



# FSC FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

FSC-STD-CMR-02.1-2026 EN



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**Photo credits:**

Forest management in FSC-certified forest unit Pallisco in Mindourou, Cameroon ©FSC Africa/ Penjo Studios

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**NOTE ON THIS ENGLISH VERSION:**

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<sup>1</sup> The transition period is the timeline in which there is a parallel phase-in of the new version and the phase-out of the old version of the standard. By the transition period's end date, certificate holders based on the previous version of this Forest Stewardship Standard are expected to have been evaluated against this revised version and any non-conformities that were identified against the revised set of requirements to be closed (this applies only to major non-conformities, if the certification body still operates under FSC-STD-20-007 V4-0). Certificates issued against the previous version of this Forest Stewardship Standard will automatically expire and be considered terminated at the transition period's end date.

### **Version control**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Final Approval Date</b>
<b>V1.0</b>	Initial version based on P&C V4: Forest Stewardship Standard for the Republic of Cameroon (FSC-STD-CAM-01-2012), approved by the Policy and Standards Committee (PSC) at their 9th meeting.	27/04/2012
<b>V2.0</b>	Second version based on P&C V5-2: FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of the Republic of Cameroon (FSC-STD-CMR-02-2020), conditionally approved by the Policy and Standards Committee (PSC) at their 38th meeting and finally approved by the Chief Policy Officer on 22 June 2020.	22/06/2020
<b>V2.1</b>	Partial revision, based on P&C V5-3: FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for the Republic of Cameroon (FSC-STD-CMR-02.1-2026 EN), approved by the Policy Steering Group (PSG) at their meeting on 4 December 2025. This partial revision consists of the inclusion of NTFPs in the scope of the standard, updates to the Criteria 4.2, 4.8, 6.9, 6.10, 6.11 and 10.7 and associated Indicators as per the P&C V5-3 and IGI V2-1, and the inclusion of Annex D2 “Additional requirements for Management of Non-Timber Forest Products”. Sections B.3 and B.6 were added to provide further normative guidance.	04/12/2025

This standard is subject to the review and revision requirements as described in FSC-STD-60-006 (V1-2) EN.

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# A FOREWORD

(Informative section)

## A.1 Descriptive statement of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

The Forest Stewardship Council A.C. (FSC) was established in 1993, as a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro, 1992) with the mission to promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

Environmentally appropriate forest management ensures that the production of timber, non-timber products and ecosystem services maintains the forest's biodiversity, productivity, and ecological processes. Socially beneficial forest management helps both local people and society at large to enjoy long-term benefits and also provides strong incentives to local people to sustain the forest resources and adhere to long-term management plans. Economically viable forest management means that forest operations are structured and managed so as to be sufficiently profitable, without generating financial profit at the expense of the forest resource, the ecosystem, or affected communities. The tension between the need to generate adequate financial returns and the principles of responsible forest operations can be reduced through efforts to market the full range of forest products and services for their best value (FSC A.C. By-Laws, ratified, September 1994; last revision in June 2011).

FSC is an international organization that provides a system for voluntary accreditation and independent third-party certification. This system allows certificate holders to market their products and services as the result of environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management. FSC also sets standards for the development and approval of FSC Stewardship Standards which are based on the FSC Principles and Criteria. In addition, FSC sets standards for the accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies (also known as Certification Bodies) that certify conformance with FSC's standards. Based on these standards, FSC provides a system for certification for organizations seeking to market their products as FSC certified.

## A.2 Descriptive statement of the Standard Development Group

It is first important to note that this standard has been developed by a Standard Development Group (SDG) of Cameroon which was approved by the FSC Policy and Performance Unit (P&P) in April 2015 to develop an FSC national standard for the Republic of Cameroon.

The difference between the FSC Standard for the Republic of Cameroon presented in this document and the sub-regional standard for the Congo Basin is that it is based on version 5-2 of the FSC Principles and Criteria (P&C) and FSC's new set of International Generic Indicators (IGI V2-0), and that it includes legal requirements that are specifically relevant only to the Republic of Cameroon. This national standard therefore reflects current circumstances in the country.

This work was done in conformity with the requirements of the FSC Standard for Developing and Maintaining National Standards *FSC-STD-60-006 (V1-2) EN*, and of the Standard for the Structure and Content of National Standards for Forest Management *FSC-STD-60-002 (V1-0) EN*.

Moreover, to ensure that this standard conforms to the European Union's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade, Voluntary Partnership Agreement (EU-FLEGT-VPA), the Standard Development Group, after first analysing the gaps, updated the indicators and verifiers of the FSS to assure compliance with the EU-FLEGT-VPA legality checklist for Cameroon.

## B PREAMBLE

### B.1 Purpose of the standard

(Informative section)

This standard sets out the requirements against which FSC-accredited Certification Bodies shall evaluate forest management practices within the scope of the standard (see B.2 below).

The FSC Principles and Criteria (P&C) for Forest Stewardship provide an internationally recognized standard for responsible forest management. However, any international standard for forest management needs to be adapted at the regional or national level in order to reflect the diverse legal, social and geographical conditions of forests in different parts of the world. The FSC P&C therefore require the addition of indicators that are adapted to regional or national conditions in order to be implemented at the management unit (MU) level.

With the approval of *FSC-STD-60-004 V1-0 EN International Generic Indicators (IGI)* by the FSC Board of Directors in March 2015, the adaptation of the P&C to regional or national conditions is done using the IGI standard as the starting point. This has the advantage of:

- Ensuring the consistent implementation of the P&C across the globe
- Improving and strengthening the credibility of the FSC system
- Improving the consistency and quality of National Forest Stewardship Standards
- Supporting a faster and more efficient approval process of National Forest Stewardship Standards.

The FSC Principles and Criteria together with a set of national indicators approved by the FSC Policy and Standards Committee (PSC) constitute an FSC Forest Stewardship Standard (FSS).

The development of FSS follows the requirements set out in the following FSC normative documents:

- *FSC-PRO-60-006 V2-0 EN Development and Transfer of National Forest Stewardship Standards to the FSC Principles and Criteria Version 5-2*
- *FSC-STD-60-002 V1-0 EN Structure and Content of National Forest Stewardship Standards AND*
- *FSC-STD-60-006 V1-2 EN Process requirements for the development and maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards.*

The above documents have been developed by FSC to improve consistency and transparency in certification decisions between different Certification Bodies in different parts of the world, and thereby to enhance the credibility of the FSC certification scheme as a whole.

## B.2 Scope of the standard

(Normative section)

This standard shall be applied in the following scope:

<b>Geographic region</b>	Republic of Cameroon
<b>Forest types</b>	All forest types (including FMUs/UFA, council forests, community forests, private forests)
<b>Ownership types</b>	All types of ownerships, including public, private and others This includes the following ownership types specific to Cameroon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ State production forests (FMU/UFA),</li><li>○ Municipal (council) forests,</li><li>○ Community forests (non-permanent forest domain)</li><li>○ Private forests (individual or legal entity ownership)</li></ul> <i>(Detailed information provided below)</i>
<b>Scale and intensity categories (according to section 6 of FSC-STD-60-002)</b>	All categories of Management Units
<b>Forest products (according to FSC-STD-40-004a)</b>	Rough wood NTFPs: N1. Barks; N3.1 Natural cork; N4.1 Rattan cane (rough form); N5.1 Natural bamboo; N5.2 Edible bamboo; N5.3 Fuel bamboo; N6.1 Flowers; N6.2 Grasses, ferns, mosses and lichens; N6.3 Whole trees or plants; N6.4 Pine cones; N7.1 Rubber/ Latex; N7.2 Gum resin; N9.1 Nuts; N9.2 Tea; N9.3 Palm-hearts; N9.4 Mushrooms, truffles; N9.5 Fruits; N9.6 Sap-based foods; N9.7 Game; N9.8 Honey.

### Forest types included in the scope of the FSS

#### Forest Management Unit (FMU/Unité Forestière d'Aménagement UFA):

Forest Management Units or FMUs (*Unité Forestière d'Aménagement* or *UFA* in French) are state production forests with a maximum surface area of 200,000 hectares, allocated inside the permanent forest domain for a 15-year period renewable (section 24 and 25 of Law No. 94-01 of 20 January 1994 to lay down Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Regulations). Forest management plans are prepared for FMUs during the interim agreement period that the operator signs with the State for a (non-renewable) period of 3 years (MINEF 1998).

#### Council forests:

Council forests constitute part of the Republic of Cameroon's permanent forest domain, which is managed by an agreement between the municipality and the government. A council forest under section 30(1) of the forestry Law (Law No. 94-01 of 20 January 1994 to lay down Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries Regulations) is a forest that has been officially classified for the benefit of the municipality or local council in question or has been planted by it on a council area. The local council undertakes sustainable forest management for a 15-year period renewable twice.

### **Community forests:**

A community forest is defined under section 37 of the 1994 forestry and wildlife law in the Republic of Cameroon as “that part of non-permanent forest domain (not more than 5,000 ha) that is the object of an agreement between government and a village community in which communities undertake sustainable forest management for a period of 25 years renewable” (MINEF 1998:9).

### **Private forests:**

Private forests are planted by individuals or legal entities on their own property, acquired in accordance with current legislation and regulations. Owners of these forests are required to draw up a *Simple Management Plan* with the assistance of the administration in charge of forests, with a view to achieving a sustained and sustainable yield (Article 39. - (1), Law No. 94/01 of 20th January 1994).

A Prime Ministerial decree, ‘Decree No. 95/678 of 18 December 1995- Cameroon’, lays down the modalities of the implementation of the 1994 forestry and wildlife law in the Republic of Cameroon.

## **B.3 Responsibility for conformity**

(Normative section)

The requirements in this standard cover all of The Organization’s management activities that are related to the Management Unit, whether within the Management Unit or outside; whether directly undertaken or contracted out.

In terms of geographical space, the requirements in this standard apply generally to the entire geographic space inside the boundary of the Management Unit which is being submitted for (re)certification. However, some of the Criteria and indicators apply beyond the boundary of the Management Unit. This would include those infrastructural facilities that are part of the Management Unit, as defined by the FSC Principles and Criteria.

This standard is to be used in conjunction with international, national and local laws and regulations.

Where there might be situations of conflict between the requirements in this standard and laws, specific FSC procedures will apply.

Responsibility for ensuring conformity with the requirements in this standard lies with the person(s) or entities that is/are the certificate applicant or holder. For the purpose of FSC certification, this person(s) or entities are referred to as ‘The Organization’.

The Organization is responsible for decisions, policies and management activities related to the Management Unit.

The Organization is also responsible for demonstrating that other persons or entities that are permitted or contracted by The Organization to operate in, or for the benefit of the Management Unit, conform with the requirements in this standard.

The Organization is required to take corrective actions in the event of such persons or entities not being in conformance with the requirements in this standard.

## B.4 Scale Intensity and Risk (SIR)

(Normative section)

The SDG's work was based on the relevant indicators and requirements provided for in <FSC-STD-60-002 V1-0 EN Structure and Content of National Forest Stewardship Standards> and <FSC-GUI-60-002 V1-0 EN Guideline for Standard Developers for Addressing Risk of Unacceptable Activities in regard to Scale and Intensity>. The listed SIR IGI were each examined and adapted to the Cameroonian context when this was relevant.

Large-scale operations (marked with an **L**) are made of Forest Management Units (*UFA* in French) and Council forests with a maximum surface area of 200,000 ha and average annual production greater than 5,000m<sup>3</sup>/year during the period of validity of certification, as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits. SLIMF operations (marked with an **S**) are low intensity Management Units with an average annual harvest of less than 5,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year for rough wood and an average annual harvest from the total production forest area of less than 5,000 tons/year for non-timber forest products during the period of validity of certification, as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits.

## B.5 Note on the use of indicators and other elements in the standard

(Normative section)

### The use of indicators

For each criterion a number of indicators are listed as follows.

Indicators with no additional letter (e.g. Indicator 1.7.5, Sub-indicator 1.3.1.1, Sub-sub-indicator 2.1.1.2.1) are intended to be applicable to all sizes and types of forests and all forest products.

Where specific requirements are specified that are applicable only to large-scale forests (i.e. forests which are not small or low intensity managed forests [SLIMFs]), the indicator numbers are followed by the letter 'L' (e.g. Indicator 2.5.1L).

Where indicators are applicable only to SLIMFs or only to NTFPs, the indicator number is followed by the letter 'S' to refer to SLIMF (e.g. Indicator 6.5.1S) or 'P' refer to NTFP (e.g. Indicator 7.2.2P).

Where indicators apply only to large-scale forests and SLIMFs, the indicator number is followed by the letters 'LS' (e.g. Indicator 7.2.2LS, Sub-indicator 5.2.1.2LS).

Where indicators apply only to SLIMFs and NTFPs, the indicator number is followed by the letters 'SP' (e.g. Indicator 8.2.3SP).

Where indicators apply only to large scale forests and NTFPs, the indicator is followed by 'LP' (e.g. Indicator 9.2.1LP).

Normative elements in the standard are:

Scope, effective date, validity period, glossary of terms, principles, criteria, indicators, tables and annexes (as well as other addenda which might be produced in association with this standard unless indicated otherwise).

NOTE: With regard to the auditing of Annexes, when an indicator refers to an Annex, the conformity assessment shall cover both the indicator and the corresponding requirements in the Annex, unless the Annex is explicitly categorized as 'informative'.

Sub-indicators in an Annex contribute to the conformity assessment at the level of criterion in the same way as sub-indicators listed in an indicator within the main body of the standard.

Non-normative elements in the standard that can be used for guidance only are:

Verifiers, notes, guidelines and examples which are attached to some of the indicators (as well as other guidance/applicability notes which might be produced in association with this standard).

### Note on the use of verifiers

The list of verifiers provided for in the indicators concerned are not exhaustive. Auditors may use additional verifiers as appropriate and with respect to the case at hand. The Organization may also use verifiers as a guide to what may be required to demonstrate conformity.

It should also be noted that the verifiers for Principle 1 are compliant with those provided for in the requirements of the FLEGT legality checklist of the Republic of Cameroon – European Union Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA).

### Verbal forms for the expression of provisions

[Adapted from *ISO/IEC Directives Part 2: Rules for the structure and drafting of International Standards*]

“shall”	indicates requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform with the standard; “shall not” indicates a prohibition.
“should”	indicates that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required. The Organization can meet these requirements in an equivalent way provided this can be demonstrated and justified.
“may”	indicates a course of action permissible within the limits of the standard; “need not” indicates that a specified course of action is not a requirement.
“can”	is used for statements of possibility and capability, whether material, physical or causal.

The glossary of the standard provides IGI terms and other technical and scientific terms that clarify and interpret the instructions of the standard. In the text of the standard, the terms are formatted in italics and marked with an *asterisk*\*

## B.6 Interpretations and Disputes

(Normative section)

Interpretation requests regarding the FSC Forest Stewardship Standards are submitted through the National Offices and in case there is no National Office, directly to FSC for processing and approval. Approved interpretations are published in the international FSC website (see: INT-STD-60-006\_01 of Forest Management Interpretations).

Disputes between stakeholders concerning certification requirements are managed by FSC dispute resolution procedure (see: <FSC-PRO-01-008-Processing Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme Procedure>).

## C CONTEXT

(Informative section)

### C.1 General description of the geographical area covered by the standard

**Source:** Cameroon Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) – January 2013. Available at: <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/cameroon>

The Republic of Cameroon belongs to the forest massif of the Congo Basin. Forests cover 41.3% of its territory, amounting to 19.1 million hectares of dense forest divided into 18.6 million hectares of dense moist forest, 227,818 hectares of mangroves, 194,638 hectares of transition forests and 28,396 hectares of mountain forests. To these are added 1.3 million hectares of dry woodland, 12 million hectares of savanna woodland, 2.6 million hectares of shrub savanna and 2.6 million hectares of savanna mosaics (EdF, 2010). The forests of the Republic of Cameroon thus stock at least 5 Gt of Carbon (EdF, 2010).

Logging is one of the main sources of forest degradation in the Republic of Cameroon, whether this involves small traditional operations (legal or illegal) or large forest concessions (the *UFA*), especially when timber removal does not comply with the requirements of the management plan. Of the 3 million cubic meters of wood logged annually, 25 to 30% is removed illegally to supply the domestic market (Topa et al., 2010). The losses of forest area caused by logging stem mostly from the opening of skid trails (development of the road infrastructure), the creation of timber yards, site facilities, etc. The causes of deforestation related to logging are thus more tied to its impacts than to the activity itself.

The Forest Law (1994) divides the forest area into non-permanent forest estate (*domaine forestier non-permanent*), including community forest and private forest, and permanent forest estate (*domaine forestier permanent*). The permanent forest estate includes forest reserves, logging concessions, protected areas and council forests. Protected areas, including national parks, forest reserves and hunting zones, currently cover 20% of the national forest area (WRI, 2017). The permanent forest estate is owned by the state, although for a large part of this forest area the management rights are transferred to other parties. Generally, people living in forest areas fully retain their traditional user rights.

The Republic of Cameroon's rich biodiversity has made it one of the world's biodiversity hotspots; it ranks fifth in Africa for biodiversity (MINEF and UNDP, 1999) and the country is home to nearly 8,000 species of plants, 250 mammals, 542 fish, 848 birds, 330 reptiles, and 200 amphibians – many of which are endemic (Fomete et al., 1998).

Protected areas in the Republic of Cameroon are home to around 90% of the country's animal species, 95% of plant species, close to 65% of habitats and 80% of the country's ecosystems (MINFOF, 2008).

The preamble of the Cameroonian Constitution requires the preservation of the rights of 'Indigenous Peoples'. Thus, the Republic of Cameroon's Basic Law of 1996, adopted by Law No. 96/06 of 18 January 1996 revising the Constitution of 2 June 1972, provides in its preamble that "the State shall ensure the protection of minorities and preserve the rights of indigenous peoples in accordance with the law". This provision recognizes the immemorial rights of certain communities over certain lands: the case of the Pygmy communities. The Constitution further recognizes the equality of all Cameroonians in rights and duties and provides that "the State shall ensure all citizens the conditions necessary for their development". According to Article 2 of the Constitution, the Republic of Cameroon "recognizes and protects traditional values consistent with democratic principles, human rights and the law".

The country has no specific legal texts on Indigenous Peoples. Law No. 94/01 of 20 January 1994 on the forestry, wildlife and fisheries regime does not refer to 'Indigenous Peoples'; however, examples of relevant provisions of this forestry law for these groups can be noted (Section II-Articles 37 and 38 on community forests; Title I-General Provisions-Article 8 on use or customary rights). Generally, the provisions of the forestry law related to the implication of local communities in forest management include both local

and indigenous communities.

It is important to note that though the country has no specific legal texts on Indigenous Peoples, it has ratified several international conventions that require the recognition of Indigenous Peoples and their rights. The legal texts relating to the education of children refer to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child adopted in 1989. Article 29 emphasizes that the education of the child shall be directed to “the preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes and friendship among all peoples and ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin ...”. Article 30 states: “In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such minorities or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practice his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language”.

The African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, that has been ratified by the Republic of Cameroon, emphasizes that Indigenous Peoples have the equal right of access to public service in their countries (Article 13.2), the right to education (Article 17.1) and the right to healthcare and medical assistance (Article 16.2).

The International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, Article 7.1, specifies that Indigenous Peoples shall participate in the preparation, implementation and evaluation of national and regional development plans and programs likely to affect them directly.

Indeed, the Ministry of Social affairs in the Republic of Cameroon (MINAS) classifies the disadvantaged and vulnerable populations as ‘marginal populations’, which include, in addition to Pygmies, the Bororo, the mountain people of the Far North region (Mafa, Mada, Mandara, Zoulgo, Ouldémé, Molko, Mbodko, Dalla and Guemdjek), the populations of the islands and creeks, as well as cross-border populations. The name Pygmy is considered pejorative by several groups, who prefer to define themselves as Baka, Bakola, Bagyeli or Bedzang.

To ensure the implementation of the policy on social justice and the fight against social exclusion, the government has set up an institutional and operational mechanism for the promotion and protection of socially vulnerable populations, which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINAS) under the terms of Decree No. 2011/408 of 9 December 2011 on the organization of the Government, in liaison with the administrations concerned. The Ministry of Social Affairs therefore protects the rights of marginal populations and deals with the prevention and treatment of social cases.

## C.2 List of members of the committee that prepared the current Forest Stewardship Standard

The Cameroonian Standard Development Group consists of the following members.

**Chairman/Facilitator:** Prof. Roger NGOUFO, Lecturer and SFM Expert/Director CEW NGO, FSC Member

### Members of the Standard Development Group:

Chamber	Name	Position, Organization
<b>Social</b>	<b>ABE Pierre</b>	Director, COPAL, Association for the management of community forests
	<b>NJIKE BILOGUE MVOGO Horline</b>	General secretary, FLAG (Field Legality Advisory Group) NGO
	<b>MESSE Venant</b>	Congo Basin representative, Permanent Indigenous People's Committee (PIPC)
	<b>TSANGA ADA Didier</b>	Forest Audits Consultant/FSC and CFCI Member
	<b>TAMOIFO NKOM Marie</b>	Regional Coordinator, AJVC – REJEFAC, Civil society organization
<b>Environmental</b>	<b>NGODO MELINGUI Jean</b>	Lecturer/FSC Certification Expert/FSC and CFCI member
	<b>AJONINA Gordon</b>	Expert, Cameroon Wildlife Conservation Society (CWCS)
	<b>SONNE Norbert</b>	Global Coordinator, FSC Certification, WWF
	<b>AMOUGOU Yves Achille</b>	Ecologist, UNIYAO 1, Cameroon Forest Certification Institution (CFCI)
	<b>MATSAGUIM NGUIMDO Cédric Aurélien</b>	Specialist, Environmental dynamics and risks, UNIYAO 1
<b>Economic</b>	<b>ZAKAMDI David/Cécile NGOUE</b>	Certification Manager ROUGIER-Cameroun/ PALLISCO
	<b>NGOA ELIE Olivier Yakam</b>	Forest project Expert PPCEF/KfW and FSC member
	<b>MBENDA Grâce</b>	Project Deputy Director UE-FAO-FLEGT/MINFOF programme
	<b>FOBANE Jean-Louis</b>	Forest Management Consultant NELF-Environment (Forest Management Partner)
	<b>TONGA Péguy</b>	Forestry Expert, COMIFAC

### C.3 List of key consultants and advisors who assisted the committee

SDG Experts who supported the FSS process are the following:

Name	Organization	Title
<b>SYAPZE KEMAJOU Jonas</b>	OPED, NGO	Environmental Coordinator
<b>AWE Central/Tom HOURS</b>	Ministry of Forests and Wildlife	Representative of the Forest Department in the SDG
<b>Gaston ASSONTIA</b>	National Standardisation Agency Cameroon (ANOR)	ANOR Observer in the SDG

### C.4 List of members of the SDG that prepared the partially revised V2-1 of Forest Stewardship Standard (FSS)

**Chairman/Facilitator:** Prof. Roger NGOUFO, University of Yaoundé 1/Director NGO CEW/FSC Member

**Members of the Standard Development Group:**

Chamber	Name	Position, Organization
<b>Social</b>	<b>ABE Pierre</b>	Director COPAL, Community Forest Management Association/FSC Member
	<b>NJIKE BILOGUE MVOGO Horline</b>	Secretary General, FLAG (Field Legality Advisory Group) NGO
	<b>Ghislain FOMOU</b>	Sustainable Management Manager, NGO – Support service for local development initiatives (SAILD)
<b>Environmental</b>	<b>Dr NGODO MELINGUI Jean</b>	Lecturer, UNIYAO 1/FSC Member, Forestry Auditor
	<b>Alphonse Ngniado</b>	Country Technical Officer WWF Cameroon
	<b>AMOUGOU Yves Achille</b>	Ecologist, UNIYAO 1, Cameroon Forest Certification Institution (CFCI) and FSC Member
<b>Economic</b>	<b>Marie Cécile NGOUE</b>	Certification Manager, ROUGIER/PALLISCO-Cameroon
	<b>MBENDA Grâce</b>	WCS Cameroon/Former Project Deputy Director UE-FAO-FLEGT/MINFOF/FSC Member
	<b>Dr FOBANE Jean-Louis</b>	Forest Management Consultant NELF-Environment (Forest Management Partner)/FSC Member

## C.5 List of key consultants and advisors who assisted the SDG in the partial revision process

Name of Expert	Organization	Title
<b>M. ZANGUE KENFACK Steve Wilson/ Serge TSAFACK</b>	Cameroon Environmental Watch (CEW)	Experts Environmental Governance and Community Development; Specialists in Community resource management
<b>Gaston ASSONTIA</b>	National Standardisation Agency Cameroon (ANOR)	ANOR Observer in the SDG
<b>Anicet Eric JIENKOU MBE MENKOKE</b>	HEVECAM Cameroon	Head of Environmental Protection and Technical Assistant for RDUE (EU Deforestation Regulation)

## C.6 Background information on the standard development

As the standard was developed at national level, it was essential that the stakeholders at national level be represented in the process. The support of the FSC Policies and Standards Manager for the Congo Basin was important for the national SDG members.

All the processes involved in adapting/transferring the FSC Standard were facilitated by a Chairperson/Facilitator, who was elected by all the members of the SDG. The Chairman/Facilitator was also responsible for organizing meetings and monitoring performance of the SDG's terms of reference.

Decisions within the SDG were taken by consensus among the members and a conciliation committee was set up whenever it was necessary to resolve cases in which a consensus could not be reached. A vote by members in order to arrive at a decision was the final method used in extreme cases when even the conciliation committee had not been able to resolve an issue.

A Consultative Forum, consisting of representatives of all the affected and interested stakeholders was also actively involved in the process. They

were consulted and their comments included in each of the draft documents produced by the SDG throughout the process of revising the standard.

The process of adapting/transferring the FSC standard was launched in the Republic of Cameroon by the Programme Manager responsible for national standards development at FSC International Centre and the FSC Programme Coordinator for the Congo Basin.

The whole process was supported technically by the Policy and Standards Manager for the Congo Basin.

It is important to note that the IFL indicators agreed upon by the SDG in this FSS are based on version 2-0 of the IGI and the sub-regional IFL indicators that were elaborated on the basis of FSC-STD-60-004 V1-1 EN International Generic Indicators by the chamber-balanced Congo Basin Regional HCV Working Group (HCV-RWG).

## C.7 Summary of the revision process

This partial revision is based on FSC-STD-CMR-02-2020 EN; approved by the Policy and Standards Committee (PSC) on 22 June 2020, and became effective on 29 December 2020.

The current version (2-1) of this Forest Stewardship Standard is a partial revision made by the Standard Development Group (SDG) of the Republic of Cameroon to expand its scope to include Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs). This revision was carried out between April 2022 and February 2024. As a part of this revision, Annex D2, “*Additional requirements for Management of Non-Timber Forest Products*” was added to provide specific and additional requirements for indicators related to NTFPs. In addition, it also incorporates updates to Criteria 4.2, 4.8, 6.9, 6.10, 6.11 and 10.7, together with their associated Indicators, aligning with FSC Principles and Criteria V5-3 and International Generic Indicators V2-1. This partial revision was done following similar decision making and process rules as explained above.

Sections B.3 and B.6 were added to provide further normative guidance.

This partially revised version 2-1 (date of preparation: 29 February 2024) becomes effective on 15 July 2026 and remains valid until replaced by an updated version with the next anticipated revision as appropriate.

## D REFERENCES

The following referenced documents are relevant for the development and application of this standard. For references without a version number, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

<b>FSC-POL-20-003</b>	<i>The Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification</i>
<b>FSC-POL-30-001</b>	<i>FSC Pesticides Policy</i>
<b>FSC-POL-30-401</b>	<i>FSC Certification and the ILO Conventions</i>
<b>FSC-STD-01-002</b>	<i>FSC Glossary of Terms</i>
<b>FSC-STD-01-003</b>	<i>SLIMF Eligibility Criteria</i>
<b>FSC-STD-20-007</b>	<i>Forest Management Evaluations</i>
<b>FSC-STD-30-005</b>	<i>FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups</i>
<b>FSC-STD-60-004</b>	<i>FSC International Generic Indicators (IGI)</i>
<b>FSC-PRO-01-005</b>	<i>Processing Appeals</i>
<b>FSC-PRO-01-008</b>	<i>Processing Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme</i>
<b>FSC-PRO-30-006</b>	<i>Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools</i>
<b>FSC-GUI-30-003</b>	<i>FSC Guidelines for the implementation of the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)</i>
<b>FSC-GUI-60-009a</b>	<i>Template for National High Conservation Value Frameworks</i>
<b>FSC-POL-01-007</b>	<i>Policy To Address Conversion</i>
<b>FSC-PRO-01-007</b>	<i>FSC Remedy Framework</i>

NOTE: When applying this standard, consider relevant interpretations by inquiring with local FSC representatives (e.g. National Offices or representatives, or FSC's Policy and Performance Unit, if no national FSC presence exists), or your certification body. International interpretations are available through the FSC Document Centre (<https://fsc.org/en/document-centre>).

## **E PRINCIPLES\*, CRITERIA\* AND INDICATORS\***

### **PRINCIPLE\* 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS**

**The Organization\* shall comply with all applicable laws\*, regulations and nationally ratified\* international treaties, conventions and agreements.**

**1.1. The Organization\* shall be a legally defined entity with clear, documented and unchallenged legal registration\*, with written authorization from the legally competent\* authority for specific activities.**

1.1.1 The Organization (and any sub-contractor performing forestry operations) is legally registered in accordance with the national regulations and possesses all the valid documentation required for such registration.

#### **Verifiers:**

#### **UFA/FMU:**

- Certificate of residence (natural person) signed by the sub-prefect.
- Commercial register established at the competent court office.
- Professional accreditation granted by the Forestry Department.
- Certificate proving marking hammer prints lodged with the competent appeal court office.
- Authorization to set up and run a first-class establishment from the Ministry of Industry.
- Certificate of registration as timber processor from the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (if applicable).

#### **Council forests:**

- Decree of creation of the local authority area signed by the President of the Republic.
- Letter approving the management plan from the Forestry Department.
- Deed listing decree of the Council forest issued by the Prime Minister (PM).
- Title of ownership in the case of a plantation, issued by the Ministry responsible for land ownership/tenure.
- Community forest.
- Receipt of declaration (associations) signed by the prefect of the competent local authority.
- Certificate of registration/matriculation (Council initiative groups and cooperatives) signed by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Court registrar's certificate (economic interest groups: EIGs).

#### **Private forests:**

- Certificate of domicile (natural person).
- Commercial register (legal entity).
- Unique identification number (natural person).
- Receipt of deposit/discharge of application for allocation of a private forest.
- Individual forest creation order.
- Land title.

- Decree granting land concession.
- Emphyteutic lease.
- Area measurement certificate.
- Forest map conformity certificate.
- Receipt of declaration of association or certificate of registration in the register of cooperatives.

**Sub-contractors:**

**a) UFA/FMU**

- Sub-contracting/partnership agreement signed by both parties.
- Letter approving the sub-contracting agreement, issued by the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife.
- Receipt acknowledging lodging of the approved agreement with the local authorities of the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife.
- Commercial register established at the competent court office.
- Professional accreditation granted by the competent authority (management).
- Authorization to set up and run a first-class establishment from the Ministry of Mines, Industry and Technical Development (MINMIDT) (applicable only in the case of a processing unit).
- Certificate of registration as timber processor from the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (applicable only in the case of a processing unit).
- Certificate proving marking hammer prints lodged with the competent court office.
- Forest inventory accreditation granted by the competent authority (if applicable).

**b) Council forests and Community forests**

- Sub-contracting/partnership agreement signed by both parties.
- Letter approving the sub-contracting agreement, issued by the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife.
- Commercial register established at the territorially competent court office.
- Professional accreditation granted by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife (management).
- Certificate proving marking hammer prints lodged with the territorially competent court office.

1.1.2 Legal registration is granted by a legally competent authority according to legally prescribed processes.

**Verifiers:**

**UFA/FMU (Interim or final management agreement):**

- Public call for tenders.
- Receipt proving that a full dossier assigning the forestry concession has been lodged.
- Notification of results of the inter-ministerial committee regarding selection of the forestry entity as most suitable candidate by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife.
- Provisional exploitation agreement signed by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife.
- Receipts/transfer requests addressed to the Minister of Forests and Wildlife by the concession-holder and the candidate.
- Notification of transfer/assignment of the concession by the competent authority.
- Proof of payment of the legally required transfer tax.
- Concession lease decree signed by the PM.

**Council forests:**

- Same as for forest management units operating under exploitation agreements if the forest is exploited by the local community with a registered permit.
- If the forest is not exploited by the local community with a registered permit:
  - Agreement between the community and the sub-contractor.
  - Sub-contractor's professional accreditation documents.
  - Concession lease decree signed by the PM.

**Community forests:**

- Document attesting the legalization of the legal entity.
- Minutes of the engagement meeting.
- Provisional management agreement/letter of reservation.
- Concession lease decree signed by the PM.

**Private forests:**

- Certificate of domicile (individuals).
- Commercial register drawn up at the competent registry (legal entity).
- Forestry license issued by the competent authority.
- Land title issued by the relevant departmental registrar.
- Decree awarding land concession issued by the PM.
- Emphyteutic lease issued by the Ministry in charge of land and property affairs.
- Agroforestry booklet issued by the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife (MINFOF).
- Area measurement certificate issued by the National Institute of Cartography.
- Forest map conformity certificate issued by MINFOF.
- Collection authorization or exploitation permit (NFTP category C) issued by MINFOF.

- Logging permit (NTFP category A and B) issued by MINFOF.
- Receipt of declaration of association or certificate of registration in the register of cooperatives.

**NOTE:** MINFOF's (Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife) Decision No. 0209/D/MINFOF/CAB of 26 April 2019 divides NTFPs into three categories, based on the resource status and permit requirement, as follows:

- **Category A:** High economic value or threatened species; require special permit for exploitation (Examples: Pygeum - *Prunus africana*, Ebony - *Diospyros* spp., Voacanga - *Voacanga africana*, Moabi - *Baillonella toxisperma*).
- **Category B:** Moderately important species; regulated exploitation under permit (Examples: Eru/Okok - *Gnetum* spp., Rattan, Candle stick tree, Tooth stick tree).
- **Category C:** Common species; low restriction; general rules apply (Examples: Acacia gum, Green wood charcoal, Firewood, Bamboo, Wild mango - *Irvingia* spp., Marantaceae leaves).

**1.2. The Organization\* shall demonstrate that the legal\* status of the Management Unit\*, including tenure\* and use rights\*, and its boundaries, are clearly defined.**

1.2.1 Legal tenure to manage and use resources within the scope of the certificate is documented.

**Verifiers:**

**A. Conformity of the attribution/ leasing of the concession**

**UFA/FMU**

**a) In the case of an interim management agreement**

- Public call for tenders.
- Receipt proving that a full dossier assigning the forestry concession has been lodged.
- Notification of results of the inter-ministerial committee regarding selection of the forestry entity as most suitable candidate by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife.
- Proof that a cautionary deposit/guarantee has been lodged with the Public Treasury within the prescribed deadline.
- Provisional exploitation agreement signed by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife.
- Receipts/transfer requests addressed to the Minister of Forests and Wildlife by the concession-holder and the candidate.
- Notification of transfer of the concession by the competent authority.
- Proof of payment of the legally required transfer tax.

**b) In the case of a final management agreement**

- Public call for tenders.
- Receipt proving that a full dossier assigning the forestry concession has been lodged.
- Notification of results of the inter-ministerial committee regarding selection of the forestry entity as most suitable candidate by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife.
- Proof that a cautionary deposit/guarantee has been lodged with the Public Treasury within the prescribed deadline.

- Provisional exploitation agreement signed by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife.
- Receipts/transfer requests addressed to the Minister of Forests and Wildlife by the concession-holder and the candidate.
- Notification of transfer of the concession by the competent authority.
- Proof of payment of the legally required transfer tax.
- Attestation of conformity with the terms of the provisional exploitation agreement.
- Order approving the management plan issued by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife.
- Five-year management plan and plan of operations for the current year.
- Terms of reference signed by the competent authority and the forestry entity.
- Document officially listing the forest.
- Authorisation to set up and run a first-class establishment from the Ministry of Industry or receipt of declaration (2nd class).
- Certificate of registration as timber processor from the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife.

### **Community forests**

#### **a) Interim management agreement**

- Provisional management agreement signed by the community and the competent administrative authority.
- Receipt showing that a full dossier requesting assignment of a community forest has been lodged.

#### **b) Final management agreement**

- Document approving the Simple Management Plan (SMP) signed by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife.
- Definitive management agreement signed by the competent administrative authority.
- Receipt showing that a complete dossier submitting the SMP for the definitive agreement has been lodged.

## **B. Conformity of harvesting permits**

### **UFA/FMU and Council forests**

- Letter approving the terms of reference for the environmental impact audit/survey
- Certificate of environmental conformity.
- Certificate of annual harvesting area (AHA) annual operations permit (AOP).
- Notification of start-up of activities.

### **Community forest/ Other SLIMFs**

- Letter approving the terms of reference for the environmental impact audit/survey.
- Attestation of environmental conformity.
- Annual exploitation certificate.
- Notification of start-up of activities.

### **Private forests**

- Decree granting land concession.
- Land title/leases area measurement certificate.
- Forest map compliance certificate.

- Collection authorization or exploitation permit (NTFP category C).
- Logging permit (NTFP category A and B) issued by MINFOF.

**NOTE:** MINFOF's (Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife) Decision No. 0209/D/MINFOF/CAB of 26 April 2019 puts NTFP's into three categories, based on the resource status and permit requirement, as follows:

- **Category A:** High economic value or threatened species; require special permit for exploitation (Examples: Pygeum - *Prunus africana*, Ebony - *Diospyros* spp., Voacanga - *Voacanga africana*, Moabi - *Baillonella toxisperma*).
- **Category B:** Moderately important species; regulated exploitation under permit (Examples: Eru/Okok - *Gnetum* spp., Rattan, Candle stick tree, Tooth stick tree).
- **Category C:** Common species; low restriction; general rules apply (Examples: Acacia gum, Green wood charcoal, Firewood, Bamboo, Wild mango - *Iringia* spp., Marantaceae leaves.).

1.2.2 Legal tenure is granted by a legally competent authority according to legally prescribed processes.

#### **Verifiers:**

#### **UFA/FMU**

##### **a) In the case of an interim or final management agreement**

- Public call for tenders.
- Receipt proving that a full dossier assigning the forestry concession has been lodged
- Notification of results of the inter-ministerial committee regarding selection of the forestry entity as most suitable candidate by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife.
- Proof that a cautionary deposit/guarantee has been lodged with the Public Treasury within the prescribed deadline.
- Provisional exploitation agreement signed by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife.
- Receipts/transfer requests addressed to the Minister of Forests and Wildlife by the concession-holder and the candidate.
- Notification of transfer of the concession by the Prime Minister.
- Proof of payment of the transfer tax required by the Law of '94 and the current Finance Law.

##### **b) In the case of a final management agreement**

- Attestation of conformity with the terms of the provisional exploitation agreement.
- Order approving the management plan issued by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife.
- Five-year management plan and plan of operations for the current year.
- Terms of reference signed by the competent authority and the forestry entity.
- FMU leasing act issued by the Prime Minister.
- Authorization to set up and run a first-class establishment from the Ministry of Industry or receipt of declaration (2<sup>nd</sup> class).
- Certificate of registration as timber processor from the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife.

### **Council forest/ Private forests**

- Council forest leasing act signed by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife.
- Act of ownership in the case of a forest plantation, signed by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife.
- Annual operating permit signed by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife.
- Notification of start-up of activities signed by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife.
- Ministerial order creating a private forest.
- Collection authorization (NFTP) signed by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife.

### **Community forest/ Other SLIMFs**

#### **a) Interim management agreement**

- Receipt showing that a full dossier requesting assignment of a community forest has been lodged.
- Provisional management agreement signed by the community and the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife.

#### **b) Final management agreement**

- Receipt showing that a complete dossier submitting the SMP for the definitive agreement has been lodged.
- Document approving the Simple Management Plan signed by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife.
- Definitive management agreement signed by the competent administrative authority.

1.2.3 The boundaries of all Management Units within the scope of certification are clearly marked, documented, georeferenced and shown on maps.

### **Verifiers:**

#### **UFA/FMU and Council forest**

- Document attesting measured surface area.
- Document attesting boundaries.
- Map showing use to which land is put.
- Map of forestry operations.

#### **Community forests/ Other SLIMFs**

- Document attesting measured surface area (Certificate of compliance for MU boundaries demarcation issued by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife).
- Document attesting boundaries (Certificate of map compliance).
- Map of the forest.
- Operating map.

**1.3** *The Organization\** shall have *legal\** rights to operate in the *Management Unit\**, which fit the *legal\** status of *The Organization\** and of the *Management Unit\**, and shall comply with the associated *legal\** obligations in applicable *national* and *local laws\** and regulations and administrative requirements. The *legal\** rights shall provide for harvest of products and/or supply of *ecosystem services\** from within the *Management Unit\**. *The Organization\** shall pay the legally prescribed charges associated with such rights and obligations.

1.3.1 All activities undertaken in the Management Unit are carried out in compliance with:

- 1) Applicable laws and regulations and administrative requirements;
- 2) Legal and customary rights;
- 3) Obligatory codes of practice.

**Verifiers:**

**UFA/FMU**

**a) Compliance with forest harvesting regulations and standards**

- Final survey certificate or attestation of compliance with national forest exploitation norms (NIMF).
- Official logging registers (DF10) or SIGIF declaration.

**b) Compliance with environmental regulations**

- Attestation of compliance with environmental terms and conditions.
- Environmental inspection report.
- Record of environmental violations.

**c) Compliance with social obligation in relation to workers\***

- Attestation of payment of social security contributions issued by the CNPS.
- Employer's registers in 3 folders, initialled and signed by the competent court or local labour inspector.
- Internal regulations approved by the local labour inspector.
- Minutes of election of staff representatives.
- Agreement for medical examinations and treatment with a doctor.
- Document setting up a health and safety committee, signed by the company director.
- Ministry of Health inspection reports and, if appropriate periodic reports by the company doctor.
- Company declaration addressed to the competent labour inspector.

**d) Compliance with social obligations relating to neighbouring communities and Indigenous Populations**

- Terms of reference.
- Minutes recording performance of social works provided for in the terms of reference.
- Minutes of the information meeting relating to exploitation of the forest lease act signed by the territorial and forest administrations, with attendance list attached
- Map showing use to which land is put.
- Socio-economic survey report.
- Minutes of the meeting to present the socio-economic survey report.
- Record/file of violations/Minutes.

## **Council forest**

### **a) Compliance with forest harvesting regulations and standards**

- Final survey certificate or attestation of compliance with national forest exploitation norms (NIMF).
- Official logging registers (DF10) or SIGIF declaration.

### **b) Compliance with environmental provisions**

- Attestation of compliance with environmental terms and conditions.
- Environmental inspection report.
- Record of environmental violations.

### **c) Compliance with social obligation in relation to workers\***

- Attestation of payment of social security contributions issued by the CNPS.
- Employer's registers in 3 folders, initialled by the competent court or local labour inspector.
- Internal regulations approved by the local labour inspector.
- Minutes of election of staff representatives.
- Agreement for medical examinations and treatment with a doctor.
- Document setting up a health and safety committee, signed by the company director.
- Ministry of Health inspection reports and, if appropriate periodic reports by the company doctor.
- Company declaration addressed to the competent labour inspector.

### **d) Compliance with social obligations relating to neighbouring communities and Indigenous Populations**

- Terms of reference.
- Minutes recording performance of social works provided for in the terms of reference.
- Minutes of the information meeting relating to exploitation of the forest ownership deed signed by the territorial and forest administrations, with attendance list attached.

## **Community forest/ Other SLIMFs**

### **a) Compliance with forest harvesting regulations and standards**

- Final survey certificate or attestation of compliance with national forest exploitation norms (NIMF).
- Annual activity report.
- Official logging registers (DF10) or SIGIF declaration of compliance with quantities of timber allocated.

### **b) Compliance with environmental provisions**

- Simple Management Plan\*.
- Attestation of compliance with environmental terms and conditions.
- Record of environmental violations.

### **c) Compliance with social obligations relating to neighbouring communities and Indigenous Populations**

- Simple Management Plan\*.

- Report on social actions with neighbouring communities and Indigenous Populations.
- Memorandum of understanding between communities and The Organization (legal and customary rights).
- Monitoring report on the compliance with the memorandum.

**Private forests:**

**a) Compliance with forest planting regulations and standards**

- Simple Management Plan (SMP)
- SMP approval letter from the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife

**b) Compliance with environmental provisions**

- Environmental inspection report.
- Certificate of compliance with environmental obligations.
- Record of environmental infractions.

**c) Compliance with social obligations relating to workers**

- Tender certificate issued by CNPS.
- Employers' registers in 3 fascicles, signed and initialed by the competent court or by the local labor inspector.
- Internal regulations approved by the local labor inspector.
- Minutes of employee representative elections.
- Visits and care agreement with an attending physician.
- Act setting up an occupational health and safety committee, signed by the company manager.
- Inspection reports from the Ministry of Health, where applicable.
- Periodic reports from the company's attending physician.
- Declaration of establishment addressed to the local labor inspector.

**d) Compliance with social obligations relating to neighboring communities and indigenous peoples.**

- Report on social achievements.
- Memorandum of understanding between communities and the organization (legal and customary rights).
- Monitoring report on compliance with the memorandum.

- 1.3.1.1 The Organisation is not booked for suspension or suspended as a result of failing to comply with the provisions of current national or local laws, regulations and administrative requirements.

**Verifiers:**

**UFA/FMU, Council forest and Community forest**

- Records / files of violations published by the competent administrative departments.
- Register of disputes of the competent local services.
- Duly notified official warning following the finding of any activity not in accordance with the provisions of the management plan.
- Suspension decreed by the Minister of Forests and Wildlife, with reasons, notified to the offending party, if appropriate.

- 1.3.1.2LS The Organisation has the adequate professional resources, either internally or through another individual or company, to execute forest management operations.

**Verifiers:**

**UFA/FMU and Council forest**

- The professional authorization/ approval of the enterprise or of the sub-contractors who have participated in certain management activities (inventories, silvicultural treatments).
- Agreements for the supply of services with an approved structure/approved structures or public body.

**Community forest**

- The professional authorization/approval of the various sub-contractors who have participated in certain management activities (inventories).
- Agreements for the supply of services with an approved structure/approved structures or public body.
- Attestation of conformity of the inventory works.

- 1.3.2 All applicable legally prescribed taxes related to forest harvesting and processing activities must be paid within the periods stipulated in the finance law.

**Verifiers:**

**UFA/FMU**

- Patent (professional tax payment document)
- Attestation of solvability/non-indebtedness from the competent tax office.
- Attestation that a bank guarantee has been lodged if the statutes of the entity so require.
- Proof of payment (Forest royalties, Tree-felling tax, Exportation taxes, local development taxes or other forest-related taxes if required by the terms of reference) for the current and previous years.

**Council forest/ Other SLIMFs**

- Attestation of solvability/non-indebtedness from the competent tax office.
- Proofs of payment (VAT, Income tax, tree felling tax).

1.3.3 The management plans are in conformity with all current legislation.

**Verifiers:**

**UFA/FMU and Council forest**

- Approved management plan.
- Annual operating permit / Annual harvesting certificate.

**Community forest**

- Approved Simple Management Plan .
- Annual operating permit / Annual harvesting certificate.

**1.3. *The Organization\** shall develop and implement measures, and/or shall engage with regulatory agencies, to systematically protect the *Management Unit\** from unauthorized or illegal resource use, settlement and other illegal activities.**

1.4.1LS Measures are implemented to provide protection from unauthorized or illegal harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting, settlement and other unauthorized activities, notably:

- 1) Security gates on main forest roads and/ or control of access to high risk areas;
- 2) Closure of temporal roads after harvesting;
- 3) Surveillance patrols on forest road to detect and report to the forest administration, any illegal access to the forest; and
- 4) Designation of personnel and resources to rapidly detect and monitor illegal activities.

**Verifiers:**

**UFA/FMU and Council forest**

- Internal rules.
- Service notices forbidding poaching and the transport of bush meat.
- Service notices publishing relevant penalties.
- Food procurement plan.
- Strategies/plan for combatting illegal activities.

**Community forest**

- Information and awareness-raising materials (posters, reports, videos, cassettes, etc.) and/or in-house rules.
- Simple Management Plan.

**Strategies/plan for combatting illegal activities.**

1.4.2 A system is implemented to work with the regulatory bodies to identify, report, control and discourage unauthorized or illegal activities.

**Verifiers:**

- Letters addressed to the administration reporting violations.
- Joined activity reports.
- Procedure for monitoring illegal activities in the Management Unit.

- 1.4.3 If illegal or unauthorized activities are detected, measures are implemented to address them.

**Verifiers:**

**UFA/FMU and Council forests**

- Monitoring activity reports.
- Record of violations and actions taken.

**Community forests**

- Surveillance committee reports.
- Record of violations and actions taken.

- 1.5. ***The Organization\* shall comply with the applicable national laws\*, local laws\*, ratified\* international conventions and obligatory codes of practice\*, relating to the transportation and trade of forest\* products within and from the Management Unit\*, and/or up to the point of first sale.***

- 1.5.1 Compliance with applicable national laws, local laws, ratified international conventions and obligatory codes of practice relating to the transportation and trade of forest products up to the point of first sale is demonstrated.

**Verifiers:**

**UFA/FMU**

**a) Locally purchased logs**

- Secured waybills, signed by the competent authority.
- Supplier certificate of legality.

**b) Imported logs**

- Import permits issued by the competent authorities of the departments responsible for forests and financial matters.
- International waybills stamped at every stage of transport.
- Certificates of origin and plant health from the exporting country.
- FLEGT authorizations from the country of origin or any other private certificate of legality/sustainable management recognized by the Republic of Cameroon (terms of reference of the private certification system including the main elements of the Republic of Cameroon's legality checklists).

**c) Timber transportation documents**

- Secure waybill signed by the competent authority of the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife for the transportation of logs by road.
- Special declaration on transport document approved by the competent person in the case of transportation by train.
- Loading certificate issued by the competent customs service (transportation by container), with a loading report from the forestry department where the container was loaded.

## Council forest, Community forest and NTFPs

### a) Timber/NTFP transportation documents

- Secure waybill initialled by the competent authority of the Ministry of Forests and Wildlife for the transportation of wood products by road.
- Special declaration on transport document approved by the competent person in the case of transportation by train.
- Loading certificate issued by the competent customs service (transportation by container), with a loading report from the forestry department where the container was loaded.

1.5.2 Compliance with CITES provisions is demonstrated, including through possession of certificates for harvest and trade in any CITES species.

1.6. ***The Organization\* shall identify, prevent and resolve disputes\* over issues of statutory or customary law\*, which can be settled out of court in a timely manner\*, through engagement\* with affected stakeholders\*.***

1.6.1 A publicly available dispute resolution process that gives priority to out-of-court settlement and is developed through culturally appropriate engagement with affected stakeholders is in place.

1.6.2 Disputes related to issues of applicable laws or customary law that can be settled out of court are responded to in a timely manner, and are either resolved or are in the dispute resolution process"

1.6.3 Up to date records of disputes related to issues of applicable laws or customary law, are held including:

- 1) Steps taken to resolve disputes;
- 2) Outcomes of all dispute resolution processes; and
- 3) Unresolved disputes, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.

1.6.4 Operations are suspended in areas where disputes exist:

- 1) Of substantial magnitude; or
- 2) Of substantial duration; or
- 3) Involving a significant number of interests.

#### Verifiers:

- Monitoring/ surveillance activity report.
- Corrective action report.

1.7. ***The Organization\* shall publicize a commitment not to offer or receive bribes in money or any other form of corruption, and shall comply with anti-corruption legislation where this exists. In the absence of anti-corruption legislation, The Organization\* shall implement other anti-corruption measures proportionate to the scale\* and intensity\* of management activities and the risk\* of corruption.***

1.7.1L A policy is implemented that includes a commitment not to offer or receive bribes of any description.

1.7.1S The Forest manager shall state by writing The Organisation's long-term commitment not to offer or receive all forms of bribes and to implement anti-corruption practices.

- 1.7.2L The policy meets or exceeds related legislation.
- 1.7.2SP The written commitment meets or exceeds related legislation.
- 1.7.3L The policy is available to the public and at no cost.
- 1.7.3SP The written commitment document is publicly available to the public at no cost.
- 1.7.4 There has been no confirmed report of bribery, coercion or other acts of corruption.
- 1.7.5 Corrective measures and/ or sanctions are implemented if corruption does occur.

**Verifiers:**

- Disciplinary measures: requests for explanation, warnings, censure, final warnings, dismissals.
- Talks held.
- Legal proceedings.
- Public announcements of penalties imposed.

**1.8. *The Organization\** shall demonstrate a *long-term\** commitment to adhere to the FSC *Principles\** and *Criteria\** in the *Management Unit\**, and to related FSC Policies and Standards. A statement of this commitment shall be contained in a *publicly available\** document made freely available.**

- 1.8.1 A written policy, endorsed by an individual with authority to implement the policy, includes a long-term commitment to forest management practices consistent with FSC Principles and Criteria and related Policies and Standards.
- 1.8.2 The policy is publicly available at no cost.

## **PRINCIPLE\* 2: WORKERS' RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS**

*The Organization\** shall maintain or enhance the social and economic wellbeing of *workers\**.

**2.1** *The Organization\** shall *uphold\** the principles and rights at work as defined in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998) based on the eight *ILO Core Labour Conventions\**.

2.1.1 The Organization does not use child labour.

**Verifiers:**

- Recruitment and hiring procedures.
- Personnel file

2.1.1.1 The Organization shall not employ workers below the age of 15, or below the minimum age as stated under national, or local laws or regulations, whichever age is higher, except as specified in the indicator 2.1.1.2.

**Verifiers:**

- Recruitment and hiring procedures.
- Personnel file.

2.1.1.2 The employment of persons between the ages of 13 and 15 in light work, does not interfere with schooling nor is harmful to their health or development.

**Verifiers:**

- Personnel file.
- Job description/profile.

2.1.1.2.1 Children between the ages of 13 and 15 work only outside of school hours during normal day-time working hours.

**Verifiers:**

- Personnel file.
- Job description/profile.

2.1.1.3 No person under the age of 18 is employed in hazardous or heavy work except for the purpose of training within approved national laws and regulations.

**Verifiers:**

- Personnel file.
- Job description/profile.

2.1.1.4 The Organization prohibits the worst forms of child labour.

**Verifiers:**

- Recruitment and hiring procedures.
- Personnel file.
- Job description/profile.

2.1.2LS The Organization is not involved in any form of forced and compulsory labour.

**Verifiers:**

- Recruitment and hiring procedures.
- Complaints register.

2.1.2.1 Employment relationships are voluntary and based on mutual consent, without threat of a penalty.

**Verifiers:**

- Recruitment and hiring procedures.
- Complaints register.

2.1.2.2 The Organization takes measures to avoid all forms of forced or compulsory labour, including not allowing any of the following practices:

- 1) Physical and sexual violence;
- 2) Bonded labour;
- 3) Withholding of wages, including payment of employment fees and/or payment of deposit to commence employment;
- 4) Restriction of mobility/movement;
- 5) Retention of passport and identity documents;
- 6) Threats of denunciation to the authorities.

**Verifiers:**

- Labour inspector's report.
- Complaints register.

2.1.3 The Organization ensures that there is no discrimination in employment and occupation.

**Verifiers :**

- Organization chart, personnel file.
- Recruitment policy and procedure.
- Recent call for applications.

2.1.3.1LS Employment and occupation practices are non-discriminatory.

2.1.4 The Organization respects freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining.

**Verifiers:**

- Collective bargaining agreement.
- Activity reports of employee representatives.
- Labour inspector's report.

2.1.4.1 Workers are able to establish or join workers' organizations of their own choosing.

2.1.4.2 The Organization respects the rights of workers to engage in lawful activities related to forming, joining or assisting a workers' organization, or to refrain from doing the same; and will not discriminate against or punish workers for exercising these rights.

2.1.4.3 The Organization negotiates with lawfully established workers' organizations and/or duly selected representatives in good faith and with the best efforts to reach a collective bargaining agreement.

2.1.4.4 Collective bargaining agreements are implemented, where they exist.

**2.2. The Organization\* shall promote gender equality\* in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of engagement\* and management activities.**

2.2.1 Systems are implemented that promote gender equality and prevent gender discrimination in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of engagement and management activities.

**Verifiers:**

**UFA/FMU and Council forest**

- Recruitment offers
- Strategic plan of The Organisation.
- Recruitment plan.
- Gender policy of The Organisation.

**Community forests/Other SLIMFs**

- Strategy/plan for involving women in all activities.
- Recruitment and hiring procedures.
- Complaints register.
- Personnel file
- Training reports and lists of participants

2.2.2 Job opportunities are open to both women and men under the same conditions, and women are encouraged to participate actively in all levels of employment.

**Verifiers:**

**UFA/FMU and Council forest**

- Recruitment offers.
- Strategic plan of the enterprise.
- Recruitment plan.
- Job description/profile.
- Gender policy of the enterprise (Add after public consultation).

**Community forest/ NTFPs/ Other SLIMFs**

- Job description/profile.
- Community announcements/advertisements.
- Staff list.
- Employment contracts.

2.2.3 Health & safety training programmes include work normally carried out by women to the same extent as work typically carried out by men.

**Verifiers:**

**UFA/FMU and Council forest**

- Health and safety training plan.
- Health and safety training reports.
- Health and safety strategy.
- Gender policy of the enterprise.

**Community forest/ NTFPs / Other SLIMFs**

- Reports on HSSE awareness-raising.
- Training plan.
- Certificates issued.
- List of participants.

2.2.4 Women and men are paid the same wage when they do the same work.

**Verifiers:**

- Wage scale/schedule.
- Price scale/schedule for community forests.
- Staff file and occupational classification.

2.2.5 Workers, both women and men, are paid according to the legal and regulatory provisions in force (e.g. direct payment matches with receipt, bank transfer, etc.) (Reference-Labour Code: Part IV, Chapter II, section 68, article 2).

**Verifiers:** Pay slip or book of receipts with counterfoils.

2.2.6LS The duration of maternity leave is not less than 14 weeks, with 4 weeks to be taken before the probable date of confinement and the remainder thereafter (Part IV, Chapter III, section 84 article 2 of the labour code).

**Verifiers:**

- Letter granting leave.
- File recording holidays/leave file for employees of the enterprise.
- Internal rules/regulations.

2.2.7 The duration of paternity leave is in accordance with the legal and regulatory provisions.

**Verifiers:**

- Letter granting leave.
- File recording holidays/leave for employees of the enterprise.
- Internal rules/regulations.

2.2.8 The Organisation encourages the active participation of both men and women in management committee meetings and decision-making forums.

**Verifiers:**

- Meeting planning document.
- Summons to meetings.
- Minutes of meetings, including list of attendees.

2.2.9 Confidential and effective mechanisms exist for reporting and eliminating cases of sexual harassment and discrimination based on the grounds of sex, gender, marital status, parenthood and any other such grounds.

**Verifiers:**

- Provisions of the internal rules and regulations.
- In-house procedures.
- Register of complaints and penalties imposed.

2.3. ***The Organization\* shall implement health and safety practices to protect workers\* from occupational safety and health hazards. These practices shall, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk\* of management activities, meet or exceed the recommendations of the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.***

2.3.1 Health and safety practices are developed and implemented that meet or exceed the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.

**Verifiers:**

- The various procedures used by the enterprise.
- Reports on hygiene, safety and health.
- Risk analysis document.
- Risk management plan.

2.3.1.1 Health and safety operating procedures have been developed based on a risk assessment

**Verifiers:**

- Risk management plan.
- Simple Risk assessment and risk management plan (community forests and other SLIMFs).

2.3.1.2 The Organisation ensures that their workers and those of sub-contractors are aware of the health and safety rules and procedures.

2.3.2L Workers have personal protective equipment appropriate to the tasks assigned to them as recommended in specific risk assessment for each job.

**Verifiers:**

- PPE mapping per workstation.
- Proof of PPE distribution.

2.3.2SP Workers have personal protective equipment appropriate to the tasks assigned to them.

**Verifiers:** Proof of PPE distribution.

2.3.3 The use of this personal protective equipment is complied with/enforced.

2.3.4 Records are kept on Health and Safety practices, including accident rates and time lost to accidents.

2.3.5 Accident rates and time lost to accidents are recorded, analysed and disseminated.

**Verifiers:**

- Accident analysis reports.
- H&S information and awareness-raising report.

2.3.6LS The frequency and severity of accidents are systematically recorded and are low compared to national forest industry averages, where such information is available.

2.3.7 The Health and Safety practices are reviewed and revised as required after major incidents or accidents.

2.3.8L When workers stay in camps, the accommodation and food provided, as a minimum requirement, complies with the requirements specified in the ILO Code of Practice on Health and Safety in Forestry Work. [See ILO Convention 155, ILO Code of Practice on Safety (1988), and any equivalent national legislation.]

**2.4. *The Organization\* shall pay wages that meet or exceed minimum forest\* industry standards or other recognized forest\* industry wage agreements or living wages\*, where these are higher than the legal\* minimum wages. When none of these exist, The Organization\* shall through engagement\* with workers\* develop mechanisms for determining living wages\*.***

2.4.1 Wages paid by The Organization in all circumstances meet or exceed the minimum provided for in the national collective bargaining agreements of enterprises harvesting and processing forest products including those performing related activities.

2.4.2LS Wages paid meet or exceed the legal minimum wage.

2.4.3 Wages, salaries and contracts are paid on time and in accordance with the following:

- 1) Monthly payments are made not later than five (05) days following the end of the month of employment in respect of which the wages are due for organisations that have signed the collective bargaining agreement for timber harvesters and processors and;
- 2) Monthly payments are made not later than eight (08) days following the end of the month of employment in respect of which the wages are due for organisations that have not signed the collective bargaining agreement for timber harvesters and processors.

**Verifiers:**

- Records of payment of wages.
- Pay slips.
- Annual wage plans established under collective agreements.

2.4.3SP Wages and salaries are paid in accordance with the written contractual clauses binding the two parties and not later than eight days following the end of the month of employment in respect of which the wages are due.

**Verifiers:**

- Records of payment of wages.

**2.5** *The Organization\* shall demonstrate that workers\* have job-specific training and supervision to safely and effectively implement the Management Plan\* and all management activities.*

2.5.1L Workers have job-specific training consistent with Annex B, and this training is constantly adapted to the different jobs involved.

2.5.1SP Workers have job-specific training in accordance with the provisions of the Simple Management Plan.

2.5.2L The Organization has an in-service training policy that takes into account needs and technological developments.

2.5.3LS Up to date training records are kept for all relevant workers.

**2.6** *The Organization\* through engagement\* with workers\* shall have mechanisms for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation\* to workers\* for loss or damage to property, occupational diseases\*, or occupational injuries\* sustained while working for The Organization\*.*

2.6.1 A dispute resolution process is in place, developed through culturally appropriate engagement with workers.

**Verifiers:**

- Minutes of engagement meetings
- Interviews with stakeholders
- Dispute resolution procedure

2.6.2 Workers grievances are identified and responded to and are either resolved or are in the dispute resolution process.

**Verifiers:**

- Register recording and monitoring disputes.
- Register of workers' grievances/complaints or written requests.
- Internal conflicts resolution procedures.
- Minutes of concertation meetings with workers relative to the internal conflicts procedure.

2.6.3LS Up-to-date records of workers grievances related to workers loss or damage of property, occupational diseases or injuries are maintained including:

- 1) steps taken to resolve grievances;
- 2) outcomes of all dispute resolution processes, including fair compensation; and
- 3) unresolved disputes, the reasons why they have not been resolved, and how they will be resolved.

2.6.4LS Compensation is provided to workers for work-related loss or damage of property and occupational disease or injuries in compliance with the national regulations or through negotiation.

### **PRINCIPLE\* 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES'\* RIGHTS**

**The Organization\* shall identify and uphold\* Indigenous Peoples'\* legal\* and customary rights\* of ownership, use and management of land, territories\* and resources affected by management activities.**

**3.1. The Organization\* shall identify the Indigenous Peoples\* that exist within the Management Unit\* or those that are affected by management activities. The Organization\* shall then, through engagement\* with these Indigenous Peoples\*, identify their rights of tenure\*, their rights of access to and use of forest\* resources and ecosystem services\*, their customary rights\* and legal\* rights and obligations, that apply within the Management Unit\*. The Organization\* shall also identify areas where these rights are contested.**

3.1.1 *Indigenous Peoples\** that may be affected by management activities are identified.

**Verifiers:**

- Survey report on identification of indigenous peoples.
- Map showing locations of indigenous peoples.
- Socio-economic survey report.

3.1.2 Through culturally appropriate engagement with the *Indigenous Peoples\** identified in 3.1.1, the following matters are documented and/or mapped:

- 1) Their legal and customary rights of tenure;
- 2) Their legal and customary access to, and use rights, of the forest resources and ecosystem services;
- 3) Their legal and customary rights and obligations that apply;
- 4) The evidence supporting these rights and obligations;
- 5) Areas where rights are contested between *Indigenous Peoples\**, governments and/or others;
- 6) Summary of the means by which the legal and customary rights, and contested rights, are addressed by The Organization; and
- 7) The aspirations and goals of *Indigenous Peoples\** related to management activities, Intact Forest Landscapes and Indigenous Cultural Landscapes.

**Verifiers:**

- Report on the identification of the roles and rights the Indigenous people including the mechanisms in place to assure they benefit from the existing rights.
- Procedure for the protection of indigenous peoples' rights.
- Minutes of meetings to manage conflicts with indigenous peoples.
- Participative cartographic maps of area and resources of the local communities.
- Participatory map of NTFP hot spots in the Management Unit.

3.2. **The Organization\* shall recognize and uphold\* the legal\* and customary rights\* of Indigenous Peoples\* to maintain control over management activities within or related to the Management Unit\* to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources and lands and territories\*. Delegation by Indigenous Peoples\* of control over management activities to third parties requires Free, Prior and Informed Consent\*.**

3.2.1 In collaboration with the *Indigenous Peoples\**, the forest manager identifies, maps, documents, clearly delineates and protects areas having cultural, archaeological, historical, religious, economic and subsistence importance for the said peoples.

**Verifiers:**

- Participatory map of NTFP hot spots in the Management Unit.
- Socio-economic study report.
- Participatory community land use maps.

3.2.2 Through culturally appropriate engagement *Indigenous Peoples\** are informed when, where and how they can comment on and request modification to management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, lands and territories.

**Verifiers:**

- Procedure for the consultation of Indigenous people.
- Minutes of consultation meetings held with Indigenous communities and signed attendance list.
- Activity report.
- Conflict management procedures.
- Monitoring procedures.

3.2.3 The legal and customary rights of *Indigenous Peoples\** are not violated by The Organization.

**Verifiers:** Dispute resolution procedure.

3.2.4 Where evidence exists that legal and customary rights of *Indigenous Peoples\** related to management activities have been violated the situation is corrected, if necessary, through culturally appropriate engagement and/or through the dispute resolution process as required in Criteria 1.6 or 4.6.

**Verifiers:** Dispute resolution procedure, Dispute Monitoring Report.

3.2.5 Free, prior and informed consent is granted by *Indigenous Peoples\** prior to management activities that affect their identified rights through a process that includes:

- 1) Ensuring *Indigenous Peoples\** know their rights and obligations regarding the resource;
- 2) Informing the *Indigenous Peoples\** of the value of the resource, in economic, social and environmental terms;
- 3) Informing the *Indigenous Peoples\** of their right to withhold or modify consent to the proposed management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, lands and territories; and
- 4) Informing the *Indigenous Peoples\** of current and future planned forest management activities, and measures to reduce and mitigate the anticipated impacts.

3.2.6 Where the process of Free Prior and Informed Consent has not yet resulted in an FPIC agreement, The Organization and the affected *Indigenous Peoples\** are engaged in a mutually agreed FPIC process that is advancing, in good faith and with which the parties are satisfied.

**Verifiers :**

- Procedure for consulting Indigenous Peoples.
- Minutes of meetings between The Organization and Indigenous Peoples.

3.3. **In the event of delegation of control over management activities, a *binding agreement\** between *The Organization\** and the *Indigenous Peoples\** shall be concluded through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent\**. The agreement shall define its duration, provisions for renegotiation, renewal, termination, economic conditions and other terms and conditions. The agreement shall make provision for monitoring by *Indigenous Peoples\** of *The Organization's\** compliance with its terms and conditions.**

3.3.1 Where control over management activities has been granted through free, prior and informed Consent based on culturally appropriate engagement, the binding agreement contains the duration, provisions for renegotiation, renewal, termination, economic conditions and other terms and conditions.

**Verifiers:** Signed agreement.

3.3.2 Records of binding agreements are maintained.

3.3.3 The binding agreement contains the provision for monitoring by *Indigenous Peoples\** of The Organization's compliance with its terms and conditions.

3.4. ***The Organization\** shall recognize and *uphold\** the rights, customs and culture of *Indigenous Peoples\** as defined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of *Indigenous Peoples\** (2007) and ILO Convention 169 (1989).**

3.4.1 The rights, customs and culture of *Indigenous Peoples\** as defined in the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of *Indigenous Peoples\** (2007) and ILO Convention 169 (1989) are not violated by The Organization

**Verifiers:** Analysis report of The Organisation's conformity with ILO Convention 169.

3.4.2LS Where evidence that rights, customs and culture of *Indigenous Peoples\**, as defined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of *Indigenous Peoples\** (UNDRIP) and ILO Convention 169, have been violated by The Organization, the situation is documented including steps to restore these rights, customs and culture of *Indigenous Peoples\**, to the satisfaction of the rights holders.

3.5. ***The Organization\****, through ***engagement\**** with ***Indigenous Peoples\****, shall identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance and for which these ***Indigenous Peoples\**** hold ***legal\**** or ***customary rights\****. These sites shall be recognized by ***The Organization\**** and their management, and/or ***protection\**** shall be agreed through ***engagement\**** with these ***Indigenous Peoples\****.

3.5.1 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance for which ***Indigenous Peoples\**** hold legal or customary rights are identified through culturally appropriate engagement.

**Verifiers:**

- Participatory map of NTFP hot spots in the Management Unit.
- Socio-economic study report.
- Participatory community land use maps.
- Minutes of meetings between The Organization and Indigenous Peoples.

3.5.2 Measures to protect or minimise the negative impacts of forest management on the resources and rights of ***Indigenous Peoples\**** are agreed, documented and implemented through culturally appropriate engagement with ***Indigenous peoples\****.

**Verifiers:**

- List of measures taken.
- Implementation procedures.
- Activity reports.
- Minutes of concertation meetings.

3.5.2.1 The Organization uses other identification means when ***Indigenous Peoples\**** determine that physical identification of sites in documentation or on maps would threaten the value or protection.

3.5.3 Wherever sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance are newly observed or discovered, management activities cease immediately in the vicinity until protective measures have been agreed to with the ***Indigenous Peoples\****, and in accordance with local and national laws.

**Verifiers :**

- Report(s) on the identification of new sites.
- Information notes on cessation/suspension of activities.

3.6. ***The Organization\**** shall ***uphold\**** the right of ***Indigenous Peoples\**** to ***protect\**** and utilize their ***traditional knowledge\**** and shall compensate ***local communities\**** for the utilization of such knowledge and their ***intellectual property\****. A ***binding agreement\**** as per Criterion 3.3 shall be concluded between ***The Organization\**** and the ***Indigenous Peoples\**** for such utilization through ***Free, Prior and Informed Consent\**** before utilization takes place, and shall be consistent with the ***protection\**** of ***intellectual property\**** rights.

3.6.1 Traditional knowledge and intellectual property are protected and are only used when the acknowledged owners of that traditional knowledge and intellectual property have provided their free, prior and informed consent formalized through a binding agreement.

**Verifiers** : Formal agreement between holders of traditional knowledge and intellectual property and The Organization.

3.6.2 ***Indigenous Peoples\**** are compensated according to the binding agreement reached through Free, Prior and Informed Consent for the use of traditional knowledge and intellectual property.

**Verifiers:**

- Agreement document.
- Receipt of payment for services rendered/ proof of compensation.
- Service contracts.

## **PRINCIPLE\* 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

***The Organization\**** shall contribute to maintaining or enhancing the social and economic wellbeing of ***local communities\****.

**4.1. The Organization\*** shall identify the ***local communities\**** that exist within the ***Management Unit\**** and those that are affected by management activities. ***The Organization\**** shall then, through ***engagement\**** with these ***local communities\****, identify their rights of ***tenure\****, their rights of access to and use of ***forest\**** resources and ***ecosystem services\****, their ***customary rights\**** and ***legal\**** rights and obligations, that apply within the ***Management Unit\****.

4.1.1 Local communities that exist in the Management Unit and those that may be affected by management activities are identified.

**Verifiers:**

- Survey report identifying local population groups.
- Map showing locations of population groups.
- Socio-economic survey report.
- Location map of adjacent villages and populations.

4.1.2 Through culturally appropriate engagement with the local communities identified in 4.1.1, the following matters are documented and/or mapped:

- 1) Their legal and customary rights of tenure;
- 2) Their legal and customary access to, and use rights, of the forest resources and ecosystem services;
- 3) Their legal and customary rights and obligations that apply;
- 4) The evidence supporting these rights and obligations;
- 5) Areas where rights are contested between local communities, governments and/or others;
- 6) Summary of the means by which the legal and customary rights, and contested rights, are addressed by The Organization; and
- 7) The aspirations and goals of local communities related to management activities.

**Verifiers:**

- List of the rights of local communities.
- Procedure for protecting the rights of local communities.
- Minutes of meetings held with local communities to manage conflicts.
- Participative cartographic maps of area and resources of the local communities.
- Participatory map of NTFP hot spots in the Management Unit.

**4.2. The Organization\* shall recognize and uphold\* the legal\* and customary rights\* of local communities\* to maintain control over management activities within or related to the Management Unit\* to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, lands and territories\*. Delegation by local communities\* of control over management activities to third parties requires Free, Prior and Informed Consent\*.**

4.2.1 Through culturally appropriate engagement local communities are informed of when, where and how they can comment on and request modification to management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights.

**Verifiers :**

- Procedure manual for appropriate consultation with local communities and appeals.
- Awareness-raising report on procedures.
- Minutes of consultation meetings.

4.2.2 The legal and customary rights of local communities are not violated by The Organization.

**Verifiers:** Complaints register.

4.2.3 Where evidence exists that legal and customary rights of local communities related to management activities have been violated the situation is corrected, if necessary, through culturally appropriate engagement and/or through the dispute resolution process as required in Criteria 1.6 or 4.6.

**Verifiers:**

- Complaints register
- Complaints follow-up report.
- FPIC agreements with local communities.

4.2.4 Free, prior and informed consent is granted by traditional peoples prior to management activities that affect their identified rights through a process that includes:

- 1) Ensuring traditional peoples know their rights and obligations regarding the resource;
- 2) Informing the traditional peoples of the value of the resource, in economic, social and environmental terms;
- 3) Informing the traditional peoples of their right to withhold or modify consent to the proposed management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, lands and territories; and
- 4) Informing the traditional peoples of current and planned forest management activities, and of the measures taken to mitigate the negative impacts.

**Verifiers:** Minutes of information meeting(s) on start-up of activities.

4.2.5 Where the process of Free Prior and Informed Consent has not yet resulted in an FPIC agreement, The Organization and the affected local communities are engaged in a mutually agreed FPIC process that is advancing, in good faith and with which the community is satisfied.

**Verifiers:**

- Local community consultation procedure.
- Written agreement of local community involvement.
- Minutes of meetings with local communities/ attendance lists.
- Complaints register.

**4.3. The Organization\* shall provide reasonable\* opportunities for employment, training and other services to local communities\*, contractors and suppliers proportionate to scale\* and intensity\* of its management activities.**

4.3.1 All opportunities are communicated and proposed to local communities, sub-contractors and local suppliers for:

- 1) employment,
- 2) training, and
- 3) other services.

**Verifiers:**

- Activity report.
- Sub-contracting agreement.
- List of sub-contractors.
- Employment procedures.
- Sales and procurement procedures.
- Call for tender procedures.
- Information reception notices/register.

**4.4. The Organization\* shall implement additional activities, through engagement\* with local communities\*, that contribute to their social and economic development, proportionate to the scale\*, intensity\* and socio-economic impact of its management activities.**

4.4.1 Opportunities for local social and economic development are identified (or documented if they already exist) through culturally appropriate engagement with local communities and other relevant organizations.

**Verifiers:**

- Socio-economic diagnosis/survey report.
  - MP/SMP (Management plan / Simple management plan).
  - Community development plan.
  - Activity report.
  - Annual action plan.
- 4.4.2 Projects and additional activities with local social and economic benefits identified in 4.4.1 are implemented and/or supported.
- 4.4.3 The Organization assesses the impact of implementing additional projects and activities in line with the national regulations.

**4.5. The Organization\*, through engagement\* with local communities\*, shall take action to identify, avoid and mitigate significant\* negative social, environmental and economic impacts of its management activities on affected communities. The action taken shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk\* of those activities and negative impacts.**

4.5.1 Through culturally appropriate engagement with local communities, measures are implemented to identify, avoid and mitigate significant negative social, environmental and economic impacts of management activities.

**Verifiers:**

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report.
- Environmental notice.
- Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).
- Attestation of respect for environmental requirements.
- Report of the execution of the ESMP.

**4.6. The Organization\*, through engagement\* with local communities\*, shall have mechanisms for resolving grievances and providing fair compensation\* to local communities\* and individuals with regard to the impacts of management activities of The Organization\*.**

4.6.1 A publicly available dispute resolution process is in place, developed through culturally appropriate engagement with local communities.

**Verifiers:** Dispute resolution procedure.

4.6.2 Grievances related to the impacts of management activities are responded to in a timely manner and are either resolved or are in the dispute resolution process.

**Verifiers:** Dispute resolution meetings and follow-up meetings reports.

4.6.2.1 The Organization has procedures in place based on national legislation and/or customary rules to compensate for damage in the event of loss or prejudice to the property, resources, health and conditions of subsistence of local communities.

**Verifiers:** Compensation procedures.

4.6.2.2 Measures are taken to prevent and avoid losses or damage to the property, resources, health and conditions of subsistence of local communities.

**Verifiers:** Risk management plan.

4.6.3 An up to date record of grievances related to the impacts of management activities is held, including:

- 1) Steps taken to resolve grievances;
- 2) Outcomes of all dispute resolution processes, including fair compensation to local communities and individuals; and
- 3) unresolved disputes, the reasons why they have not been resolved, and how they will be resolved.

4.6.4 Operations suspended in areas where disputes exists of:

- 1) Substantial magnitude;
- 2) Substantial duration; or
- 3) Involving a significant number of interests.

**Verifiers:**

- Dispute resolution meetings and follow-up meetings reports.
- Notice of cessation/suspension of activities.

**4.7 *The Organization\**, through *engagement\** with *local communities\**, shall identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance, and for which these *local communities\** hold *legal\** or *customary rights\**. These sites shall be recognized by *The Organization\**, and their management and/or *protection\** shall be agreed through *engagement\** with these *local communities\**.**

4.7.1 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance for which local communities hold legal or customary rights are identified through culturally appropriate engagement and are recognized by The Organization.

**Verifiers:** Participative maps of the identified sites.

4.7.2 Measures to protect or minimise the negative impacts of forest management on the resources and rights of local communities are agreed, documented and implemented through culturally appropriate engagement with local communities.

**Verifiers:**

- List of measures taken.
- Implementation procedures.

**4.8 *The Organization\** shall *uphold\** the right of *traditional peoples\** to *protect\** and utilize their *traditional knowledge\** and shall compensate them for the utilization of such knowledge and their *intellectual property\**. A *binding agreement\** as per Criterion 3.3 shall be concluded between *The Organization\** and the *traditional peoples\** for such utilization through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent\** before utilization takes place, and shall be consistent with the *protection\** of *intellectual property\** rights.**

4.8.1 Traditional knowledge and intellectual property of traditional peoples are protected and are only used when the acknowledged owners of that traditional knowledge and intellectual property have provided their free, prior and informed consent formalized through a binding agreement.

**Verifiers:** Agreement with holders of traditional knowledge and intellectual property rights.

4.8.2 Traditional peoples are compensated according to the binding agreement reached through Free, Prior and Informed Consent for the use of traditional knowledge and intellectual property.

**Verifiers:**

- Agreement document.
- Receipt of payment for services rendered.
- Financial statement.

## **PRINCIPLE\* 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST\***

**The Organization\* shall efficiently manage the range of multiple products and services of the Management Unit\* to maintain or enhance long-term\* economic viability\* and the range of social and environmental benefits.**

**5.1. The Organization\* shall identify, produce, or enable the production of, diversified benefits and/or products, based on the range of resources and ecosystem services\* existing in the Management Unit\* in order to strengthen and diversify the local economy proportionate to the scale\* and intensity\* of management activities.**

5.1.1LS The range of resources and ecosystem services that could strengthen and diversify the local economy are identified. These resources and ecosystem services include:

- 1) non-timber forest products.
- 2) lesser known species.
- 3) recreational activities.

5.1.2LP Consistent with management objectives, the identified benefits and products are produced by The Organization and/or made available for others to produce, to strengthen and diversify the local economy.

5.1.2.1 The Organisation identifies, maps and supports local community initiatives that aim at developing non-timber forest products.

### **Verifiers:**

- Reports of the identification and support of community initiatives.
- Environmental and social management plan monitoring reports.

5.1.3 When The Organization uses FSC Ecosystem Services claims, The Organization complies with applicable requirements in FSC-PRO-30-006.

**5.2. The Organization\* shall normally harvest products and services from the Management Unit\* at or below a level which can be permanently sustained.**

5.2.1L Timber harvesting levels are based on an analysis of current Best Available Information on growth and yield: inventory of the forest, mortality rates; and maintenance of ecosystem functions.

5.2.1.1L The management inventory (multi-resource) is drawn up in conformity with the national regulations.

### **Verifiers:**

- Inventory report.
- Attestation of conformity of the inventory works.
- Management plan.

5.2.1.2LS The harvesting inventories are drawn up in conformity with the national regulations.

5.2.1.2P Operational inventories are carried out using best available practices.

**Verifiers:**

- Inventory report.
- Regulatory provisions (Order 0222 and subsequent texts).
- Attestation of conformity of the inventory works.
- Physical marking on the ground.

5.2.1P Operational inventories are carried out using Best Available Information.

**Verifiers:**

- Inventory report.
- Regulatory provisions (Order 0222 and subsequent texts).
- Attestation of conformity of the inventory works.
- Physical marking on the ground.

Sub-indicator 5.2.1.3L Rotation is based on growth, minimum harvesting diameters and the results of the management inventories

5.2.1.4L The management plan includes estimations of harvesting potentials beyond the first rotation.

5.2.1.5L Estimates of regeneration, growth, abundance, quality distribution and size of the main commercial species are explicit and in conformity with the available data for the locality as established by research and/or inventories.

5.2.1.6LS When potential stocks and growth rates are not known, forestry operations are based on the legal minimum harvesting diameter (MHD).

5.2.2LS Based on the timber harvesting level analysis, a maximum allowable annual cut for timber is determined that does not exceed the harvest level that can be permanently sustained including by ensuring that harvest rates do not exceed growth rates.

5.2.2.1LS The Organisation complies with the volumes of timber allocated (number of trees/volume) in the annual harvesting permit.

**Verifiers:**

- Worksite logs (DF10) or SIGIF declaration.
- Final survey certificate.

5.2.3LS Actual annual harvest levels for timber are recorded and the harvest over a defined period does not exceed the allowable cut determined in 5.2.2 for the same defined period.

5.2.3.1LS The forest manager keeps up-to-date records on the harvested volumes of all commercial timber species.

5.2.3.2L The annual harvesting rate is calculated per species at the end of the harvesting of each Annual Harvesting Area.

**Verifiers:** Final survey report.

5.2.4LP If The Organization is involved in extracting non-timber forest products or using services for commercial purposes, a sustainable harvest level is calculated and adhered to. Sustainable harvest levels are based on Best Available Information.

**Verifiers:**

- NTFP management plan.
- Post harvest monitoring reports

**5.3. *The Organization\* shall demonstrate that the positive and negative externalities\* of operations are included in the management plan\*.***

5.3.1 Costs related to preventing, mitigating or compensating for negative social and environment impacts of management activities are quantified and documented in the management plan.

5.3.2 Benefits related to positive social and environment impacts of management activities are identified and included in the management plan.

**Verifiers:** Management Plan.

**5.4. *The Organization\* shall use local processing, local services, and local value adding to meet the requirements of The Organization\* where these are available, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk\*. If these are not locally available, The Organization\* shall make reasonable\* attempts to help establish these services.***

5.4.1 Where cost, quality and capacity of non-local and local options are at least equivalent, local goods, services, processing and value-added facilities are used.

**Verifiers:** Procurement policy.

5.4.2LP Attempts are made to establish and encourage capacity where local goods, services, processing and value-added facilities are not available.

**Verifiers:**

- Partnership contracts;
- Protocol of understanding to share advantages/ build capacity

**5.5. *The Organization\* shall demonstrate through its planning and expenditures proportionate to scale, intensity and risk\*, its commitment to long-term\* economic viability\*.***

5.5.1 Sufficient funds are allocated to implement the management plan in order to meet this standard and to ensure long-term economic viability.

5.5.2 Expenditures and investments are made to implement the management plan in order to meet this standard and to ensure long-term economic viability.

## **PRINCIPLE\* 6: ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES\* AND IMPACTS**

**The Organization\* shall maintain, conserve\* and/or restore\* ecosystem services\* and environmental values\* of the Management Unit\*, and shall avoid, repair or mitigate negative environmental impacts.**

**6.1. The Organization\* shall assess environmental values\* in the Management Unit\* and those values outside the Management Unit\* potentially affected by management activities. This assessment shall be undertaken with a level of detail, scale\* and frequency that is proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk\* of management activities, and is sufficient for the purpose of deciding the necessary conservation\* measures, and for detecting and monitoring possible negative impacts of those activities.**

6.1.1L Best Available Information is used to identify environmental values within, and, where potentially affected by management activities, outside of the Management Unit.

### **Verifiers:**

- EIA ToRs approved by the competent Authority.
- EIA report approved by the competent Authority.
- Socio-economic report.
- Environmental policies and procedures.
- HCV assessment report.

6.1.1SP Best Available Information is used to identify environmental values within the Management Unit that could be affected by management activities.

### **Verifiers:**

- Socio-economic report.
- HCV assessment report.

6.1.2L Assessments of environmental values are conducted with a level of detail and frequency so that:

- 1) Impacts of management activities on the identified environmental values can be assessed as per Criterion 6.2;
- 2) Risks to environmental values can be identified as per Criterion 6.2;
- 3) Necessary conservation measures to protect values can be identified as per Criterion 6.3; and
- 4) Monitoring of impacts of environmental changes can be conducted as per Principle 8.

6.1.2SP The simplified environmental assessment of the impacts of forest operations has been carried out in compliance with applicable national laws and is approved by the appropriate administration.

### **Verifiers:**

- Simplified Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) ToRs approved by the competent Authority.
- Simplified EIA report approved by the competent Authority

**6.2. Prior to the start of site-disturbing activities, *The Organization*\* shall identify and assess the scale, intensity and risk\* of potential impacts of management activities on the identified environmental values\*.**

6.2.1LS An environmental impact assessment identifies potential present and future impacts of management activities on environmental values, from the stand level to the landscape level.

6.2.1SP An environmental impact assessment identifies potential present and future impacts of management activities on environmental values.

**Verifiers:**

- EIA report (L).
- Simplified EIA report (SP).

6.2.2 The environmental impact assessment identifies and assesses the impacts of the management activities prior to the start of site-disturbing activities.

**Verifiers:**

- EIA report (L).
- Simplified EIA report (SP).

**6.3. *The Organization*\* shall identify and implement effective actions to prevent negative impacts of management activities on the environmental values\*, and to mitigate and repair those that occur, proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk\* of these impacts.**

6.3.1 Management activities are planned to prevent negative impacts and to protect environmental values.

**Verifiers:**

- Environment-Social management plan.
- Environment-Social Agreements.

Indicator 6.3.2 Management activities are implemented to prevent negative impacts on environmental values.

**Verifiers:**

- Environment-Social management plan implementation report (L).
- Environment-Social Agreements implementation report (SP).

6.3.3LS Where negative impacts to environmental values occur, measures are adopted to prevent further damage, and negative impacts are mitigated and/or repaired.

**Verifiers:**

- Impact prevention procedures.
- Monitoring and evaluation procedures.
- Monitoring and evaluation reports.

**6.4. The Organization\* shall protect rare species\* and threatened species\* and their habitats\* in the Management Unit\* through conservation zones\*, protection areas\*, connectivity\* and/or (where necessary) other direct measures for their survival and viability. These measures shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk\* of management activities and to the conservation\* status and ecological requirements of the rare and threatened species\*. The Organization\* shall take into account the geographic range and ecological requirements of rare and threatened species\* beyond the boundary of the Management Unit\*, when determining the measures to be taken inside the Management Unit\*.**

6.4.1 Best Available Information is used to identify rare and threatened species, and their habitats, including CITES species (where applicable) and those listed on national, regional and local lists of rare and threatened species that are present or likely to be present within and adjacent to the Management Unit.

**Verifiers:**

- CITES list.
- IUCN list.
- Approved management plan.
- Annual monitoring and evaluation reports.
- HCV assessment report.
- Simple Management Plan.

6.4.2 Potential impacts of management activities on rare and threatened species and their conservation status and habitats are identified and management activities are modified to avoid negative impacts.

**Verifiers:**

- Forest exploitation maps.
- Forest exploitation monitoring and evaluation report.
- Annual operating plan.
- Inventory report (flora and fauna).

6.4.3L The rare and threatened species and their habitats are protected, including through the provision of conservation zones, protection areas, connectivity, and other direct means for their survival and viability, such as species' recovery programs.

**Verifiers:**

- Approved management plan (MP).
- Forest exploitation maps.
- Forest harvesting monitoring report.
- Forest management activity reports.

6.4.3SP The rare and threatened species and their habitats are protected, including through the provision of conservation zones, and other direct means for their survival and viability.

**Verifiers:**

- Approved Simple Management Plan (SMP).
- Forest exploitation maps.
- Forest harvesting monitoring report.
- Forest management activity reports.

6.4.4LS Hunting, fishing, trapping and collection of rare or threatened species is prevented / regulated / restricted.

**Verifiers:**

- Internal regulations / Specific procedures and memos.
- Anti-poaching activity reports.
- Procedures for surveillance/control of illegal activities.
- Logbook for passage through access gates.
- Control sheets.

**6.5** *The Organization\* shall identify and protect representative sample areas\* of native ecosystems\* and/or restore\* them to more natural conditions\*. Where representative sample areas\* do not exist or are insufficient, The Organization\* shall restore\* a proportion of the Management Unit\* to more natural conditions\*. The size of the areas and the measures taken for their protection\* or restoration\*, including within plantations\*, shall be proportionate to the conservation\* status and value of the ecosystems\* at the landscape\* level, and the scale, intensity and risk\* of management activities.*

6.5.1L Best Available Information is used to identify native ecosystems that exist, or would exist under natural conditions, within the Management Unit.

**Verifiers:**

- HCV assessment report.
- Environmental policies and procedures.

6.5.1S The Organization collaborates with relevant stakeholders to identify and map out representative samples of unique ecosystems in their concessions.

6.5.2L Representative Sample Areas of native ecosystems are protected, where they exist.

**Verifiers:** HCV monitoring report.

6.5.2S The Organization implements measures to protect the representative samples of unique ecosystems identified in 6.5.1.

6.5.3L Where Representative Sample Areas do not exist, or where existing sample areas inadequately represent native ecosystems, or are otherwise insufficient, a proportion of the Management Unit is restored.

6.5.4L The size of the Representative Sample Areas and/or restoration areas is proportionate to the conservation status and value of the ecosystems at the landscape level, the size of the Management Unit and the intensity of forest management.

6.5.5 Representative Sample Areas in combination with other components of the conservation areas network comprise a minimum 10% area of the Management Unit.

**Verifiers:**

- HCV monitoring report.
- Management plan.

**6.6. The Organization\* shall effectively maintain the continued existence of naturally occurring native species\* and genotypes\*, and prevent losses of biological diversity\*, especially through habitat\* management in the Management Unit\*. The Organization\* shall demonstrate that effective measures are in place to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting.**

6.6.1L Management activities maintain the plant communities and habitat features found within native ecosystems in which the Management Unit is located.

**Verifiers:** Forest exploitation and HCV monitoring report.

6.6.1SP Procedures are developed and implemented to minimise damage on forest resources.

**Verifiers:** Forest management activities and monitoring reports.

6.6.2L Where past management has eliminated plant communities or habitat features, post-exploitation restoration programmes should be implemented in a manner that encourages the return of these plant communities or habitat features.

6.6.3LS Management maintains, enhances, or restores habitat features associated with native ecosystems, to support the diversity of naturally occurring species and their genetic diversity.

6.6.4LP Effective measures are taken to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting activities to ensure that naturally occurring native species, their diversity within species and their natural distribution are maintained.

6.6.5 Mechanisms for wildlife protection are in place: Applicable national and/or international regulations on protection, hunting and trade in animal species or parts (trophies) are known and complied with.

**Verifiers :**

- Internal regulations.
- Posters / Awareness panels.
- Service notes.
- Awareness reports.
- Control activity reports.

6.6.6 An internal regulation banning and punishing the transportation of and trade in bush meat and firearms in the facilities and vehicles of The Organization is available and implemented.

**Verifiers:**

- Internal regulations.
- Sensitisation sign boards.
- Service notes.
- Environmental policies.

6.6.7 A system of regular and punctual controls to ensure hunting policies are respected is implemented.

**Verifiers:**

- Environmental policies and procedures.
- Management Unit surveillance reports.

- 6.6.8L Effective mitigation measures are in place to ensure that workers do not take part in hunting, trapping or collecting bush meat or freshwater fish.
- 6.7. *The Organization\* shall protect\* or restore\* natural watercourses, water bodies\*, riparian zones\* and their connectivity\*. The Organization\* shall avoid negative impacts on water quality and quantity and mitigate and remedy those that occur.***
- 6.7.1 Protection measures are implemented to protect natural watercourses, water bodies, riparian zones and their connectivity, including water quantity and water quality.
- 6.7.2L Where implemented protection measures do not protect watercourses, water bodies, riparian zones and their connectivity, water quantity or water quality from impacts of forest management, restoration activities are implemented.
- 6.7.2SP Where implemented protection measures do not protect watercourses, water bodies, riparian zones, from impacts of forest management, restoration activities are implemented
- 6.7.3 Where natural watercourses, water bodies, riparian zones and their connectivity, water quantity or water quality have been damaged by past activities on land and water by The Organization, restoration activities are implemented.
- 6.7.4LP Where continued degradation exists to watercourses, water bodies, water quantity and water quality caused by previous managers and the activities of third parties, measures are implemented that prevent or mitigate this degradation.
- 6.8. *The Organization\* shall manage the landscape\* in the Management Unit\* to maintain and/or restore\* a varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales\* and regeneration cycles appropriate for the landscape values\* in that region, and for enhancing environmental and economic resilience\*.***
- 6.8.1L A varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales and regeneration cycles is maintained appropriate to the landscape.
- 6.8.1SP Forest management activities minimize negative impacts on native plant population, wildlife populations and their habitats.
- 6.8.2LS The mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales and regeneration cycles is restored where it has not been maintained appropriate to the landscape.

**6.9. The Organization\* shall not convert natural forest\* or High Conservation Value Areas\* to plantations\* or to non-forest land use\*, nor transform plantations\* on sites directly converted from natural forest\* to non-forest land use\*, except when the conversion\*:**

- a) affects a very limited portion\* of the area of the Management Unit\*, and**
- b) will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation and social benefits in the Management Unit\*, and**
- c) does not damage or threaten High Conservation Values\*, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those High Conservation Values\*.**

**6.9.1** There is no conversion of natural forest or High Conservation Value Areas to plantations, or to non-forest land-use, nor transformation of plantations on sites directly converted from natural forest to non-forest land-use, except when it::

- 1) affects only a very limited portion of the Management Unit (less than 5%), and
- 2) will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation benefits in the Management Unit, and
- 3) does not damage or threaten High Conservation Values, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those High Conservation Values.

**Verifiers:**

- Exploitation and HCV monitoring report.
- Illegal activities surveillance report.

**6.10. Management Units\* containing plantations\* that were established on areas converted from natural forest\* between November 1994 and 31 December 2020 shall not qualify for certification, except where:**

- a) The conversion\* affected a very limited portion\* of the Management Unit\* and is producing clear, substantial, additional\*, secure long-term\* conservation\* benefits in the Management Unit\*, or**
- b) The Organization\* which was directly\* or indirectly\* involved in the conversion\* demonstrates restitution\* of all social harms\* and proportionate\* remedy of environmental harms\* as specified in the applicable FSC Remedy Framework, or**
- c) The Organization\* which was not involved in the conversion\* but has acquired Management Units\* where conversion\* has taken place demonstrates restitution\* of priority social harms\* and partial remedy of environmental harms\* as specified in the applicable FSC Remedy Framework.**

**6.10.1** Based on Best Available Information, accurate data is compiled on all conversions between 1 December 1994 and 31 December 2020 within the Management Unit.

6.10.2 Areas converted from natural forest to plantation between 1 December 1994 and 31 December 2020 are not certified, except where:

- 1) The conversion affected a very limited portion of the Management Unit and is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation benefits in the Management Unit, or
- 2) The Organization which was directly or indirectly involved in the conversion demonstrates restitution of all social harms and proportionate remedy of environmental harms as specified in the applicable FSC Remedy Framework, or
- 3) The Organization which was not involved in conversion but has acquired Management Units where conversion has taken place demonstrates restitution of priority social harms and partial remedy of environmental harms as specified in the applicable FSC Remedy Framework, or The Organization qualifies as a small-scale smallholder.

**6.11 *Management Units*\* shall not qualify for certification if they contain *natural forests*\* or *High Conservation Value*\* areas converted after 31 December 2020, except where the *conversion*\*:**

- a) *Affected a very limited portion*\* of the *Management Unit*\*, and**
- b) *Is producing clear, substantial, additional*\*, *secure long-term*\* *conservation*\* and *social benefits in the Management Unit*\*, and**
- c) *Did not threaten High Conservation Values*\*, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those *High Conservation Values*\*.**

6.11.1 Based on Best Available Information, accurate data is compiled on all conversions of natural forests and High Conservation Value Areas after 31 December 2020 within the Management Unit.

6.11.2 Areas where natural forests or High Conservation Value Areas have been converted after 31 December 2020 are not certified, except where the conversion:

- 1) affected a very limited portion of the Management Unit, and
- 2) is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation and social benefits in the Management Unit, and
- 3) did not threaten High Conservation Values, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those High Conservation Values.

## PRINCIPLE 7: MANAGEMENT PLANNING

**The Organization\* shall have a *management plan\** consistent with its policies and *objectives\** and proportionate to *scale, intensity and risks\** of its management activities. The *management plan\** shall be implemented and kept up-to-date based on monitoring information in order to promote *adaptive management\**. The associated planning and procedural documentation shall be sufficient to guide staff, inform *affected stakeholders\** and *interested stakeholders\** and to justify management decisions.**

**7.1. The Organization\* shall, proportionate to *scale, intensity and risk\** of its management activities, set policies (visions and values) and *objectives\** for management, which are environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically viable. Summaries of these policies and *objectives\** shall be incorporated into the *management plan\**, and publicized.**

7.1.1 Policies (vision and values) that contribute to meeting the requirements of this standard are defined.

7.1.2 Specific, operational management objectives that address the requirements of this standard are defined.

### Verifiers:

- Five-year management plan.
- Annual plan of operations.
- Management plan.
- SMP (Simple Management Plan) for SLIMF.

7.1.3 Summaries of the defined policies and management objectives are publicized.

**7.2. The Organization\* shall have and implement a *management plan\** for the *Management Unit\** which is fully consistent with the policies and *management objectives\** as established according to *Criterion\** 7.1. The *management plan\** shall describe the natural resources that exist in the *Management Unit\** and explain how the plan will meet the FSC certification requirements. The *management plan\** shall cover *forest\** management planning and social management planning proportionate to *scale, intensity and risk\** of the planned activities.**

7.2.1 The management plan includes management actions, procedures, strategies and measures to achieve the management objectives.

7.2.2LS The management plan addresses the elements listed in Annex D1 and is implemented.

7.2.2P The management plan for NTFPs addresses the elements listed in Annex D1 and Annex D2 and is implemented.

**7.3. The *management plan\** shall include *verifiable targets\** by which progress towards each of the prescribed *management objectives\** can be assessed.**

7.3.1 Verifiable targets, and the frequency that they are assessed, are established for monitoring the progress towards each management objective.

**7.4. The Organization\* shall update and revise periodically the management planning and procedural documentation to incorporate the results of monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder\* engagement\* or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.**

7.4.1 The management plan is revised and updated periodically consistent with Annex E to incorporate:

- 4) Monitoring results, including results of certification audits;
- 5) Evaluation results;
- 6) Stakeholder engagement results;
- 7) New scientific and technical information; and
- 8) Changing environmental, social or economic circumstances.

**7.5. The Organization\* shall make publicly available\* a summary of the management plan\* free of charge. Excluding confidential information\*, other relevant components of the management plan\* shall be made available to affected stakeholders\* on request, and at cost of reproduction and handling.**

7.5.1 A summary of the management plan in a format comprehensible to interested stakeholders including maps and excluding confidential information is made publicly available at no cost.

7.5.2 Relevant components of the management plan, excluding confidential information, are available to affected stakeholders on request at the actual costs of reproduction and handling.

**7.6. The Organization\* shall, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk\* of management activities, proactively and transparently engage affected stakeholders\* in its management planning and monitoring processes, and shall engage\* interested stakeholders\* on request.**

7.6.1 Culturally appropriate engagement is used to ensure that affected stakeholders are proactively and transparently engaged in the following processes:

- 1) Dispute resolution processes (Criterion 1.6, Criterion 2.6, Criteria 4.6);
- 2) Definition of living wages (Criterion 2.4);
- 3) Identification of rights (Criterion 3.1, Criterion 4.1), Indigenous Cultural Landscapes (Criterion 3.1), sites (Criterion 3.5, Criterion 4.7) and impacts (Criterion 4.5);
- 4) Local communities' socio-economic development activities (Criterion 4.4); and
- 5) High Conservation Value assessment, management and monitoring (Criterion 9.1, Criterion 9.2, Criterion 9.4).

7.6.2 Culturally appropriate engagement is used to:

- 1) Determine appropriate representatives and contact points (including where appropriate, local institutions, organizations and authorities);
- 2) Determine mutually agreed communication channels allowing for information to flow in both directions;
- 3) Ensure all actors (women, youth, elderly, minorities) are represented and engaged equitably;
- 4) Ensure all meetings, all points discussed, and all agreements reached are recorded;
- 5) Ensure the content of meeting records is approved; and

- 6) Ensure the results of all culturally appropriate engagement activities are shared with those involved.
- 7.6.3 Affected rights holders and affected stakeholders are provided with an opportunity for culturally appropriate engagement in monitoring and planning processes of management activities that affect their interests.
- 7.6.4LS On request, interested stakeholders are provided with an opportunity for engagement in monitoring and planning processes of management activities that affect their interests.

## PRINCIPLE 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

**The Organization\*** shall demonstrate that, progress towards achieving the *management objectives\**, the impacts of management activities and the condition of the *Management Unit\**, are *monitored\** and evaluated proportionate to the *scale, intensity and risk\** of management activities, in order to implement *adaptive management\**.

**8.1. The Organization\*** shall *monitor\** the implementation of its *management plan\**, including its policies and *management objectives\**, its progress with the activities planned, and the achievement of its *verifiable targets\**.

8.1.1 Procedures are documented and executed for monitoring the implementation of the management plan including its policies and management objectives and achievement of verifiable targets.

**8.2. The Organization\*** shall monitor and evaluate the environmental and social impacts of the activities carried out in the *Management Unit\**, and changes in its environmental condition.

8.2.1L The social and environmental impacts of management activities are monitored consistent with Annex F.

8.2.2L Changes in environmental conditions are monitored consistent with Annex F.

8.2.3SP The social and environmental impacts of management activities are monitored in conformity with the Simple Management Plan (SMP).

**Verifiers:**

- Simple Management Plan.
- Environmental and social management plan Implementation and monitoring reports.

**8.3. The Organization\*** shall analyze the results of monitoring and evaluation and feed the outcomes of this analysis back into the planning process.

8.3.1 Adaptive management procedures exist and are documented.

**Verifiers:** Internal procedures.

8.3.2 Adaptive management procedures are implemented and permit the integration of monitoring results into periodic updates of the planning process and the resulting management plan.

**Verifiers:**

- Internal procedures.
- Activity reports.
- Follow-up reports.

8.3.3 If monitoring results show non-conformities with the FSC Standard then management objectives, verifiable targets and/or management activities are revised.

**Verifiers:**

- Monitoring reports.
- Revised management documents.

**8.4. The Organization\* shall make publicly available\* a summary of the results of monitoring free of charge, excluding confidential information\*.**

8.4.1L A summary of the monitoring results consistent with Annex F, in a format comprehensible to stakeholders, including maps and excluding confidential information, is made publicly available at no cost.

**Verifiers:**

- Monitoring summary document.
- Procedure for acquisition of document.

8.4.1SP A summary of the monitoring results in a format comprehensible to stakeholders, including maps and excluding confidential information, is made publicly available at no cost.

**Verifiers:** Monitoring summary report.

**8.5. The Organization\* shall have and implement a tracking and tracing system proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk\* of its management activities, for demonstrating the source and volume in proportion to projected output for each year, of all products from the Management Unit\* that are marketed as FSC certified.**

8.5.1 A system is implemented to track and trace all products that are marketed as FSC certified. As part of that:

- 1) *Transaction verification\** is supported by providing FSC transaction data, as requested by the certification body;
- 2) *Fibre testing\** is supported by surrendering samples and specimens of materials and information about species composition for verification, as requested by the certification body.

8.5.1.1P It is demonstrated based on best available information or pollen analysis that at least 50% of the collected pollen originates from within the FSC certified MU before the honey can be sold with FSC claim: FSC 100%.

8.5.1.2P It is demonstrated based on best available information or other means (e.g. telemetric data) that the target species spent at least 50% of its lifespan within the FSC certified MU before the products can be sold with FSC claim: FSC 100%.

8.5.2 Information about all products sold is compiled and documented, including:

- 1) Common and scientific species names;
- 2) Product name or description;
- 3) Volume (or quantity) sold;
- 4) Information to trace the material to the source-of-origin logging block;
- 5) Logging date;
- 6) If basic processing activities take place in the forest, the date and volume produced; and
- 7) Whether or not the material was sold as FSC certified.

**Verifiers:**

- Forest exploitation records.
- Traceability records.
- Forest management registers.

8.5.3 Sales invoices or similar documentation are kept for a minimum of five years for all products sold with an FSC claim, which identify at a minimum, the following information:

- 1) Name and address of purchaser;
- 2) The date of sale;
- 3) Common and scientific species names;
- 4) Product description;
- 5) The volume (or quantity) sold;
- 6) Certificate code; and
- 7) The FSC Claim ("FSC 100%, mixed, recycled") identifying products sold as FSC certified.

**Verifiers:**

- Forest exploitation records.
- Procedure for records keeping.

## PRINCIPLE 9: HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES\*

*The Organization\** shall maintain and/or enhance the *High Conservation Values\** in the *Management Unit\** through applying the *precautionary approach\**.

9.1. *The Organization\**, through engagement\* with affected stakeholders\*, *interested stakeholders\** and other means and sources, shall assess and record the presence and status of the following *High Conservation Values\** in the *Management Unit\**, proportionate to the *scale, intensity and risk\** of impacts of management activities, and likelihood of the occurrence of the *High Conservation Values\**:

HCV 1 – Species diversity. Concentrations of *biological diversity\** including *endemic\** species, and *rare\**, *threatened\** or endangered species that are *significant\** at global, national or regional levels.

HCV 2 – *Landscape\*-level ecosystems\** and mosaics. *Intact Forest Landscapes\** and large *landscape\*-level ecosystems\** and *ecosystem\** mosaics that are *significant\** at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.

HCV 3 – *Ecosystems\** and *habitats\**. *Rare\**, *threatened\**, or endangered *ecosystems\**, *habitats\** or *refugia\**.

HCV 4 – *Critical\*ecosystem services\**. Basic *ecosystem services\** in *critical\** situations, including *protection\** of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.

HCV 5 – Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of *local communities\** or *Indigenous Peoples\** (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.), identified through *engagement\** with these communities or *Indigenous Peoples\**.

HCV 6 – Cultural values. Sites, resources, *habitats\** and *landscapes\** of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of *critical\** cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of *local communities\** or *Indigenous Peoples\**, identified through *engagement\** with these *local communities\** or *Indigenous Peoples\**.

9.1.1 An assessment is completed using Best Available Information that identifies, maps and records the location and status of High Conservation Value Categories 1-6, as defined in Criterion 9.1; the High Conservation Value Areas they rely upon, and their condition.

**Verifiers:** HCV Assessment Report.

9.1.2L This assessment includes identification of Intact Forest Landscapes, as of January 1, 2017.

**Verifiers:** HCV Assessment report.

9.1.3 The assessment uses results from culturally appropriate engagement with affected rights-holders and affected and interested stakeholders with an interest in the conservation of the High Conservation Values.

**Verifiers:**

- HCV Assessment report.
- Participative maps.
- Minutes of consultation meetings.
- List of participants.
- List of stakeholders invited to participate.

**9.2. The Organization\* shall develop effective strategies that maintain and/or enhance the identified High Conservation Values\*, through engagement\* with affected stakeholders\*, interested stakeholders\* and experts.**

9.2.1LP Threats to High Conservation Values are identified using best available information.

9.2.1SP Threats to High Conservation Values are identified.

**Verifiers:** HCV Assessment report.

9.2.2 Management strategies and actions are developed to maintain and/or enhance the identified High Conservation Values and to maintain associated HCV areas prior to implementing potentially harmful management activities.

**Verifiers:** HCV Assessment report.

9.2.3 Affected rights-holders, affected and interested stakeholders and experts are engaged in the development of management strategies and actions to maintain and/or enhance the identified High Conservation Values.

**Verifiers:**

- HCV Assessment report.
- Participative maps.
- Minutes of consultation meetings.
- List of participants.
- List of stakeholders invited to participate.

9.2.4L Management strategies are developed to protect Intact Forest Landscapes outside of core areas, respecting the rights of *Indigenous Peoples\** and local communities through FPIC.

**Verifiers:**

- Assessment report.
- IFL management strategy document.
- Minutes of consultation meetings.
- FPIC Agreement document.

9.2.5L Management strategies are developed to protect High Conservation Values in Intact Forest Landscapes outside of core areas. These strategies include the implementation of the measures in Annex J:

**Verifiers:**

- IFL management strategy document.
- HCV monitoring report.

9.2.6L Management strategies are developed to protect core areas. These strategies include:

- 1) The management methods defined for conservation zones (where a core area is located in the conservation zone);
- 2) Increased efforts to prevent poaching and illegal harvesting;
- 3) A ban on road building, except in cases justified in 9.2.9 and in this case, their positioning should take into account connectivity with adjacent protected areas and/or neighbouring Intact Forest Landscapes.

9.2.7L A core area of the Intact Forest Landscape is designated in the Management Unit, maximizing the representativeness of the landscapes and considering connectivity with adjacent protected areas and/or neighbouring Intact Forest Landscapes.

9.2.8LS The Organization marks out a core area in the Intact Forest Landscape that accounts for >50% of the Intact Forest Landscape area contained in the Management Unit.

**Verifiers:**

- HCV assessment report.
- IFL management strategy document + maps.

9.2.9L Management strategies allow limited industrial activity within core areas only if all effects of industrial activity including fragmentation:

- 1) Are restricted to a very limited portion of the core area;
- 2) Do not reduce the core area below 50,000 ha, and
- 3) Will produce clear, substantial, additional, long-term conservation and social benefits.

**Verifiers:**

- IFL management strategy document + maps.
- HCV monitoring report.

9.2.10LS The strategies developed are effective to maintain and/or enhance the High Conservation Values.

**Verifiers:** HCV monitoring report.

**9.3. The Organization\* shall implement strategies and actions that maintain and/or enhance the identified High Conservation Values\*. These strategies and actions shall implement the precautionary approach\* and be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk\* of management activities.**

9.3.1 The High Conservation Values and the High Conservation Value Areas on which they depend are maintained and/or enhanced, including by implementing the strategies developed.

**Verifiers:**

- HCV management strategy document and maps.
- HCV monitoring report.

9.3.2 The strategies and actions prevent damage and avoid risks to High Conservation Values, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of High Conservation Values are uncertain.

**Verifiers:**

- HCV management strategy document and maps.
- HCV monitoring report.

9.3.3L Core areas are protected consistent with Criterion 9.2.

**Verifiers:** HCV monitoring report.

9.3.4L Limited industrial activity in core areas is consistent with Indicator 9.2.9.

**Verifiers:** HCV monitoring report.

9.3.5 Activities that harm High Conservation Values cease immediately and actions are taken to restore and protect the High Conservation Values.

**Verifiers:** HCV monitoring report.

**9.4. The Organization\* shall demonstrate that periodic monitoring is carried out to assess changes in the status of High Conservation Values\* and shall adapt its management strategies to ensure their effective protection\*. The monitoring shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk\* of management activities, and shall include engagement\* with affected stakeholders\*, interested stakeholders\* and experts\*.**

9.4.1 A programme of periodic monitoring (compliant with annex F) assesses:

- 1) Implementation of strategies;
- 2) The status of High Conservation Values, including the HCV Areas on which they depend; and
- 3) The effectiveness of the management strategies and actions for the protection of High Conservation Values, to fully maintain and/or enhance the HCVs.

**Verifiers:**

- HCV monitoring programme.
- HCV monitoring report.

9.4.2 The monitoring programme includes engagement with affected rights-holders, affected and interested stakeholders, and experts.

9.4.3L The monitoring programme has sufficient scope, detail and frequency to detect changes in High Conservation Values, relative to the initial assessment and status identified for each High Conservation Value.

**Verifiers:** HCV monitoring programme.

9.4.4 Management strategies and actions are adapted when monitoring or other new information shows that these strategies and actions are insufficient to ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of High Conservation Values.

**Verifiers:** HCV monitoring programme.

## PRINCIPLE 10: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Management activities conducted by or for *The Organization\** for the *Management Unit\** shall be selected and implemented consistent with *The Organization\**'s economic, environmental and social policies and *objectives\** and in compliance with the *Principles\** and *Criteria\** collectively.

**10.1. After harvest or in accordance with the *management plan\**, *The Organization\** shall, by natural or artificial regeneration methods, regenerate vegetation cover in a timely fashion to pre-harvesting or more *natural conditions\**.**

10.1.1L Harvested sites are regenerated in a timely manner that:

- 1) protects affected environmental values; and
- 2) is suitable to restore the pre-harvest composition and structure.

10.1.2L Regeneration activities are implemented in a manner that:

- 1) for harvest of existing plantations, regeneration targets the re-establishment of the vegetation cover using ecologically well-adapted species;
- 2) for harvest of natural forests, regeneration targets the re-establishment to pre-harvest or more natural conditions; or
- 3) for harvest of degraded natural forests, regeneration targets the re-establishment to more natural conditions.

10.1.3SP Harvesting techniques favor natural regeneration and The Organization collaborates with available stakeholders to implement regeneration activities in affected harvested sites.

**10.2. *The Organization\** shall use species for regeneration that are ecologically well adapted to the site and to the *management objectives\**. *The Organization\** shall use *native species\** and *local genotypes\** for regeneration, unless there is clear and convincing justification for using others.**

10.2.1 Species chosen for regeneration are local species and are ecologically well adapted to the site, unless clear and convincing justification is provided for using non-local genotypes and species.

10.2.2 Species chosen for regeneration are consistent with the regeneration objectives and with the management objectives.

**10.3. *The Organization\** shall only use *alien species\** when knowledge and/or experience have shown that any invasive impacts can be controlled and effective mitigation measures are in place.**

10.3.1 Alien species are used only when direct experience and/or the results of scientific research demonstrate that invasive impacts can be controlled.

10.3.2 Alien species are used only when effective mitigation measures are in place to control their spread outside the area in which they are established.

### **Verifiers:**

- Scientific study reports.
- Collaboration agreement with a research institution to monitor alien species introduction and management.

10.3.3 The spread of invasive species introduced by The Organization is controlled.

**Verifiers:** Monitoring reports.

10.3.4LS Management activities are implemented, preferably in cooperation with the relevant administrative authority and research institutions, with the aim of controlling the invasive impacts of alien species that were not introduced by The Organization.

**10.4. *The Organization\* shall not use genetically modified organisms\* in the Management Unit\*.***

10.4.1 Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are not used.

**Verifiers:**

- Silvicultural activity reports.
- Environmental policy.

**10.5. *The Organization\* shall use silvicultural practices that are ecologically appropriate for the vegetation, species, sites and management objectives\*.***

10.5.1 Silvicultural practices are implemented that are ecologically appropriate for the vegetation, species, sites and management objectives.

**10.6. *The Organization\* shall minimize or avoid the use of fertilizers\*. When fertilizers\* are used, The Organization\* shall demonstrate that use is equally, or more ecologically and economically beneficial, than use of silvicultural systems that do not require fertilizers\*, and prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values\*, including soils.***

10.6.1LS The use of fertilizers is minimized or avoided.

10.6.2L Fertilizers are used only if studies have shown that their ecological and economic benefits are equal to or higher than those of silvicultural systems that do not require fertilizers.

10.6.3 When fertilizers are used, their types, rates, frequencies and site of application are documented.

**Verifiers:**

- Fertilizer technical data sheets.
- Usage procedures.
- Activity reports.
- List of fertilizers used by the company.

10.6.4 When fertilizers are used, environmental values are protected, including through implementation of measures to prevent damage.

**Verifiers:**

- Environmental risk assessment of fertilizers.
- Follow-up report on the implementation of the environmental and social management plan (ESMP).
- Environmental and social risk analysis report on the use of chemicals.
- Follow-up report on the implementation of environmental and social risk management measures.

10.6.5L Damage to environmental values resulting from fertilizer use is mitigated or repaired.

10.6.5SP Damage to environmental values resulting from fertilizer use is mitigated.

**10.7. The Organization\* shall use *integrated pest management\** and *silviculture\** systems which avoid, or aim at eliminating, the use of *chemical pesticides\**. The Organization\* shall not use any chemical *pesticides\** prohibited by FSC policy. When *pesticides\** are used, The Organization\* shall prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to *environmental values\** and human health.**

10.7.1 Integrated pest management, including selection of silvicultural systems, is used to avoid, or aim to eliminate, the frequency, extent and amount of chemical pesticide applications, and results in non-use or overall reductions in applications of chemical pesticides.

**Verifiers:**

- Integrated Pest Management Program.
- Follow-up reports.

10.7.2 Chemical pesticides prohibited by FSC's Pesticide Policy are not used or stored in the Management Unit unless FSC has granted derogation.

**Verifiers:**

- List of chemicals approved by the FSC.
- List of chemicals used.
- Safety Data Sheet (SDS).

10.7.3 Records of pesticide usage are maintained, including trade name, active ingredient, quantity of active ingredient used, period of use, location and area of use and reason for use.

**Verifiers:**

- List of chemicals approved by the FSC.
- List of chemicals used.
- Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
- Chemical use monitoring report.

10.7.4 The use of pesticides complies with the ILO document "Safety in the use of chemicals at work" regarding requirements for the transport, storage, handling, application and emergency procedures for clean-up following accidental spillages.

**Verifiers:**

- Chemical use procedure.
- - Safety instructions in the event of accidental spills.
- - Product use data sheet.

10.7.5L If pesticides are used, application methods minimize quantities used, while achieving effective results, and provide effective protection to surrounding landscapes.

10.7.6 Damage to environmental values and human health from pesticide use is prevented and mitigated or repaired where damage occurs.

**Verifiers:**

- Chemical use procedure.
- Environmental monitoring report.
- Report on workers' medical examinations.

10.7.7L When pesticides are used:

- 1) The selected pesticide, application method, timing and pattern of use offers the least risk to humans and non-target species; and
- 2) Objective evidence demonstrates that the pesticide is the only effective, practical and cost-effective way to control the pest.

**10.8. The Organization\* shall minimize, monitor\* and strictly control the use of biological control agents\* in accordance with internationally accepted scientific protocols\*. When biological control agents\* are used, The Organization\* shall prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values\*.**

10.8.1 The use of biological control agents is minimized, monitored and controlled.

10.8.2 The use of biological control agents complies with internationally accepted scientific protocols.

10.8.3 The use of biological control agents is recorded, including type, quantity, period, location and reason for use.

10.8.4 Damage to environmental values caused by the use of biological control agents is prevented and mitigated or repaired where damage occurs.

**10.9. The Organization\* shall assess risks\* and implement activities that reduce potential negative impacts from natural hazards\* proportionate to scale, intensity, and risk\*.**

10.9.1L Potential negative impacts of natural hazards on infrastructure, forest resources and communities in the Management Unit are assessed.

10.9.1SP Using Best available information, The Organization identifies and reports all potential natural hazards to the relevant local and administrative authorities.

10.9.2L Management activities mitigate these impacts.

10.9.2SP The Organization puts in place a mechanism that permit to follow up with the relevant authorities for the implementation of mitigation measures.

**Verifiers :** Collaboration agreement with the competent authority.

10.9.3L The risk of management activities increasing the frequency, distribution or severity of natural hazards is identified for those hazards that may be influenced by management.

10.9.4L Management activities are modified and/or measures are developed and implemented that reduce the identified risks.

**10.10. The Organization\* shall manage *infrastructural development\**, transport activities and *silviculture\** so that water resources and soils are protected, and disturbance of and damage to rare and threatened species\*, habitats\*, ecosystems\* and landscape values\* are prevented, mitigated and/or repaired.**

10.10.1L Development, maintenance and use of infrastructure, as well as transport activities, are managed to protect the environmental values identified in Criterion 6.1.

10.10.2 Silvicultural activities are managed to ensure protection of the environmental values identified in Criterion 6.1.

**Verifiers:**

- ESMP follow-up report.
- Environmental procedures.
- Operating procedures.
- Monitoring reports.

10.10.3L Disturbance or damages to water courses, water bodies, soils, rare and threatened species, habitats, ecosystems and landscape values are prevented, mitigated and repaired in a timely manner, and management activities modified to prevent further damage.

10.10.3S Forest management operations are planned and implemented to minimize damage to water courses, water bodies and soil (compaction, erosion).

10.10.3P Disturbance or damage to watercourses, water bodies, soils, rare and endangered species is avoided, mitigated and repaired if management activities adversely affect these values.

**Verifiers:**

- ESMP follow-up report.
- Environmental procedures.
- Environmental surveillance report.
- Operating procedures.
- Monitoring reports.

**10.11. The Organization\* shall manage activities associated with harvesting and extraction of timber and non-timber forest\* products so that environmental values\* are conserved, merchantable waste is reduced, and damage to other products and services is avoided.**

10.11.1 Harvesting and extraction practices for timber and non-timber forest products are implemented in a manner that conserves environmental values as identified in Criterion 6.1 and High Conservation Values as identified in Criteria 9.1 and 9.2.

10.11.2 Harvesting practices optimize the use of forest products and merchantable materials.

10.11.3LS Sufficient amounts of dead and decaying biomass and forest structure are retained to conserve environmental values.

10.11.4 Harvesting practices avoid damage to standing residual trees and other environmental values.

**10.12. *The Organization*\* shall dispose of *waste materials*\* in an environmentally appropriate manner.**

10.12.1LS Collection, clean-up, transportation and disposal of all waste materials is done in an environmentally appropriate way that conserves environmental values as identified in Criterion 6.1.

**Verifiers:**

- Waste management procedure.
- Waste traceability manifest.
- Certificate of waste destruction.

## F ANNEXES

### Annex A Minimum list of applicable laws, regulations and nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements. (Principle 1)

**NOTE:** Concession-holders must put in place a mechanism to ensure this list is updated as required. We have included the titles of the different laws using their French connotations to avoid any confusions that their translation to English may cause

Category	Law/ regulation
<b>1. Harvesting rights</b>	
<b>1.1 Land tenure and management rights</b>	<p>Legislation covering land tenure rights, including customary rights as well as management rights, that includes the use of legal methods to obtain tenure rights and management rights. It also covers legal business registration and tax registration, including relevant legally required licenses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Loi N° 2004 / 003 21 avril 2004 2004 Régissant l'urbanisme au Cameroun</li> <li>○ Décret N°2013 / 0042 PM 23 janvier 2013 2013 Modifiant et complétant certaines dispositions du décret N° 2008_0739</li> <li>○ Décret N° 2008 / 0736 / PM 23 avril 2008 2008 Fixant les modalités d'élaboration et de révision des documents de planification urbaine</li> <li>○ Décret N° 2008 / 0737 / PM 23 avril 2008 2008 Fixant les règles de sécurité, d'hygiène et d'assainissement en matière de construction</li> <li>○ Décret N° 2008 / 0740 / PM 23 avril 2008 2008 Fixant le régime des sanctions applicables aux infractions aux règles d'urbanisme</li> <li>○ Décret N° 2008 / 0739 / PM 23 Avril 2008 2008 Fixant les règles d'utilisation du sol et de la construction</li> <li>○ Décret N° 76 / 165 27 avril 1976 1976 Fixant les conditions d'obtention du titre foncier, modifié et complété par le décret n° 2005/481 du 16 décembre 2005</li> <li>○ Loi N° 94 / 01 20 Janvier 1994 1994 Portant régime des forêts, de la faune et de la pêche</li> <li>○ Loi N° 81 / 013 27 Novembre 1981 1981 Portant régime des forêts, de la faune et de la pêche</li> <li>○ Décret N° 95 / 678 / PM 18 Décembre 1995 Instituant un cadre indicatif d'utilisation des terres en zone forestière méridionale</li> <li>○ Décret N° 2000 / 092 / PM 21 Mars 2000 2000 Modifiant le décret N° 95 / 531 / PM du 23 Août 1995 fixant les modalités d'application du régime des forêts</li> <li>○ Décret N° 2007 / 342 / PM 07 Mars 2007 2007 Modifiant et complétant certaines dispositions du décret N° 95/531/PM du 23 Août 1995 fixant les modalités d'application du régime des forêts</li> <li>○ Décret N° 2006 / 0129 / PM 27 Janvier 2006 2006 Modifiant et complétant certaines dispositions du décret N° 95 / 531 / PM du 23 Août 1995 fixant modalités d'application du régime des forêts</li> <li>○ Décret N° 2001 / 546 / PM 30 Juillet 2001 2001 Modifiant et complétant certaines dispositions du décret N° 95 / 413 / PM du 20 Juin 1995 fixant les modalités d'application du régime de la pêche</li> </ul>

Category	Law/ regulation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Décret N° 2001_143_PM 25 Avril 2001 2001 Modifiant certaines dispositions du décret N° 95_531_PM du 23 Aout 1995 fixant les modalités d'application du régime des forêts AV</li> <li>○ Décret N° 95 / 531 / PM 23 Août 1995 1995 Fixant les modalités d'application du régime des forêts</li> <li>○ Décret N° 94 / 436 / PM 23 Août 1994 1994 Fixant les modalités d'application du régime des forêts</li> <li>○ Décret N° 83 / 169 12 Avril 1983 1983 fixant le régime des forêts</li> <li>○ Décision N° 1354 / D / MINEF / CAB 26 Novembre 1999 1999 Fixant les procédures de classement des forêts du domaine forestier permanent de la République du Cameroun</li> </ul>

## 1.2 Concession licences

Legislation regulating procedures for issuing forest concession licenses, including the use of legal methods to obtain concession licenses. Bribery, corruption and nepotism are particularly well-known issues that are connected with concession licenses.

- Arrêté N° 001 MINEF 15 Septembre 2003 2003 Fixant les critères de présélection et les procédures de choix des soumissionnaires des ventes de coupes
- Arrêté N° 02763 / MINEF / 13 Mars 2001 2001 Fixant les critères de sélection et les procédures de choix des soumissionnaires des titres d'exploitation forestière
- Lettre circulaire N° 0131 / LC / MINFOF / SG / DF / SDAFF / SN 20 Mars 2006 2006 Relative aux procédures de délivrance et de suivi d'exécution des petits titres d'exploitation forestière
- Lettre circulaire N° 278 / LC / MINEF / DF / SDIAF 21 Juillet 2001 2001 Emission des certificats de recollement
- Communiqué N° 0332 / CRP / MINFOF / SG / DF / SDAFF / SAG 12 Décembre 2012 2012 Prorogation des activités dans les titres d'exploitation sur demande
- Communiqué N° 0040 / CRP / MINFOF / SG / DF / SDAFF / SN 22 Février 2013 2013 Portant sur la délivrance des certificats de légalité
- Communiqué MINFOF 27 Mars 2013 2013 Titres d'exploitation valides attribués aux exploitants : situation au 27 Mars 2013
- Liste N°0524 10 Mars 2014 2014 Titres d'exploitation valides attribués aux exploitants forestiers situation au 10 Mars 2014
- Liste N°0523 / TEO / MINFOF / SG / DF / SDAFF / SEGIF 12 Mars 2014 2014 Titres d'exploitation opérationnels au 10 Mars 2014 ayant déjà obtenu un PAO
- Liste N°0850 / TEA / MINFOF / SG / DF / SDAFF / SEGIF 22 Avril 2013 2013 Titres d'exploitation valides attribués aux exploitants \_mars 2013
- Arrêté 0315/MINEF du 09 avril 2001 fixant les critères de présélection et les procédures de choix des soumissionnaires des titres d'exploitation forestière

Category	Law/ regulation
<b>1.3 Management and harvesting planning</b>	<p>Any national or sub-national legal* requirements for Management Planning, including conducting forest* inventories, having a forest* management plan* and related planning and monitoring, impact assessments, consultation with other entities, as well as approval of these by legally competent* authorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Arrêté N° 0103 / MINFOF 07 Novembre 2013 2013 Portant inscription aux cahiers de charges des titres d'exploitation forestière, des clauses relatives à la collecte des données sur les linéaires ouverts ou entretenus</li> <li>○ Arrêté N° 0002 / MINFOF 07 Février 2013 2013 Portant mise en vigueur du système informatique de gestion des informations forestières (SIGIF)</li> <li>○ Arrêté N° 0003 / MINFOF 07 Février 2013 2013 Fixant la procédure de délivrance des autorisations FLEGT dans le cadre du régime d'autorisation FLEGT</li> <li>○ Arrêté N° 0004 / MINFOF 07 Février 2013 2013 Fixant les critères et les modalités de délivrance des certificats de légalité dans le cadre du régime d'autorisation FLEGT</li> <li>○ Décision N° 0275 / MINFOF / SG / DF 02 Juillet 2013 2013 Fixant les conditions de délivrances des agréments aux bureaux de certification opérant au Cameroun dans le cadre du régime d'autorisation FLEGT</li> <li>○ Décision N° 0276 / MINFOF / SG / DF 02 Juillet 2013 2013 Fixant les modalités de reconnaissance des certificats privés de légalité et de gestion forestière durable dans le cadre du régime d'autorisation FLEGT</li> <li>○ Décision N° 0680 / D / MINFOF / CAB 28 Décembre 2012 2012 Rendant exécutoire le Guide du Contrôleur Forestier</li> <li>○ Décision n° 1985/D/MINEF/SG/DF/CFC du 26 juin 2002 fixant les modalités d'exploitation en régie dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre des plans simples de gestion des forêts communautaires</li> <li>○ Arrêté N° 1739/A/MINEF/SG/DPT/SDNL/SSS du 08 mai 2002 portant création d'un 10 réseau national de concertation sur les produits forestiers non ligneux</li> <li>○ Décret N° 95/413 PM du 20 juin 1995 fixant modalités d'application du régime de la pêche</li> </ul>
<b>1.4 Harvesting permits</b>	<p>National or sub-national laws and regulations regulating procedures for issuing harvesting permits, licenses or other legal* documents required for specific harvesting operations. This includes the use of legal* methods to obtain the permits. Corruption is a well-known issue that is connected with the issuing of harvesting permits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grille MINFOF 19 Novembre 2007 2007 Grille de légalité du bois et système de délivrance des licences d'exportation FLEGT</li> <li>○ Grille MINFOF 22 Octobre 2008 2008 Grille de légalité pour l'exploitation et la transformation de bois au Cameroun</li> <li>○ Lettre circulaire N° 0131 / LC / MINFOF / SG / DF / SDAFF / SN 20 Mars 2006 2006 Relative aux procédures de délivrance et de suivi d'exécution des petits titres d'exploitation forestière</li> </ul>

Category	Law/ regulation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lettre circulaire N° 278 / LC / MINEF / DF / SDIAF 21 Juillet 2001 2001 Emission des certificats de recollement</li> <li>○ Communiqué N° 0332 / CRP / MINFOF / SG / DF / SDAFF / SAG 12 Décembre 2012 2012 Prorogation des activités dans les titres d'exploitation sur demande</li> <li>○ Communiqué N° 0040 / CRP / MINFOF / SG / DF / SDAFF / SN 22 Février 2013 2013 Portant sur la délivrance des certificats de légalité</li> <li>○ Communiqué MINFOF 27 Mars 2013 2013 Titres d'exploita- tion valides attribués aux exploitants : situation au 27 Mars 2013</li> <li>○ Liste N°0524 10 Mars 2014 2014 Titres d'exploitation valides attri- bués aux exploitants forestiers situation au 10 Mars 2014</li> <li>○ Liste N°0523 / TEO / MINFOF / SG / DF / SDAFF / SEGIF 12 Mars 2014 2014 Titres d'exploitation opérationnels au 10 Mars 2014 ayant déjà obtenu un PAO</li> <li>○ Liste N°0850 / TEA / MINFOF / SG / DF / SDAFF / SEGIF 22 Avril 2013 2013 Titres d'exploitation valides attribués aux exploitants _mars 2013</li> <li>○ MINEF Juin 2000 2000 Planification de l'attribution des titres d'ex- ploitation forestière (Suivi et révision exercice 2000 et 2003).</li> </ul>

## 2. Taxes and fees

### 2.1 Payment of royalties and harvesting fees

Legislation covering payment of all legally required forest\* harvesting specific fees such as royalties, stumpage fees and other volume-based fees. This includes payments of the fees based on the correct classification of quantities, qualities and species. Incorrect classification of forest\* products is a well-known issue that is often combined with bribery of officials in charge of controlling the classification.

- Décret N° 99 / 370 / PM 19 Mars 1999 1999 Relatif au programme de sé-  
curisation des recettes forestières
- Décret N° 96 / 642 / PM 17 Septembre 1996 1996 Fixant l'assiette et les  
modalités de recouvrement des droits de redevances et taxes relatifs à  
l'activité forestière
- Décret N° 96 / 643 / PM 17 Septembre 1996 1996 Fixant les valeurs impo-  
sables aux grumes
- Décret N° 96 / 238 / PM 10 Avril 1996 1996 Fixant la rémunération de  
certains services au titre de l'application du régime des forêts et du régime  
de la faune
- Arrêté conjoint N° 0000076 MINATD / MINFI / MINFOF 26 Juin 2012  
2012 Fixant les modalités de planification d'emploi et de suivi de la  
gestion des revenus provenant de l'exploitation des ressources forestières  
et fauniques destinés aux communes et aux communautés villageoises ri-  
veraines
- Arrêté conjoint N° 0520 MINATD / MINFI / MINFOF 03 Juin 2010  
2010 Fixant les modalités d'emploi et de suivi de la gestion des re-  
venus provenant de l'exploitation des ressources forestières et fauniques  
destinés aux communes et aux communautés villageoises riveraines.
- Circulaire N°0000909/C/MINFI du 31 décembre 2015 portant les instruc-  
tions relatives à l'exécution des lois de finances, au suivi et au contrôle de  
l'exécution du budget de l'état, des établissements publics et administratifs,

Category	Law/ regulation
	des collectivités territoriales décentralisées et des autres organismes subventionnés pour l'exercice 2016
<b>2.2 Value added taxes and other sales taxes</b>	<p>Legislation covering different types of sales taxes which apply to the material being sold, including the sale of material as growing forest* (standing stock sales).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Décret N° 99 / 711 / PM 11 Août 1999 1999 Modifiant certaines dispositions du décret N° 96 / 237 / PM du 10 Avril 1996 fixant les modalités de fonctionnement des Fonds Spéciaux prévus par la loi n° 94/01 du 20 janvier 1994 portant régime des forêts, de la faune et de la pêche</li> <li>○ Décret N° 96 / 237 / PM 10 Avril 1996 1996 Fixant les modalités de fonctionnement des fonds spéciaux prévus par la loi N° 94 / 01 du 20 Janvier 1994 portant régime des forêts de la faune et de la pêche</li> <li>○ Loi N°2023/019 du 19 décembre 2023 portant loi de finances de la République du Cameroun pour l'exercice 2024</li> <li>○ Loi N°2016_18 14 Décembre 2016 Portant loi de finances de la république du Cameroun pour l'exercice 2017</li> <li>○ Loi N°2015_019 21 Décembre 2015 2015 Portant loi de finances de la république du Cameroun pour l'exercice 2016</li> <li>○ Loi N° 2013 / 017 16 Décembre 2013 2013 Portant loi de finances de la république du Cameroun pour l'exercice 2014</li> <li>○ Loi N° 2012 / 014 21 décembre 2012 2012 Portant loi de finances de la république du Cameroun pour l'exercice 2013</li> <li>○ Loi N° 2011 / 020 14 décembre 2011 2011 Portant loi de finances de la république du Cameroun pour l'exercice 2012</li> <li>○ Loi N° 2010 / 015 21 décembre 2010 2010 Portant loi de finances de la république du Cameroun pour l'exercice 2011</li> <li>○ Loi N° 2009 / 018 15 décembre 2010 2010 Portant loi de finances de la république du Cameroun pour l'exercice 2010</li> <li>○ Loi N° 2009 / 019 15 décembre 2009 2009 Portant fiscalité locale</li> <li>○ Loi N° 2008 / 012 29 Décembre 2008 2008 Portant loi de finances de la république du Cameroun pour l'exercice 2009</li> <li>○ Loi N° 2007 / 006 26 Décembre 2007 2007 Portant régime financier de l'état</li> <li>○ Loi N° 2002 / 003 19 avril 2002 2002 Portant code général des impôts</li> <li>○ Code 1 janvier 2011 2011 Code général des impôts 2011</li> <li>○ Décret N° 2011/ 1731 / PM 18 juillet 2011 2011 Les modalités de centralisation, de répartition et de reversement du produit des impôts communaux soumis à péréquation</li> <li>○ Décret N° 2005 / 3089 / PM 29 Août 2005 2005 Précisant les règles d'assiette, de recouvrement et de contrôle de la taxe d'assainissement et de la redevance des prélèvements des eaux</li> <li>○ Décret N° 2001 / 1033 / PM 27 novembre 2001 2001 Réorganisant le programme de sécurisation des recettes forestières</li> <li>○ Décret N° 2001 / 1034 / PM 27 novembre 2001 2001 Fixant les règles d'assiette et les modalités de recouvrement et contrôle des droits, redevances et taxes relatifs à l'activité forestière</li> </ul>

Category	Law/ regulation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Décret N° 96 / 642 / PM 17 Septembre 1996 1996 Fixant l'assiette et les modalités de recouvrement des droits de redevances et taxes relatifs à l'activité forestière</li> <li>○ Décret N° 96 / 643 / PM 17 septembre 1996 1996 Fixant les valeurs imposables aux grumes</li> <li>○ Arrêté N°0000027 / MINFI / DGI 12 janvier 2016 2016 Fixant la liste des sociétés tenues d'opérer la retenue à la source de la TVA</li> <li>○ Arrêté N° 12 / 0000133 / CF / A / MINFI 23 Aout 2012 2012 Portant constatation des valeurs FOB des grumes à l'exportation pour le second semestre 2012</li> <li>○ Arrêté conjoint N° 0122 / MINEF / MINAT 29 avril 1998 1998 Fixant les modalités d'emploi des revenus provenant de l'exploitation forestière et destinés aux communautés villageoises riveraines</li> <li>○ Circulaire N°0000909_C_MINFI31 décembre 2015 2015 Portant instructions relatives à l'exécution des lois de finances pour l'exercice 2016</li> <li>○ Circulaire N°004 / MINFI / DGI / R / L 28 janvier 2015 2015 Précisant les modalités d'application des dispositions fiscales de la loi des finances 2015</li> <li>○ Circulaire N° 002 / MINFI / DG I / LC / L 31 Janvier 2012 2012 Précisant les modalités d'application du décret N° 2011/0975/PM du 04 avril 2011 fixant les modalités de réévaluation des immobilisations amortissables et non amortissables des entreprises.</li> <li>○ Circulaire N° 01 / MINFI / DGI / LC / L 30 janvier 2012 2012 Précisant les modalités d'application des dispositions fiscales de la loi n°2011/020 du 14 décembre 2011 portant loi de finances de la République du Cameroun pour l'exercice 2012</li> <li>○ Circulaire N° 008 / MINFI / DGI / LC / L 02 Mars 2012 2012 Précisant les modalités d'application de l'article 92 bis du code général des impôts</li> <li>○ Circulaire conjointe N° 0002335 / MINATD / MINFI 20 octobre 2010 2010 Précisant les modalités d'application de la loi N° 2009/019 du 15 décembre 2009 portant fiscalité locale</li> </ul>
<b>2.3 Income and profit taxes</b>	<p>Legislation covering income and profit taxes related to profit derived from the sale of forest products and harvesting activities. This category is also related to income from the sale of timber and does not include other taxes generally applicable for companies and is not related to salary payments.</p> <p>Same as in 2.2</p>
<b>3. Timber harvesting activities</b>	
<b>3.1 Timber harvesting regulations</b>	<p>Any legal requirements for harvesting techniques and technology including selective cutting, shelter wood regenerations, clear felling, transport of timber from the felling site, seasonal limitations, etc. Typically this includes regulations on the size of felling areas, minimum age and/or diameter for felling activities, and elements that shall be preserved during felling, etc. Establishment of skidding or hauling trails, road construction, drainage systems and bridges, etc., shall also be considered as well as the planning and monitoring of harvesting activities. Any legally binding codes for harvesting practices shall be considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ordonnance N° 99 / 001 31 Août 1999 1999 Complétant certaines dispositions de la loi n° 94_01 du 20 janvier 1994 portant régime des forêts</li> </ul>

## Category

## Law/ regulation

- Décision N°0188/D/MINFOF/SG/DPT/SDTB 06 Mai 2015 2015  
Fixant les modalités de valorisation des rebuts de l'exploitation forestière
- Arrêté N° 0222 / A / MINEF 25 Mai 2001 2001 Procédures d'élaboration, d'approbation, de suivi et de contrôle de la mise en œuvre des plans d'aménagements
- Arrêté N° 0110 / A / MINEF 21 Janvier 1999 1999 Fixant les modalités de contrôle et de suivi des activités forestières
- Décision N° 2637 / D / MINFOF 06 Décembre 2012 2012 Portant catégorisation des unités de transformation et déterminant le degré de transformation des produits bois
- Décision N° 0353 / D / MINFOF 27 Février 2012 2012 Portant catégorisation des unités de transformation et déterminant le degré de transformation des produits bois
- Décision N° 02673 / D / MINFOF / DF / SDIAF / SA 14 Décembre 2012 2012 Relative aux grilles d'analyse des plans d'aménagement et des paramètres de suivi-évaluation de leur mise en œuvre, pour les forêts de production du domaine forestier permanent du Cameroun
- Décision N° 0511 / D / MINFOF / SG / DF BSJ 15 Juin 2010 2010 Portant modification du diamètre minimum plancher d'exploitabilité de Pericopsiselata (Assamela) applicable en république du Cameroun
- Décision N° 0124 / D / MINFOF / SG / DF / SDAFF / SAG 16 Mars 2006 2006 Levant la suspension des autorisations de récupération, d'évacuation de bois et des permis et autorisations personnelles de coupe
- Décision N° 0342 / MINEF / DF 19 Avril 2001 2001 Institutionnalisant la base officielle de données cartographiques numériques forestières
- Décision N° 0107 / MINEF / CAB 09 Février 1998 1998 Portant application du guide d'élaboration des plans d'aménagement des forêts de production du domaine permanent de la République du Cameroun
- Décision N° 0108 / D / MINEF / CAB 09 Février 1998 1998 Portant normes d'interventions en milieu forestier
- Lettre circulaire N°1069 / LC / MINFOF / SG / DF / SDAFF 18 Mai 2012 2012 Lettre circulaire Géo référencement des arbres
- Lettre circulaire N° 1365 / L / MINFOF / SG / DF / BSJ 22 Juin 2010 2010 Diffusion de la décision portant modification du DME de l'Assamela
- Lettre circulaire N° 0229 / LC / MINEF 21 Janvier 1999 1999 Précisant les modalités d'application de l'arrêté N° 0110 relatif au contrôle et au suivi des activités forestières
- Fiches MINEF Novembre 2003 2003 Fiches techniques sur les aménagements forestiers : les paramètres d'aménagement
- Guide MINEF Janvier 1998 1998 Guide d'élaboration des plans d'aménagement des forêts de production du domaine forestier permanent de la République du Cameroun
- Guide MINFOF 23 Novembre 2012 2012 Guide du contrôleur forestier adapté à la stratégie nationale de contrôle forestier et faunique et aux grilles de légalités de l'APV FLEGT Cameroun
- Norme ONADEF Janvier 1991 1991 Normes de vérification des travaux d'inventaire, de reconnaissance, d'aménagement, et de pré investissement

Category	Law/ regulation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Norme MINEF Janvier 1998 1998 Normes d'intervention en milieu forestier</li> <li>○ Norme MINEF Juin 1991 1991 Normes d'inventaire d'aménagement et de préinvestissement</li> <li>○ Norme MINEF Mai 1995 1995 Normes d'inventaire d'exploitation</li> <li>○ MINEF Août 1997 1997 Procédures annuelles pour l'exploitation forestière</li> <li>○ La décision n°0210/D/MINFOF/CAB du 26 avril 2019 fixant les modalités de collecte et de mise en circulation des PFNL secondaires</li> </ul>
<b>3.2 Protected sites and species</b>	<p>International, national, and sub national treaties, laws, and regulations related to protected areas, allowable forest uses and activities, and/or rare, threatened, or endangered species, including their habitats and potential habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Décret N° 95 / 466 / PM 20 Juillet 1995 1995 Fixant les modalités d'application du régime de la faune</li> <li>○ Décret N° 95 / 531 / PM 23 Août 1995 1995 Fixant les modalités d'application du régime des forêts</li> <li>○ Décret N° 95 / 413 / PM 20 Juin 1995 1995 Fixant certaines modalités d'application du régime de la pêche</li> <li>○ Arrêté N° 2401_MINFOF_CAB 09 Novembre 2012 2012 Portant suspension de l'exploitation du Bubinga et du Wengue à titre conservatoire dans le domaine national</li> <li>○ Arrêté N° 0648 / MINFOF 18 Décembre 2006 2006 Fixant la liste des animaux des classes de protection A, B et C</li> <li>○ Arrêté N° 0456 / A / MINEF / DFAP / SDF 29 Juillet 1999 1999 Portant réglementation de l'exploitation du perroquet gris à queue rouge</li> <li>○ Arrêté N° 3335 / A / SETOUR / DFPN / SFPN 28 Septembre 1987 1987 Portant classement des parcs nationaux, réserves de faune et jardins zoologiques</li> <li>○ Arrêté N° 522 / CAB / PR 22 Septembre 1987 1987 Portant classement des parcs nationaux et des réserves de faunes</li> <li>○ Décision N° 2002 / D / MINFOF / SG / DF / CSRRV 21 Août 2012 2012 Fixant les modalités de transfert de la gestion de certaines réserves forestières</li> <li>○ UICN 9 Février 2000 Catégories et critères de l'UICN pour la liste rouge</li> <li>○ Convention Washington 3 Mars 1973 (amendée 22 Juin 1979) 1973 Le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvage menacées d'extinction</li> <li>○ Annexes I, II et III Washington 4 Mars 1973 (amendée 22 Juin 1979) 1973 Convention de Washington sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvage menacées d'extinction</li> </ul>
<b>3.3 Environmental requirements</b>	<p>National and sub national laws and regulations related to the identification and/or protection of environmental values including but not limited to those relating to or affected by harvesting, acceptable levels for soil damage, establishment of buffer zones (e.g., along water courses, open areas and breeding sites), maintenance of retention trees on the felling site, seasonal limitations of harvesting time, environmental requirements for forest machineries, use of pesticides and other chemicals, biodiversity conservation, air quality, protection</p>

**Category****Law/ regulation**

and restoration of water quality, operation of recreational equipment, development of non-forestry infrastructure, mineral exploration and extraction, etc.

- Arrêté N°00002/MINEPDED du 08 février 2016 définissant les canevas types des termes de références et le contenu de la notice d'impact environnementale
- Décision n°00131/D/MINEPDED/CAB du 26 août 2016 fixant les modalités de délivrance des attestations de respect des obligations environnementales dans le cadre du régime d'autorisation FLEGT
- Arrêté n° 00001/MINEPDED du 08 février 2016 fixant les catégories d'opérations dont la réalisation est soumise à une évaluation environnementale stratégique ou à une EIES
- Manuel de procédure d'obtention de l'attestation du respect des obligations environnementales et guide associé de mars 2016
- Directive COMIFAC de l'évaluation environnementale en Afrique Centrale
- Arrêté N° 0219 MINEF 28 Février 2000 Portant création des postes forestiers et de chasse
- Arrêté N°0567 / A / MINEF / DFAP / SDFSRC 14 Août 1998 Fixant les modalités de chasse à l'arc
- Lettre circulaire N° 0031 / LC / MINFOF / SG / DF / CSRRV 15 Février 2013 Relative aux conditions d'éligibilités aux appuis du reboisement du ministère de la forêt et de la faune
- Traité COMIFAC 5 Février 2005 Relatif à la conservation et la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers d'Afrique centrale
- MINFOF décembre 2004 Principes, Critères et indicateurs (PCI) de gestion durable des forêts au Cameroun
- Loi N° 96 / 12 05 Août 1995 Portant loi cadre relative à la gestion de l'environnement
- Décret N° 2013 / 0171 / PM 14 Février 2013 Fixant les modalités de réalisation des études d'impact environnemental et social
- Arrêté N°0070/MINEP du 21 avril 2005 fixant les différentes catégories d'opérations dont la réalisation est soumise à une étude d'impact environnementale
- Décret N° 2005/0577/PM du 23 février 2005 fixant les modalités de réalisation des études d'impact environnementales
- Décret N° 2013 / 0172 PM 14 Février 2013 2013 Fixant les modalités de réalisation de l'audit environnemental et social
- Accords de Paris 2015 sur le climat
- Convention des nations unies de lutte contre la désertification dans les pays gravement touchés par la sécheresse et/ou la désertification, en particulier en Afrique, Paris 1994
- Décret N° 2011 / 2581 / PM 23 Août 2011 2011 Portant réglementation des substances chimiques nocives et/ou dangereuses
- Décret N° 2011 / 2584 / PM 23 Août 2011 2011 Fixant les modalités de protection des sols et sous-sol
- Décret N° 2011 / 2585 / PM 23 Août 2011 2011 Fixant la liste des substances nocives ou dangereuses et le régime de leur rejet dans les eaux continentales

Category	Law/ regulation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Loi N° 89 / 27 29 Décembre 1989 1989 Portant sur les déchets toxiques et dangereux</li> <li>○ Convention Africaine La conservation de la nature et des ressources naturelles</li> <li>○ Convention Ramsar 02 Février 1971 (amendé le 28 Mai 1987) 1987 relative aux zones humides</li> <li>○ Convention Rio de Janeiro Juin 1992 1992 La diversité biologique</li> <li>○ Convention Rotterdam 10 Septembre 1998 (révisée 2008) 2008 Convention de Rotterdam sur la procédure de consentement préalable en connaissance de cause applicable à certains produits chimiques et pesticides dangereux qui font l'objet d'un commerce international</li> <li>○ Convention Stockholm 22 Mai 2001 (amendée en 2009) 2009 Les polluants organiques persistants</li> <li>○ Annexe convention de Stockholm Amendé 2011 2011 Les polluants organiques persistants (amendée en 2009)</li> <li>○ Convention Vienne 22 Mars 1985 1985 La protection de la couche d'ozone</li> <li>○ Convention cadre Nations Unies 9 Mai 1992 1992 Les changements climatiques</li> <li>○ Protocole Carthagène Octobre 2000 2000 La prévention des risques biotechnologiques relatif à la convention sur la diversité biologique</li> <li>○ Protocole Kyoto 11 Décembre 1997 1997 A la Convention-Cadre sur les Changements climatiques</li> <li>○ Protocole Montréal Relatif à des substances qui appauvrissent la couche d'ozone 16 septembre 1987</li> <li>○ Protocole Nagoya Accès aux ressources génétiques et le partage juste et équitable des avantages découlant de leur utilisation relatif à la convention sur la diversité biologique 29 Décembre 1993</li> <li>○ Loi N° 98 / 005 14 Avril 1998 1998 Portant régime de l'eau</li> <li>○ Décret N° 2001 / 165 / PM 08 Mai 2001 2001 Précisant les modalités de protection des eaux de surface et des eaux souterraines contre la pollution</li> <li>○ Loi N° 96/12 du 05 août 1996 portant loi-cadre relative à la gestion de l'environnement</li> <li>○ Décret N° 95/345 du 21 décembre 1998 portant organisation du ministère de l'Environnement et des Forêts (création de la sous-direction des PFNL).</li> </ul>

### 3.4. Health and safety

Legally required personal protection equipment for persons involved in harvesting activities, implementation of safe felling and transport practices, establishment of protection zones around harvesting sites, safety requirements for machinery used, and legally required safety requirements in relation to chemical usage. The health and safety requirements that shall be considered relevant to operations in the forest (not office work, or other activities less related to actual forest operations).

- Décret N° 2013 / 0172 PM 14 Février 2013 2013 Fixant les modalités de réalisation de l'audit environnemental et social

Category	Law/ regulation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Arrêté n°018/MTPS/SG/CJ du 26 mai 1993 fixant les conditions auxquelles doit répondre le logement fourni aux travailleurs, le taux minimum et les modalités d'attribution de l'indemnité compensatrice de logement</li> <li>○ Décret n° 93/575/PM du 15 juillet fixant les modalités d'établissement et de visa de certains contrats de travail (pour les travailleurs expatriés)</li> <li>○ Convention Collective Nationale des entreprises d'exploitation, de transformation de produits forestiers et activités annexes</li> <li>○ Guide de l'Inspecteur du Travail et de l'Agent de recouvrement dans le contrôle social interne des entreprises forestières au Cameroun du 22 octobre 2012</li> <li>○ Arrêté N°039/MTPS/IMT du 26 novembre 1984 fixant les mesures d'hygiène et de sécurité sur les lieux de travail</li> <li>○ Arrêté N°079/CAB/MINMIDT du 19 juillet 2007 fixant les modalités de réalisation des études de danger</li> <li>○ Convention OIT 155 1981 1981 La sécurité et la santé des travailleurs</li> <li>○ Recommandation 200 17 Juin 2010 2010 Le VIH et le SIDA Décision N°0108/D/MINEF/CAB du 09 février 1998 - Normes d'intervention en milieu forestier</li> <li>○ Recueil BIT 1998 1998 Des directives pratiques sur la sécurité et la santé dans les travaux forestiers</li> <li>○ Guide BIT 1986 Sécurité et santé dans l'utilisation des produits agrochimiques</li> <li>○ Recueil BIT 2001 2001 Recueil de directives pratiques du BIT sur le VIH_SIDA et le monde du travail</li> <li>○ Guide BIT Sécurité dans l'utilisation des produits chimiques au travail</li> <li>○ Loi N° 77_11 13 juillet 1977 1977 Portant réparation des accidents du travail et maladies professionnelles</li> <li>○ Loi N°98/015 du 14 juillet 1998 relative aux établissements classés dangereux, insalubres et incommodes</li> <li>○ Décret N° 99/818/Pm du 09 novembre 1999 fixant les modalités d'implantation et d'exploitation des établissements classés dangereux, insalubres et incommodes</li> </ul>

### 3.5. Legal employment

Legal requirements for employment of personnel involved in harvesting activities including requirements for contracts and working permits, requirements for obligatory insurance, requirements for competence certificates and other training requirements, and payment of social and income taxes withheld by the employer. Also covered are the observance of minimum working age and minimum age for personnel involved in hazardous work, legislation against forced and compulsory labor, and discrimination and freedom of ociation.

- Arrêté N° 000005 / MINFI 13 Janvier 2011 2011 Portant institution du service minimum garanti
- Convention OIT28 1929 1929 La protection des dockers contre les accidents de travail
- Convention OIT29 1930 1930 Le travail forcé
- Convention OIT87 1948 1948 La liberté syndicale et la protection du droit syndical

Category	Law/ regulation				
	o	Convention OIT89	1948	1948	Le travail de nuit (femmes) (révisée)
	o	Convention OIT97	1949	1949	Les travailleurs migrants
	o	Convention OIT98	1949	1949	Le droit d'auto-organisation et la négociation collective
	o	Convention OIT 100	1951	1951	L'égalité de rémunération
	o	Convention OIT 105	1957	1957	L'abolition du travail forcé
	o	Convention OIT 111	1958	1958	Concernant la discrimination
	o	Convention OIT 131	1970	1970	Fixation des salaires minima
	o	Convention OIT 138	1973	1973	L'âge minimum
	o	Convention OIT 141	1975	1975	Les organisations des travailleurs ruraux
	o	Convention OIT 142	1975	1975	La mise en valeur des ressources humaines
	o	Convention OIT 143	1975	1975	Les travailleurs migrants (dispositions complémentaires)
	o	Convention OIT 168	1988	1988	La promotion de l'emploi et la protection contre le chômage
	o	Convention OIT 169	1989	1989	Relative aux peuples indigènes et tribaux
	o	Convention OIT 182	1999	1999	Les pires formes de travail des enfants
	o	Déclaration Nations unis	13 Septembre 2007	2007	Les droits des peuples autochtones
	o	Déclaration OIT 2010	18 Juin 1998 (Annexe révisée le 15 Juin 2010)		Relative aux principes fondamentaux au travail et de son suivi
	o	Convention	2013	2013	Convention collective nationale des entreprises d'exploitation, de transformation des produits forestiers et activités annexes
	o	Recommandation	135	22 Juin 1970	1970 La fixation des salaires minima
	o	Recommandation	200	17 Juin 2010	2010 Le VIH et le SIDA
	o	Receuil BIT	2001	2001	Receuil de directives pratiques du BIT sur le VIH_SIDA et le monde du travail
	o	Guide BIT	Sécurité dans l'utilisation des produits chimiques au travail		
	o	Loi N° 92-007	14 août 1992	1992	Portant Code du travail
	o	Loi N° 90_053	19 Décembre 1990	1990	Liberté d'association
	o	Loi N° 76- 8	08 Juillet 1976	1976	Modifiant et complétant certaines dispositions de la loi N° 73-5 du 07 Décembre 1973 fixant le régime des fêtes légales en République Unie du Cameroun
	o	Loi N° 73 / 5	7 Décembre 1973	1973	Fixant le régime des fêtes légales en république unie du Cameroun

## Category

## Law/ regulation

- Décret N°2014 / 2377 /PM 13 Aout 2014 2014 Fixant les conditions et les modalités de prise en charge des assurés volontaires au régime d'assurance pensions de vieillesse, d'invalidité et de décès
- Décret N°2014 / 2217 / PM 24 Juillet 2014 2014 Portant revalorisation du Salaire Minimum Interprofessionnel Garanti (SMIG)
- Décret N° 93 / 578 15 juillet 1993 1993 Fixant les conditions de fond et de forme applicables aux conventions collectives de travail
- Décret N° 93 / 577 15 juillet 1993 1993 Fixant les conditions d'emploi des travailleurs temporaires et occasionnel
- Décret N° 93 / 573 15 juillet 1993 1993 Fixant les modalités de prise en charge des frais de voyage et de transport du travailleur déplacé
- Décret N° 93 / 571 15 juillet 1993 1993 Fixant les conditions d'emploi des travailleurs de nationalité étrangère pour certaines professions
- Décret N° 79 / 096 21 mars 1979 1979 Fixant les modalités d'exercice de la profession de médecin du travail
- Décret N° 021 / MTPS / SG / CJ 26 mai 1993 1993 Fixant les modalités de licenciement pour motif économique
- Décret N° 2012 / 644 28 décembre 2012 2012 Portant organisation du MINEFOP
- Arrêté N° 0116 / CAB / MINTSS 01 Octobre 2013 2013 Modifiant et complétant certaines dispositions de l'arrêté 019 / SG / CJ du 26 Mai 1993 fixant les modalités de l'élection et les conditions d'exercice des fonctions des délégués du personnel
- Arrêté N° 018 / MTPS / SG / CJ 26 mai 1993 1993 Fixant les conditions auxquelles doit répondre le logement fourni aux travailleurs, le taux minimum et les modalités d'attribution de l'indemnité compensatrice de logement
- Arrêté N° 017 / MTPS / SG / CJ 26 mai 1993 1993 Fixant la durée maximale et les modalités d'engagement à l'essai
- Arrêté N° 016 / MTPS / SG / CJ 26 mai 1993 1993 Fixant les modalités d'attribution et de calcul de l'indemnité de licenciement
- Arrêté N° 015 / MTPS / SG / CJ 26 mai 1993 1993 Déterminant les conditions et la durée du préavis
- Arrêté N° 039 / MTPS / IMT 26 novembre 1984 1984 Fixant les mesures générales d'hygiène et de sécurité sur les lieux de travail
- Décision N°0198\_MINTSS\_SG\_DRP\_SDRT 08 Octobre 2013 2013 Fixant la date du déroulement des élections des délégués du personnel
- Lettre circulaire N°010\_MINTSS\_SG\_DRP\_SDRT 08 Octobre 2013 2013 Elections sociales 2013
- Lettre circulaire N° 004 / MTPSI / DT / CT Portant calcul des congés en cas d'absence du travailleur.

Category	Law/ regulation
<b>4. Third parties' rights</b>	
<b>4.1 Customary rights</b>	<p>Legislation covering customary rights relevant to forest harvesting activities, including requirements covering the sharing of benefits and indigenous rights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Arrêté N° 0518 / MINEF / CAB 21 Décembre 2001 2001 Fixant les modalités d'attribution en priorités aux communautés villageoises riveraines de toute forêt susceptible d'être érigée en forêt communautaire</li> <li>○ Directives COMIFAC sur la participation des populations locales et autochtones et des ONG à la gestion durable des forêts d'Afrique centrale du 25 janvier 2011</li> <li>○ Directive COMIFAC Juin 2010 2010 Directives sous régionales relatives à la gestion durable des produits forestiers non ligneux d'origine végétale en Afrique centrale</li> </ul>
<b>4.2 Free Prior and Informed consent</b>	<p>Legislation covering "free prior and informed consent" in connection with the transfer of forest management rights and customary rights to The Organization in charge of the harvesting operation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Protocole Nagoya Accès aux ressources génétiques et le partage juste et équitable des avantages découlant de leur utilisation relatif à la convention sur la diversité biologique</li> <li>○ Directives COMIFAC sur la participation des populations locales et autochtones et des ONG à la gestion durable des forêts d'Afrique centrale du 25 janvier 2011</li> <li>○ Protocole de Carthagène</li> </ul>
<b>4.3 Indigenous Peoples' rights</b>	<p>Legislation that regulates the rights of <i>Indigenous Peoples</i>* as far as it is related to forestry activities. Possible aspects to consider are land tenure, and rights to use certain forest related resources and practice traditional activities, which may involve forest lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Loi N° 94 / 01 20 Janvier 1994 1994 Portant régime des forêts, de la faune et de la pêche</li> <li>○ Décrets d'application loi de 94 (forêts et faune)</li> <li>○ Directives COMIFAC sur la participation des populations locales et autochtones et des ONG à la gestion durable des forêts d'Afrique centrale du 25 janvier 2011</li> <li>○ Directive COMIFAC Juin 2010 2010 Directives sous régionales relatives à la gestion durable des produits forestiers non ligneux d'origine végétale en Afrique centrale.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Trade and transport</b>	
<b>NOTE:</b> This section covers requirement for forest management operations, as well as processing and trade.	
<b>5.1 Classification of species, quantities, qualities</b>	<p>Legislation regulating how harvested material is classified in terms of species, volumes and qualities in connection with trade and transport. Incorrect classification of harvested material is a well-known method to reduce or avoid payment of legally prescribed taxes and fees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Arrêté N° 0872 / MINEF 23 Octobre 2001 2001 Portant classification des essences forestières</li> <li>○ Décision N° 2032 / D / MINFOF 22 Août 2012 2012 Fixant la liste des produits spéciaux présentant un intérêt particulier au Cameroun</li> </ul>

Category	Law/ regulation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Décision N° 0336 / MINFOF 06 Juillet 2006 2006 Fixant la liste des produits spéciaux présentant un intérêt particulier au Cameroun</li> <li>○ Décision N° 0230 / D / MINEF / CAB 23 Mars 2001 2001 Portant création d'une unité centrale de contrôle des activités de transformation du bois</li> <li>○ La décision n°0209/D/MINFOF/CAB du 26 avril 2019 portant classification des produits forestiers spéciaux et des PFNL</li> <li>○ Décision No 0029/D/MINFOF/SG/DF du 06 Avril 2005 portant octroi de quotas d'exploitation des produits forestier spéciaux.</li> </ul>
<b>5.2 Trade and transport</b>	<p>All required trading and transport permits shall exist as well as legally required transport documents which accompany the transport of wood from forest operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Arrêté conjoint N° 0378 MINFOF / MINCOMMERCE 26 Avril 2010 2010 Portant organisation et fonctionnement du marché intérieur du bois</li> <li>○ Lettre circulaire N°0219_LC_MINFOF_CAB_BNC_C5 09 Septembre 2013 2013 Relative au visa des documents servant au transport des bois</li> <li>○ Décret N° 99 / 781 / PM 31 Octobre 1999 1999 Modalités d'application de l'article 71 (1) (nouveau) de la loi N° 94 / 01 du 20 Janvier 1994 portant régime des forêts, de la faune et de la pêche</li> <li>○ La décision n°0034/D/MINFOF/CAB du 05 février 2020 fixant les modalités de mise en circulation des Produits Forestiers Non Ligneux issus des plantations.</li> <li>○ La décision n°0210/D/MINFOF/CAB du 26 avril 2019 fixant les modalités de collecte et de mise en circulation des PFNL secondaires.</li> </ul>
<b>5.3 Offshore trading and transfer pricing</b>	<p>Legislation regulating offshore trading. Offshore trading with related companies placed in tax havens, combined with artificial transfer prices is a well-known way to avoid payment of legally prescribed taxes and fees to the country of harvest and is considered to be an important source of funds that can be used for payment of bribery to the forest operations and personnel involved in the harvesting operation. Many countries have established legislation covering transfer pricing and offshore trading. It should be noted that only transfer pricing and offshore trading, as far as it is legally prohibited in the country, can be included here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Arrêté N° 17/00489/CF/MINFI/DGD du 15 juin 2017 portant constatation des valeurs FOB des grumes à l'exploitation pour une période de 6 mois</li> <li>○ Ordonnance N°99/001 du 31 aout 1999 complétant l'arrêté N° 17/00489/CF/MINFI/DGD</li> </ul>
<b>5.4 Customs regulations</b>	<p>Custom legislation covering areas such as export/import licenses and product classification (codes, quantities, qualities and species).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Autorisation N° 0468 / AEGA / MINFOF / SG / DF / SDAFF / SN 03 Mars 2014 2014 Exportation des grumes d'Ayous pour l'exercice 2014</li> <li>○ Autorisation N° 0397 / AEGA / MINFOF / SG / DF / SDAFF / SN 20 Février 2013 2013 Exportation des grumes d'Ayous pour l'exercice 2013</li> </ul>

Category	Law/ regulation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Autorisation N° 0412 / AEGA / MINFOF / SG / DF / SDAFF / SN 20 Février 2013 2013 Exportation des grumes d'Azobé pour l'exercice 2013</li> </ul>
<b>5.5 CITES</b>	<p>CITES permits (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Washington Convention).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Répertoire CITES 2011 2011 Répertoire des espèces CITES 2011 (Tome 1) : répertoire des espèces CITES</li> <li>○ Répertoire CITES 2011 2011 Répertoire des espèces CITES 2011 (Tome 2) : annales des inscriptions à la CITES</li> </ul>
<b>6. Due diligence / due care (identification and mitigation of risks)</b>	
<b>6.1 Due diligence / due care (identification and mitigation of risks)</b>	<p>Legislation requiring due diligence/due care procedures, including, e.g., due diligence/due care systems, declaration obligations, and/or the keeping of trade related documents, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ APV, Accords de Partenariat Volontaire entre l'union européenne et la république du Cameroun sur l'application des réglementations forestières, la gouvernance et les échanges commerciaux des bois et produits dérivés vers l'union européenne (FLEGT)</li> </ul>
<b>7. Ecosystem services</b>	
	<p>Legislation covering ecosystem services rights, including customary rights as well as management rights that include the use of legal methods to make claims and obtain benefits and management rights related to ecosystem services. National and subnational laws and regulations related to the identification, protection and payment for ecosystem services. Also includes legal business registration and tax registration, including relevant legal required licenses for the exploitation, payment, and claims related to ecosystem services (including tourism).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lois de 94 et de 96</li> <li>○ Convention sur la diversité biologique</li> <li>○ Arrêté N° 0518 / MINEF / CAB 21 Décembre 2001 2001 Fixant les modalités d'attribution en priorités aux communautés villageoises riveraines de toute forêt susceptible d'être érigée en forêt communautaire</li> <li>○ Directive COMIFAC Juin 2010 2010 Directives sous régionales relatives à la gestion durable des produits forestiers non ligneux d'origine végétale en Afrique centrale</li> </ul>

## Annex B Training requirements for workers (Principle 2)

Workers shall be able to:

- 1) Implement forest activities to comply with applicable legal requirements (Criterion 1.5);
- 2) Understand the content, meaning and applicability of the eight ILO Core Labour Conventions (Criterion 2.1);
- 3) Recognize and report on instances of sexual harassment and gender discrimination (Criterion 2.2);
- 4) Safely handle and dispose of hazardous substances to ensure that use does not pose health risks (Criterion 2.3)
- 5) Carry out their responsibilities for particularly dangerous jobs or jobs entailing a special responsibility (Criterion 2.5);
- 6) Identify where *Indigenous Peoples*\* have legal and customary rights related to management activities (Criterion 3.2);
- 7) Identify and implement applicable elements of UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 (Criterion 3.4);
- 8) Developing participatory maps of NTFP hot spots and sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance in the Management Unit (3.2, 3.5);
- 9) Identify sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to *Indigenous Peoples*\* and implement the necessary measures to protect them from the start of forest management activities to avoid negative impacts (Criterion 3.5 and Criterion 4.7);
- 10) Identify where local communities and traditional peoples have legal and customary rights related to management activities (Criterion 4.2);
- 11) Carry out social, economic and environmental impact assessments and develop appropriate mitigation measures (Criterion 4.5);
- 12) Implement activities related to the maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services, when FSC Ecosystem Services Claims are used (Criterion 5.1);
- 13) Handle, apply and store pesticides (criterion 7.1); and
- 14) Implement procedures for cleaning up spills of waste materials (Criterion 10.12).



## Annex D1 Elements of the Management Plan (Principle 7)

- 1) The results of assessments, including:
  - i. Natural resources and environmental values, as identified in Principle 6 and Principle 9;
  - ii. Social, economic and cultural resources and condition/characteristics, as identified in Principle 6, Principles 2 to 5 and Principle 9;
  - iii. Intact Forest Landscapes and core areas, as identified in Principle 9;
  - iv. Indigenous cultural landscapes, as identified with affected rights-holders in Principle 3 and Principle 9;
  - v. Major social and environmental risks in the area, as identified in Principle 6, Principles 2 to 5 and Principle 9; and
  - vi. The maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services for which promotional claims are made, as identified in Criterion 5.1.
- 2) Programmes and activities regarding:
  - i. Workers' rights, occupational health and safety, gender equality, as identified in Principle 2;
  - ii. *Indigenous Peoples\**, community relations, local economic and social development, as identified in Principle 3, Principle 4 and Principle 5;
  - iii. Stakeholder engagement and the resolution of disputes and grievances, as identified in Principle 1, Principle 2 and Principle 7;
  - iv. Planned management activities and timelines, silvicultural systems used, typical harvesting methods and equipment, as identified in Principle 10;
  - v. The rationale for harvesting rates of timber and other natural resources, as identified in Principle 5.
- 3) Measures to conserve and/or restore:
  - i. Rare and threatened species and habitats;
  - ii. Water bodies and riparian zones;
  - iii. Landscape connectivity, including wildlife corridors;
  - iv. Ecosystem services when FSC ecosystem services claims are used as identified in Criterion 5.1;
  - v. Representative Sample Areas, as identified in Principle 6; and
  - vi. High Conservation Values, as identified in Principle 9.
- 4) Measures to assess, prevent and mitigate negative impacts of management activities on:
  - i. Environmental values, as identified in Principle 6 and Principle 9;
  - ii. Ecosystem services when FSC ecosystem services claims are used as identified in Criterion 5.1;
  - iii. Social values and Indigenous cultural landscapes, as identified in Principles 2 to 5 and Principle 9.
- 5) A description of the monitoring programme, as identified in Principle 8, including:
  - i. Growth and yield, as identified in Principle 5;
  - ii. Ecosystem services when FSC ecosystem services claims are used as identified in Criterion 5.1;
  - iii. Environmental values, as identified in Principle 6;
  - iv. Operational impacts, as identified in Principle 10;
  - v. High Conservation Values, as identified in Principle 9.

- vi. Monitoring systems based on stakeholder engagement, planned or in place, as identified in Principles 2 to 5 and Principle 7;
- vii. Maps describing the natural resources and land-use zoning on the Management Unit;
- viii. Description of the methodology used to assess and monitor any development and land-use options allowed in Intact Forest Landscapes and core areas, including their effectiveness in implementing the precautionary approach;
- ix. Description of the methodology to assess and monitor any development and land-use options allowed in Indigenous cultural landscapes, including their effectiveness in implementing the precautionary approach;
- x. Global Forest Watch map, or more accurate national or regional map, describing the natural resources and land-use zoning on the Management Unit, including the Intact Forest Landscapes core areas.

## Annex D2 Additional requirements for Management of Non-Timber Forest Products

This Annex is applicable exclusively to non-timber forest products (NTFPs), aiming to incorporate specific and additional management requirements of these products.

- a) In cases of management which includes cutting of individuals of the species (herbs/shrubs), The Organization ensures that:
  1. An inventory of the individuals of the species is available; and
  2. There are specific measures and practices to maintain the population of individuals of the species when there are no specific regulations; and
  3. If there are specific regulations for the exploitation of NTFPs that includes cutting of individuals, The Organization complies with the regulations.
- b) In cases of management without cutting individuals, The Organization ensures that:
  1. The collection cycle respects the replenishment capacity of the managed resource; and
  2. The collection practice does not compromise the individual's vitality or sanity.
- c) In cases of management without cutting individuals, whose managed product is exudates (oils, resins, latex, among others), based on the best available information, The Organization:
  1. Determines the appropriate height and depth for cuts or perforations; and
  2. Determines the maximum number or size of cuts or perforations; and
  3. Ensures that cuts or perforations do not exceed specified parameters.
- d) In cases of management without cutting individuals, whose managed product is leaves, branches and stems, based on the best available information, The Organization ensures:
  1. The maintenance of the proportion of healthy remnants of leaves, branches and stems necessary for the survival of individuals;
  2. Reproductive structures (flowers, fruits and apex buds) remain intact and show no signs of postharvest damage; and
  3. The defined pruning techniques (percentage, season, quantity) are applied.
- e) In cases of management without cutting individuals, whose managed product is roots, based on the best available information, The Organization ensures that:
  1. Harvesting techniques are in accordance with the propagation capacity of the species either by root and/or by seed; and
  2. Only a portion of the root is harvested and a viable portion is left for regrowth and/or survival of the individual.
- f) In cases of management without cutting individuals, whose managed products are reproductive structures (flowers, fruits and seeds), based on the best available information, The Organization ensures that:
  1. The trees are not damaged to induce premature fruiting and flowering; and
  2. A certain portion of flowers, fruits and seeds remain in the forest for wildlife populations and species regeneration.
- g) In cases of management without cutting individuals, whose managed product is bark, based on the best available information, The Organization ensures that:

1. The trees are not ringed; and
  2. The height, area and depth of cut defined in the bark harvesting practices are respected; and
  3. Bark exploitation is not performed during the plant's reproduction period.
- h) In cases of management without cutting individuals, whose managed product is vine, based on the best available information, The Organization ensures that:
1. The support tree is not felled for collection; and
  2. The supporting tree is not damaged during collection; and
  3. The vine is cut in a way that maximizes its use; and
  4. A minimum height is left above the soil surface in order to allow for its regeneration.

## Annex E Conceptual framework for planning and monitoring

Sample Management Plan document (Note: These will vary with SIR and jurisdiction)	Management Plan Revision periodicity	Element Being Monitored (Partial List)	Monitoring Periodicity	Who Monitors This Element? (Note: These will vary with SIR and jurisdiction)	FSC Principle/ Criterion
<b>Site Plan (Harvest Plan)</b>	Annual	Creek crossings	When in the field and annually	Operational staff	P10
		Roads	When in the field and annually	Operational staff	P10
		Retention patches	Annually, sample	Operational staff	P6, P10
		Rare, threatened and endangered species	Annually	Consulting biologist	P6
		Annual harvest levels	Annually	Woodlands manager	C5.2
		Insect disease outbreaks	Annually, sample	Consultant biologist / Ministry of Forests	
<b>Budgeting</b>	Annual	Expenditures	Annually	Chief Financial Officer	P5
		Contribution to local economy	Quarterly	General Manager	P5
<b>Engagement Plan</b>	Annual	Employment statistics	Annually	General Manager	P3, P4
		Social agreements	Annually, or as agreed in Engagement Plan	Social Coordinator	P3, P4
		Grievances	Ongoing	Human Resources Manager	P2, P3, P4
<b>5-year Management Plan</b>	5 years	Wildlife populations	To be determined	Ministry of Environment	P6
		Coarse woody debris	Annually	Ministry of Forests	P10

Sample Management Plan document (Note: These will vary with SIR and jurisdiction)	Management Plan Revision periodicity	Element Being Monitored (Partial List)	Monitoring Periodicity	Who Monitors This Element? (Note: These will vary with SIR and jurisdiction)	FSC Principle/ Criterion
		Free growing / re-generation	Annually, sample		
<b>Sustainable Forestry Management Plan</b>	10 years	Age class distribution Size class distribution	Ten years	Ministry of Environment	P6
		10-year Annual Allowable Cut	Annually, ten years	Ministry of Forests / Woodlands Manager	C5.2
<b>Ecosystem Services Certification Document</b>	5 years	Prior to validation and verification	Prior to validation and verification	General Manager	FSC-PRO-30-006

## Annex F Monitoring requirements (Principle 8)

- 1) Monitoring in 8.2.1 is sufficient to identify and describe the environmental impacts of management activities, including where applicable:
  - i. The results of regeneration activities (Criterion 10.1);
  - ii. The use of ecologically well-adapted species for regeneration (Criterion 10.2);
  - iii. Invasiveness or other adverse impacts associated with any alien species within and outside the Management Unit (Criterion 10.3);
  - iv. The use of genetically modified organisms to confirm that they are not being used (Criterion 10.4);
  - v. The results of silvicultural activities (Criterion 10.5);
  - vi. Adverse impacts to environmental values from fertilizers (Criterion 10.6);
  - vii. Adverse impacts from the use of pesticides (Criterion 10.7);
  - viii. Adverse impacts from the use of biological control agents (Criterion 10.8);
  - ix. The impacts from natural hazards (Criterion 10.9);
  - x. The impacts of infrastructural development, transport activities and silviculture to rare and threatened species, habitats, ecosystems, landscape values, water and soils (Criterion 10.10);
  - xi. The impacts of harvesting and extraction of timber on non-timber forest products, environmental values, merchantable wood wastes and other products and services (Criterion 10.11); and
  - xii. Environmentally appropriate disposal of waste materials (Criterion 10.2).
  
- 2) Monitoring in 8.2.1 is sufficient to identify and describe social impacts of management activities, including where applicable:
  - i. Evidence of illegal or unauthorized activities (Criterion 1.4);
  - ii. Compliance with applicable laws, local laws, ratified international conventions and obligatory codes of practice (Criterion 1.5);
  - iii. Resolution of disputes and grievances (Criterion 1.6, Criterion 2.6, Criterion 4.6);
  - iv. Programmes and activities regarding workers' rights (Criterion 2.1);
  - v. Gender equality, sexual harassment and gender discrimination (Criterion 2.2);
  - vi. Programmes and activities regarding occupational health and safety (Criterion 2.3);
  - vii. Payment of wages (Criterion 2.4);
  - viii. Workers training (Criterion 2.5);
  - ix. Where pesticides are used, the health of workers exposed to pesticides (Criterion 2.5 and Criterion 10.7);
  - x. The identification of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and their legal and customary rights (Criterion 3.1 and Criterion 4.1);
  - xi. Full implementation of the terms of binding agreements (Criterion 3.2 and Criterion 4.2);
  - xii. Indigenous Peoples and community relations (Criterion 3.2, Criterion 3.3 and Criterion 4.2);
  - xiii. Protection of sites of cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to Indigenous Peoples and local communities (Criterion 3.5 and Criterion 4.7);

- xiv. The persistence of Indigenous cultural landscapes and associated values of significance to *Indigenous Peoples*\* (Criterion 3.1, Criterion 3.5);
  - xv. The use of traditional knowledge and intellectual property (Criterion 3.6 and Criterion 4.8);
  - xvi. Local economic and social development (Criterion 4.2, Criterion 4.3, Criterion 4.4, Criterion 4.5);
  - xvii. The production of diversified benefits and/or products (Criterion 5.1);
  - xviii. The maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services (Criterion 5.1);
  - xix. Activities to maintain or enhance ecosystem services (Criterion 5.1);
  - xx. Actual compared to projected annual harvests of timber and non-timber forest products (Criterion 5.2);
  - xxi. The use of local processing, local services and local value-added manufacturing (Criterion 5.4);
  - xxii. Long-term economic viability (Criterion 5.5); and
  - xxiii. High Conservation Values 5 and 6 identified in Criterion 9.1.
- 3) Monitoring procedures in 8.2.2 are sufficient to identify and describe changes in environmental conditions, including where applicable:
- i. The maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services (Criterion 5.2) (when The Organization uses FSC ecosystem services claims);
  - ii. Environmental values and ecosystem functions, including carbon sequestration and storage (Criterion 6.1); including the effectiveness of actions identified and implemented to prevent, mitigate and repair negative impacts to environmental values (Criterion 6.3);
  - iii. Rare and threatened species, and the effectiveness of actions implemented to protect them and their habitats (Criterion 6.4);
  - iv. Representative sample areas and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.5);
  - v. Naturally occurring native species and biological diversity and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.6);
  - vi. Water courses, water bodies, water quantity and water quality and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.7);
  - vii. Landscape values and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or restore them (Criterion 6.8);
  - viii. Conversion of natural forests to plantations or conversion to non-forest (Criterion 6.9);
  - ix. The status of plantations established after 1994 (Criterion 6.10); and
  - x. High Conservation Values 1 to 4, identified in Criterion 9.1, and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or enhance them.

## Annex G Strategies for maintaining High Conservation Values (Principle 9)

### Assessment of core areas of Intact Forest Landscapes

#### Threshold for vast majority (Core Area)

The Organization marks out a core area in the Intact Forest Landscape that accounts for >50% of the Intact Forest Landscape area contained in the Management Unit.

#### Scientific argument for determining an eco-regional threshold for the size of core areas in the Congo Basin

By default, the size of a core area is 80% of the area of an Intact Forest Area located within a Management Unit. According to Annex H of the International Generic Indicators, specific national or eco-regional thresholds lower than 80% may be determined subject to an assessment of how to optimize the protection of intact forest landscapes.

In the debate on the advantages and disadvantages of logging in the Congo Basin, it is often stated that, for economic reasons, the alternative to forest management in accordance with the FSC® Principles and Criteria preferred by national governments would not be to protect the land through the creation of new protected areas (WWF International 2016; FRM and IFO 2015; McLeish 2016).

Consequently, it is reasonable to think that the threats represented by certified forest management, as practised in the Congo Basin, to Intact Forest Landscapes in or on the edge of Management Units, are minimal and in any case far less serious than the threats resulting from the negative impacts of other land uses, such as mining or agricultural plantations.

These practices are very different from those observed in Canada or Russia, where clear-felling operations are the norm.

Table 1 sets out the practices normally complied with by certified companies.

**Table 1. List of RIL measures, not visible in satellite images, to limit the direct and indirect impacts of logging in the Congo Basin**

Logging operations	Implementation measures	Mitigation of impacts on the forest
Roads	Road widths: Limitation of widths cleared for roads to 26m (secondary roads) / 33m (main roads)	Only temporary and limited opening of the canopy
	Soil protection: Limits on gradients of permanent roads	Avoidance of erosion and/or restoration
	Anti-erosion arrangements for all types of open roads (outfalls, settling basins, bridge-side bollards) and monitoring of works	
	Arrangements to facilitate restoration on closure (barricades, diversionary trenches, dismantling)	Restoration of the canopy / road after 3 to 5 years

Logging operations	Implementation measures	Mitigation of impacts on the forest
	<p>Crossings of watercourses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Avoiding the crossing of watercourses as much as possible. If bridges or dams cannot be avoided, they should be constructed to the highest specification.</li> <li>○ - Dismantling bridges over watercourses when logging operations are completed</li> </ul>	<p>Minimizing impact on watercourses, avoiding silting, so that the forest upstream is not affected by stagnating water, etc.</p>
	<p>Planning of roads:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ plan to build roads far from protected areas;</li> <li>○ build roads in specific habitats (e.g. forest with open canopy);</li> <li>○ - respect special habitats, avoid sensitive areas (buffer zones, slopes...).</li> </ul>	<p>Minimizing impact of roads in sensitive areas.</p>
	<p>Re-using old roads as much as possible</p>	<p>Minimizing impact of roads</p>
	<p>Wildlife protection: Limitation of access, controls at barriers, and closure of roads when logging has finished in an area</p>	<p>Preventing poaching and/or having a positive impact by controlling traffic</p>
<b>Structure of the forest</b>	<p>Identification and protection of saplings and retention of a number of seed-bearing trees, protection of sensitive tree species</p>	<p>Minimizing impact on saplings, particularly those of the species being felled</p>
	<p>Definition of a maximum felling diameter to retain monumental trees</p>	<p>Keeping monumental trees</p>
	<p>Definition of buffer areas around major rivers, within which felling is prohibited. A ban on felling trees that might fall into watercourses</p>	<p>Minimizing impact on sensitive areas (rivers, wetlands), avoiding erosion, silting, sedimentation</p>
	<p>Optimization of evacuation trails and protection of saplings along such trails</p>	<p>Minimizing the area affected and, in particular, protecting the tree species being felled</p>
	<p>Limitation of the number of trees felled per hectare</p>	<p>Minimizing impact on the structure of the forest</p>
	<p>Optimisation of the location of quarries in relation to sensitive areas / restoration</p>	<p>Minimizing impact on sensitive areas (rivers, wetlands), avoiding silting</p>

Logging operations	Implementation measures	Mitigation of impacts on the forest
<b>Soil protection</b>	Avoiding soil compaction and deep rutting due to evacuation operations and logging yards	Minimizing impact or restoration when logging is completed
<b>Pollution</b>	Responsible management of fuels and wastes so as to avoid pollution	Avoiding pollution of the forest with fuels and other wastes
<b>Integrity of the forest cover and of wildlife</b>	Surveillance of the boundaries of the CFAD/FMU by foot patrols, systematic identifications of violations and involvement of the government department concerned	Minimizing the creation of fields and/or the setting up of unauthorized hunting camps and temporal settlements in the forest (outside of areas allocated for agriculture)
	Definition of agricultural areas and areas reserved for local communities, and monitoring of the agricultural front line	
	Platform for ongoing engagement with the local population	Minimizing the creation of fields and/or the setting up of unauthorized hunting camps and temporal settlements in the forest (outside of areas allocated for agriculture), and minimizing the impact of hunting/poaching on wildlife
	Regulations prohibiting hunting and transportation on the concession	Minimising impact of hunting/poaching on wildlife
	Checks on vehicles within the concession	
	Eco-guards and motorized LAB (anti-poaching) patrols	
	Closure of access points (sometimes maintaining roads for monitoring/controlling poaching)	
	Providing workers with protein-rich foods	
Raising awareness and training employees/villagers		

### Minimal impact of logging on forest cover and biomass

In the Congo Basin, the average harvesting rate is between 0.5 and 2 trees/ha every 20 to 35 years.

This method of exploitation has a very low impact on the forest cover, the principal disruption being the opening of the canopy when roads are built.

The most recent scientific studies that have been published agree that the opening of roads in FSC®-certified concessions in fact impacts only between 1 and 2% of the forest cover (figure derived from monitoring the impact of logging in the FSC-certified concessions of FRMi, N. Bayol, 2016, personal communication ; FRM and IFO 2015).

Kleinschroth et al. studied the impact of roads on an area of more than 100,000 km<sup>2</sup>, in the Republic of Cameroon and in the south of the Republic of Congo, by processing satellite images recording the effects of logging between 1985 and 2015, a period of 30 years. They found that the road network accounted for less than 1% of the forest area of concessions and that the forest was constantly being regenerated and reconstituted: "The results show that less than 1% of the forest cover has been cleared for road construction to extract timber. Roads abandoned over the last 30 years showed a continuous trajectory of forest regeneration. Tree species diversity, canopy cover, the litter layer and herb composition converged with those in the surrounding logged forests. Trees of commercial species generally showed even higher rates of regeneration on road tracks and edges than in the forest, as they benefit from the high light levels due to a lack of canopy shade." (Healy and Kleinschroth 2016)

The other visible impacts on the forest cover are gaps caused by felling and the construction of temporary logging yards, which together can impact an additional 5% (FRMi, IFO 2016).

As a general rule, the total disruption to forest cover in the area exploited for timber in Central Africa, as commonly agreed by scientists and legislative frameworks, ranges from 5 to 10%, with an average of 7% (FRMi, N. Bayol, 2016, personal communication).

A study of a REDD+ pilot project on the River Lukénie in the Democratic Republic of Congo, carried out by the CIFOR, assessed the potential impact of roads and skidding trails in a baseline scenario and a project scenario applying specific RIL measures. Analysis of Table 4 of this study reveals that, for the baseline scenario and the project scenario respectively, 7.2% and 5% (718 m<sup>2</sup>/ha and 504 m<sup>2</sup>/ha) of the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) were affected by roads and skidding trails.

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the baseline scenario and the project scenario were respectively 13.8 et 6.6 tCO<sub>2</sub> eq./ha, or between 2.9% and 1.4% of the CO<sub>2</sub> stock of the above-ground biomass (471 tCO<sub>2</sub> eq./ha). This study did not take into account the impact of windfalls / gaps caused by felling (Hirsh et al. 2013).

A monitoring exercise on a forestry concession in North Congo (IFO) over a period of almost 10 years found that on average only 6% of the annual felling area was affected by logging operations, including 0.5% for main roads and 1.1% for secondary roads and log yards (FRMi, IFO2016). Taking into account that skidding trails impact only the undergrowth, the area affected by logging represents just 4% of the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC). By extrapolating over a period of 60 years, we can estimate that only 10% of the forest used for timber production will be affected by logging. 90% of the productive forest and 93% of the total area of concessions therefore remain "intact".

The aerial biomass of a forest used for logging returns to its initial level after twenty of so years (Nasi et al., 2008; Rutishauser et al., 2015).

A study of 59 forests, mostly uncertified, located in 10 countries of the tropical basins of Africa, Asia, Amazonia, revealed that the impact of logging was still relatively low and allowed for satisfactory reconstitution of the biomass over a 25 to 30-year rotation period (Putz et al. 2012a). In all the countries in the study, an average of 76% of carbon stock was maintained after the first logging rotation.

But studies in Gabon (Medjibe et al. 2011) and in the Republic of Congo (Brown et al. 2005), show that between 92% and 97% of the carbon stock is maintained (Putz et al. 2012b), or, putting it the other way round, that the impact on the biomass ranged from 3% to 8%.

The study carried out by Putz et al. (2012b) confirms the earlier scientific conclusions: approximately 7% of the area of forested concessions is affected by FSC®-certified operations, but the impact of skidding trails affects only the undergrowth, and thus the stored carbon stock is maintained.

In addition, the fragmentation of the canopy caused by forest roads is limited in terms of space and, for a good part of the road network, in terms of time. Measurement of the width of roads in the north of the Republic of Congo shows that the average width of main roads is 24.5m, and in the case of secondary roads 20.5m. These figures are lower than the RIL standards for the Republic of Congo, where the maximum permitted threshold for main roads is 33m and for secondary roads 26m (FRMi, IFO, 2016).

A study conducted in the same forestry concession in North Congo (IFO) by the European Union's Joint Research Centre (EU-JRC) revealed that slight disturbances to the canopy following selective felling were no longer visible on satellite images after 50 days; only the roads remained visible for a longer period (Verhegghen A. et al., 2015). The fact is that grassy vegetation regrows rapidly in the gaps caused by felling and covers the bare ground that can be detected by the satellite.

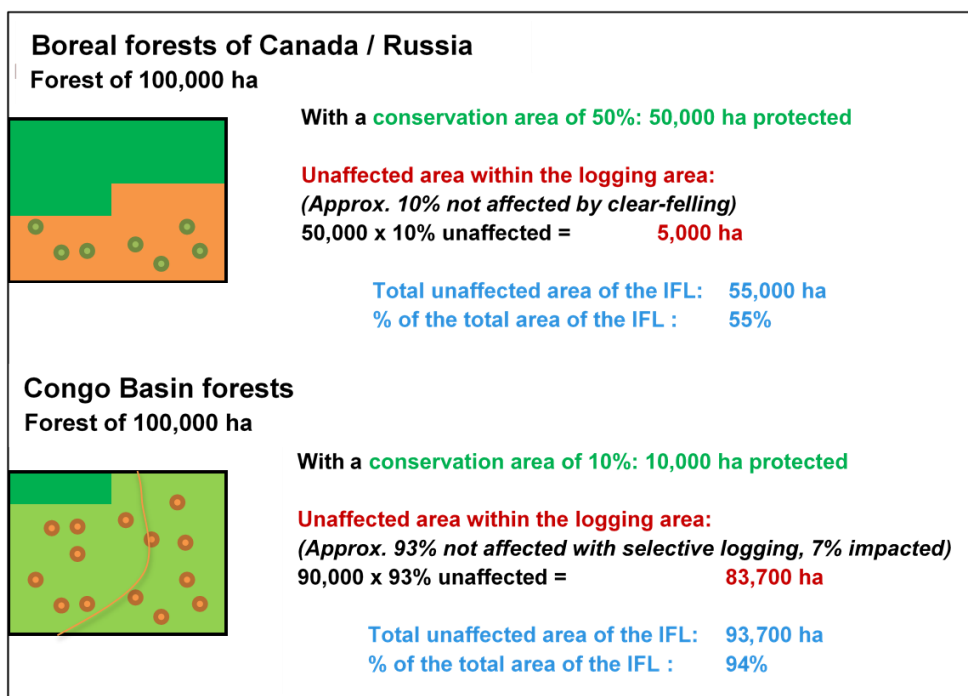
The study conducted by Kleinschroth et al. (2015), covering the Sangha watershed, concluded that: "Open secondary logging roads mostly persisted for less than four years. This indicates that spontaneous re-vegetation follows road abandonment without major delays. Revegetating roads persisted in that state more than four times as long as open roads but they are assumed to have already recovered some of their capacity to deliver ecosystem services and to be on a trajectory towards full forest recovery." ... "Our analyses show a very dynamic secondary logging road network that appears only for a relatively short time. It is therefore difficult to use logging roads in the Congo Basin as static indicators of forest degradation and fragmentation."

On the ground, it has been noted that vegetation establishes itself very rapidly on roadside verges receiving sunlight and that, after a few years, there is recolonization of the actual carriageway by pioneering sun-loving species, though this depends on the extent to which the soil is compacted. Such recolonization also occurs on lateritic trails.

At the same time, the canopy also closes over rapidly, re-establishing the continuity of the ecosystem. However, some roads are open and in use permanently.

Moreover, some forests, particularly those hosting Marantaceae species, have a very discontinuous canopy before logging, which may have an adverse impact on, for instance, the density of small monkey species (Brugière D. et al, 2003). In fact, logging in forests with Marantaceae may have a positive impact on their natural regeneration and reconstitution (J-F Gillet, 2013; P. Miehle, 2015).

Logging practice in the Congo Basin is therefore not comparable with the clear-felling practised in boreal and temperate forests, which affects whole stands of trees over relatively large areas, with a total impact reckoned to affect 90% of the tree cover (if some unaffected areas are excluded).



The following graphic shows that, for a 100,000-hectare Congo Basin forest, with 10% of its area protected, 94% of the area is kept intact, as compared with 55% for the boreal forests of Canada and Russia, with 50% of the forest initially subject to conservation measures.

Nevertheless, there are additional measures for further reducing the present impact of industrial forestry and enhancing the integrity of forests despite logging (Clark et al. 2009).

This being the case, it is proposed that the size of a core area should be defined in relation to the additional management measures undertaken to better protect the intact character of the landscape.

A list of RIL+ measures to be implemented in all Intact Forest Landscapes located in FSC-certified forestry concessions has been adopted by mutual agreement by the Congo Basin High Conservation Values Regional Working Group.

Based on these proposed RIL+ measures, the SDGs in each Congo Basin country developed specific measures for the management of IFL areas outside core areas as presented in Annex J.

## Annex H HCV Framework

### HCV 1 – Species diversity. Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.

#### A. Identification of HCV 1

##### 1. Description of Best Available Information in the country for identifying HCV1:

- Lists, distribution area maps and location data of fauna species registered in Classes A and B of the national list of animals in protection classes.
- Arrêté n° 0648/MINFOF du 18 décembre 2006 fixant la liste des animaux des classes de protection A, B, C. [http://www.laga-enforcement.org/media/legal\\_library/Cameroon/l%C3%A9gislation%20faunique%20Protection%20esp%C3%A8ces%20menac%C3%A9es-Fr%20En.pdf](http://www.laga-enforcement.org/media/legal_library/Cameroon/l%C3%A9gislation%20faunique%20Protection%20esp%C3%A8ces%20menac%C3%A9es-Fr%20En.pdf)
- Décret n° 99/781/PM du 13 octobre 1999 fixant les modalités d'application de l'article 71 (1) (nouveau) de la loi n°94/01 du 20 Janvier 1994 portant régime des forêts, de la faune et de la pêche
- Décision n° 0336/D/MINFOF du 06 juillet 2006 fixant la liste des produits forestiers spéciaux représentant un intérêt particulier au Cameroun
- Décision n°2032/D/MINFOF du 22 août 2012 fixant la liste des produits forestiers spéciaux représentant un intérêt particulier au Cameroun
- Arrêté n°2401/MINFOF/CAB du 09 Novembre 2012 portant suspension de l'exploitation du Bumbinga et du Wengué à titre conservatoire dans le domaine forestier national <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/cmr167190.pdf>
- Awono, A., Ingram, V., Schure, J. and Levang, P. 2013 Guide for small and medium enterprises in the sustainable non-timber forest product trade in Central Africa. CIFOR, Bogor, Indonesia. [http://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf\\_files/Books/BAwono1301.pdf](http://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/Books/BAwono1301.pdf)
- Arrêté n° 0222/A/MINEF du 21 mai 2001 fixant les procédures d'élaboration, d'approbation, de suivi et de contrôle de la mise en œuvre des plans d'aménagement des forêts de production du domaine forestier permanent <http://www.cvuc-uccc.com/minat/textes/119.pdf>
- Décision N°0108/D/MINEF/CAB du 9 février 1998 portant application des normes d'intervention en milieu forestier en République du Cameroun <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/cmr195741.pdf>
- Lists and Maps of World Heritage Sites (WHS) Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO-MAB) and RAMSAR sites; <https://www.protectedplanet.net/country/CMR>
- Lists and Maps of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs); <https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/kba-data>
- <https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/sites-table>
- Lists and Maps of Important Bird Areas (IBAs)/Endemic Bird Areas (EBA); <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/results?thrlev1=&thrlev2=&kw=&reg=14&cty=37&snm=&fam=0&gen=0&spc=&cmn=>
- <http://datazone.birdlife.org/country/cameroon/ebas>
- Lists and Maps of Protected Marine Areas (PMAs); <https://www.rainforesttrust.org/app/uploads/2021/11/2018-Impact-Report.pdf>
- Species listed by the IUCN Red as Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered; <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
- Species listed in Appendixes I and II of CITES; <http://checklist.cites.org>
- Species listed by WWF as flagship
- 4 of the species on the WWF flagship list are represented in the Republic of Cameroon
- [http://wwf.panda.org/knowledge\\_hub/endangered\\_species/](http://wwf.panda.org/knowledge_hub/endangered_species/)

- Species listed by BirdLife International
- There are 30 threatened birds species in the Republic of Cameroon
- <http://datazone.birdlife.org/country/cameroon>
- Lists and Maps of World Heritage Sites (WHS) Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO-MAB) sites; <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/cm>
- Décision N°0108/D/MINEF/CAB du 9 février 1998 portant application des normes d'intervention en milieu forestier en République du Cameroun; [https://wri-sites.s3.amazonaws.com/forest-atlas.org/cmr\\_forest-atlas.org/resources/posters/CMR\\_Poster%202018%20french.pdf](https://wri-sites.s3.amazonaws.com/forest-atlas.org/cmr_forest-atlas.org/resources/posters/CMR_Poster%202018%20french.pdf)
- Lists, distribution area maps and location data of fauna species registered in Classes A and B of the national list of animals in protection classes; Arrêté n° 0648/MINFOF du 18 décembre 2006 fixant la liste des animaux des classes de protection A, B, C. [http://www.laga-enforcement.org/media/legal\\_library/Cameroon/l%C3%A9gislation%20faunique\\_Protection\\_esp%C3%A8ce\\_menac%C3%A9es-Fr\\_En.pdf](http://www.laga-enforcement.org/media/legal_library/Cameroon/l%C3%A9gislation%20faunique_Protection_esp%C3%A8ce_menac%C3%A9es-Fr_En.pdf)
- Lists, distribution area maps and location data of plants or trees species officially recognized as forest special products, vulnerable or threatened;
- Décret n° 99/781/PM du 13 octobre 1999 fixant les modalités d'application de l'article 71 (1) (nouveau) de la loi n°94/01 du 20 Janvier 1994 portant régime des forêts, de la faune et de la pêche
- Décision n° 0336/D/MINFOF du 06 juillet 2006 fixant la liste des produits forestiers spéciaux présentant un intérêt particulier au Cameroun
- Décision n°2032/D/MINFOF du 22 août 2012 fixant la liste des produits forestiers spéciaux présentant un intérêt particulier au Cameroun
- Arrêté n°2401/MINFOF/CAB du 09 Novembre 2012 portant suspension de l'exploitation du Bumbinga et du Wengué à titre conservatoire dans le domaine forestier national [https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/fr/c/LEX-FAOC167190/&ved=2ahU-KEwilm5LjqfKHAXUjSvEDHVkzHNMQFnoECBUQAQ&usq=AOvVaw38k1ixnYRH\\_qDFPV4NyiTK](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/fr/c/LEX-FAOC167190/&ved=2ahU-KEwilm5LjqfKHAXUjSvEDHVkzHNMQFnoECBUQAQ&usq=AOvVaw38k1ixnYRH_qDFPV4NyiTK)
- Lists, distribution area maps and location data of species recorded in Appendixes I and II of CITES concerning the Republic of Cameroon; <http://checklist.cites.org>
- Species listed by BirdLife International; <http://datazone.birdlife.org/country/cameroon>
- Lists, distribution area maps and location data of species recorded by CMS (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals) concerning the Republic of Cameroon; <https://www.speciesplus.net/species?#/>

## 2. Description of interested and affected stakeholders:

- Local communities and *Indigenous Peoples\**, Forestry Companies
- local and regional/ International experts
- Environmental NGOs, research institutes..

### 3. Description of culturally appropriate engagement for identifying HCVs:

- Culturally appropriate engagement with *Indigenous Peoples\**, local communities, Forestry Companies, local and regional/ International experts, Environmental NGOs, research institutes..

### 4. Examples of rare/threatened / endangered species in the country:

- Species listed in Appendixes I and II of CITES; <http://checklist.cites.org>
- Species listed by the IUCN Red as Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered; <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
- Arrêté n° 0648/MINFOF of 18 December 2006 listing the protected animals in the Republic of Cameroon, classes A, B, C. [http://www.laga\\_enforcement.org/media/legal\\_library/Cameroon/l%C3%A9gislation%20faunique\\_Protection\\_esp%C3%A8ce\\_menac%C3%A9es-Fr\\_En.pdf](http://www.laga_enforcement.org/media/legal_library/Cameroon/l%C3%A9gislation%20faunique_Protection_esp%C3%A8ce_menac%C3%A9es-Fr_En.pdf)
- Species such as Moabi (*Baillonella toxisperma*), Bubinga (*Guibourtia tessmannii*), Ebony (*Diospyros crassiflora*), Prunus (*Prunus africana*) and Wenge (*Millettia Laurentii*) are among those subject to particular attention at the national level.

### 5. Geographic areas where HCV1 is likely present:

- Inside forest concessions in all over the Republic of Cameroon; especially concessions adjacent to protected areas
- Areas protected by national laws
- Protected areas by international conventions ratified by the Republic of Cameroon
- Areas recognized for their biodiversity values by other institutions
- Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)
- Endemic Bird Areas (EBA)

### 6. Maps of HCV1 areas in the country:

- See specific maps in the Republic of Cameroon HCV guide.

### 7. Threats to HCV1 areas in the country:

- HCV 1.1: Reduction of population densities of wildlife species due to increase access through forest roads.
- HCV 1.2: Reduction of the population density of commercial trees due to forest harvesting activities.
- HCV 1.2: Reduction of population densities of wildlife species due to increase access through forest roads.
- HCV 1.3: Reduction of population densities of endemic species due direct or indirect impacts of forest harvesting activities.
- HCV 1.4 Degradation of seasonal habitats due to forest harvesting activities

## **B. Strategies for maintaining HCV1**

- 1) Measures are put in place to maintain Protection zones, harvest prescriptions, and/or other strategies to protect threatened, endangered, endemic species, or other concentrations of biological diversity and the ecological communities and habitats upon which they depend, sufficient to prevent reductions in the extent, integrity, quality, and viability of the habitats and species occurrences in collaboration with the local Experts, Research Institutes and/ or with relevant NGOs;
- 2) Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to develop, expand, and/or restore habitats for such species are put in place with the collaboration of are developed in collaboration with the local Experts, Research Institutes and/ or with relevant NGOs.

### **Examples of protection measures:**

#### **HCV 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3:**

- Set up a concertation platform with the managers of adjacent protected areas and other affected and interested stakeholders to elaborate and implement joint management measures.
- Information and awareness raising on national hunting regulations and practices
- Elaborate internal rules and regulation to ensure respect for national antipoaching laws
- Identification and protection of specific corridors for the displacement of elephants
- Elaboration and implementation of a control system for the surveillance and monitoring of the Management Unit against illegal harvesting and poaching
- Implementation of reduce impact logging technics
- Put in place procedures to ensure the respect for national sustainable forest rules and regulations (Increase of minimum harvesting diameters of rare and threatened tree species, respect of allowable harvesting limits, maintenance of seed plants..)
- Species with populations of less than 0.03 trees/ ha are excluded from the harvesting plan.

#### **HCV 1.4:**

- Clearly mark out boundaries and/ or include sensible/ fragile sites (HCV 1.4) in the conservation area network
- Information and awareness raising on national regulations related to HCV 1.4
- Implementation of reduce impact logging technics that ensure the protection of HCV 1.4

## **C. Monitoring HCVI:**

- Assessment of the concertation effort with managers of adjacent protected areas and affected and interested stakeholders (every 6 months)
- Monthly assessment of the surveillance effort against illegal harvesting and poaching
- Annual assessment of the abundance of protected wildlife species (class A and B)
- Monthly assessment of the intensity of poaching in the Management Unit (MU)
- Annual assessment of the internal cases of non-respect for antipoaching rules
- Annual assessment of the sensitization efforts on wildlife protection

**Examples of monitoring indicators:**

- Number of meetings held per year
- Annual distance controlled/ area of the MU
- Abundance indices of protected species
- Number of poaching indices per Km controlled
- Number of cases of non-respect for antipoaching rules
- Number of workers that attended the sensitization meetings per year

**HCV 2 – Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics. Intact forest landscapes and large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.**

## **A. Identification of HCV 2**

### **1. Description of Best Available Information in the country for identifying HCV2:**

- Description of Best Available Information in the country for identifying HCV2:
- <http://carpe.umd.edu/>
- Olson, D. M., Dinerstein, E. 2002. The Global 200: Priority ecoregions for global conservation. *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* 89(2):199-224.
- <https://www.ramsar.org/fr/zone-humide/cameroun>
- <https://www.ramsar.org/document/the-list-of-wetlands-of-international-importance-the-ramsar-list>
- Mapping and other data on forest cover, age, succession, structure, species composition, habitat connectivity, anthropogenic disturbance, etc.
- Consultation with relevant local and regional experts/ Research Institutes and/ or ENGOs.
- IUCN Protected Area classification of a Wilderness Area <https://www.worldheritagesite.org/connection/High-Biodiversity+Wilderness+Area>
- IUCN & Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) data <https://www.cepf.net/our-work/biodiversity-hotspots>
- Potapov, P., Hansen, M. C., Laestadius L., Turubanova S., Yaroshenko A., Thies C., Smith W., Zhuravleva I., Komarova A., Minnemeyer S., Esipova E. 2016.
- The last frontiers of wilderness: Tracking loss of intact forest landscapes from 2000 to 2013. *Science Advances*, 2017; 3:e1600821
- Annex H of FSC International Generic Indicators version 2-0 (FSC-STD-60-004 v2-0)
- FSC Frequently asked questions on the advice note for motion 65-V1-3, July 2018
- Intact Forest Landscapes as defined in the FSC International Generic Indicators. See Global Forest Watch IFL maps ([www.globalforestwatch.org](http://www.globalforestwatch.org)) or other maps based on a more recent and accurate IFL inventory using a refined methodology.

### **2. Description of interested and affected stakeholders:**

- Local communities and *Indigenous Peoples*\* (LCIPs), Forestry Companies
- Local and regional experts
- Environmental NGOs, research institutes.

### **3. Examples of HCV2 areas in the country:**

- Intact Forest Landscapes, Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) landscapes, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, WWF Global 200 Ecoregions, RAMSAR sites, High Biodiversity Wilderness Area, Biodiversity Hotspots, Connectivity corridors that have been proposed between protected areas and/or other HCV 1 occurrences etc.

#### **4. Geographic areas where IFLs or other types of HCV2 is likely present:**

- Overlapping concessions and protected areas all over the Republic of Cameroon;

#### **5. . Maps of HCV2 areas in the country:**

- <https://www.google.com/search?q=Global+forest+watch+2017+IFL+map&tbm=isch&source=univ&client=firefox-b-d&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjy65OF7Z3kAhWCJ1AKHbq8BzsQ7Al6BAqJECQ&biw=1088&bih=498>
- See specific maps in the links given in section 1 above.

#### **6. Threats to HCV2 areas in the country:**

- Deforestation or degradation by forest harvesting activities

#### **B. Strategies for maintaining HCV2:**

- 1) Strategies that fully maintain the extent and intactness of the forest ecosystems and the viability of their biodiversity concentrations, including plant and animal indicator species, keystone species, and/or guilds associated with large intact natural forest ecosystems are developed in collaboration with the local Experts, Research Institutes and/ or with relevant NGOs.
- 2) Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and reconnect forest ecosystems, their intactness, and habitats that support natural biological diversity are developed in collaboration with the local Experts, Research Institutes and/ or with relevant NGOs.

#### **Examples of protection measures:**

- Putting to place protection zones and set-aside areas, with no commercial logging
- Designate core areas of IFLs, develop and implement protection measures
- Implement stricter reduce impact logging technics in case of harvesting in IFL or other HCV 2 areas (reduction of road densities
- Limitation of road width and matching of the dimensions of the road network to the season and exploitable resource.
- Strengthening of the measures to combat poaching and illegal harvesting

#### **C. Monitoring HCV2:**

- Annual assessment of the damages on caused by forest harvesting activities (tree felling, log trail paths, roads opening etc..) in the annual harvesting area
- Monitoring of deforestation and other disturbances using satellite imagery, drones and other tools

#### **Examples of monitoring indicators:**

- Average largeness of roads
- Total surfaces affected by harvesting roads

## **HCV3 – Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.**

### **A. Identification of HCV3**

#### **1. Description of Best Available Information in the country for identifying HCV3:**

- Consultation with relevant local and regional experts, ENGOs and LCIPs.
- Habitat assessments, conservation plans, recovery plans, and other published reports by governments, research institutions, or conservation organizations.
- <http://www.iucnredlistofecosystems.org/>
- Decision n° 108/D/MINEF/CAB of 09/02/1998 (Rules for intervention in the forest milieu in CMR)
- World Heritage Sites Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO-MAB) sites; <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/cm>
- Lists and Maps of Protected Marine Areas (PMAs); <https://mpatlas.org/countries/CMR/>

#### **2. Description of Interested and affected stakeholders:**

- Local communities and *Indigenous Peoples\** (LCIPs), Forestry Companies
- local and regional experts
- Environmental NGOs, research institutes.

#### **3. Examples of HCV3 ecosystems and habitats in the country:**

- Mountain forests, inselbergs, forest galleries in the humid savanna areas, mangroves, IUCN Red list of ecosystems, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, WWF Global 200 Ecoregions etc.

#### **4. Geographic areas where HCV3 is likely present:**

- Present in the southern, south-western, Sudano-Sahel and western regions of the Republic of Cameroon

#### **5. Maps of HCV3 areas in the country:**

- See specific maps in the links given in section 1 above and in the HCV guide.

#### **6. Threats to HCV3 areas in the country:**

- Degradation of the HCV 3 habitat by forest harvesting activities or activities of adjacent populations.

### **B. Strategies for maintaining HCV3**

- 1) Strategies that fully maintain the extent and integrity of rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia is done in collaboration with local experts and/ or research institutes.
- 2) Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and/or develop rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia are developed in collaboration with local experts and/ or research institutes.

**Examples of protection measures:**

- Marking out of HCV 3 identified on the field and implementation of protection measures
- Integration of HCV 3 identified into the conservation network
- Putting in place and implementing a mechanism for the surveillance of conservation areas
- Sensitization of the neighboring communities on the importance of conservation areas

**C. Monitoring HCV3:**

- Assessment of the effort put in the sensitization of the communities on HCV 3 areas (every 6 months)
- Assessment of the effort put in the renewal of HCV 3 area boundaries (every 6 months)
- Assessment of the effort put in the surveillance of HCV 3 areas (every 6 months)

**Examples of monitoring indicators:**

- Annual number of meetings/ total number of villages
- Annual number of HCV 3 sites controlled/ total number of HCV 3 sites.

## **HCV4 – Critical ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.**

### **A. Identification of HCV4:**

#### **1. Description of Best Available Information in the country for identifying HCV4:**

- NASA topographic maps via the SRTM programme: Shuttle Radar Topography Mission, [https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.earthdata.nasa.gov/sensors/srtm&ved=2ahUKEwjI-pubEq\\_KHAXrBdsEHSVnFUAQFnoECBcQAQ&usg=AOvVaw1KjRxsqUp1cCn5xe011\\_rY](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.earthdata.nasa.gov/sensors/srtm&ved=2ahUKEwjI-pubEq_KHAXrBdsEHSVnFUAQFnoECBcQAQ&usg=AOvVaw1KjRxsqUp1cCn5xe011_rY)
- Decision No. 108/D/MINEF/CAB of 09/02/1998 (Rules for intervention in the forest milieu in CMR)
- Culturally appropriate engagement with local communities and *Indigenous Peoples\** (LCIPs) and affected and interested stakeholders.
- Consultation with relevant local and regional experts.
- Exploitation of relevant databases and maps of the landscape and Management Unit including management plan

#### **2. Description of Interested and affected stakeholders:**

- Local communities and *Indigenous Peoples\** Forestry Companies
- local and regional experts
- Environmental NGOs, research institutes.

#### **3. Examples of HCV4 critical ecosystem services in the country:**

- Water catchments, main drinking water sources, fragile soils that are vulnerable to erosion, very steep slope areas (between 45-50%).

#### **4. Geographic areas where HCV4 is likely present:**

- HCV 4 are present in all the forest areas and concessions in the Republic of Cameroon.

#### **5. Maps of HCV4 areas in the country:**

- Maps of HCV 4 are found in specific socio-economic studies and participative cartography reports for specific Management Units.
- NASA topographic maps via the SRTM programme: Shuttle Radar Topography Mission, [https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.earthdata.nasa.gov/sensors/srtm&ved=2ahUKEwjI-pubEq\\_KHAXrBdsEHSVnFUAQFnoECBcQAQ&usg=AOvVaw1KjRxsqUp1cCn5xe011\\_rY](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.earthdata.nasa.gov/sensors/srtm&ved=2ahUKEwjI-pubEq_KHAXrBdsEHSVnFUAQFnoECBcQAQ&usg=AOvVaw1KjRxsqUp1cCn5xe011_rY)

#### **6. Threats to HCV4 areas in the country:**

- Erosion of steep slopes causing land slides
- Degradation of riparian forest galleries and siltation of water sources
- Degradation of road-stream junctions

## **B. Strategies for maintaining HCV4:**

- 1) Strategies to protect any water catchments of importance to local communities located within or downstream of the Management Unit, and areas within the unit that are particularly unstable or susceptible to erosion.
- 2) Examples may include protection zones, harvest prescriptions, chemical use restrictions, and/or prescriptions for road construction and maintenance, to protect water catchments and upstream and upslope areas.
- 3) Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore water quality and quantity are in place.
- 4) Where identified HCV 4 ecosystem services include climate regulation, strategies to maintain or enhance carbon sequestration and storage are in place.

### **Examples of protection measures:**

- Integration of the dispositions of the law related to road construction in HCV areas
- Forbid harvesting in areas with slopes of more than 50% or respect a lower % between 30 and 40.
- Integrate sanctions for manipulation of pollutants near water sources (60m security distance to be respected)

## **C. Monitoring HCV4:**

- Compilation and analysis of post-harvest data related to respect for measures that forbid harvesting on very steep slopes, water course banks by monitoring team (every 6 months)
- Compilation and analysis of data on the sanctions inflicted for the manipulation of pollutants near water sources (every 6 months)

### **Examples of monitoring indicators:**

- Surface area impacted by harvesting near water courses/ total surface area controlled
- Surface area of very steep slope areas harvested/ total surface area controlled

**HCV5 – Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or *Indigenous Peoples*\* (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.), identified through engagement with these communities or *Indigenous Peoples*\*.**

#### **A. Identification of HCV5**

##### **1. Description of Best Available Information in the country for identifying HCV5:**

- Socio-economic studies, participatory mapping, culturally appropriate engagement with local communities and *Indigenous Peoples*\* (LCIPs)
- Management inventories and participative cartography maps

##### **2. Description of Interested and affected stakeholders:**

- Forestry Companies, IPLCs, *Indigenous Peoples*\*' associations and environmental NGOs.

##### **3. Examples of HCV5 sites and resources fundamental for local communities in the country:**

- Areas for collection of Non timber forest products (NTFP) including subsistence hunting and fishing zones.

##### **4. Geographic areas where HCV5 is likely present:**

- HCV 5 are present in all the forest areas and concessions in the Republic of Cameroon.

##### **5. Maps of HCV5 areas in the country:**

- Maps of HCV 5 are found in specific socio-economic studies and participative cartography reports of specific Management Units. See sample map in the HCV national guide.

##### **6. Threats to HCV5 areas in the country:**

- Reduction of NTFP due to forest harvesting activities (especially competitive species) and over exploitation by the different interested actors.

#### **B. Strategies for maintaining HCV5**

- 1) Strategies to protect the community's and/or *Indigenous Peoples*\*' needs in relation to the Management Unit are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of local communities and *Indigenous Peoples*\*.

##### **Examples of protection measures:**

- Set up seasonal and annual concertation meetings with IPLCs and other affected and interested stakeholders
- Execute detailed mapping of the adjacent affected villages and HCV 5 in the Management Unit before harvesting commences.
- Support the administration in the implementation of antipoaching measures for HCV 5 resources

### **C. Monitoring HCV5:**

- Monitoring conducted through procedures developed in cooperation with the communities through culturally appropriate engagement.
- Annual monitoring analysis on the number of villages consulted on the use of HCV 5
- Annual monitoring analysis on the level of protection of HCV 5

#### **Examples of monitoring indicators include:**

- Number of villages consulted/ total number of villages
- Number of HCV 5 trees preserved/ total number of HCV 5 trees counted.

**HCV 6 – Cultural values. Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or *Indigenous Peoples*\*, identified through engagement with these local communities or *Indigenous Peoples*\*.**

#### **A. Identification of HCV 6**

##### **1. Description of Best Available Information in the country for identifying HCV6:**

- Socio-economic studies, participatory mapping, culturally appropriate engagement with local communities, consultation with relevant local and regional experts.
- World Heritage List <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/cm>

##### **2. Description of Interested and affected stakeholders:**

- Forestry Companies, LCIPs, *Indigenous Peoples*' associations and environmental NGOs.

##### **3. Examples of HCV6 significant cultural values in the country:**

- Burial grounds, sacred trees, sacred sites, old villages etc.

##### **4. Geographic areas where HCV6 is likely present:**

- HCV 6 are present in all the forest areas and concessions in the Republic of Cameroon
- World Heritage sites in the Republic of Cameroon <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/cm>

##### **5. Maps of HCV6 areas in the country:**

- Maps of HCV 6 are found in specific socio-economic studies and participative cartography reports of specific Management Units. See sample map in the HCV national guide.

##### **6. Threats to HCV6 areas in the country:**

- Destruction of sites of cultural importance to local communities and *Indigenous Peoples*\* by harvesting activities.

#### **B. Strategies for maintaining HCV6**

- 1) Strategies to protect the cultural values are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of local communities and *Indigenous Peoples*\*.
- 2) Marking out of identified HCV 6 sites on the field in concertation with the local communities and *Indigenous Peoples*\*.
- 3) Exclusion of HCV 6 sites from the planned harvesting areas or plots
- 4) Sensitization of forest teams on the protection of HCV 6 sites identified.

### **C. Monitoring HCV6:**

- Monitoring conducted through procedures developed in cooperation with the communities through culturally appropriate engagement.
- Annual monitoring analysis on the number of villages consulted on the use of HCV 6
- Annual monitoring analysis on the level of protection of HCV 6

### **Examples of monitoring indicators:**

- Number of villages consulted/ total number of villages
- Number of HCV 6 sites preserved/ total number of HCV 6 sites counted.

## **Annex I List of rare and threatened species in the country or region**

- <https://www.cites.org/fra/app/appendices.php>
- <http://earthsendangered.com/search-regions3.asp>

## Annex J Management strategies are developed to protect High Conservation Values in Intact Forest Landscapes outside of core areas.

- Planning of a forest road network considering the presence of specific High Conservation Values in order to protect them;
- Reduction of road density, particularly at the borders with neighbouring Protected Areas (PAs), with only priority roads constructed;
- creation of buffer zones along the borders with neighbouring PAs (threshold = 1000 m from the external boundary of a PA);
- Introduction of a maximum harvesting density (threshold = 3 trees/ha);
- Introduction of a maximum harvesting diameter (threshold: 2m);
- Rehabilitation of degraded haulage/skidding trails and log yards in the event of compaction and significant rutting;
- Re-use of roads for the future rotations, unless this is impossible.
- Limitation of road width and matching of the dimensions of the road network to the season and exploitable resource.

### Dry season:

Type	Total Width cleared for road building	Width of Rolling surface	Clearance for road lighting
<b>Permanent road</b> (not permitted in IFLs ; if necessary, the following dimensions must be complied with)	25 m	10m	15 m (7.5 m on each side of rolling surface)
<b>Main road</b>	20 m	8m	12 m (6 m on each side of rolling surface)
<b>Secondary road</b>	10m	6m	4 m (2 m on each side of rolling surface)

### Rainy season:

Type	Total Width cleared for road building	Width of Rolling surface	Clearance for road lighting
<b>Permanent road</b>	0	0	0
<b>Main road</b>	25 m	10m	15 m (7.5 m on each side of rolling surface)
<b>Secondary road</b>	15 m	6 m	9 m (4.5 m on each side of rolling surface)

- Closure of secondary roads and control of access to main roads, using appropriate measures, in consultation with the organizations responsible for wildlife management;
- Monitoring of deforestation and other disturbances using satellite imagery, drones and other tools;
- Strengthening of the measures to combat poaching provided for in Criterion 6.6 (6.6.4 ; 6.6.5 ; 6.6.6 ; 6.6.7 ; 6.6.8);
- Specific monitoring of the impact of exploitation, particularly on wildlife; plant cover and forest dynamics;
- Monitoring of the recolonization of roads, and restoration if recolonization is insufficient, particularly in the case of secondary roads.

## Annex K Glossary of terms

This glossary includes internationally accepted definitions whenever possible. These sources include, for instance, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) as well as definitions from online glossaries as provided on the websites of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Invasive Alien Species Programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity. When other sources have been used they are referenced accordingly.

The term 'based on' means that a definition was adapted from an existing definition as provided in an international source.

Words used in the International Generic Indicators, if not defined in this Glossary of Terms or other normative FSC documents, are used as defined in the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary or the Concise Oxford Dictionary.

**Active ingredient:** Part of the product that provides the pesticidal action (Source: FAO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management).

**Adaptive management:** A systematic process of continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of existing measures (Source: Based on World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website).

**Affected Rights Holder:** Persons and groups, including Indigenous Peoples, traditional peoples and local communities with legal or customary rights whose free, prior and informed consent is required to determine management decisions.

**Affected stakeholder:** Any person, group of persons or entity that is or is likely to be subject to the effects of the activities of a Management Unit. Examples include, but are not restricted to (for example in the case of downstream landowners), persons, groups of persons or entities located in the neighborhood of the Management Unit. The following are examples of affected stakeholders:

- Local communities
- Indigenous Peoples
- Workers
- Forest dwellers
- Neighbors
- Downstream landowners
- Local processors
- Local businesses
- Tenure and use rights holders, including landowners
- Organizations authorized or known to act on behalf of affected stakeholders, for example social and environmental NGOs, labor unions, etc.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Affirmative action:** A policy or a program that seeks to redress past discrimination through active measures to ensure equal opportunity, as in education and employment (Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017).

**Alien species:** A species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce (Source: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Invasive Alien Species Programme. Glossary of Terms as provided on CBD website).

**Applicable law:** Means applicable to The Organization as a legal person or business enterprise in or for the benefit of the Management Unit and those laws which affect the implementation of the FSC Principles and Criteria. This includes any combination of statutory law (Parliamentary-approved) and case law (court interpretations), subsidiary regulations, associated administrative procedures, and the national constitution (if present) which invariably takes legal precedence over all other legal instruments (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Aquifer:** A formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that contains sufficient saturated permeable material to yield significant quantities of water to wells and springs for that unit to have economic value as a source of water in that region. (Source: Gratzfeld, J. 2003. Extractive Industries in Arid and Semi-Arid Zones. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)).

**Best Available Information:** Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and results of field surveys or consultations with stakeholders that are most credible, accurate, complete, and/or pertinent and that can be obtained through reasonable effort and cost, subject to the scale and intensity of the management activities and the Precautionary Approach.

**Binding Agreement:** A deal or pact, written or not, which is compulsory to its signatories and enforceable by law. Parties involved in the agreement do so freely and accept it voluntarily.

**Biological control agents:** Organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other organisms (Source: Based on FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0 and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website).

**Biological diversity:** The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (Source: Convention on Biological Diversity 1992, Article 2).

**Chemical pesticide:** Synthetically produced pesticide (Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3 0).

**Child:** any person under the age of 18 (Source: ILO Convention 182, Article 2).

**Collective bargaining:** a voluntary negotiation process between employers or employers' organization and workers' organization\*, with a view to the regulation of terms and conditions of employment by means of collective agreements (Source: ILO Convention 98, Article 4).

**Confidential information:** Private facts, data and content that, if made publicly available, might put at risk The Organization, its business interests or its relationships with stakeholders, clients and competitors.

**Conflicts between the Principles and Criteria and laws:** Situations where it is not possible to comply with the Principles and Criteria and a law at the same time (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Connectivity:** A measure of how connected or spatially continuous a corridor, network, or matrix is. The fewer gaps, the higher the connectivity. Related to the structural connectivity concept; functional or behavioral connectivity refers to how connected an area is for a process, such as an animal moving through different types of landscape elements. Aquatic connectivity deals with the accessibility and transport of materials and organisms, through groundwater and surface water, between different patches of aquatic ecosystems of all kinds. (Source: based on R.T.T. Forman. 1995. Land Mosaics. The Ecology of Landscapes and Regions. Cambridge University Press, 632pp).

**Conservation Areas Network:** Those portions of the Management Unit for which conservation is the primary and, in some circumstances, exclusive objective; such areas include representative sample areas, conservation zones, protection areas, connectivity areas and High Conservation Value Areas.

**Conservation/Protection:** These words are used interchangeably when referring to management activities designed to maintain the identified environmental or cultural values in existence long-term. Management activities may range from zero or minimal interventions to a specified range of appropriate interventions and activities designed to maintain, or compatible with maintaining, these identified values (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Conservation zones and protection areas:** Defined areas that are designated and managed primarily to safeguard species, habitats, ecosystems, natural features or other site-specific values because of their natural environmental or cultural values, or for purposes of monitoring, evaluation or research, not necessarily excluding other management activities. For the purposes of the Principles and Criteria, these terms are used interchangeably, without implying that one always has a higher degree of conservation or protection than the other. The term 'protected area' is not used for these areas, because this term implies legal or official status, covered by national regulations in many countries. In the context of the Principles and Criteria, management of these areas should involve active conservation, not passive protection' (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Conversion:** A lasting change of natural forest cover or High Conservation Value areas, induced by human activity. This may be characterized by significant loss of species diversity, habitat diversity, structural complexity, ecosystem functionality or livelihoods and cultural values. The definition of conversion covers gradual forest degradation as well as rapid forest transformation (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

- **Induced by human activity:** In contrast to drastic changes caused by natural calamities like hurricanes or volcanic eruptions. It also applies in cases of naturally ignited fires where human activities (e.g., draining of peatlands) have significantly increased the risk of fire (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).
- **Lasting change of natural forest cover:** Permanent or long-term change of natural forest cover. Temporary changes of forest cover or structure (e.g., harvesting followed by regeneration in accordance with the FSC normative framework) is not considered conversion (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).
- **Lasting change of High Conservation Value (HCV) areas:** Permanent or long-term change of any of the High Conservation Values. Temporary changes of HCV areas that do not negatively and permanently impact the values (e.g., harvesting followed by regeneration in accordance with Principle 9) is not considered a lasting change (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).
- **Significant loss of species diversity:** Loss of species is considered significant where rare species and threatened species or other locally important, keystone and/or flagship species are lost, whether in terms of numbers of individuals or in terms of number of species. This refers to both displacement and extinction (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

NOTE: The establishment of ancillary infrastructure necessary to implement the objectives of responsible forest management (e.g., forest roads, skid trails, log landings, fire protection, etc.) is not considered conversion.

**Conversion Threshold:** The point at which degradation and/or clearing has occurred to an extent where recovery to natural forest conditions and/or High Conservation Value Areas is unlikely to be achieved without direct intervention (Source: FSC-POL- 01-007 V1-0).

NOTE: Examples of direct intervention include but are not limited to removal of exotic species, physical

protection of existing remnant native vegetation, re wetting of drained soils, reintroduction of appropriate native species, and reintroduction of High Conservation Value species where suitable habitat remains or is re-established.

**Core area:** The portion of each Intact Forest Landscape designated to contain the most important cultural and ecological values. Core areas are managed to exclude industrial activity. Core Areas meet or exceed the definition of Intact Forest Landscape.

**Critical:** The concept of criticality or fundamentality in Principal 9 and HCVs relates to irreplaceability and to cases where loss or major damage to this HCV would cause serious prejudice or suffering to affected stakeholders. An ecosystem service is considered to be critical (HCV 4) where a disruption of that service is likely to cause, or poses a threat of, severe negative impacts on the welfare, health or survival of local communities, on the environment, on HCVs, or on the functioning of significant infrastructure (roads, dams, buildings etc.). The notion of criticality here refers to the importance and risk for natural resources and environmental and socio-economic values (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Criterion** (pl. Criteria): A means of judging whether or not a Principle (of forest stewardship) has been fulfilled (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0).

**Culturally appropriate** [mechanisms]: Means/approaches for outreach to target groups that are in harmony with the customs, values, sensitivities, and ways of life of the target audience.

**Customary law:** Interrelated sets of customary rights may be recognized as customary law. In some jurisdictions, customary law is equivalent to statutory law, within its defined area of competence and may replace the statutory law for defined ethnic or other social groups. In some jurisdictions customary law complements statutory law and is applied in specified circumstances (Source: based on N.L. Peluso and P. Vandergeest. 2001. Genealogies of the political forest and customary rights in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, *Journal of Asian Studies* 60(3):761–812).

**Customary rights:** Rights which result from a long series of habitual or customary actions, constantly repeated, which have, by such repetition and by uninterrupted acquiescence, acquired the force of a law within a geographical or sociological unit (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0).

**Degradation:** Changes within a natural forest or High Conservation Value area that significantly and negatively affect its species composition, structure and/or function, and reduces the ecosystem's capacity to supply products, support biodiversity and/or deliver ecosystem services (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

**Direct involvement:** Situations in which the associated organization or individual is first-hand responsible for the unacceptable activities (Source: FSC-POL-01-004 V2- 0).

**Discrimination:** includes:

- a) any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction, social origin, sexual orientation, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation;
- b) such other distinction, exclusion or preference which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation as may be determined by the Member concerned after consultation with representative employers' and workers' organization where such exist, and with other appropriate bodies (adapted from ILO Convention 111, Article1). 'Sexual orientation' was added to the definition provided in Convention 111, as it has been identified as an additional type of discrimination which may occur.

**Dispute:** for the purpose of the IGI, this is an expression of dissatisfaction by any person or organization presented as a complaint to The Organization, relating to its management activities or its conformity with the FSC Principles and Criteria, where a response is expected (Source: based on FSC-PRO-01-005 V3-

0 Processing Appeals).

**Dispute of substantial duration:** Dispute that continues for more than twice as long as the predefined timelines in the FSC System (this is, for more than 6 months after receiving the complaint, based on FSC-STD-20-001).

**Dispute of substantial magnitude:** For the purpose of the International Generic Indicators, a dispute of substantial magnitude is a dispute that involves one or more of the following:

- Affects the legal or customary rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
- Where the negative impact of management activities is of such a scale that it cannot be reversed or mitigated;
- Physical violence;
- Destruction of property;
- Presence of military bodies;
- Acts of intimidation against forest workers and stakeholders.

**Due consideration:** To give such weight or significance to a particular factor as under the circumstances it seems to merit, and this involves discretion (Source: Black's Law Dictionary, 1979).

**Economic viability:** The capability of developing and surviving as a relatively independent social, economic or political unit. Economic viability may require but is not synonymous with profitability (Source: based on the definition provided on the website of the European Environment Agency).

**Eco-regional:** Large unit of land or water containing a geographically distinct assemblage of species, natural communities, and environmental conditions (Source: WWF Global 200. [http://wwf.panda.org/about\\_our\\_earth/ecoregions/about/what\\_is\\_an\\_ecoregion/](http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/ecoregions/about/what_is_an_ecoregion/)).

**Ecosystem:** A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit (Source: Convention on Biological Diversity 1992, Article 2).

**Ecosystem function:** An intrinsic ecosystem characteristic related to the set of conditions and processes whereby an ecosystem maintains its integrity (such as primary productivity, food chain, biogeochemical cycles). Ecosystem functions include such processes as decomposition, production, nutrient cycling, and fluxes of nutrients and energy. For FSC purposes, this definition includes ecological and evolutionary processes such as gene flow and disturbance regimes, regeneration cycles and ecological seral development (succession) stages. (Source: based on R. Hassan, R. Scholes and N. Ash. 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Series. Island Press, Washington DC; and R.F. Noss. 1990. Indicators for monitoring biodiversity: a hierarchical approach. Conservation Biology 4(4):355–364).

**Ecosystem services:** The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include:

- provisioning services such as food, forest products and water;
- regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, air quality, climate and disease;
- supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and
- Cultural services and cultural values such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other non-material benefits.

(Source: based on R. Hassan, R. Scholes and N. Ash. 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Series. Island Press, Washington DC).

**Emergency:** A situation that requires immediate action to control the sudden invasion or infestation of a pest, which threatens either long-term stability of the ecosystem, human well-being or economic viability.

Events that happen cyclically and scenarios which are predicted through planning, monitoring or the application of an integrated pest management system cannot be considered an emergency.

For the purpose of the FSC Pesticides Policy, emergency situations require immediate action and cannot feasibly be controlled by a less hazardous alternative. (Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0).

**Employment and Occupation:** includes access to vocational training, access to employment and to particular occupations, and terms and conditions of employment (Source: ILO Convention 111, Article 1.3).

**Engaging / engagement:** The process by which The Organization communicates, consults and/or provides for the participation of interested and/or affected stakeholders ensuring that their concerns, desires, expectations, needs, rights and opportunities are considered in the establishment, implementation and updating of the management plan (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Environmental harm:** Any impact on the environment values as a result of human activity that has the effect of degrading the environment, whether temporarily or permanently (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

**Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** Systematic process used to identify potential environmental and social impacts of proposed projects, to evaluate alternative approaches, and to design and incorporate appropriate prevention, mitigation, management and monitoring measures (Source: based on Environmental impact assessment, guidelines for FAO field projects. Food and agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO). Rome,-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Environmental values:** The following set of elements of the biophysical and human environment:

- ecosystem functions (including carbon sequestration and storage);
- biological diversity;
- water resources;
- soils;
- atmosphere;
- Landscape values (including cultural and spiritual values).

The actual worth attributed to these elements depends on human and societal perceptions (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Equal remuneration\* for men and women workers\* for work of equal value:** refers to rates of remuneration established without discrimination\* based on sex (Source: ILO Convention 100, Article 1b).

**External Company:** A private company that signs a contract to operate in a community forest in accordance with the conditions required by the community that owns it. This logging contract conveys the exclusive right to carry out activities, such as forest prospecting, harvesting and mapping, for a given time and over a given area.

**Externalities:** The positive and negative impacts of activities on stakeholders that are not directly involved in those activities, or on a natural resource or the environment, which do not usually enter standard cost accounting systems, such that the market prices of the products of those activities do not reflect the full costs or benefits (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Fair compensation:** Remuneration that is proportionate to the magnitude and type of services rendered by another party or of the harm that is attributable to the first party.

**Fertilizer:** Mineral or organic substances, most commonly N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O, which are applied to soil for the purpose of enhancing plant growth.

**Fibre Testing:** a suite of wood identification technologies used to identify the family, genus, species and

origin of solid wood and fibre based products.

**Focal species:** Species whose requirements for persistence define the attributes that must be present if that landscape is to meet the requirements of the species that occur there (Source: Lambeck, R., J. 1997. Focal Species: A multi-species Umbrella for Nature Conservation. Conservation Biology vol 11 (4): 849-856.).

**Forced or compulsory labour:** work or service exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself/ herself voluntarily (ILO Convention 29, Article 2.1)

**Forest:** A tract of land dominated by trees (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0. Derived from FSC Guidelines for Certification Bodies, Scope of Forest Certification, Section 2.1 first published in 1998, and revised as FSC-GUI-20-200 in 2005, and revised again in 2010 as FSC-DIR-20-007 FSC Directive on Forest Management Evaluations, ADVICE-20-007-01).

**Formal and informal workers organization:** association or union of workers, whether recognized by law or by The Organization or neither, which have the aim of promoting workers rights and to represent workers in dealings with The Organization particularly regarding working conditions and compensation.

**Fragmentation:** The process of dividing habitats into smaller patches, which results in the loss of original habitat, loss in connectivity, reduction in patch size, and increasing isolation of patches. Fragmentation is considered to be one of the single most important factors leading to loss of native species, especially in forested landscapes, and one of the primary causes of the present extinction crisis. In reference to Intact Forest Landscapes, the fragmentation of concern is understood to be that caused by human industrial activities. (Source: adapted from: Gerald E. Heilman, Jr. James R. Strittholt Nicholas C. Slosser Dominick A. Dellasala, BioScience (2002) 52 (5): 411-422.)

**Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC):** A legal condition whereby a person or community can be said to have given consent to an action prior to its commencement, based upon a clear appreciation and understanding of the facts, implications and future consequences of that action, and the possession of all relevant facts at the time when consent is given. Free, prior and informed consent includes the right to grant, modify, withhold or withdraw approval (Source: based on the Preliminary working paper on the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples (...) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2004/4 8 July 2004) of the 22nd Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 19–23 July 2004).

**FSC Transaction:** Purchase or sale of products with FSC claims on sales documents (Source: ADV-40-004-14).

**Gender equality:** Gender equality or gender equity means that women and men have equal conditions for realizing their full human rights and for contributing to, and benefiting from, economic, social, cultural and political development (Source: Adapted from FAO, IFAD and ILO workshop on 'Gaps, trends and current research in gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment: differentiated pathways out of poverty', Rome, 31 March to 2 April 2009.).

**Genetically modified organism:** An organism in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination. (Source: Based on FSC-POL-30-602 FSC Interpretation on GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms)).

**Genotype:** The genetic constitution of an organism (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Good faith:** A process of engagement where the parties make every effort to reach an agreement, conduct genuine and constructive negotiations, avoid delays in negotiations, respect agreements concluded and under development, and give sufficient time to discuss and settle disputes (Source: adapted from Motion 40:2017).

**Good Faith in negotiation:** The Organization\* (employer) and workers' organizations\* make every effort to reach an agreement, conduct genuine and constructive negotiations, avoid unjustified delays in negotiations, respect agreements concluded and give sufficient time to discuss and settle collective disputes (Source: Gerning B, Odero A, Guido H (2000), Collective Bargaining: ILO Standards and the Principles of the Supervisory Bodies. International Labour Office, Geneva).

**Grassland:** Land covered with herbaceous plants with less than 10% tree and shrub cover (Source: UNEP, cited in FAO. 2002. Second Expert Meeting on Harmonizing Forest-Related Definitions for use by various stakeholders).

**Habitat:** The place or type of site where an organism or population occurs (Source: Based on the Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 2).

**Habitat features:** Forest stand attributes and structures, including but not limited to:

- Old commercial and non-commercial trees whose age noticeably exceeds the average age of the main canopy;
- Trees with special ecological value;
- Vertical and horizontal complexity;
- Standing dead trees;
- Dead fallen wood;
- Forest openings attributable to natural disturbances;
- Nesting sites;
- Small wetlands, bogs, fens;
- Ponds;
- Areas for procreation;
- Areas for feeding and shelter, including seasonal cycles of breeding;
- Areas for migration;
- Areas for hibernation.

**Hazardous work (in the context of child labour):** any work which is likely to jeopardize children's physical, mental or moral health, should not be undertaken by anyone under the age of 18 years. Hazardous child labour is work in dangerous, or unhealthy conditions that could result in a child being killed or injured/maimed (often permanently) and/or made ill (often permanently) as a consequence of poor safety and health standards and working arrangements. In determining the type of hazard child labour referred to under (Article 3(d) of the Convention No 182, and in identifying where they exist, consideration should be given, inter alia, to

- Work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse;
- Work underground, under water at dangerous heights or in confined spaces;
- Work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads;
- Work in unhealthy environment which may, for examples, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health;

- Work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer

(Source: ILO, 2011: IPEC Mainstreaming Child labour concerns in education sector plans and Programmes, Geneva, 2011 & ILO Handbook on Hazardous child labour, 2011).

**Heavy work (in the context of child labour):** refers to work that is likely to be harmful or dangerous to children's health (Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017).

**High Conservation Value (HCV):** Any of the following values:

- HCV1: Species Diversity. Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.
- HCV 2: Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics. Intact Forest Landscapes, large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- HCV 3: Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.
- HCV 4: Critical ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.
- HCV 5: Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or Indigenous Peoples (for example for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water), identified through engagement with these communities or Indigenous Peoples.
- HCV 6: Cultural values. Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or Indigenous Peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or Indigenous Peoples.

(Source: based on FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**High Conservation Value Areas:** Zones and physical spaces which possess and/or are needed for the existence and maintenance of identified High Conservation Values.

**High grading:** High grading is a tree removal practice in which only the best quality, most valuable timber trees are removed, often without regenerating new tree seedlings or removing the remaining poor quality and suppressed understory trees and, in doing so, degrading the ecological health and commercial value of the forest. High grading stands as a counterpoint to sustainable resource management (Source: based on Glossary of Forest Management Terms. North Carolina Division of Forest Resources. March 2009).

**ILO Committee on Freedom of Association:** a Governing Body Committee set up in 1951, for the purpose of examining complaints about violations of freedom of association, whether or not the country concerned had ratified the relevant conventions. Is composed of an independent chairperson and three representatives each of governments, employers, and workers. If it decides to receive the case, it establishes the facts in dialogue with the government concerned. If it finds that there has been a violation of freedom of association standards or principles, it issues a report through the Governing Body and makes recommendations on how the situation could be remedied. Governments are subsequently requested to report on the implementation of its recommendations (Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017).

**ILO Core (Fundamental) Conventions:** these are labour standards that cover fundamental principles and rights at work: freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the

elimination of discrimination\* in respect of employment and occupation. The eight Fundamental Conventions are:

- Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)
- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)
- Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)

(Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017)

**ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Followup, adopted by the International Labour conference at its Eighty-sixth Session, Geneva, 18th June 1998 (Annex revised 15 June 2010):** is a resolute reaffirmation of ILO principles (art 2) which declares that all Members, even if they have not ratified the Conventions in question, have an obligation, arising from the very fact of membership in the organization, to respect, to promote and to realize, in good faith\* and in accordance with the Constitution, the principles concerning the fundamental rights which are the subject of those Conventions, namely:

- Freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- The elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour;
- The effective abolition of child labour; and
- The elimination of discrimination\* in respect of employment and occupation.

(Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017)

**Indicator:** A quantitative or qualitative variable which can be measured or described, and which provides a means of judging whether a Management Unit complies with the requirements of an FSC Criterion. Indicators and the associated thresholds thereby define the requirements for responsible forest management at the level of the Management Unit and are the primary basis of forest evaluation (Source: FSC-STD-01-002 V1-0 FSC Glossary of Terms (2009)).

**Indigenous cultural landscapes:** Indigenous cultural landscapes are living landscapes to which Indigenous Peoples attribute environmental, social, cultural and economic value because of their enduring relationship with the land, water, fauna, flora and spirits and their present and future importance to their cultural identity. An Indigenous cultural landscape is characterized by features that have been maintained through long-term interactions based on land-care knowledge, and adaptive livelihood practices. They are landscapes over which Indigenous Peoples exercise responsibility for stewardship.

**Indigenous Peoples:** *Here we are referring to Indigenous Pygmy Peoples or Populations in the Republic of Cameroon.*

People and groups of people that can be identified or characterized as follows:

- The key characteristic or Criterion is self-identification as Indigenous Peoples at the individual level and acceptance by the community as their member;
- Historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies;

- Strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources;
- Distinct social, economic or political systems;
- Distinct language, culture and beliefs;
- Form non-dominant groups of society;
- Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities.

(Source: adapted from United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous, Factsheet 'Who are Indigenous Peoples' October 2007; United Nations Development Group, 'Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues' United Nations 2009, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 13 September 2007).

**Indirect involvement:** Situations in which the associated organization or individual, with a minimum ownership or voting power of 51%, is involved as a parent or sister company, subsidiary, shareholder or Board of Directors to an organization directly involved in unacceptable activities. Indirect involvement also includes activities performed by subcontractors when acting on behalf of the associated organization or individual (Source: FSC-POL-01-004 V2-0)

**Industrial activity:** Industrial forest and resource management activities such as road building, mining, dams, urban development and timber harvesting.

**Infrastructure:** In the context of forest management, roads, bridges, culverts, log landings, quarries, impoundments, buildings and other structures required in the course of implementing the management plan.

**Intact Forest Landscape:** a territory within today's global extent of forest cover which contains forest and non-forest ecosystems minimally influenced by human economic activity, with an area of at least 500 km<sup>2</sup> (50,000 ha) and a minimal width of 10 km (measured as the diameter of a circle that is entirely inscribed within the boundaries of the territory) (Source: Intact Forests / Global Forest Watch. Glossary definition as provided on Intact Forest website. 2006-2014).

**Integrated pest management (IPM):** Careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations, encourage beneficial populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human and animal health and/or the environment. IPM emphasizes the growth of a healthy forest with the least possible disruption to ecosystems and encourages natural pest control mechanisms (Source: Based on FAO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management).

**Intellectual property:** Practices as well as knowledge, innovations and other creations of the mind (Source: based on the Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 8(j); and World Intellectual Property Organization. What is Intellectual Property? WIPO Publication No. 450(E)).

**Intensity:** A measure of the force, severity or strength of a management activity or other occurrence affecting the nature of the activity's impacts (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Interested stakeholder:** Any person, group of persons, or entity that has shown an interest, or is known to have an interest, in the activities of a Management Unit. The following are examples of interested stakeholders.

- Conservation organizations, for example environmental NGOs;
- Labor (rights) organizations, for example labor unions;
- Human rights organizations, for example social NGOs;
- Local development projects;

- Local governments;
- National government departments functioning in the region;
- FSC National Offices;
- Experts on particular issues, for example High Conservation Values.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0)

**Internationally accepted scientific protocol:** A predefined science-based procedure which is either published by an international scientific network or union, or referenced frequently in the international scientific literature (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Invasive species:** Species that are rapidly expanding outside of their native range. Invasive species can alter ecological relationships among native species and can affect ecosystem function and human health (Source: based on International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website).

**Lands and territories:** For the purposes of the Principles and Criteria these are lands or territories that Indigenous Peoples or local communities have traditionally owned, or customarily used or occupied, and where access to natural resources is vital to the sustainability of their cultures and livelihoods (Source: based on World Bank safeguard OP 4.10 Indigenous Peoples, section 16 (a). July 2005.).

**Landscape:** A geographical mosaic composed of interacting ecosystems resulting from the influence of geological, topographical, soil, climatic, biotic and human interactions in a given area (Source: based on International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website).

**Landscape values:** Landscape values can be visualized as layers of human perceptions overlaid on the physical landscape. Some landscape values, like economic, recreation, subsistence value or visual quality are closely related to physical landscape attributes. Other landscape values such as intrinsic or spiritual value are more symbolic in character and are influenced more by individual perception or social construction than physical landscape attributes (Source: based on website of the Landscape Value Institute).

**Legal:** In accordance with primary legislation (national or local laws) or secondary legislation (subsidiary regulations, decrees, orders, etc.). 'Legal' also includes rule-based decisions made by legally competent agencies where such decisions flow directly and logically from the laws and regulations. Decisions made by legally competent agencies may not be legal if they do not flow directly and logically from the laws and regulations and if they are not rule-based but use administrative discretion (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Legally competent:** Mandated in law to perform a certain function (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Legal registration:** National or local legal license or set of permissions to operate as an enterprise, with rights to buy and sell products and/or services commercially. The license or permissions can apply to an individual, a privately-owned enterprise or a publicly-owned corporate entity. The rights to buy and sell products and/or services do not carry the obligation to do so, so legal registration applies also to Organizations operating a Management Unit without sales of products or services; for example, for unpriced recreation or for conservation of biodiversity or habitat (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Legal status:** The way in which the Management Unit is classified according to law. In terms of tenure, it means the category of tenure, such as communal land or leasehold or freehold or State land or government land, etc. If the Management Unit is being converted from one category to another (for example, from State land to communal indigenous land) the status includes the current position in the transition process. In terms of administration, legal status could mean that the land is owned by the nation as a whole, is administered on behalf of the nation by a government department, and is leased by a government Ministry to a private sector operator through a concession (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Light work:** national laws\* or regulations may permit the employment or work of persons 13 to 15 years of age on light work which is- a) not likely to be harmful to their health or development; and b) not such as to prejudice their attendance at school, their participation in vocational orientation or training programmes approved by the competent authority or their capacity to benefit from the instruction received (Source: ILO Convention 138, Article 7).

**Living wage:** The remuneration received for a standard work week by a worker in a particular place sufficient to afford a decent standard of living for the worker and her or his family. Elements of a decent standard of living include food, water, housing, education, health care, transport, clothing, and other essential needs including provision for unexpected events (Source: A Shared Approach to a Living Wage. ISEAL Living Wage Group. November 2013).

**Local communities:** Communities of any size that are in or adjacent to the Management Unit, and also those that are close enough to have a significant impact on the economy or the environmental values of the Management Unit or to have their economies, rights or environments significantly affected by the management activities or the biophysical aspects of the Management Unit (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Local laws:** The whole suite of primary and secondary laws (acts, ordinances, statutes, decrees) which is limited in application to a particular geographic district within a national territory, as well as secondary regulations, and tertiary administrative procedures (rules / requirements) that derive their authority directly and explicitly from these primary and secondary laws. Laws derive authority ultimately from the Westphalian concept of sovereignty of the Nation State (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Long-term:** The time-scale of the forest owner or manager as manifested by the objectives of the management plan, the rate of harvesting, and the commitment to maintain permanent forest cover. The length of time involved will vary according to the context and ecological conditions, and will be a function of how long it takes a given ecosystem to recover its natural structure and composition following harvesting or disturbance, or to produce mature or primary conditions (Source: FSC-STD-01-002 V1-0 FSC Glossary of Terms (2009)).

**Management objective:** Specific management goals, practices, outcomes, and approaches established to achieve the requirements of this standard.

**Management plan:** The collection of documents, reports, records and maps that describe, justify and regulate the activities carried out by any manager, staff or organization within or in relation to the Management Unit, including statements of objectives and policies (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Management plan monitoring:** Follow up and oversight procedures for the purpose of evaluating the achievement of the management objectives. The results of the monitoring activities are utilized in the implementation of adaptive management.

**Management Unit:** A spatial area or areas submitted for FSC certification with clearly defined boundaries managed to a set of explicit long term management objectives which are expressed in a management plan. This area or areas include(s):

- all facilities and area(s) within or adjacent to this spatial area or areas under legal title or management control of, or operated by or on behalf of The Organization, for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives; and
- all facilities and area(s) outside, and not adjacent to this spatial area or areas and operated by or on behalf of The Organization, solely for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Managerial control:** Responsibility of the kind defined for corporate directors of commercial enterprises in national commercial law, and treated by FSC as applicable also to public sector organizations (Source:

FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Minimum age (of employment):** is not less than the age of finishing compulsory education, and which in any case, should not be less than 15 years. However, a country, whose economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed, may initially specify a minimum age of 14 years. National laws\* may also permit the employment of 13-15 year olds in light work which is neither prejudicial to school attendance, nor harmful to a child's health or development. The ages 12-13 can apply for light work in countries that specify a minimum age of 14 (Source: ILO Convention 138, Article 2).

**National laws:** The whole suite of primary and secondary laws (acts, ordinances, statutes, decrees), which is applicable to a national territory, as well as secondary regulations, and tertiary administrative procedures (rules / requirements) that derive their authority directly and explicitly from these primary and secondary laws (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Native species:** Species, subspecies, or lower taxon, occurring within its natural range (past or present) and dispersal potential (that is, within the range it occupies naturally or could occupy without direct or indirect introduction or care by humans) (Source: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Invasive Alien Species Programme. Glossary of Terms as provided on CBD website).

**Natural conditions/native ecosystem:** For the purposes of the Principles and Criteria and any applications of restoration techniques, terms such as 'more natural conditions', 'native ecosystem' provide for managing sites to favor or restore native species and associations of native species that are typical of the locality, and for managing these associations and other environmental values so that they form ecosystems typical of the locality. Further guidelines may be provided in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Natural forest:** A forest area with many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems, such as complexity, structure and biological diversity, including soil characteristics, flora and fauna, in which all or almost all the trees are native species, not classified as plantations.

'Natural forest' includes the following categories:

- Forest affected by harvesting or other disturbances, in which trees are being or have been regenerated by a combination of natural and artificial regeneration with species typical of natural forests in that site, and where many of the above-ground and below-ground characteristics of the natural forest are still present. In boreal and north temperate forests which are naturally composed of only one or few tree species, a combination of natural and artificial regeneration to regenerate forest of the same native species, with most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems of that site, is not by itself considered as conversion to plantations;
- Natural forests which are maintained by traditional silvicultural practices including natural or assisted natural regeneration;
- Well-developed secondary or colonizing forest of native species which has regenerated in non-forest areas;
- The definition of 'natural forest' may include areas described as wooded ecosystems, woodland and savannah.

The description of natural forests and their principal characteristics and key elements may be further defined in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards, with appropriate descriptions or examples.

'Natural forest' does not include land which is not dominated by trees, was previously not forest, and which does not yet contain many of the characteristics and elements of native ecosystems. Young regeneration may be considered as natural forest after some years of ecological progression. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may indicate when such areas may be excised from the Management Unit, should be restored towards more natural conditions, or may be converted to other land uses.

FSC has not developed quantitative thresholds between different categories of forests in terms of area, density, height, etc. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may provide such thresholds and other guidelines, with appropriate descriptions or examples. Pending such guidance, areas dominated by trees, mainly of native species, may be considered as natural forest.

Thresholds and guidelines may cover areas such as:

- Other vegetation types and non-forest communities and ecosystems included in the Management Unit, including grassland, bushland, wetlands, and open woodlands;
- Very young pioneer or colonizing regeneration in a primary succession on new open sites or abandoned farmland, which does not yet contain many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems. This may be considered as natural forest through ecological progression after the passage of years;
- Young natural regeneration growing in natural forest areas may be considered as natural forest, even after logging, clear-felling or other disturbances, since many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems remain, above-ground and below-ground;
- Areas where deforestation and forest degradation have been so severe that they are no longer 'dominated by trees' may be considered as non-forest, when they have very few of the principal above-ground and below-ground characteristics and key elements of natural forests. Such extreme degradation is typically the result of combinations of repeated and excessively heavy logging, grazing, farming, fuelwood collection, hunting, fire, erosion, mining, settlements, infrastructure, etc. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may help to decide when such areas should be excised from the Management Unit, should be restored towards more natural conditions, or may be converted to other land uses.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Natural Hazards:** disturbances that can present risks to social and environmental values in the Management Unit but that may also comprise important ecosystem functions; examples include drought, flood, fire, landslide, storm, avalanche, etc.

**Non-forest land-use:** Land-use system, where the land is not dominated by trees.

**Non-timber forest products (NTFP):** All products other than timber derived from the Management Unit (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Objective:** The basic purpose laid down by The Organization for the forest enterprise, including the decision of policy and the choice of means for attaining the purpose (Source: based on F.C. Osmaston. 1968. The Management of Forests. Hafner, New York; and D.R. Johnston, A.J. Grayson and R.T. Bradley. 1967. Forest Planning. Faber & Faber, London).

**Obligatory code of practice:** A manual or handbook or other source of technical instruction which The Organization must implement by law (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Occupational accident:** An occurrence arising out of, or in the course of, work which results in fatal or non-fatal injury (Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). Bureau of Library and Information Services. ILO Thesaurus as provided on ILO website).

**Occupational disease:** Any disease contracted as a result of an exposure to risk factors arising from work activity (Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). Bureau of Library and Information Services. ILO Thesaurus as provided on ILO website).

**Occupational injuries:** Any personal injury, disease or death resulting from an occupational accident (Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). Bureau of Library and Information Services. ILO Thesaurus as provided on ILO website).

**Ongoing social harms:** social harms which have not been remedied (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

**Organism:** Any biological entity capable of replication or of transferring genetic material (Source: Council Directive 90/220/EEC).

**Peatland:** Is constituted by flooded and soggy areas, with large accumulations of organic material, covered by a layer of poor vegetation associated with a certain degree of acidity, and which presents a characteristic amber color (Source: Aguilar, L. 2001. About Fishermen, Fisherwomen, Oceans and tides. IUCN. San Jose (Costa Rica)).

**Pesticide:** Any substance or preparation prepared or used in protecting plants or wood or other plant products from pests; in controlling pests; or in rendering such pests harmless. This definition includes insecticides, rodenticides, acaricides, molluscicides, larvicides, fungicides and herbicides (Source: FSC-POL-30-001 FSC Pesticides Policy (2005)).

**Plantation:** A forest area established by planting or sowing with using either alien or native species, often with one or few species, regular spacing and even ages, and which lacks most of the principal characteristics and key elements of natural forests. The description of plantations may be further defined in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards, with appropriate descriptions or examples, such as:

- Areas which would initially have complied with this definition of 'plantation' but which, after the passage of years, contain many or most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems, may be classified as natural forests.
- Plantations managed to restore and enhance biological and habitat diversity, structural complexity and ecosystem functionality may, after the passage of years, be classified as natural forests.
- Boreal and north temperate forests which are naturally composed of only one or few tree species, in which a combination of natural and artificial regeneration is used to regenerate forest of the same native species, with most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems of that site, may be considered as natural forest, and this regeneration is not by itself considered as conversion to plantations.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0)

**Precautionary approach:** An approach requiring that when the available information indicates that management activities pose a threat of severe or irreversible damage to the environment or a threat to human welfare, The Organization will take explicit and effective measures to prevent the damage and avoid the risks to welfare, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of environmental values are uncertain (Source: based on Principle 15 of Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992, and Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle of the Wingspread Conference, 23–25 January 1998).

**Pre-harvest [condition]:** The diversity, composition, and structure of the forest or plantation prior to felling timber and appurtenant activities such as road building.

**Principle:** An essential rule or element; in FSC's case, of forest stewardship (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0).

**Priority social harms:** social harms prioritized by an FPIC-based process with affected rights-holders or identified in consultation with affected stakeholders (Source: FSC-PRO-01-007 V1-0. Shortened version - refer to the FSC Remedy Framework for full definition).

**Proportionate:** A 1:1 ratio: The area to be restored or conserved is the same as the area of natural forest and/or High Conservation Value destroyed (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

**Protection:** See definition of Conservation.

**Protection Area:** See definition of Conservation Zone.

**Publicly available:** In a manner accessible to or observable by people generally (Source: Collins English Dictionary, 2003 Edition).

**Rare species:** Species that are uncommon or scarce, but not classified as threatened. These species are located in geographically restricted areas or specific habitats, or are scantily scattered on a large scale. They are approximately equivalent to the IUCN (2001) category of Near Threatened (NT), including species that are close to qualifying for, or are likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future. They are also approximately equivalent to imperiled species (Source: based on IUCN. (2001). IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK).

**Ratified:** The process by which an international law, convention or agreement (including multilateral environmental agreement) is legally approved by a national legislature or equivalent legal mechanism, such that the international law, convention or agreement becomes automatically part of national law or sets in motion the development of national law to give the same legal effect (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Reasonable:** Judged to be fair or appropriate to the circumstances or purposes, based on general experience (Source: Shorter Oxford English Dictionary).

**Reduced impact harvesting:** Harvesting (or logging) using techniques to reduce the impact on the residual stand (Source: based on Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests, IUCN 2006).

**Refugia:** An isolated area where extensive changes, typically due to changing climate or by disturbances such as those caused by humans, have not occurred and where plants and animals typical of a region may survive (Source: Glen Canyon Dam, Adaptive Management Program Glossary as provided on website of Glen Canyon Dam website).

**Remedy:** To correct or return something as near as possible to its original state or condition (Source: Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. UN. 2011).

- For environmental harms this includes actions taken to remedy deforestation, conversion degradation, or other harms to natural forest and High Conservation Value areas. Environmental remedy actions may include but are not limited to: conservation of standing forests, habitats, ecosystems and species; restoration and protection of degraded ecosystems.
- For social harms this includes providing redress for identified social harms through agreements made during an FPIC-based process with the affected rights holders, and facilitating a transition to the position before such harms occurred; or developing alternative measures to ameliorate harms by providing gains recognized by the affected stakeholders as equivalent to the harms, through consultation and agreement. Remedy may be achieved through a combination of apologies, restitution, rehabilitation, financial or non-financial compensation, satisfaction, punitive sanctions, injunctions, and guarantees of non-repetition (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

**Remuneration:** includes the ordinary, basic or minimum wage or salary and any additional emoluments whatsoever payable directly or indirectly, whether in cash or in kind, by the employer to the worker and arising out of the workers employment (Source: ILO Convention 100, Article1a).

**Repair:** Process of assisting the recovery of environmental values and human health (Source: FSC-POL-30-001).

**Representative Sample Areas:** Portions of the Management Unit delineated for the purpose of conserving or restoring viable examples of an ecosystem that would naturally occur in that geographical region.

**Resilience:** The ability of a system to maintain key functions and processes in the face of stresses or

pressures by either resisting or adapting to change. Resilience can be applied to both ecological systems and social systems (Source: IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA). 2008. Establishing Marine Protected Area Networks – Making it Happen. Washington D.C.: IUCN-WCPA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and The Nature Conservancy.).

**Restitution:** Measures agreed with affected stakeholders to restore lands, properties or damaged natural resources to their original owners in their original condition. Where such lands, properties or natural resources cannot be returned or restored, measures are agreed on to provide alternatives of equivalent quality and extent. Restitution to affected rights holders is agreed on through an FPIC-based process (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

**Restore / Restoration:** These words are used in different senses according to the context and in everyday speech. In some cases 'restore' means to repair the damage done to environmental values that resulted from management activities or other causes. In other cases 'restore' means the formation of more natural conditions in sites which have been heavily degraded or converted to other land uses. In the Principles and Criteria, the word 'restore' is not used to imply the recreation of any particular previous, pre-historic, pre-industrial or other pre-existing ecosystem (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

The Organization is not necessarily obliged to restore those environmental values that have been affected by factors beyond the control of The Organization, for example by natural disasters, by climate change, or by the legally authorized activities of third parties, such as public infrastructure, mining, hunting or settlement. FSC-POL-20-003 The Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification describes the processes by which such areas may be excised from the area certified, when appropriate.

The Organization is also not obliged to restore environmental values that may have existed at some time in the historic or pre-historic past, or that have been negatively affected by previous owners or organizations. However, The Organization is expected to take reasonable measures to mitigate, control and prevent environmental degradation which is continuing in the Management Unit as a result of such previous impacts.

**Riparian zone:** Interface between land and a water body, and the vegetation associated with it.

**Risk:** The probability of an unacceptable negative impact arising from any activity in the Management Unit combined with its seriousness in terms of consequences (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Scale:** A measure of the extent to which a management activity or event affects an environmental value or a management unit, in time or space. An activity with a small or low spatial scale affects only a small proportion of the forest each year, an activity with a small or low temporal scale occurs only at long intervals (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Scale, intensity and risk:** See individual definitions of the terms 'scale', 'intensity', and 'risk'.

**Significant:** For the purposes of Principle 9, HCVs 1, 2 and 6 there are three main forms of recognizing significance.

- A designation, classification or recognized conservation status, assigned by an international agency such as IUCN or Birdlife International;
- A designation by national or regional authorities, or by a responsible national conservation organization, on the basis of its concentration of biodiversity;
- A voluntary recognition by the manager, owner or Organization, on the basis of available information, or of the known or suspected presence of a significant biodiversity concentration, even when not officially designated by other agencies.

Any one of these forms will justify designation as HCVs 1, 2 and 6. Many regions of the world have received recognition for their biodiversity importance, measured in many different ways. Existing maps and

classifications of priority areas for biodiversity conservation play an essential role in identifying the potential presence of HCVs 1, 2 and 6 (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Silviculture:** The art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health and quality of forests and woodlands to meet the targeted diverse needs and values of landowners and society on a sustainable basis (Source: Nieuwenhuis, M. 2000. Terminology of Forest Management. IUFRO World Series Vol. 9. IUFRO 4.04.07 SilvaPlan and SilvaVoc).

**Simplified Environmental Impact Assessment:** Report drawn up on small-scale projects or establishments/facilities that are not subject to an environmental and social impact study or an environmental and social audit, but which could have non-negligible effects on the environment (Arrêté-N°00002-MINEPDED-of-08-February-2016).

**Simple management Plan:** These are management plans for SLIMFs and community forests in the Republic of Cameroon. This is a technical document drawn up by a community or private SLIMF forest managers with the support of project partners and local forestry administration services, with a view to planning, in time and space, all the strategies to be implemented for the sustainable use of one or more forest or wildlife resources (MINEF, 1998).

**Small-scale smallholder:** Any person that is depending on the land for most of their livelihood; and/or employs labour mostly from family or neighbouring communities and has land-use rights on a Management Unit of less than 50 hectares. Standard developers may define this to less than 50 hectares (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0). **Social harms:** Negative impacts on persons or communities, perpetrated by individuals, corporations or states, which include, but may go beyond, criminal acts by legal persons. Such harms include negative impacts on persons' or groups' rights, livelihoods and well-being, such as property (including forests, lands, waters), health, food security, healthy environment, cultural repertoire and happiness, as well as Page 105 of 107 International Generic Indicators FSC-STD-60-004 V2-1 EN physical injury, detention, dispossession and expulsion (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

- **Ongoing social harms:** social harms which have not been remedied.
- **Priority social harms:** social harms prioritized by an FPIC-based process with affected rights-holders or identified in consultation with affected stakeholders (Source: FSC-PRO-01-007 V1-0. Shortened version - refer to the FSC Remedy Framework for full definition).

**Stakeholder:** See definitions for 'affected stakeholder' and 'interested stakeholder'.

**Statutory law or statute law:** The body of law contained in Acts of Parliament (national legislature) (Source: Oxford Dictionary of Law).

**Tenure:** Socially defined agreements held by individuals or groups, recognized by legal statutes or customary practice, regarding the 'bundle of rights and duties' of ownership, holding, access and/or usage of a particular land unit or the associated resources there within (such as individual trees, plant species, water, minerals, etc.) (Source: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Glossary definitions provided on IUCN website).

**The Organization:** The person or entity holding or applying for certification and therefore responsible for demonstrating compliance with the requirements upon which FSC certification is based (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Threat:** An indication or warning of impending or likely damage or negative impacts (Source: based on Oxford English Dictionary).

**Threatened species:** Species that meet the IUCN (2001) criteria for Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR), and are facing a high, very high or extremely high risk of extinction in the

wild. These categories may be re-interpreted for FSC purposes according to official national classifications (which have legal significance) and to local conditions and population densities (which should affect decisions about appropriate conservation measures) (Source: based on IUCN. (2001). IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.).

**Timber harvesting level:** The actual harvest quantity executed on the Management Unit, tracked by either volume (e.g. cubic meters or board feet) or area (e.g. hectares or acres) metrics for the purpose of comparison with calculated (maximum) allowable harvest levels.

**Timely manner:** As promptly as circumstances reasonably allow; not intentionally postponed by The Organization; in compliance with applicable laws, contracts, licenses or invoices.

**Traditional Knowledge:** Information, know-how, skills and practices that are developed, sustained and passed on from generation to generation within a community, often forming part of its cultural or spiritual identity (Source: based on the definition by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Glossary definition as provided under Policy / Traditional Knowledge on the WIPO website).

**Traditional peoples:** Traditional peoples are social groups or peoples who do not self-identify as indigenous and who affirm rights to their lands, forests and other resources based on long established custom or traditional occupation and use (Source: Forest Peoples Programme (Marcus Colchester, 7 October 2009)).

**Transaction verification:** Verification by certification bodies and/or Accreditation Services International (ASI) that FSC output claims made by certificate holders are accurate and match with the FSC input claims of their trading partners (Source: FSCSTD-40-004 V3-0).

**Uphold:** To acknowledge, respect, sustain and support (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Use rights:** Rights for the use of resources of the Management Unit that can be defined by local custom, mutual agreements, or prescribed by other entities holding access rights. These rights may restrict the use of particular resources to specific levels of consumption or particular harvesting techniques (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Vast majority:** 80% of the total area of Intact Forest Landscapes within the Management Unit as of January 1, 2017. The vast majority also meets or exceeds the minimum definition of Intact Forest Landscape.

**Verifiable targets:** Specific goals, such as desired future forest conditions, established to measure progress towards the achievement of each of the management objectives. These goals are expressed as clear outcomes, such that their attainment can be verified and it is possible to determine whether they have been accomplished or not.

**Very limited portion:** The area affected shall not exceed 0.5% of the area of the Management Unit in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% of the area of the Management Unit (Source: based on FSC-STD-01-002 V1-0 FSC Glossary of Terms (2009)).

**Very limited portion of core area:** The area affected shall not exceed 0.5% of the area of the core area in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% of the area of the core area.

**Waste materials:** unusable or unwanted substances or by-products, such as:

- Hazardous waste, including chemical waste and batteries;
- Containers;
- Motor and other fuels and oils;
- Rubbish including metals, plastics and paper; and

- Abandoned buildings, machinery and equipment.

**Water bodies** (including water courses): Seasonal, temporary, and permanent brooks, creeks, streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Water bodies include riparian or wetland systems, lakes, swamps, bogs and springs.

**Water scarcity:** A water supply that limits food production, human health, and economic development. Severe scarcity is taken to be equivalent to 1,000 cubic meters per year per person or greater than 40% use relative to supply (Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: Policy Responses. Findings of the Responses Working Group. Washington DC: Island Press, Pages 599-605).

**Water stress:** Occurs when the demand for water exceeds the available amount during a certain period or when poor quality restricts its use. Water stress causes deterioration of freshwater resources in terms of quantity (aquifer over-exploitation, dry rivers, etc.) and quality (eutrophication, organic matter pollution, saline intrusion, etc.) (Source: UNEP, 2003, cited in Gold Standard Foundation. 2014. Water Benefits Standard).

**Wetlands:** Transitional areas between terrestrial and aquatic systems in which the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water (Source: Cowardin, L.M., Carter, V., Golet, F.C., Laroe, E.T. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. DC US Department: Washington).

Under the Ramsar Convention, wetlands can include tidal mudflats, natural ponds, marshes, potholes, wet meadows, bogs, peatlands, freshwater swamps, mangroves, lakes, rivers and even some coral reefs (Source: IUCN, No Date, IUCN Definitions – English).

**Workers:** All employed persons including public employees as well as ‘self-employed’ persons. This includes part-time and seasonal employees, of all ranks and categories, including laborers, administrators, supervisors, executives, contractor employees as well as self-employed contractors and sub-contractors (Source: ILO Convention C155 Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981).

**Workers’ organization:** any organization of workers\* \_for furthering and defending the interest of workers\*\_ (adapted from ILO Convention 87, Article 10). It is important to note that rules and guidance on composition of workers’ organization vary from country to country, especially in relation to those who are considered as rank and file members, as well those who are deemed to have power to “hire and fire”. Workers’ organizations tend to separate association between those who can “hire and fire” and those who cannot (Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017).

**Worst forms of child labour:** comprises a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performance; c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties; d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children (Source: ILO Convention 182, Article 3).



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