

Master's Thesis Topic

“Actor Influence on National FSC Standard-Setting: A Cross-Country Comparison of Germany, Brazil, and the United States”

The FSC certification system for forestry is designed to ensure sustainable forest management. Certification is based on a general, internationally applicable standard consisting of ten principles and criteria. These principles and criteria must be adapted and specified at the national level. As a result, national standards differ due to the development and allocation of indicators by the respective national FSC Working Groups. This process allows the standards to be adapted to regional conditions while also incorporating the interests of the stakeholder groups involved in the development of country-specific certification systems.

The objective of the master's thesis is to identify and analyze the differences between the national certification systems based on five criteria (tree species selection, machine traffic across forest areas, use of pesticides, site preparation, and land use) and subsequently compare these differences with the positions of the stakeholders represented in the National Working Groups. The aim is to determine the extent to which the various stakeholder groups (forest and forestry companies, environmental organizations, trade unions and employee associations, academic and scientific organizations, etc.) have been able to integrate their positions into the national standards and thereby influence the standard-setting process. The analysis of the German FSC standard is conducted in cooperation with and supported by HessenForst (State Forest Enterprise of Hesse). The findings of the master's thesis will contribute to the evaluation of the currently suspended FSC certification of the Hessian state forest. As the research involves the analysis of written documents and conducting expert interviews, Portuguese language skills are an advantage but not required.

If you are interested or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you!

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