the same time, 42% considered that the FSC certification positively influenced the revenues.   | [77] | Not specified | ---        | Romania, National            |
| 28 | Focus group discussions, Survey  | price premiums     | negative | FSC, PEFC (SFI)             | In Minnesota, no price premiums could be gained in 2005.   | [78] | Not specified | No premium | USA, Minnesota               |
| 29 | Mail survey  | cost-benefits      | negative | FSC                         | This study reported a negative relationship between costs and benefits.  | [79] | Not specified | ---        | North America                |
| 30 | Event study methodology, analysis of short and the long-run stock price performance. | revenues and sales | mixed    | FS+K3: K12C, PEFC (SFI/CSA) | Our results suggest that forest certification has, on average, a negative impact on firm financial performance (FP).<br>- The market has not recognized the benefits of forest certification. As a result, the expected benefits of certification relative to its associated costs have not been realized.<br>- Our evidence also suggests that NGOs-led certification (FSC) has a neutral impact on FP, whereas industry-led certification (SFI, CSA, ISO14001) has a negative impact on FP. In other words, the nature or identity | [80] | Not specified | ---        | North America<br>Canada, USA |

|    |  |  |          |     |  |   |               |                                 |                         |
|----|--|--|----------|-----|--|---|---------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
|    |  |  |          |     |  | of the certification program can offset the negative impact of certification on FP.<br>1998 to 2005 |               |                                 |                         |
| 31 | Interviews with knowledgeable leaders of 100% of certified CBF initiatives in Vermont and about a third as many uncertified CBF initiatives to provide a comparative perspective (perceptions) | Price premiums, economic benefits/financial return | mixed    | FSC | In Virginia, premiums were occasionally realized, but no value was reported. Group certificates and external funding significantly reduced certification costs.  | [81]  | Not specified | Occasionally realized           | USA, Virginia           |
| 32 | Cost-benefit analysis  | price premiums, cost-benefit                       | positive | FSC | In North America, only one out of three studies reported that price premiums were gained, with certified wood products receiving a price premium of 10.5% and certified stumpage premiums between 1.6-4.3%.<br>Price premiums for finished wood products were much higher for domestic sales than for export sales, with a price premium of 30% for domestic markets compared to premium for exported wood products of 3.4%. Direct and indirect costs and benefits calculated for The Forestland Group, an independent Timberland Investment Management Organization, found forest certification to be a net-positive program, earning an estimated \$771,000 of additional | [82]  | Natural       | 1.6-4.3% for certified stumpage | USA (forest land group) |

|    |   |                              |          |                     |  |      |                                       |            |   |
|----|---|------------------------------|----------|---------------------|--|------|---------------------------------------|------------|---|
|    |   |                              |          |                     | annual net revenue, about \$0.24 per acre per year (\$0.10 ha <sup>-1</sup> yr <sup>-1</sup> )   |      |                                       |            |   |
| 33 | E-Mail questionnaires   | price premiums, cost-benefit | negative | FSC                 | Fifty-eight percent of companies (n=17) identified that there were additional costs associated with IPM due to FSC forest certification, but they shared few details or estimates of these costs. A total of 44.8 % (n = 13) indicated satisfaction with the cost/benefit of the FSC with regard to Integrated pest management, while 34.5 % (n = 10) said they were unsure. On the other hand, 13.8 % (n = 4) reported that they were unsatisfied. increased market share or premium prices for wood and wood products have not yet been achieved. 2013 | [83] | Plantations                           | ---        | Brazil, national (companies in the country) |
| 34 | Survey questionnaire, statistical analysis, exploratory factor analysis (EFA) | price premiums               | negative | FSC, PEFC (CERFLOR) | Companies do not see any return in terms of a better price for certified products (no price premium was gained); however, certificate holders indicated overall high satisfaction with market access. Higher performance was found for non-economic benefits. 2006   | [84] | Plantations (39) natural (9)          | No premium | Brazil, country                             |
| 35 | Semi-structured stakeholder interviews, on-site visits to forestry operations | price premiums               | negative | FSC                 | The additional costs incurred by certified forest production are therefore likely to be slightly greater in Ecuador than Bolivia, where forestry laws  | [85] | Plantations forests (Ecuador) Natural | No premium | Ecuador, Bolivia, national                  |

South America



|    |   |                              |          |   |      |   |            |                         |
|----|---|------------------------------|----------|---|------|---|------------|-------------------------|
|    |   |                              |          | have been explicitly designed to be compatible with FSC certification.  |      | forest (Bolivia)  |            |                         |
|    |   |                              |          | 2005 (jan to april)   |      |   |            |                         |
| 36 | Field work, interviews, data analysis                       | price premiums               | negative | FSC   | [86] | Natural forest  | No premium | Bolivia, national       |
| 37 | Interview questionnaire, statistical analysis (perceptions) | price premiums, cost-benefit | positive | PEFC (CER-FLOR)   | [87] | Plantations (n = 39) Eucalyptus; natural forests (n = 9). | No premium | Brazil, national        |
|    |   |                              |          | Benefits generally outweigh the costs. Companies appeared to consider certification a worthwhile venture, generating a satisfactory impact on the organizations' profitability. No price premiums but improved market access  |      |   |            |                         |
|    |   |                              |          | Economically, there were increased costs associated with certification.   |      |   |            |                         |
|    |   |                              |          | - Access gained or sustained by plantation forestry businesses to international markets seemed to counteract any increase in their costs.   |      |   |            |                         |
|    |   |                              |          | - Some large native forestry businesses did not benefit from better market access.  |      |   |            |                         |
| 38 | Interviews, analysis of auditing reports (CARs)             | price premiums, cost-benefit | positive | FSC, PEFC (CERT FOR)  | [88] | Plantation (mix of eucalyptus) and natural                | No premium | Chile, southern regions |
|    |   |                              |          | Overall, in operational terms, certification yielded the most significant impacts in Plantation Forestry Business, particularly in large corporations. no Chilean company reported premium prices for selling certified timber (mainly pulpwood). Increased costs due to certification, was particularly felt by large PFBs |      |   |            |                         |

|    |  |                  |          |                                   |  |      |                         |                     |  |
|----|--|------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|--|------|-------------------------|---------------------|--|
| 39 | Structured interviews, review of documents, including reports, articles, and presentations related to the operations         | price premiums,  | positive | FSC                               | Positive perceptions of receiving market benefits, product distinction, better prices, access to new markets   | [89] | Not specified           | Yes, but unspelled. | Brazil, Acre   |
| 40 | Personal interviews, email surveys with forestry organizations to collect cost and benefit information/data in 2006 and 2007 | cost-benefits    | mixed    | FSC, PEFC (SFI, CERFLOR, CERTFOR) | <p>Large variation of the average costs of forest certification per ha (range from almost no costs to \$57.29 per ha/per year for organization with the greatest costs).</p> <p>- Average total costs for certification were a function of ownership size, but did not vary significantly among certification systems or country, although the sample of reporting firms was small for finding statistical differences.</p> <p>- Average cost decreased dramatically for ownership sizes more than 4000 ha.</p> <p>- Forest certification costs appeared to be higher for South America compared to North America.</p> | [90] | Plantations and natural | --                  | Argentina, Brazil, the United States and Canada, and Chile |
| 41 | Statistical analysis, linear regression, scenarios, household survey   | household income | positive | FSC                               | <p>Positive effects on household income. Effects differ among communities depending on their socio-economic characteristics. Incomes among individuals engaged in concession activity in nonresidential concessions were around 7600 quetzals (about \$1,000) per year higher.</p>   | [91] | Not specified           | --                  | Guatemala, Maya Biosphere Reserve                          |

|    |  |               |          |     |  |      |                        |    |   |
|----|--|---------------|----------|-----|--|------|------------------------|----|---|
| 42 | Calculation of net present value/profitability | cost-benefits | positive | FSC | <p>The financial benefits of FSC tend to outweigh the costs, albeit with high company-by-company variance and special consideration required for high conservation value (HCV) set-asides and intangible benefits. On average, the companies earned an extra US\$1.80 for every cubic meter of FSC- certified Roundwood or equivalent, over and above any new costs, due to price premiums, increased efficiency, and other financial incentives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The business case was most vital for tropical forest operations and small/medium producers (regardless of geography) who experienced significant financial gains, while temperate and large producers experienced small losses.</li> <li>• It took the companies, on average, six years to break even on their FSC investment.</li> <li>• The average annual benefit of FSC was US\$6.03 per m3 of certified production – US\$1.80 higher than the average cost.</li> <li>• Positioning for market premiums and optimizing operational improvements from FSC can add the most value to the firm.</li> </ul> | [92] | Plantation and natural | -- | Colombia, Peru, Cameroon, Portugal (2), Indonesia, Malaysia (2), Russia (3) |
|----|--|---------------|----------|-----|--|------|------------------------|----|---|

#### 4. Desktop studies

Table S6. Desktop studies deforestation.

| No | Objective   | Deforestation       |                   | World region       | Reference  |
|----|---|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|
|    |   | Method              | Scheme            |                    |  |
| 1  | This study draws on a case study of the Brazilian Amazon to assess how two widely promoted strategies to govern tropical forests – non-state certification and state-based legality initiatives – interact with tropical wood production systems and the implications this holds for reducing deforestation and degradation and for local benefit-sharing.  | Case study research | FSC, PEFC-CERFLOR | Brazil, Amazon     | McDermott, Constance L.; Irland, Lloyd C.; Pacheco, Pablo (2015): Forest certification and legality initiatives in the Brazilian Amazon: Lessons for effective and equitable forest governance. In: Forest Policy and Economics 50, S. 134–142. DOI: 10.1016/j.forpol.2014.05.011. |
| 2  | This study reviews what we know about forest certification's effectiveness and broader consequences. A narrow definition of effectiveness judges forest certification as effective if it contributes directly to resolving the problem it was created to address. We can then conceive the effectiveness of forest certification as the degree to which this instrument modifies on-the-ground practices in ways that are likely to reverse or alleviate environmental deterioration and socio-economic harm resulting from the forest. | Literature review   | General FC        | World-wide/General | Auld, Graeme; Gulbrandsen, Lars H.; McDermott, Constance L. (2008): Certification Schemes and the Impacts on Forests and Forestry. In: Annu. Rev. Environ. Resour. 33 (1), S. 187–211. DOI: 10.1146/annurev.environ.33.013007.103754.  |
| 3  | In this article, we review the current global forest cover and condition information, examine the international processes related to forest protection and sustainable forest management, and look at the main forest certification schemes. It considers the link between the international processes and certification schemes and their combined effectiveness.  | Literature review   | General FC        | World-wide/General | Freer-Smith, Peter; Carnus, Jean-Michel (2008): The Sustainable Management and Protection of Forests: Analysis of the Current Position Globally. In: AMBIO: A Journal of the Human Environment 37 (4), S. 254–262. DOI: 10.1579/0044-7447(2008)37[254:TSMAPO]2.0.CO;2.             |
| 4  | The study looks at the prospects and limits of this shift toward eco-consumerism as a mechanism for global change and analyzes its value for improving forest management globally.  | Literature review   | General FC        | World-wide/General | Dauvergne, Peter; Lister, Jane (2010): The Prospects and Limits of Eco-Consumerism: Shopping Our Way to Less Deforestation? In: Organization & Environment 23 (2), S. 132–154. DOI:  |

|   |  |   |            |                    |   |
|---|--|---|------------|--------------------|---|
|   |  |   |            |                    | 10.1177/1086026610368370.   |
| 5 | This study assesses the following issues. First, is forest harvesting related to deforestation? Second, are timber products a by-product of deforestation? Third, do countries with more important forest sectors experience more deforestation than others? Fourth, does timber certification play a key role in favoring sustainable harvesting? | Panel data analysis/econometric model                             | General FC | World-wide/General | Damette, Olivier; Delacote, Philippe (2011): Unsustainable timber harvesting, deforestation and the role of certification. In: Ecological Economics 70 (6), S. 1211–1219. DOI: 10.1016/j.ecolecon.2011.01.025.        |
| 6 | This study explores the political dynamics of these new governance initiatives by presenting an in-depth case study of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), often regarded as a model for the multi-stakeholder initiative.   | Neo-Gramscian analysis to the organizational evolution of the FSC | FSC        | World-wide/General | Moog, Sandra; Spicer, André; Böhm, Steffen (2015): The Politics of Multi-Stakeholder Initiatives: The Crisis of the Forest Stewardship Council. In: J Bus Ethics 128 (3), S. 469–493. DOI: 10.1007/s10551-013-2033-3. |
| 7 | This article examines the macro-effectiveness of certification on halting deforestation and examines the relationship between certification and governance institutions.   | Calculations based on FAO statistical database, Literature review | FSC        | World-wide/General | Marx, Axel; Cuypers, Dieter (2011): Halting Deforestation and Forest Certification – What is the Macro-Impact of the Forest Stewardship Council? In: SSRN Journal. DOI: 10.2139/ssrn.1763401.                         |

Table S7. Macro economic studies and scenarios on deforestation.

| Deforestation: Macro-economic/Scenarios |   |  |                   |              |   |
|---|---|--|-------------------|--------------|---|
| No.                                     | Objective   | Method   | Scheme            | World region | Reference   |
| 1                                       | This study aims to better understand how the global financial crisis (GFC) impacted sustainable forest management (SFM) (and as part of its forest certification) in Brazil through the experiences and perceptions of highly knowledgeable stakeholders. | Grounded theory, case study, semi-structured interviews  | FSC, PEFC-CERFLOR | Brazil       | Canova, Natalia (2011): Understanding the impacts of the 2007-08 global financial crisis on Brazil's forest sector- A qualitative study. Master thesis.         |
| 2                                       | This paper aims to map the international regime complex for rainforest transformation by identifying those global and regional regimes relevant to tropical rainforest transformation systems in Indonesia.   | Content analysis of international policy documents and treaty texts, expert interviews with key informants in Indonesia, | FSC, PEFC         | Indonesia    | Sahide, Muhammad Alif K.; Nurrochmat, Dodik Ridho; Giessen, Lukas (2015): The regime complex for tropical rainforest transformation: Analyzing the relevance of |

|   |  |   |            |                    |   |
|---|--|---|------------|--------------------|---|
|   |  | field observations in current Indonesian land use politics (conducted by author)                                    |            |                    | multiple global and regional land use regimes in Indonesia. In: Land Use Policy 47, S. 408–425. DOI: 10.1016/j.landusepol.2015.04.030.  |
| 3 | This article examines the macro-effectiveness of certification on halting deforestation and examines the relationship between certification and governance institutions. The article assesses the degree to which certification contributes to halting deforestation, a key component of SFM, by analyzing the differences in uptake of FSC certification between countries. | Analysis of datasets  | FSC        | World-wide/General | Marx, Axel; Cuypers, Dieter (2010): Forest certification as a global environmental governance tool: What is the macro-effectiveness of the Forest Stewardship Council? In: Regulation & Governance 4 (4), S. 408–434. DOI: 10.1111/j.1748-5991.2010.01088.x.  |
| 4 | The analysis aims to identify the possible determinants of EU imports of timber and timber products from non-EU countries in recent years, following the implementation of the EUTR.   | Gravity model; panel data model (estimated with 228 observations from 38 exporting countries between 2012 and 2017) | FSC, PEFC  | World-wide/General | Moral-Pajares, Encarnación; Martínez-Alcalá, Concepción; Gallego-Valero, Leticia; Caviedes-Conde, Ángela Andrea (2020): Transparency Index of the Supplying Countries' Institutions and Tree Cover Loss: Determining Factors of EU Timber Imports? In: Forests 11 (9), S. 1009. DOI: 10.3390/f11091009. |
| 5 | This study examines the impacts of trade and policies on forest stock.   | General equilibrium model   | General FC | World-wide/General | Jinji, Naoto (2006): International trade and terrestrial open-access renewable resources in a small open economy. In: Canadian Journal of Economics (39 (3)).   |

Table S8. Desktop studies Forest degradation.

| Forest Degradation: Desktop |  |                   |            |                    |  |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------|------------|--------------------|--|
| No.                         | Objective  | Method            | Scheme     | World region       | Reference  |
| 1                           | The study discusses barriers to biodiversity conservation in forest certification. | Literature review | General FC | World-wide/General | Ghazoul, Jaboury (2001): Barriers to Biodiversity Conservation in Forest Certification. In: Conservation Biology (15 (2)), S. 315–317. |
| 2                           | This study examines the role and contribution of forest certification as a         | Literature review | FSC        | World-wide/General | Gullison, R. E. (2003): Does forest certification  |

|   |  |  |            |                                   |   |
|---|--|--|------------|-----------------------------------|---|
|   | biodiversity conservation tool, focusing in particular on the only global certification system, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).  |  |            |                                   | conserve biodiversity?<br>In: Oryx 37 (2), S. 153–165. DOI: 10.1017/S00306053030000346.   |
| 3 | This study assesses which role forest certification can play as an instrument to promote sustainable forest management (SFM) and biodiversity maintenance, how far the main concepts have been developed, and what lessons we can learn after ten years of implementation. The paper focuses on progress in developing forest certification and defining what forest certification sets out to verify sustainable forest management. | Literature review                              | General FC | World-wide/General                | Rametsteiner, Ewald; Simula, Markku (2003): Forest certification—an instrument to promote sustainable forest management? In: Journal of Environmental Management 67 (1), S. 87–98. DOI: 10.1016/S0301-4797(02)00191-3.  |
| 4 | This study analyzes the forest certification process in Guatemala, focusing on the forest concessions in the Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR), where 95 percent of the certified forest area in Guatemala is located.  | Case study                                     | FSC        | Guatemala, Maya Biosphere Reserve | Carrera, Fernando; Stoian, Dietmar; Joaquin Campos Arce, Jose; Israel Pinelo, Gustavo (2006): Forest certification in Guatemala.  |
| 5 | This study proposes that carbon markets, through RIL, can act as a vehicle to rise in the Hierarchy of Production Forest Management towards achieving SFM in the tropics.  | Literature review                              | FSC        | Tropical regions                  | Wintle, B. A.; Lindenmayer, D. B. (2008): Adaptive risk management for certifiably sustainable forestry. In: Forest Ecology and Management 256 (6), S. 1311–1319. DOI: 10.1016/j.foreco.2008.06.042.  |
| 6 | This study synthesizes the published information about how forest certification and community forest management perform in environmental, social, and economic variables.  | Systematic literature review                   | FSC        | Tropical regions                  | Burivalova, Zuzana; Hua, Fangyuan; Koh, Lian Pin; Garcia, Claude; Putz, Francis (2017): A Critical Comparison of Conventional, Certified, and Community Management of Tropical Forests for Timber in Terms of Environmental, Economic, and Social Variables. In: CONSERVATION LETTERS 10 (1), S. 4–14. DOI: 10.1111/conl.12244. |
| 7 | This study evaluates the literature for four mainstream strategies (forest certification and reduced impact logging,   | Literature review on the effectiveness of four | FSC        | Tropical regions                  | Burivalova, Zuzana; Allnutt, Thomas F.; Rademacher, Dan; Schlemm,   |

|    |  |   |         |                    |  |  |
|----|--|---|---------|--------------------|--|--|
|    | payments for ecosystem services, protected areas, community forest management) in terms of 35 environmental, social, and economic metrics. We evaluated whether applying the strategy improved, left unchanged, or worsened the conservation metrics, and we created an interactive platform to view the data. | mainstream conservation strategies: (a) FSC-RIL; (b) PES; (c) strictly PAs (IUCN category I, II, and III); and (d) CFM (including, but not restricted to areas designated as IUCN categories V and VI). |         |                    |  | Annika; Wilcove, David S.; Butler, Rhett A. (2019): What works in tropical forest conservation, and what does not: Effectiveness of four strategies in terms of environmental, social, and economic outcomes. In: Conserv Sci and Prac 1 (6), e28. DOI: 10.1111/csp2.28.                             |
| 8  | This study identifies several actions that could improve the weakened situation of fire-dependent biodiversity (as caused by my standards of forest certification).  | Desktop study   | PEFC    | Finland            |  | Lindberg, Henrik; Punttila, Pekka; Vanha-Majamaa, Ilkka (2020): The challenge of combining variable retention and prescribed burning in Finland. In: Ecol Process 9 (1). DOI: 10.1186/s13717-019-0207-3.   |
| 9  | This study conducted a systematic review of the ecological literature associated with planted Pinus and Eucalyptus species in Brazil. It compares publication metrics with the geographical distribution of species, ecosystems, biomes studied taxa, and ecological impacts.                                  | Systematic review   | FSC     | Brazil             |  | Valduga, Marcos O.; Zenni, Rafael D.; Vitule, Jean R. S. (2016): Ecological impacts of non-native tree species plantations are broad and heterogeneous: a review of Brazilian research. In: Anais da Academia Brasileira de Ciencias 88 (3 Suppl), S. 1675–1688. DOI: 10.1590/0001-3765201620150575. |
| 10 | This work examines the effectiveness of forest certification and how the aims mentioned previously have been achieved.   | Literature review (method not specified in text)  | General | World-wide/General |  | Cerda, Aldo; Lira, Valentina (2002): THE ECONOMICS OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION. PAPER PRESENTED TO SECOND WORLD CONGRESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMISTS.  |
| 11 | We provide an overview of studies that evaluate FSC certification and associated benefits for forest biodiversity conservation. We include studies with response variables that are known to be  | Literature review on studies of impact evaluation studies, data about FSC certification   | FSC     | World-wide/General |  | Nicholas R. Brown, Reed F. Noss, David D. Diamond, and Mariah N. Myers (2001): Conservation biology and forest   |



|    |   |  |            |  |   |
|----|---|--|------------|--|---|
|    | directly (animal and plant diversity) and indirectly (deforestation, forest degradation) related to forest biodiversity conservation.   | and associated outcomes, incl. field studies providing on- the-ground data. Analysis of Corrective Action Requests (CARs). |            |  | certification. Working Together toward Ecological Sustainability. In: Journal of Forestry.  |
| 12 | This book chapter provides an overview of studies that evaluate FSC certification and associated benefits for forest biodiversity conservation. We include studies with response variables that are known to be directly (animal and plant diversity) or indirectly (deforestation, forest degradation) related to forest biodiversity conservation.              | Literature review  | FSC        | World-wide/General                                 | Franck Trolliet, Melissa Vogt, Franck Trolliet (Hg.) (2019): How does FSC certification of forest management benefit conservation of biodiversity? Sustainability Certification Schemes in the Agricultural and Natural Resource Sectors: Routledge.  |
| 13 | This report aims to fill this knowledge gap by presenting the results of a 'qualitative literature review' (QLR) of existing research, on the direct environmental impacts of FSC and PEFC, in the boreal, temperate, and tropical biomes.  | Literature review  | FSC, PEFC  | Worldwide (boreal, temperate, and tropical biomes) | Di Girolami, Erica; Arts, Bas (2018): Environmental impacts of Forest Certifications. Qualitative Literature Review of Scientific Research on the Environmental Impacts of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification Scheme and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) in the Boreal, Temperate and Tropical Biomes. |
| 14 | A literature study was conducted to assess the scientific evidence for the effect of certified forest management on biodiversity in tropical, temperate, and boreal forests. This study focuses on studies that compared certified with 'conventional' forestry practices within the wealth of literature discussing the impact of logging on plants and animals. | Literature review  | General FC | Worldwide (tropical, temperate and boreal forests) | van Kuijk, Marijke; Putz, Francis E.; Zagt, Roderick (2009): Effects of forest certification on biodiversity. Wageningen, The Netherlands.  |

Table S9. Models and Scenarios Forest degradation.

| Forest Degradation: Models & Scenarios |   |   |          |              |  |
|--|---|---|----------|--------------|--|
| No.                                    | Objective   | Method                                      | Scheme   | World region | Reference  |
| 1                                      | The effects of hydrological processes on landscape-level measures included in the sustainable forestry initiative (SFI) | Landscape modeling; HARVEST landscape model | PEFC-SFI | USA, Texas   | Azevedo, João C.; Williams, Jimmy R.; Messina, Michael G.; Fisher, |

|   |   |  |          |                  |  |
|---|---|--|----------|------------------|--|
|   | program were analyzed through simulation.   | was used to simulate landscape pattern and a modified version of the APEX model was used to simulate hydrological processes.   |          |                  | Richard F. (2005): Impacts of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative Landscape Level Measures on Hydrological Processes. In: Water Resour Manage 19 (2), S. 95–110. DOI: 10.1007/s11269-005-1503-5.                                       |
| 2 | The study developed a methodology to analyze the effects of management practices on landscape structure and function to assess sustainability in intensively managed forest landscapes.   | Landscape modeling; HARVEST landscape model was used to simulate landscape pattern and a modified version of the APEX model was used to simulate hydrological processes. | PEFC-SFI | USA, Texas       | Joaõ C. Azevedo, X. Ben Wu, Michael G. Messina, and Richard F. Fisher (2005): Assessment of Sustainability in Intensively Managed Forested Landscapes: A Case Study in Eastern Texas. In: Forest Science.                              |
| 3 | The study modeled carbon and biodiversity outcomes for four archetypal timber production systems that deliver the same timber volume but vary in spatial extent and harvest intensity. We include impacts of variable deforestation risk (secure land tenure or not) and alternative harvesting practices (certified an uncertified). | Scenario modelling   | FSC      | Tropical regions | Griscom, Bronson W.; Goodman, Rosa C.; Burivalova, Zuzana; Putz, Francis E. (2018): Carbon and Biodiversity Impacts of Intensive Versus Extensive Tropical Forestry. In: CONSERVATION LETTERS 11 (1), e12362. DOI: 10.1111/conl.12362. |

Table S10. Desktop studies economic viability.

| Economic viability: Desktop |   |   |        |                           |  |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--------|---------------------------|--|
| No.                         | Objective   | Method  | Scheme | World region              | Reference  |
| 1                           | This study reviews how the different countries of the Americas carried out the forest certification process by the FSC system and discusses how external factors would have influenced these processes. | Documentary research; literature review, data of (certified) forest areas | FSC    | South and North America   | Basso, V. M.; Jacovine, L.A.G.; Nardelli, A.M.B.; Alves, R. R.; Silva, E. V.; Silva, M. L.; Andrade, B. G. (2018): FSC forest management certification in the Americas. In: int. forest. rev. 20 (1), S. 31–42. DOI: 10.1505/146554818822824219. |
| 2                           | This study evaluates four mainstream strategies (forest certification and reduced impact logging, payments for ecosystem services, protected areas,   | Systematic literature review  | FSC    | Tropical forest countries | Burivalova, Zuzana; Allnutt, Thomas F.; Rademacher, Dan; Schlemm, Annika; Wilcove, David   |

|   |   |  |                                    |                                   |  |  |
|---|---|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|
|   | community forest management) in terms of 35 environmental, social, and economic metrics. We evaluated whether applying the strategy improved, left unchanged, or worsened the conservation metrics, and we created an interactive platform to view the data.  |  |                                    |                                   |  | S.; Butler, Rhett A. (2019): What works in tropical forest conservation, and what does not: Effectiveness of four strategies in terms of environmental, social, and economic outcomes. In: <i>Conservat Sci and Prac</i> 1 (6), e28. DOI: 10.1111/csp2.28.   |
| 3 | A qualitative meta-synthesis approach is applied to this body of evidence to assess producer benefits reported in case studies of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification in developing countries.  | Literature review/meta-analysis                        | FSC                                | Developing countries              |  | Carlson, Anna; Palmer, Charles (2016): A qualitative meta-synthesis of the benefits of eco-labeling in developing countries. In: <i>Ecological Economics</i> 127, S. 129–145. DOI: 10.1016/j.ecolecon.2016.03.020.   |
| 4 | This study analyzes the forest certification process in Guatemala, focusing on the forest concessions in the Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR), where 95 percent of the certified forest area in Guatemala is located.   | Case study   | FSC                                | Guatemala, Maya Biosphere Reserve |  | Carrera, Fernando; Stoian, Dietmar; Joaquin Campos Arce, Jose; Israel Pinelo, Gustavo (2006): Forest certification in Guatemala.   |
| 5 | This study answers why the momentum behind forest certification has been so weak in developing countries.   | Literature review                                      | FSC, PEFC (CERFLOR; SFI, CSA stc). | Developing countries              |  | Cashore, Benjamin; Gale, Fred; Meidinger, Errol; Newsom, Deanna (2006): Forest Certification in Developing and Transitioning Countries: Part of a Sustainable Future? In: <i>Environment: Science and Policy for Sustainable Development</i> 48 (9), S. 6–25. DOI: 10.3200/ENVT.48.9.6-25.                   |
| 6 | This study identifies and analyzes the main factors influencing the diffusion of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) smallholder certification in Europe. Furthermore, potential strategies to help FSC meet the requirement of smallholders—and, consequently, enhance their access to certification—are pointed out. | Review of FSC certification reports, SWOT-ANP analysis | FSC                                | Europe                            |  | Di Lallo, Giulio; Maesano, Mauro; Masiero, Mauro; Mugnozza, Giuseppe Scarascia; Marchetti, Marco (2016): Analyzing Strategies to Enhance Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests Certification in Europe using SWOT-ANP. In: <i>Small-scale Forestry</i> 15 (3), S. 393–411. DOI: 10.1007/s11842-016-9329-y. |

|    |  |  |                                    |   |   |
|----|--|--|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 7  | This study evaluates the challenges facing certification and eco-labeling forest products in developing countries.   | Documentary research; literature review, data of (certified) forest areas  | FSC, PEFC (CERFLOR; SFI, CSA etc). | Developing countries                              | Durst, P.B; McKenzie, P.J; Brown, C.L; Appanah, S. (2006): Challenges facing certification and eco-labeling of forest products in developing countries. In: International Forestry Review 8 (2), S. 193–200. DOI: 10.1505/for.8.2.193.                          |
| 8  | This study aims to determine the current and historical general trends of FSC certification in the tropics and to provide insights into the nature of problematic management issues and how these issues have evolved across different regions.  | Data analysis, literature review   | FSC, PEFC                          | Tropical forest countries                         | Ehrenberg-Azcárate, Francisco; Peña-Claros, Marielos (2020): Twenty years of forest management certification in the tropics: Major trends through time and among continents. In: Forest Policy and Economics 111, S. 102050. DOI: 10.1016/j.forpol.2019.102050. |
| 9  | This study assesses the roles and contributions of smallholder tree-farmers in and across regional supply chains and the regulatory compliance, voluntary verification, and market access environments in which they operate.  | Literature review  | General FC                         | South East Asia/Vietnam as case study (Thien Hue) | Flanagan, A. C.; Midgley, S. J.; Stevens, P. R.; McWhirter, L. (2019): Smallholder tree-farmers and forest certification in Southeast Asia: productivity, risks and policies. In: Australian Forestry 82 (1), S. 18–28. DOI: 10.1080/00049158.2018.1560569.     |
| 10 | This study reviews the economic issues and potential welfare implications of forest certification in light of this management goal but finds that the effect of certification on forest product markets is uncertain. It examines why certification schemes may fail to regulate optimally market failures and decrease welfare compared to a non-certified state. | Macro empirical study, statistical analysis to evaluate the key market and socio-political drivers of Forest Stewardship Council certification uptake and growth | FSC, PEFC (CSA, SFI)               | Worldwide   | Jarus, Val: Forest Certification: Economic Issues and Welfare Implications. In: CANADIAN PUBLIC POLICY 1998.  |
| 11 | Building on available data, the probable contributions of smallholder assets to national economies and smallholder livelihoods are calculated for acacias in Vietnam and eucalypts in Guangxi Province, China, and smallholder contributions to commercial wood flow in several other Asian countries.   | Desktop/review of Literature   | General FC                         | China, Guangxi Province                           | Midgley, S. J.; Stevens, P. R.; Arnold, R. J. (2017): Hidden assets: Asia's smallholder wood resources and their contribution to supply chains of commercial wood. In: Australian Forestry 80 (1), S. 10–25. DOI:   |

|    |  |   |                            |                           |   |
|----|--|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|
|    |  |   |                            |                           | 10.1080/00049158.2017.1280750.  |
| 12 | Based on available literature, this study discusses the question: have the conservation-focused and pro-poor forestry research and policies, and the related advocacies of NTFPs, PES, and REDD+ enabled rural developments improved livelihoods for combatting poverty? It is analyzed how forestry could play a more active and contributing role in the development sector. | Literature review   | FSC, PEFC (CSA, SFI, ATFS) | Tropical regions          | Nambiar, E. Sadanandan K. (2019): Tamm Review: Re-imagining forestry and wood business: pathways to rural development, poverty alleviation and climate change mitigation in the tropics. In: Forest Ecology and Management 448, S. 160–173. DOI: 10.1016/j.foreco.2019.06.014.  |
| 13 | This study assesses the status and problems in the certification of Sustainable Forest Management in China.  | Data analysis, literature review                                    | FSC                        | China                     | Zhao, Jingzhu; Xie, Dongming; Wang, Danyin; Deng, Hongbing (2011): Current status and problems in certification of sustainable forest management in China. In: Environmental management 48 (6), S. 1086–1094. DOI: 10.1007/s00267-011-9620-9.   |
| 14 | This study analyses the reasons for the success of YFOC (one most successful example of FSC certification holders in the country because of their strong economic performance after gaining certification in 2000.) in terms of their forestry, sawmill activities, and timber marketing.  | Literature review   | FSC                        | Japan                     | Ota, Ikou (2006): Experiences of a Forest Owners' Cooperative in using FSC Forest Certification as an Environmental Strategy. In: Small-scale Forest Economics, Management and Policy, S. 111–126.  |
| 15 | This study synthesizes the published information about how forest certification and community-forest management perform in environmental, social, and economic variables.  | Systematic review; qualitative synthesis of the existing literature | FSC                        | Tropical forest countries | Burivalova, Zuzana; Hua, Fangyuan; Koh, Lian Pin; Garcia, Claude; Putz, Francis (2017): A Critical Comparison of Conventional, Certified, and Community Management of Tropical Forests for Timber in Terms of Environmental, Economic, and Social Variables. In: CONSERVATION LETTERS 10 (1), S. 4–14. DOI: 10.1111/conl.12244. |

|    |   |  |                    |                      |  |
|----|---|--|--------------------|----------------------|--|
| 16 | This paper discusses the effects of these eco-labels programs on developing countries' market access. It explains how the multitude and the complexity of eco-labeling programs could become a non-tariff trade barrier.  | Literature review  | General FC         | Developing countries | Violeta BAJENARU-DE-CLERCK (Hg.) (2008): The forest certification and eco-labels: a social progress or new non-tariff barriers? Proceedings of the 51st International Convention of Society of Wood Science and Technology. Concepción, Chile, 10-12 November.   |
| 17 | This study explored the opportunity costs of restricting silvicultural options by comparing natural pine regimes to plantation management regimes with and without herbicide using basic economic criteria.   | Economic analysis, discounting of Net Present Value and Land expectation value | FSC, PEFC-SFI, CSA | Worldwide            | van Deusen, P. C.; Wigley, T. B.; Lucier, A. A. (2010): Some indirect costs of forest certification. In: Forestry 83 (4), S. 389–394. DOI: 10.1093/forestry/cpq021.  |
| 18 | This study studies the conditions imposed on forest operators for getting certified and the export prices of certified vs. non-certified timber products. In addition, the study provides a basis for assessing aspects of certification's effectiveness, efficiency, and equity. | Literature review, document analysis   | FSC                | Bolivia              | Nebel, Gustav; Quevedo, Lincoln; Bredahl Jacobsen, Jette; Helles, Finn (2005): Development and economic significance of forest certification: the case of FSC in Bolivia. In: Forest Policy and Economics 7 (2), S. 175–186. DOI: 10.1016/S1389-9341(03)00030-3. |

Table S11. Macro-economic studies economic viability/economic impact.

| Economic viability: Macro-economic |   |  |                   |              |  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|-------------------|--------------|--|
| No.                                | Objective   | Method   | Scheme            | World region | Reference  |
| 1                                  | This study estimates the market and economic impacts of the American Forests and Paper Association's Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) on stumpage markets in the US South. We examine four timber product markets: softwood pulpwood, softwood sawtimber, hardwood pulpwood, and hardwood sawtimber. | Survey data; equilibrium displacement model            | PEFC-SFI          | USA, South   | Brown, Roger; Zhang, Daowei (2005): The Sustainable Forestry Initiatives impact on stumpage markets in the US South. In: Can. J. For. Res. 35 (8), S. 2056–2064. DOI: 10.1139/x05-135. |
| 2                                  | This study assesses the impacts of forest certification costs on the output, price, and trade of forest products via computable general equilibrium modeling under various scenarios representing tropical, temperate, and global forest certification.   | General equilibrium analysis (GTAP), scenario analysis | FSC, PEFC-CERFLOR | Worldwide    | Gan, Jianbang (2005): Forest certification costs and global forest product markets and trade: a general equilibrium analysis. In: Can. J. For.   |

|   |   |   |           |           |   |
|---|---|---|-----------|-----------|---|
|   |   |   |           |           | Res. 35 (7), S. 1731–1743. DOI: 10.1139/x05-100.  |
| 3 | Using a complex dynamic forest optimization model, we analyze the impacts on the economy and biodiversity of forest management restrictions implemented to protect biodiversity (i.e., forest certification).   | Complex dynamic forest optimization model                     | PEFC      | Norway    | Bergseng, Ev en; Ask, Jon Andreas; Framstad, Erik; Gobakken, Terje; Solberg, Birger; Hoen, Hans Fredrik (2012): Biodiversity protection and economics in long term boreal forest management — A detailed case for the valuation of protection measures. In: Forest Policy and Economics 15, S. 12–21. DOI: 10.1016/j.for-pol.2011.11.002. |
| 4 | This research estimates the productivity and economic implications of a scenario resembling the management of nonindustrial private forestland. The research compares estimates from a mechanical-only treatment and two levels of chemical treatments between certification schemes. | Scenario analysis   | FSC       |           | Mendell, Brooks C.; Lang, Amanda H.; Caldwell, Will; Garrett, David L. (2015): Chemical Use and Forest Certification: Productivity and Economic Implications. In: Journal of Forestry 113 (4), S. 367–371. DOI: 10.5849/jof.14-121.   |
| 5 | This paper analyzes the restricting effect of forest certification on the trade of wood products under the decline of tariff barriers.  | Partial equilibrium modeling/space price gradient field model | FSC, PEFC | Worldwide | Guan, Zhijie; Ip Ping Sheong, Jim Kwee Fat (2019): The Restricting Effects of Forest Certification on the International Trade of Wood Products. In: Journal of Sustainable Forestry 38 (8), S. 809–826. DOI: 10.1080/10549811.2019.1607756.   |
| 6 | This study evaluates the influence of forest certification on international trade. Furthermore, it provides a scientific basis for improving the international forest certification systems and the development of relevant forestry industries in different countries.               | Gravity model   | FSC, PEFC | Worldwide | Chen, Jiaojiao; Wang, Lanhui; Li, Lingchao; Magalhães, Juliana; Song, Weiming; Lu, Wenming et al. (2020): Effect of Forest Certification on International Trade in Forest Products. In: Forests 11 (12), S. 1270. DOI: 10.3390/f11121270.   |

## References

1. Panlasigui, S.; Rico-Straffon, J.; Pfaff, A.; Swenson, J.; Loucks, C. Impacts of certification, uncertified concessions, and protected areas on forest loss in Cameroon, 2000 to 2013. *Biological Conservation* **2018**, *227*, 160–166, doi:10.1016/j.biocon.2018.09.013.
2. Panlasigui, S. Valuating the impact of the Forest Stewardship Council certification on forest loss rates in Cameroon's logging concessions. Master Thesis; Duke University, North Carolina, 2015.
3. Tritsch, I.; Le Velly, G.; Mertens, B.; Meyfroidt, P.; Sannier, C.; Makak, J.-S.; Hounghbedji, K. Do forest-management plans and FSC certification help avoid deforestation in the Congo Basin? *Ecological Economics* **2020**, *175*, 106660, doi:10.1016/j.ecolecon.2020.106660.
4. Nikolaeva, A.S.; Kelly, M.; O'Hara, K.L. Differences in forest management practices in Primorsky Krai: Case study of certified and non-certified by Forest Stewardship Council forest concessions. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry* **2019**, *38*, 471–485, doi:10.1080/10549811.2019.1573147.
5. Miteva, D.A.; Loucks, C.J.; Pattanayak, S.K. Social and Environmental Impacts of Forest Management Certification in Indonesia. *PLoS One* **2015**, *10*, doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0129675.
6. Hughell, D.; Rebecca, B. Impact of FSC Certification on Deforestation and the Incidence of Wildfires in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, 2008.
7. Blackman, A.; Goff, L.; Rivera Planter, M. Does eco-certification stem tropical deforestation? Forest Stewardship Council certification in Mexico. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* **2018**, *89*, 306–333, doi:10.1016/j.jeem.2018.04.005.
8. Rico, J.; Panlasigui, S.; Loucks, C.J.; Swenson, J.; Pfaff, A. Logging Concessions, Certification & Protected Areas in the Peruvian Amazon: Forest Impacts from Combinations of Development Rights & Land-use Restrictions: Working papers, No. 2018-11, Banco de México, Ciudad de México.
9. Heilmayr, R.; Lambin, E.F. Impacts of nonstate, market-driven governance on Chilean forests. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U. S. A.* **2016**, *113*, 2910–2915, doi:10.1073/pnas.1600394113.
10. Rana, P.; Sills, E. Does Certification Change the Trajectory of Tree Cover in Working Forests in The Tropics? An Application of the Synthetic Control Method of Impact Evaluation. *Forests* **2018**, *9*, 98, doi:10.3390/f9030098.
11. Panlasigui, S.; Rico-Straffon, J.; Swenson, J.; Loucks, C.J.; Pfaff, A. Early Days in the Certification of Logging Concessions: Estimating FSC's Deforestation FSC- Impact in Peru and Cameroon: Working paper EE\_15-05.
12. Kalonga, S.K.; Midtgaard, F.; Klanderud, K. Forest certification as a policy option in conserving biodiversity: An empirical study of forest management in Tanzania. *Forest Ecology and Management* **2016**, *361*, 1–12, doi:10.1016/j.foreco.2015.10.034.
13. Morgan, D.; Mundry, R.; Sanz, C.; Ayina, C.E.; Strindberg, S.; Lonsdorf, E.; Köhl, H.S. African apes coexisting with logging: Comparing chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes troglodytes*) and gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*) resource needs and responses to forestry activities. *Biological Conservation* **2018**, *218*, 277–286, doi:10.1016/j.biocon.2017.10.026.
14. Bahaa-el-din, L.; Sollmann, R.; Hunter, L.T.; Slotow, R.; Macdonald, D.W.; Henschel, P. Effects of human land-use on Africa's only forest-dependent felid: The African golden cat *Caracal aurata*. *Biological Conservation* **2016**, *199*, 1–9, doi:10.1016/j.biocon.2016.04.013.
15. Samejima, H.; Ong, R.; Lagan, P.; Kitayama, K. Camera-trapping rates of mammals and birds in a Bornean tropical rainforest under sustainable forest management. *Forest Ecology and Management* **2012**, *270*, 248–256, doi:10.1016/j.foreco.2012.01.013.
16. Sollmann, R.; Mohamed, A.; Niedballa, J.; Bender, J.; Ambu, L.; Lagan, P.; Mannan, S.; Ong, R.C.; Langner, A.; Gardner, B.; et al. Quantifying mammal biodiversity co-benefits in certified tropical forests. *Diversity Distrib.* **2017**, *23*, 317–328, doi:10.1111/ddi.12530.
17. Imai, N.; Samejima, H.; Langner, A.; Ong, R.C.; Kita, S.; Titin, J.; Chung, A.Y.C.; Lagan, P.; Lee, Y.F.; Kitayama, K. Co-benefits of sustainable forest management in biodiversity conservation and carbon sequestration. *PLoS One* **2009**, *4*, e8267, doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0008267.
18. Kitayama, K.; Fujiki, S.; Aoyagi, R.; Imai, N.; Sugau, J.; Titin, J.; Nilus, R.; Lagan, P.; Sawada, Y.; Ong, R.; et al. Biodiversity Observation for Land and Ecosystem Health (BOLEH): A Robust Method to Evaluate the Management Impacts on the Bundle of Carbon and Biodiversity Ecosystem Services in Tropical Production Forests. *Sustainability* **2018**, *10*, 4224, doi:10.3390/su10114224.
19. Mannan, S.; Kitayama, K.; Fah Lee, Y.; Chung, A.; Radin, A.; Lagan, P. RIL for biodiversity and carbon conservation. ITTO tropical forest update **2008**, 7–9.
20. Sillanpää, M.; Vantellingen, J.; Friess, D.A. Vegetation regeneration in a sustainably harvested mangrove forest in West Papua, Indonesia. *Forest Ecology and Management* **2017**, *390*, 137–146, doi:10.1016/j.foreco.2017.01.022.
21. Charmakar, S.; Oli, B.N.; Joshi, N.R.; Maraseni, T.N.; Atreya, K. Forest Carbon Storage and Species Richness in FSC Certified and Non-certified Community Forests in Nepal. *Small-scale Forestry* **2021**, 199–219, doi:10.1007/s11842-020-09464-3.
22. Kukkonen, M.; Hohnwald, S. Comparing floristic composition in treefall gaps of certified, conventionally managed and natural forests of northern Honduras. *Ann. For. Sci.* **2009**, *66*, 809, doi:10.1051/forest/2009070.
23. Dias, F.S.; Bugalho, M.N.; Rodríguez-González, P.M.; Albuquerque, A.; Cerdeira, J.O. Effects of forest certification on the ecological condition of Mediterranean streams. *J Appl Ecol* **2015**, *52*, 190–198, doi:10.1111/1365-2664.12358.
24. Sverdrup-Thygeson, A.; Borg, P.; Bergsaker, E. A comparison of biodiversity values in boreal forest regeneration areas before and after forest certification. *Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research* **2008**, *23*, 236–243, doi:10.1080/02827580802158228.



25. Ioras, F.; Abrudan, I.V.; Dautbasic, M.; Avdibegovic, M.; Gurean, D.; Ratnasingam, J. Conservation gains through HCVF assessments in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Romania. *Biodivers Conserv* **2009**, *18*, 3395–3406, doi:10.1007/s10531-009-9649-8.
26. Lõhmus, A.; Kraut, A. Stand structure of hemiboreal old-growth forests: Characteristic features, variation among site types, and a comparison with FSC-certified mature stands in Estonia. *Forest Ecology and Management* **2010**, *260*, 155–165, doi:10.1016/j.foreco.2010.04.018.
27. Elbakidze, M.; Angelstam, P.; Andersson, K.; Nordberg, M.; Pautov, Y. How does forest certification contribute to boreal biodiversity conservation? Standards and outcomes in Sweden and NW Russia. *Forest Ecology and Management* **2011**, *262*, 1983–1995, doi:10.1016/j.foreco.2011.08.040.
28. Dias, F.S.; Bugalho, M.N.; Orestes Cerdeira, J.; João Martins, M. Is forest certification targeting areas of high biodiversity in cork oak savannas? *Biodivers Conserv* **2013**, *22*, 93–112, doi:10.1007/s10531-012-0401-4.
29. WWF. *The Effects of FSC-Certification in Estonia - An analysis of corrective action requests*, 2015. Available online: <https://www.feu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/finalanalysisestonia.pdf>.
30. Elbakidze, M.; Ražauskaitė, R.; Manton, M.; Angelstam, P.; Mozgeris, G.; Brūmelis, G.; Brazaitis, G.; Vogt, P. The role of forest certification for biodiversity conservation: Lithuania as a case study. *Eur J Forest Res* **2016**, *135*, 361–376, doi:10.1007/s10342-016-0940-4.
31. Simonsson, P.; Östlund, L.; Gustafsson, L. Conservation values of certified-driven voluntary forest set-asides. *Forest Ecology and Management* **2016**, *375*, 249–258, doi:10.1016/j.foreco.2016.05.039.
32. Blumröder, J.S.; Hobson, P.R.; Graebener, U.F.; Krueger, J.-A.; Dobrynin, D.; Burova, N.; Amosa, I.; Winter, S.; Ibisich, P.L. Towards the Evaluation of the Ecological Effectiveness of the Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PCI) of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC): Case study in the Arkhangelsk Region in the Russian Federation. *Challenges in Sustainability* **2018**, *6*, 20–51, doi:10.12924/cis2018.06010020.
33. Blumröder, J.S.; Burova, N.; Winter, S.; Goroncy, A.; Hobson, P.R.; Shegolev, A.; Dobrynin, D.; Amosova, I.; Ilina, O.; Parinova, T.; et al. Ecological effects of clearcutting practices in a boreal forest (Arkhangelsk Region, Russian Federation) both with and without FSC certification. *Ecological Indicators* **2019**, *106*, 105461, doi:10.1016/j.ecolind.2019.105461.
34. Schaaf, A.A.; Tallei, E.; Ruggera, R.A.; Vivanco, C.G.; Rivera, L.; Politi, N. An assessment of the availability of cavities for secondary cavity-nesting birds in certified and conventionally-logged Neotropical rainforests. *iForest* **2020**, *13*, 318–322, doi:10.3832/ifer3220-013.
35. Polisar, J.; Thoisy, B. de; Rumiz, D.I.; Santos, F.D.; McNab, R.B.; Garcia-Anleu, R.; Ponce-Santizo, G.; Arispe, R.; Venegas, C. Using certified timber extraction to benefit jaguar and ecosystem conservation. *Ambio* **2017**, *46*, 588–603, doi:10.1007/s13280-016-0853-y.
36. Umunay, P.M.; Gregoire, T.G.; Gopalakrishna, T.; Ellis, P.W.; Putz, F.E. Selective logging emissions and potential emission reductions from reduced-impact logging in the Congo Basin. *Forest Ecology and Management* **2019**, *437*, 360–371, doi:10.1016/j.foreco.2019.01.049.
37. Griscom, B.; Ellis, P.; Putz, F.E. Carbon emissions performance of commercial logging in East Kalimantan, Indonesia. *Glob. Chang. Biol.* **2014**, *20*, 923–937, doi:10.1111/gcb.12386.
38. Ellis, E.A.; Montero, S.A.; Hernández Gómez, I.U.; Romero Montero, J.A.; Ellis, P.W.; Rodríguez-Ward, D.; Blanco Reyes, P.; Putz, F.E. Reduced-impact logging practices reduce forest disturbance and carbon emissions in community managed forests on the Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico. *Forest Ecology and Management* **2019**, *437*, 396–410, doi:10.1016/j.foreco.2019.01.040.
39. Armenta-Montero, S.; Ellis, E.A.; Ellis, P.W.; Manson, R.H.; Lopez-Binnquíst, C.; Villaseñor Pérez, J.A. Carbon emissions from selective logging in the southern Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. *MYB* **2020**, *26*, doi:10.21829/myb.2020.2611891.
40. Feldpausch, T.R.; Jirka, S.; Passos, C.A.; Jasper, F.; Riha, S.J. When big trees fall: Damage and carbon export by reduced impact logging in southern Amazonia. *Forest Ecology and Management* **2005**, *219*, 199–215, doi:10.1016/j.foreco.2005.09.003.
41. Goodman, R.C.; Harman Aramburu, M.; Gopalakrishna, T.; Putz, F.E.; Gutiérrez, N.; Mena Alvarez, J.L.; Aguilar-Amuchastegui, N.; Ellis, P.W. Carbon emissions and potential emissions reductions from low-intensity selective logging in southwestern Amazonia. *Forest Ecology and Management* **2019**, *439*, 18–27, doi:10.1016/j.foreco.2019.02.037.
42. Medjibe, V.P.; Putz, F.E.; Romero, C. Certified and uncertified logging concessions compared in Gabon: changes in stand structure, tree species, and biomass. *Environ. Manage.* **2013**, *51*, 524–540, doi:10.1007/s00267-012-0006-4.
43. Kalonga, S.K.; Midtgaard, F.; Eid, T. Does forest certification enhance forest structure? Empirical evidence from certified community-based forest management in Kilwa District, Tanzania. *int. forest. rev.* **2015**, *17*, 182–194, doi:10.1505/146554815815500570.
44. Arbainsyah; Iongh, H.H. de; Kustiawan, W.; Snoo, G.R. de. Structure, composition and diversity of plant communities in FSC-certified, selectively logged forests of different ages compared to primary rain forest. *Biodivers Conserv* **2014**, *23*, 2445–2472, doi:10.1007/s10531-014-0732-4.
45. Hain, H.; Ahas, R. Can forest certification improve forest management? Case study of the FSC certified Estonian State Forest Management Centre. *int. forest. rev.* **2007**, *9*, 759–770, doi:10.1505/ifer.9.3.759.
46. Johansson, J.; Lidestav, G. Can voluntary standards regulate forestry? — Assessing the environmental impacts of forest certification in Sweden. *Forest Policy and Economics* **2011**, *13*, 191–198, doi:10.1016/j.forpol.2010.11.004.
47. Villalobos, L.; Coria, J.; Nordén, A. Has Forest Certification Reduced Forest Degradation in Sweden? *Land Economics* **2018**, *94*, 220–238, doi:10.3368/le.94.2.220.
48. Blumröder, J.S.; Hoffmann, M.T.; Ilina, O.; Winter, S.; Hobson, P.R.; Ibisich, P.L. Clearcuts and related secondary dieback undermine the ecological effectiveness of FSC certification in a boreal forest. *Ecol Process* **2020**, *9*, doi:10.1186/s13717-020-0214-4.

49. Foster, B.C.; Wang, D.; Keeton, W.S. An Exploratory, Post-Harvest Comparison of Ecological and Economic Characteristics of Forest Stewardship Council Certified and Uncertified Northern Hardwood Stands\*. *Journal of Sustainable Forestry* **2008**, *26*, 171–191, doi:10.1080/10549810701879701.
50. Tritsch, I.; Sist, P.; Narvaes, I.; Mazzei, L.; Blanc, L.; Bourgoin, C.; Cornu, G.; Gond, V. Multiple Patterns of Forest Disturbance and Logging Shape Forest Landscapes in Paragominas, Brazil. *Forests* **2016**, *7*, 315, doi:10.3390/f7120315.
51. Ham, C. Certification: Situation analysis of private timber growers in South Africa. *The Southern African Forestry Journal* **2000**, *187*, 59–64, doi:10.1080/10295925.2000.9631257.
52. Frey, G.E.; Charnley, S.; Makala, J. Economic viability of community-based forest management for certified timber production in southeastern Tanzania. *World Development* **2021**, *144*, 105491, doi:10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105491.
53. Kalonga, S.K.; Kulindwa, K.A. Does forest certification enhance livelihood conditions? Empirical evidence from forest management in Kilwa District, Tanzania. *Forest Policy and Economics* **2017**, *74*, 49–61, doi:10.1016/j.forpol.2016.11.001.
54. KONGMANEE, C.; AHMED, F.; Longpicha, O. Cost-Benefit Analysis and Challenges of Implementing FSC Standards in Rubber Plantations in Southern Thailand. *JAFEB* **2020**, *7*, 423–431, doi:10.13106/jafeb.2020.vol7.no12.423.
55. Sugiura, K.; Yoshioka, T.; Inoue, K. Effects of acquiring FSC forest management certification for Japanese enterprises using SmartWood Audits. *Journal of Forestry Research* **2012**, *23*, 165–172, doi:10.1007/s11676-012-0249-1.
56. Auer, M.R. Group Forest Certification for Smallholders in Vietnam: An Early Test and Future Prospects. *Hum Ecol* **2012**, *40*, 5–14, doi:10.1007/s10745-011-9451-6.
57. Frey, G.E.; Cubbage, F.W.; Ha, T.; Davis, R.R.; Carle, J.B.; Thon, V.X.; Dzung, N.V. Financial analysis and comparison of small-holder forest and state forest enterprise plantations in Central Vietnam. *int. forest. rev.* **2018**, *20*, 181–198, doi:10.1505/146554818823767582.
58. Hoang, H.T.N.; Hoshino, S.; Hashimoto, S. Forest stewardship council certificate for a group of planters in Vietnam: SWOT analysis and implications. *Journal of Forest Research* **2015**, *20*, 35–42, doi:10.1007/s10310-014-0472-z.
59. Hoang, H.T.N.; Hoshino, S.; Onitsuka, K.; Maraseni, T. Cost analysis of FSC forest certification and opportunities to cover the costs a case study of Quang Tri FSC group in Central Vietnam. *Journal of Forest Research* **2019**, *24*, 137–142, doi:10.1080/13416979.2019.1610993.
60. La Tham, T.; Darr, D.; Pretzsch, J. Contribution of Small-Scale Acacia Hybrid Timber Production and Commercialization for Livelihood Development in Central Vietnam. *Forests* **2020**, *11*, 1335, doi:10.3390/f11121335.
61. Maraseni, T.N.; Son, H.L.; Cockfield, G.; Duy, H.V.; Nghia, T.D. The financial benefits of forest certification: Case studies of acacia growers and a furniture company in Central Vietnam. *Land Use Policy* **2017**, *69*, 56–63, doi:10.1016/j.landusepol.2017.09.011.
62. Minh, N.T.T.; Tuấn, T.H. Economic Efficiencies of the forest certification group in Trung Son commune, Gio Linh District, Quang Tri Province. *Hue University Journal of Science* **2016**, *113*, 127, doi:10.26459/jed.v113i14.3658.
63. Kollert, W.; Lagan, P. Do certified tropical logs fetch a market premium? *Forest Policy and Economics* **2007**, *9*, 862–868, doi:10.1016/j.forpol.2006.03.005.
64. Acharya, R.P.; Bhattarai, B.P.; Dahal, N.; Kunwar, R.M.; Karki, G.; Bhattarai, H.P. Governance in community forestry in Nepal through forest certification. *int. forest. rev.* **2015**, *17*, 1–9, doi:10.1505/146554815814725077.
65. Harada, K.; Wiyono. Certification of a Community-based Forest Enterprise for Improving Institutional Management and Household Income: A Case from Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia. *Small-scale Forestry* **2014**, *13*, 47–64, doi:10.1007/s11842-013-9240-8.
66. Rolando, C.A.; Watt, M.S.; Zabkiewicz, J.A. The potential cost of environmental certification to vegetation management in plantation forests: a New Zealand case study. *Can. J. For. Res.* **2011**, *41*, 986–993, doi:10.1139/x11-022.
67. Pesce, F.; Lal, P. Financial viability of forest certification in industrial plantations: a case study from the Solomon Islands. *ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OCCASIONAL PAPERS* **2004**.
68. Brühlhart, S.; Pauli, B.; Peter, L. Kosten und Nutzen der Waldzertifizierung für die Schweizer Waldeigentümer | Costs and benefits of forest certification for Swiss forest owners. *Schweizerische Zeitschrift für Forstwesen* **2011**, *162*, 2–10, doi:10.3188/szf.2011.0002.
69. Gafo Gómez-Zamalloa, M.; Caparrós, A.; San-Miguel Ayanz, A. 15 years of Forest Certification in the European Union. Are we doing things right? *Forest Syst* **2011**, *20*, 81, doi:10.5424/fs/2011201-9369.
70. Michal; Březina; Šafařík; Kupčák; Sujová; Fialová. Analysis of Socioeconomic Impacts of the FSC and PEFC Certification Systems on Business Entities and Consumers. *Sustainability* **2019**, *11*, 4122, doi:10.3390/su11154122.
71. Rusli, M and Nabilah, H.S. Impact of FSC certification on natural and plantation forest. *The Malaysian Forester* **2009**, 185–193.
72. Romaniuk, B. Costs and benefits of forest management Certification for Polish State Forests under Forest Stewardship Council scheme: Master thesis **2008**.
73. Lidestav, G.; Berg Lejon, S. Forest Certification as an Instrument for Improved Forest Management within Small-scale Forestry. *Small-scale Forestry* **2011**, *10*, 401–418, doi:10.1007/s11842-011-9156-0.
74. Oy, S.I. *Effectiveness and Efficiency of FSC and PEFC Forest Certification on pilot areas in Nordic Countries: Final Report*, Helsinki, 2005. Available online: <https://www.iatp.org/documents/effectiveness-and-efficiency-of-fsc-and-pefc-forest-certification-on-pilot-areas-in-nordic>.
75. Paluš, H.; Parobek, J.; Šulek, R.; Lichý, J.; Šálka, J. Understanding Sustainable Forest Management Certification in Slovakia: Forest Owners' Perception of Expectations, Benefits and Problems. *Sustainability* **2018**, *10*, 2470, doi:10.3390/su10072470.

76. Galati, A.; Gianguzzi, G.; Tinervia, S.; Crescimanno, M.; La Mela Veca, D.S. Motivations, adoption and impact of voluntary environmental certification in the Italian Forest based industry: The case of the FSC standard. *Forest Policy and Economics* **2017**, *83*, 169–176, doi:10.1016/j.forpol.2017.08.002.
77. Halalisan, A.; Abrudan, I.; Popa, B. Forest Management Certification in Romania: Motivations and Perceptions. *Forests* **2018**, *9*, 425, doi:10.3390/f9070425.
78. Leahy, J.E.; Kilgore, M.A.; Hibbard, C.M.; Donnay, J.S. Family Forest Landowners' Interest in and Perceptions of Forest Certification: Focus Group Findings from Minnesota. *Northern Journal of Applied Forestry* **2008**, *25*, 73–81, doi:10.1093/njaf/25.2.73.
79. Hartsfield, A.; Ostermeier, D. Certification: The View from FSC-Certified Land Managers. *Journal of Forestry* **2013**, *101*, 32–36, doi:10.1093/jof/101.8.32.
80. Bouslah, K.; M'Zali, B.; Turcotte, M.-F.; Kooli, M. The Impact of Forest Certification on Firm Financial Performance in Canada and the U.S. *J Bus Ethics* **2010**, *96*, 551–572, doi:10.1007/s10551-010-0482-5.
81. Crow, S.; Danks, C. Why Certify? Motivations, Outcomes and the Importance of Facilitating Organizations in Certification of Community-Based Forestry Initiatives. *Small-scale Forestry* **2010**, *9*, 195–211, doi:10.1007/s11842-010-9110-6.
82. Schreiber, J. A Cost Benefit Analysis of Forest Certification at The Forestland Group: Master Thesis; Duke University, 2012.
83. Lemes, P.G.; Zanuncio, J.C.; Serrão, J.E.; Lawson, S.A. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) pesticide policy and integrated pest management in certified tropical plantations. *Environ. Sci. Pollut. Res. Int.* **2017**, *24*, 1283–1295, doi:10.1007/s11356-016-7729-3.
84. Araújo, M.; Kant, S.; Couto, L. Why Brazilian companies are certifying their forests? *Forest Policy and Economics* **2009**, *11*, 579–585, doi:10.1016/j.forpol.2009.07.008.
85. Ebeling, J.; Yasué, M. The effectiveness of market-based conservation in the tropics: forest certification in Ecuador and Bolivia. *Journal of Environmental Management* **2009**, *90*, 1145–1153, doi:10.1016/j.jenvman.2008.05.003.
86. Pourcq, K. de; Thomas, E.; van Damme, P. Indigenous community-based forestry in the Bolivian lowlands: some basic challenges for certification. *International Forestry Review* **2009**, *11*, 12–26, doi:10.1505/ifor.11.1.12.
87. Michelle Margarido Fonseca Couto Araújo. Forest Certification in Brazil: Choices and Impact: Master Thesis; University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada, 2008.
88. Tricallotis, M.; Kanowski, P.; Gunningham, N. The drivers and evolution of competing forest certification schemes in the Chilean forestry industry. *int. forest. rev.* **2019**, *21*, 516–527, doi:10.1505/146554819827906870.
89. Humphries, S.S.; Kainer, K.A. Local perceptions of forest certification for community-based enterprises. *Forest Ecology and Management* **2006**, *235*, 30–43, doi:10.1016/j.foreco.2006.07.027.
90. Cabbage, F.M.S. *Costs and benefits of forest certification in the Americas*. Natural resources Management, economic development and protection; Nova Science Publishers: New York, 2009, ISBN 1604569824.
91. Bocci, C.; Fortmann, L.; Sohngen, B.; Milian, B. The impact of community forest concessions on income: an analysis of communities in the Maya Biosphere Reserve. *World Development* **2018**, *107*, 10–21, doi:10.1016/j.worlddev.2018.02.011.
92. WWF. *Profitability and Sustainability in Responsible Forestry: Economic Impacts of FSC certification on forest operations*, 2015. Available online: [https://files.worldwildlife.org/wwfcmprod/files/Publication/file/8x2xzn0x1k\\_FINAL\\_Profitability\\_and\\_Sustainability\\_in\\_Responsible\\_Forestry\\_main\\_report.pdf?\\_ga=2.170900969.859060557.1647527385-932896741.1647527385](https://files.worldwildlife.org/wwfcmprod/files/Publication/file/8x2xzn0x1k_FINAL_Profitability_and_Sustainability_in_Responsible_Forestry_main_report.pdf?_ga=2.170900969.859060557.1647527385-932896741.1647527385).