



Soil Association Certification Forestry

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All opinions my own!





SA Cert Forestry – who are we?



- UK Headquartered in Bristol, 50 Staff in UK/EU
- FSC, PEFC, FM & COC Accreditations
- 3,900 Certificate Holders
- 27 Million Hectares Forest certified
- Working in >60 countries
- Agents in US, South Africa, Japan, Portugal, Turkey, Estonia, Denmark, Indonesia, China, Italy, Poland
- Over 250 Personnel worldwide
- Accredited FSC & PEFC Trainers

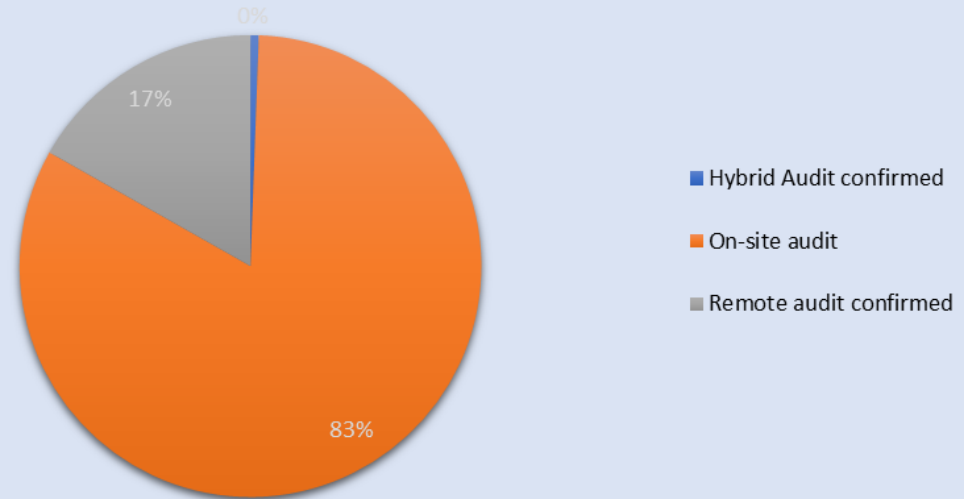
GROWING DEMAND DESPITE/BECAUSE OF PANDEMIC



Impacts of pandemic



SA Cert Forestry All Audits Audit Type 2020-21



April 2020 UK Offices Close

- Create a COVID Working Group, Developing COVID QMS, Webinars/Training
- Revised Salesforce database for workflows and Rules
- Revisions with every new Derogation or Guidance FSC/PEFC
- ASI and UKAS switch to Remote Accreditation audits, and ASI increase frequency
- Constant Struggle to plan, organise and deliver, and/or delay/re-arrange Audits, especially for MA and RA audits, and where ICT is a challenge
- Learning about Platforms, Techniques, Limitations of Remote/Hybrid



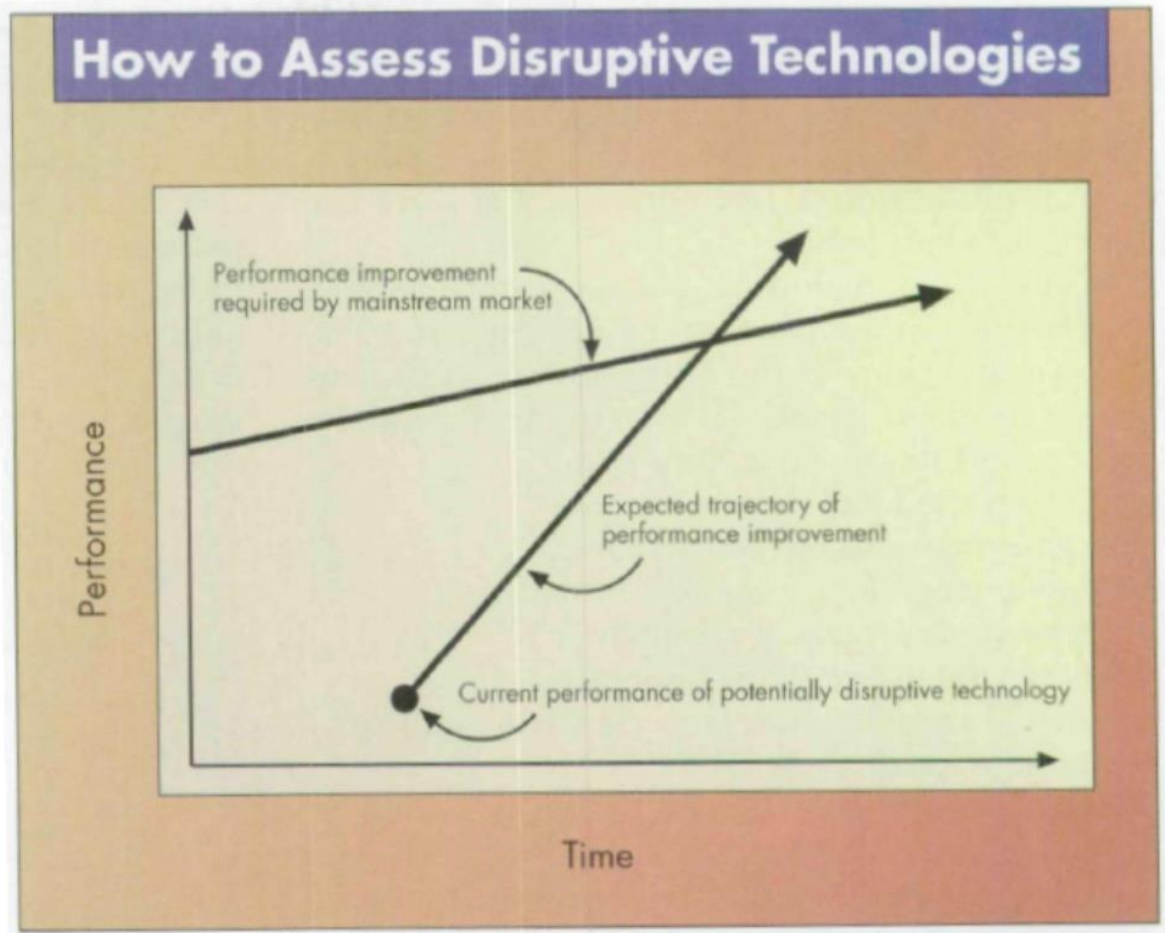
Scheme Owners

- FSC – Reduced Staff, some large decisions delayed due to communication/decision making
- ASI – generally understanding, but switching to more remote audits.
- PEFC – Constrained by some IAF rules over developing guidance. Some convergence with FSC but not aligned or co-developed. 2020 COC Standard delayed.
- FSC – continuing to push on with Digital Transformation Projects, issuing Interpretations and Advice Notes. Slow to respond to requests.
- FSC/PEFC – Gradual realisation that deadlines needed to be pushed back, so several iterations of the “rules”.

IMPACT – Stress, concertina effect, data soup



Pandemic a Catalyst for Digital Change?



FSC FM Online Platform

Blockchain

Data-centric analysis

Customer-centric focus

Efficiency of audit and report

Stakeholder demand

Lowered Environmental Footprint

Where to go next?

Figure 2.2.1 How to Assess Disruptive Technologies, Taken From Bower and Christensen, HBR, 1995



Key Take Aways

- Remote and Hybrid Auditing offers a low-impact option, but must be credible. Accreditation/Certification must adapt
- Digital Transformation requires collaboration, international data standards, investment and to be customer-centric. And must accelerate
- Sustainability and supply-chain Audit demand has never been higher – e.g. “Carbon”, “Ecosystem services”. The value in the timber value chain is rising, but for who?
- Large Corporates are looking to de-risk their supply chains, so the agile, “digitally-savvy” Certification Bodies will prosper. Costs need to reduce, but complexity is increasing