Controlled Wood Strategy Survey
Preliminary Key Results and Executive Summary

Of the nearly 700 respondents1 (11 per cent response rate) who completed the controlled wood survey at the end of 2016, half identified themselves as certificate holders (53 per cent), and just over a quarter identified as FSC members (27 per cent). Their responses provided some clear elements for FSC to address when drafting the controlled wood strategy, for consideration at the FSC General Assembly 2017 in October this year.

Controlled wood should not be phased out and mixing should continue
A majority of respondents indicated that controlled wood should not, or cannot, be phased out in the near future. Just over half (53 per cent) agreed that mixing should continue under the current requirements, and that there should be no deadline for businesses to move to FSC 100%. Those who prefer a deadline favoured a five- to ten-year range.

Respondents also agreed that current controlled wood requirements are too complex and difficult to implement, and change too quickly for businesses to manage effectively. Many respondents commented that controlled wood was trying to serve too many agendas and that with no clear definition of its purpose it was misunderstood in the marketplace.

Finally, respondents agreed that currently there was no incentive for businesses to shift to FSC 100%.

Controlled wood needs to be aligned with the rest of the FSC system
A majority of respondents agreed that controlled wood needed to be better aligned with

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1 This preliminary summary includes all quantitative responses, and qualitative responses from the English language answers. The qualitative answers of other languages are still being analyzed, and those results will be included in an updated summary in May 2017.
other FSC standards and the rest of the system. Respondents indicated that controlled wood should enhance forest management certification, and while no deadline should be in place, controlled wood requirements should still encourage businesses to shift to FSC 100% - a number of respondents suggested the Modular Approach Programme (MAP) as a possible way forward.

Additionally, a significant majority (75 per cent) of respondents agreed that controlled wood/chain of custody requirements should more closely align with forest management requirements, particularly regarding high conservation values, forest conversion, and free, prior, and informed consent.

Finally, there was no consensus among respondents about whether controlled wood should have any other purpose within the FSC system.

Requirements should be risk-based and adapted nationally
Sixty per cent of all respondents agreed that controlled wood requirements should be verified through a risk-based approach, and that this approach should cover all areas (65 per cent). Respondents also agreed that controlled wood requirements should be regionally or nationally adapted.

If not through a risk-based approach, 30 per cent of respondents suggested that CW requirements could be verified through in-field auditing and verification. A sample of respondents suggested that there should be increased field checks and sampling guidance, and that remote sensing data could also be used for verification.

Uncertified forests and material need to be considered in future requirements
A majority of respondents (65 per cent) agreed that requirements for uncertified forests are needed, and that FSC should use their existing requirements as they currently stand.

Additionally, respondents agreed that trading controlled wood material with non FSC-certified customers should be allowed.

Finally, respondents suggested that FSC needs to learn from, and work better, with other certification schemes.