

FSC® Advice Note

Title:	Advice Note on Incorporation of new or revised International Generic Indicators introduced in future versions of FSC-STD-60-004 into National Standard (National Forest Stewardship Standards and Interim National Standards)
Document Code :	ADVICE-60-006-02 (V1-0) EN
Approval date:	16 December 2021
Publication date:	23 December 2021
Status:	Final

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ADVICE-60-006-02	Advice Note on incorporation of new or revised International Generic Indicators, introduced in future versions of FSC-STD-60-004 into National Standard (National Forest Stewardship Standard and Interim National Standard)
Normative reference	FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0 <i>International Generic Indicators</i> , Section C
Scope	This Advice Note applies to Standard Developers whose National and Regional Forest Stewardship Standards are not based on the latest version of IGI.
Approval	FSC Director General, 16 December 2021
Effective date	As of the approval date
Period of validity	Until withdrawn or replaced by other normative documents
Background	<p>At their 68th meeting in March 2015, the FSC Board of Directors approved the first version of the FSC-STD-60-004 <i>International Generic Indicators</i> (IGI), as the starting point for developing National Forest Stewardship Standards.</p> <p>In June 2018, the Board approved a second version of this document introducing the changes described in FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0 <i>International Generic Indicators</i>, Section E Preamble. The Board also decided that Standard Development Groups (SDGs) shall incorporate all new or revised IGI into their National Standards undergoing development process by 30th June 2020.</p> <p>After this, different groups of stakeholders have raised concerns regarding the additional work outside the normal review and revision cycle of the standards, stakeholder fatigue, the challenge to reunite Standard Development Groups (often dissolved once the standard is completed), cost implications, creation of bottlenecks in the standard assessment and decision-making process, etc.</p>

	<p>In January 2020, another decision was made by the FSC Board to address these concerns and to streamline and facilitate the incorporation of IGIs V2-0 into National Forest Stewardship Standard. The Board decided that SDGs shall incorporate revised indicators in the next scheduled revision of the national standards and shall submit the final draft for decision making to the FSC Secretariat within 5 years of the effective date of the national standards developed based on IGI V1-0.</p> <p>However, in March 2021 the Board decided that new and revised IGIs (e.g., IGIs resulting from the revised Pesticides Policy) shall be incorporated into national standards no later than in the next scheduled review and revision of the national standard.</p> <p>This Advice Note formally implements the decision made by the FSC Board in March 2021</p>
Advice	<p>Changes to the IGIs in FSC-STD-60-004 shall be addressed in national standards (National Forest Stewardship Standards and Interim National Standards) as follows:</p> <p>a) For national standards which are in development or revision at the time of the approval of a new version of FSC-STD-60-004 and are at a stage prior to the launch of the first consultation, changes to the IGI shall be addressed within the ongoing development or revision process.</p> <p>b) For national standards which are not in development or revision at the time of the approval of a new version of FSC-STD-60-004 or have passed the launch of the first consultation in an ongoing development or revision process, changes to the IGI shall be addressed no later than in the next scheduled regular review and revision of those standards.</p>