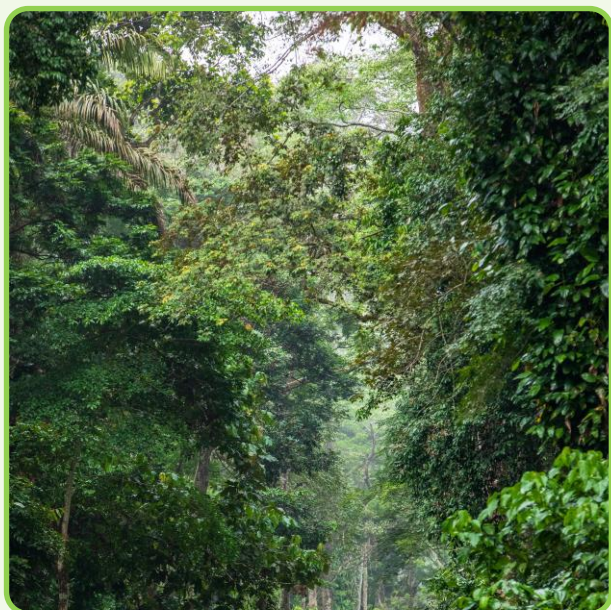




Forest Stewardship Standard

FSC FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD FOR THE REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

FSC-STD-COG-02.1-2026 EN



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Forest management in certified forest unit © FSC Africa/Jonathan Perugia.

NOTE ON THIS ENGLISH VERSION:

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Title	FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for the Republic of the Congo
Document code	FSC-STD-COG-02.1-2026 EN
Scope	All forest types (for further details see section “B.2 Scope” of this standard)
Status	Approved
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Timeframes	Transition period ¹ : 18 months from the effective date Validity period: Until revised, replaced or withdrawn
Local contact	Congo Basin Office The Republic of the Congo Office 2, Avenue de la Base (Immeuble LCB) – Angle Bd Denis Sassou Nguesso Quartier Batignolles - Brazzaville / République du Congo. Contact person: Patrick Epie, Congo Basin and West Africa Coordinator Email: p.epie@fsc.org
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¹ 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 nonconformities 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 of the standard

Version	Description	Final Approval date
V1.0	FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for The Congo Basin Region This regional standard (which included Cameroon, Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea) was based on P&C V4. It was approved by the PSC in April 2012.	April 2012
V2.0	The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of the Republic of the Congo The standard was conditionally approved by the PSC on 10 March 2020 and finally approved by the PSU (at present P&P) on 29 July 2020.	29 July 2020
V2.1	FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for the Republic of the Congo The partial revision of above-mentioned standard involved the improvement of IFL-related requirements. It was implemented through the pilot test within the framework of implementation of Motion 23 passed at the 9 th FSC General Assembly in 2022 and, later, Motion 45 passed at the 10 th FSC General Assembly in 2025.	16 June 2026

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A	Foreword	7
A.1	The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)	7
A.2	The FSC Principles and Criteria	7
B	Preamble	8
B.1	Objective	8
B.2	Scope	8
B.3	Responsibility for conformity	8
B.4	Note on the use of indicators and other elements in the standard	9
B.5	Scale, Intensity and Risk (SIR)	10
B.6	Interpretations and disputes	10
C	Context	11
C.1	Forest management in the Republic of the Congo	11
C.2	Descriptive statement of the Standard Development Group	12
C.3	Background information on the standard development (V2-0)	13
C.4	Members of the Standards Development Group of the Republic of the Congo that elaborated the original version of this FSS.	13
C.5	Experts advising the Standard Development Group	15
C.6	Background information on the partial revision (V2-1)	15
C.7	Members of the Standards Development Group of the Republic of the Congo that elaborated this partially revised version	17
D	References	20
E	<i>Principles*, criteria* and indicators*</i>	21
	<i>PRINCIPLE* 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS</i>	21
	<i>PRINCIPLE 2: WORKERS* RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS</i>	32
	<i>PRINCIPLE 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES* RIGHTS</i>	35
	<i>PRINCIPLE 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS</i>	38
	<i>PRINCIPLE 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST*</i>	41
	<i>PRINCIPLE 6: ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES* AND IMPACTS</i>	43
	<i>PRINCIPLE 7: MANAGEMENT PLANNING</i>	47
	<i>PRINCIPLE 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT</i>	49
	<i>PRINCIPLE 9: HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES*</i>	51

PRINCIPLE 10: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	56
F Annexes	60
Annex A Minimum list of applicable laws, regulations and nationally ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements (Principle 1)	60
Annex B Training requirements for workers (Principle 2)	71
Annex C Conservation Area Network Conceptual Diagram (Principle 6)	72
Annex D Elements of the Management Plan (Principle 7)	73
Annex E Conceptual Framework for Planning and Monitoring	75
Annex F Monitoring requirements (Principle 8)	77
Annex G Strategies for maintaining High Conservation Values (Principle 9)	79
Annex H HCV Framework (Principle 9)	85
Annex I List of rare and threatened species in the country or region	99
Annex J Management strategies to be implemented to mitigate damage in Intact Forest Landscapes outside of core areas within the Management Unit for Indicator 9.2.7	100
Annex K FSC Glossary of terms	102

A FOREWORD

(Informative section)

A.1 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 compliance 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 The FSC Principles and Criteria

FSC first published the FSC Principles and Criteria in November 1994 as a performance-based, outcome-orientated, worldwide standard. The Principles and Criteria focus on field performance of forest management rather than on the management systems for delivering that field performance.

There is no hierarchy between the Principles or between Criteria. They share equal status, validity and authority, and apply jointly and severally at the level of the individual Management Unit.

The FSC Principles and Criteria together with the International Generic Indicators (IGI) provide the basis for the development of locally adapted Forest Stewardship Standards (FSS).

B PREAMBLE

B.1 Objective

(Informative section)

The objective of this standard is to provide a set of requirements for:

1. The Organization to implement responsible forest management within their Management Unit and to demonstrate conformance.
2. FSC accredited certification bodies (CBs) to determine conformity against this standard as the basis for granting, maintaining or renewing forest management certification.

B.2 Scope

(Normative section)

This standard shall be applied in the following scope:

Geographic region	The Republic of the Congo
Forest types	All forest types
Ownership types	Relevant specifications are provided below in this section.
Scale and intensity categories (According to section 6 of FSC-STD-60-002)	All forest operations, except community forests and small or low intensity managed forests (SLIMF).
Forest products (According to FSC-STD-40-004a)	Rough wood Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) not applicable.

This standard is applicable to all forest operations seeking FSC certification within the Republic of the Congo, except community forests and small or low intensity management forests (SLIMF).

The FSS therefore applies to classified management units (MU) (Unité Forestière d'Aménagement [UFA] in French), of the permanent forest estate, under a harvesting agreement with the government and with approved management plans.

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 Note on the use of indicators and other elements in the standard

(Normative section)

For each Criterion a number of indicators are listed. All indicators are simply numbered, with no additional letter (e.g. Indicator 1.1.1). Indicators are intended to be applicable to all large-scale operations (classified management units) under a harvesting agreement with the government and with approved management plans (Unité Forestière d'Aménagement).

These indicators are not applicable to SLIMFs and non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

Organizations wishing to certify NTFPs can contact FSC accredited certification bodies, FSC Congo Basin office or the email contact in this FSS.

The following elements of this standard are normative: scope, effective date, validity period, glossary of terms, principles, criteria and indicators, tables and annexes, unless indicated otherwise.

The following elements of this standard are not normative and can be used for guidance only: verifiers and notes.

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.5 Scale, Intensity and Risk (SIR)

(Normative section)

This standard is applicable to all forest operations seeking FSC certification within the Republic of the Congo, except community forests and SLIMF. At the time of the development of this standard, the latter have not yet been adequately integrated into the legal frameworks in the Republic of the Congo. The draft of the law under revision still gave just a few classification proposals on community forests that needed to be approved by the State before the implementation decrees are elaborated by the ministry in charge.

The Standard Development Group (SDG) therefore thought it was not possible to add those categories into the scope of this standard at this stage. This law has now been approved and the development of implementation decrees is ongoing. The SDG hopes to include Community forests in the scope of this Forest Stewardship Standard during the next scheduled revision.

Concerning SIR indicators in the FSS, the SDG in one of their sessions examined all the SIR indicators proposed in the IGIs and all thresholds were applicable in the Congolese context.

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).

Disputes between stakeholders concerning certification requirements are managed by FSC dispute resolution procedure (see: <FSC-PRO-01-008 V2-0 Processing Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme Procedure>).

C CONTEXT

(Informative section)

C.1 Forest management in the Republic of the Congo

The Republic of the Congo is situated in the central African region and more precisely in the Congo Basin. Its surface area is 342 000 km². The maximum North-South distance is 1200 km while the Atlantic borders are extended through 170 km.

The Congolese forests contribute to 5.6% of their average national income (PIB) and create nearly 12 000 direct jobs and about 5000 indirect jobs. The forest sector makes annual sales revenue of about 100 billion francs CFA and contributes for 20 billion of the country's annual tax revenue (PND 2018-2022).

The national forest cover is about 23.9 million ha which is 70.52% of the national territory (REDD+2014). This forest cover is distributed under three areas:

- South of Mayombe;
- South-West of Chaillu; and
- The North of Congo.

Plantation forests in the Republic of the Congo cover an estimated area of about 59 417 ha, which is 0.17% of the national forest cover and are mostly concentrated in the southern part of the country (SNR, 2016). The country has 17 protected areas which is 13.2% of the national territory (<http://www.mefdd.cg/fr/faune-aires-protegees>). The wildlife is particularly rich and diversified. It is made of 700 bird species, 45 reptile species, 2000 insect species, 200 mammal species, 4 marine turtle species etc. (COMIFAC News N° 06, October 2009). This wildlife potential is very visible in protected areas and forest concessions.

There are 60 forest concessions in the Republic of the Congo (constituting 14 877 129 ha) of which 54 have been leased and six not yet leased. 19 of the leased concessions have approved management plans while nine have their management plans under development and 26 have no management plans (CNIAC, 2019).

Congo's forest sector is still a major producer of tropical hardwoods with key products including logs, sawn wood and wood-based panels. Most of the commercial logs produced are destined for locally installed sawmills. The humid and dry sawn wood from the companies in the North of Congo are mostly for export. An important driver to encourage local transformation originates from the Congolese legislation, which requires companies to process at least 85% of their production in the country. Forest production is mainly made of the following species; Sapelli, Sipo, Okoumé, Iroko, Niové, Kossipo, Ayous, Longhi blanc, Bahia, Wengué, Afromosia, Limba, Doussié, Bossé, Padouk, Bilinga, Azobé etc.

While practically all the natural forests are publicly owned, the law (Indigenous Peoples Rights Law) recognizes the rights of Indigenous Peoples living in those forests. The forest areas of the State consist of forests owned by the state, local authorities and public bodies. The law also recognizes private property on forest areas, including private forests and private forest plantations. The local communities and indigenous populations that live around forest concessions are directly or indirectly affected by forest management operations. They are made of the Bantous and Indigenous Peoples' communities. In compliance with the law N°5-2011 and its six (6) implementation texts, Indigenous Peoples are a group of people that are distinguished by their cultural identity, their mode of life and their extreme vulnerability which constitute one of the demographic characteristics of the Republic of the Congo. They are concentrated in the Lékoumou, Niari, Bouenza, Pool, Plateaux, Cuvette Ouest, Sangha and Likouala divisions. In the Republic of the Congo, the participation of Indigenous Peoples and local populations in forest management is promoted by the following legal requirements:

- Adoption and implementation of the law N°5-2011 of the 25th January 2011 on the protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights. This law confirms the commitment of the Republic of the Congo to ensure the full implication of Indigenous Peoples in the sustainable management of forest resources;
- ensuring the participation of local populations and Indigenous Peoples in sustainable forest management declarations and engagements taken at diverse levels in the country;
- ensuring the participation of local populations and Indigenous Peoples in sustainable management of forest resources;
- ensuring the setting up of mechanisms for the implication of local populations and Indigenous Peoples by the forest managers for all concessions and some protected areas;
- ensuring the implication of local populations and Indigenous Peoples in the development and implementation of REDD+ and FLEGT voluntary partnership agreements.

There main issues hinder the effective implementation of these laws are the absence of some implementation rules and the fact that the local populations and Indigenous Peoples know very little about these legal requirements. FSC certification is seen in this light as a tool that reinforces the implementation of these laws through its social requirements and more specifically through the FPIC and ILO guidance and indicators.

The Republic of the Congo has the ambition of consolidating its status as a model in the domain of sustainable forest management in Africa through its sustainable and forest certification sector and a more advanced and diversified transformation that shall permit to align with the requirements of the international market and the increasing needs of the regional and inter-African market. In this high-risk context and given the importance of the forest for the populations and the country's sustainable development, the Republic of the Congo engaged in the implementation of the REDD+ process in 2008 and has encouraged forest certification in the country.

C.2 Descriptive statement of the Standard Development Group

It is first important to note that this Standard has been developed by a national Standards Development Group (SDG) which was registered by the FSC Performance and Standards Unit (at present, Policy and Performance Unit, P&P) in May 2015 to develop an FSC national standard for the Republic of the Congo based on version 5 of FSC Principles and Criteria.

The difference between the FSC Standard for the Republic of the Congo presented in this document and the sub-regional standard for the Congo Basin is that it is based on version 5 of the FSC Principles and Criteria (FSC P&C) and includes legal requirements and specific indicators and verifiers that are relevant only to the Republic of the Congo.

This national standard therefore reflects current circumstances in the country. This work has been 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 (V2-0) 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 Standards Development Group, after first analysing the gaps, updated the FSS to include all missing elements and ensure compliance with the requirements of the FLEGT legality checklist of the Congolese EU-FLEGT-VPA.

C.3 Background information on the standard development (V2-0)

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 Policy 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 (CF), 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 the Congo by the Programmes Manager responsible for developing FSC International national standards, at FSC International and the FSC Programmes Coordinator for the Congo Basin.

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

Initially, this support entailed training the SDG members to use various reference documents and tools for formulating their terms of reference and carrying out the technical work that needed to be done during the Standard revision process.

The permanent presence of an FSC staff member at SDG meetings throughout the process greatly facilitated the progress of the work within the group and consequently compliance with FSC procedures and guidance.

The pre-approval draft of the FSS was submitted by the SDG to the Policy and Standards Unit (PSU, at present – P&P) on July 7, 2019. Following PSU's assessment, the FSS (V2-0) received conditional approval from the Policy and Standards Committee on March 10, 2020, and was subsequently granted final approval on July 29, 2020.

C.4 Members of the Standards Development Group of the Republic of the Congo that elaborated the original version of this FSS.

Chairperson/Facilitator of the Standard Development Group in the Republic of the Congo

Name	Resume
MVOUKANI Gady Inès Starov Cabare	Country Associate ClientEarth (NGO Forests - Climate) Coordinator of Comptoir Juridique Junior and FSC Member

Members of the SDG in the FSS for the Republic of the Congo:

Environmental Chamber	Economic Chamber	Social Chamber
RAYDEN Tim	COUTURIER Antoine/ Tom Van LOON	BARROS Lilian Laurin
National Coordinator, World Conservation Society (WCS), Congo.	IFO Forest Concession Director Social Environment and Certification	Comptoir Juridique Junior (CJJ) Jurist, Permanent Secretary of the CJJ and Platform for Sustainable Forest Management Projects/ Programme Manager/ FSC Member
SEPULCRE Cédric	ISTACE Vincent	DIHOUKAMBA Parfait
Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)	CIB OLAM Forest Concession	REPALEAC-CONGO, Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa
Conservation Consultant	Director of Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability	National Coordinator/ FSC Member
YEMBE-YEMBE Regis Ismael	NGOMA Jean-Albert	PONGUI Brice Severin
World Resources Institute (WRI), Congo	Directorate General of the Forest Economy	Institut Cerveau Vert 2063 (ICV-2063)
Programme Manager	Head of Forest Inventories and Management / FSC Member	Executive Director
DZATINI ECKO Armand Brice	OSSEBI Alain Bienvenu	NZILA KENDET Trésor Chardon
CNIAF, National Centre of Inventories and Management of Forest and Wildlife Resources	General Inspectorate of Forest Economy Services	OCDH, Human Rights
FSC Member	Coordinator of the Forest Legality and Traceability Unit (CLFT)/ FSC Member	Observatory Organization for the Republic of the Congo.
		Executive Director

C.5 Experts advising the Standard Development Group

Name			Expertise
OBIMBOLA Chablys	Gildas	Ricklin	Cercle d'Appui à la Gestion Durable des Forêts (CAGDF) - Forest management partner Organization. National expert, Open Timber Portal/ FSC Member

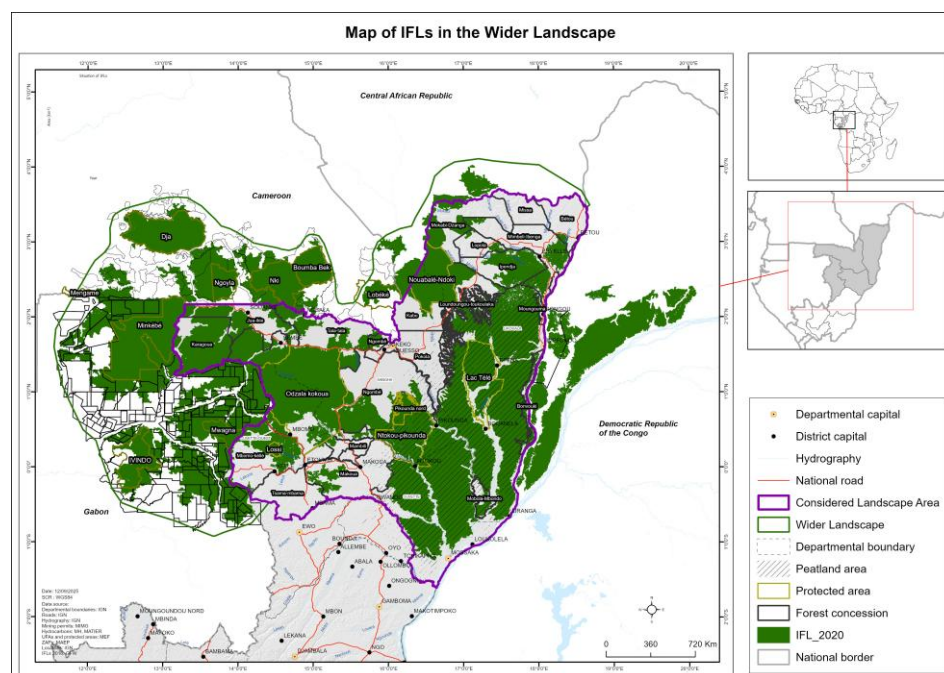
C.6 Background information on the partial revision (V2-1)

Considering the FSC Director General's letter of the 24th January 2020 to the SDG in the Republic of the Congo, stating the obligation to set aside a threshold of >50% for IFL core areas, this had been respected by that time. Nevertheless, the concerned indicators were to be modified on the basis of anticipated normative changes (including regarding the thresholds for core areas of IFLs, the outcomes of the Motion 34 impact study and other developments from the ongoing IFL global discussions around the determination of thresholds for IFL core areas).

Motion 23 approved by FSC General Assembly 2022, required the use of landscape-wide approaches adapted to local conditions and strengthening SDGs to improve protection of Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs). To facilitate the implementation of this motion, FSC has developed and piloted a draft procedure (<FSC-PRO-60-004 V1-0 Development of Indicators for the Protection of Intact Forest Landscapes Considering the Landscape Level>) and related guidelines to help SDGs develop more localised indicators for IFLs based on the landscape approach.

The initiative to pilot test this approach that required conducting a landscape dialogue was very important for the Republic of the Congo as the FSC certified concessions in the northern part of the country have considerable parts of their surfaces overlapping with IFLs.

The pilot testing was conducted on a single landscape in the Northern Congo Forest Landscape (see Map 1 below).



Map 1: IFLs and MUs in the Northern Congo Forest Landscape

This landscape includes FSC certified forest concessions and neighbouring national parks and protected areas. The choice of one landscape has been preferred due to the homogeneity of the natural forest landscapes for both production and protected areas across the country. The landscape was identified and its boundaries marked out using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and based on several criteria, including ecological connectivity, IFL distribution, presence of Indigenous Peoples, existence of FSC-certified and non-FSC-certified forest concessions and protected areas. The ecological, social and economic significance of landscape was also considered. The landscape covers the entire administrative divisions of Sangha and Likouala, and parts of the administrative divisions of Cuvette, Cuvette-Ouest and Congo-Oubangui.

The landscape was subsequently described and threats to IFLs and deforestation risks and trends analysed to produce a future scenario for IFLs in the landscape. Based on this analysis, the SDG proposed IFL landscape indicators that were examined and amended during the national IFL landscape dialogue that brought together a diverse range of national and international stakeholders, including Representatives from research institutions, universities, international and local environmental NGOs, civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples associations, local community associations, government Authorities, timber industry organizations and national support services, forestry workers associations and FSC International members. Stakeholders also had the opportunity to further comment on the final draft of FSS through a 30-day consultation phase (conducted from 9 April till 9 May 2025) that was concluded by a targeted stakeholder consultation workshop in Brazzaville. The final draft of revised FSS was submitted to the P&P on 5 June 2025.

The new indicators resulting from this partial revision of the FSS for the Republic of the Congo to integrate the landscape approach to the management and protection of IFLs, has also led to revision of the IFL related requirements in the national HCV framework (part of the standard) and the inclusion of new concepts such as the sphere of influence of The Organization. The concept of sphere of influence applies to the entire territory of the Republic of the Congo, and only to those management units, which contain IFLs.

The above-mentioned changes in the standard were further updated due to **Motion 45**, which was passed at the FSC General Assembly in October 2025. Its key provisions include the replacement of fixed IFL protection thresholds with environmentally, socially and economically equitable, viable, context-sensitive and dynamic forest management practices. The revised approach shall align with and strengthen High Conservation Value (HCV) framework that allows active management, provided HCVs are maintained or restored. More robust monitoring measures are also envisaged, to support outcome-based adaptive management of HCVs.

The above-mentioned further revision of IFL-related requirements of the Congolese standard had occurred through the communication between the P&P and SDG in December 2025 and January 2026. Key changes included the removal of landscape-level threshold, further specifying the provisions of the sphere of influence and associated editorial and structural improvements.

C.7 Members of the Standards Development Group of the Republic of the Congo that elaborated this partially revised version

Name	Role	Contact
Georges Belmond TCHOUMBA	Pilot Test Coordinator	tchoumbaw@yahoo.fr
Mvoukani Gady Inès Starov Cabare	SDG Chairwoman	inesgady@yahoo.fr

Name	Organization	Resume/Professional Experience
Environmental Chamber		
Norbert GAMI/ Jean Robert Onononga	Wildlife Conservation Society – the Republic of the Congo	Doctorate with over 29 years' experience in community conservation and 10 years in forest certification audits in the Congo Basin. FSC Member/ SDG member since 2015.
Mr. Charles Guy NDEBI A MOUTHE	WWF the Republic of the Congo	Forest and Agroforestry Engineer with 10 years of experience in forest and landscape management, community forestry and forest monitoring.
Mr. Nzingoula Loufouma Stevanche Serverel	WRI the Republic of the Congo	GIS expert and Technical Assistant at WRI the Republic of the Congo. More than 10 years' experience in sustainable land use projects and forest monitoring.
Economic Chamber		
Mr. COUTURIER Antoine/ Tom Van LOON	IFO Forest Concession	Director Social Environment and Certification/ More than 15 years' experience in Sustainable Forest Management and certification/ SDG member since 2015.
Mr. Vincent ISTACE/ Baptiste Leborgne	CIB OLAM Forest Concession	Director of Corporate Responsibility & Sustainability/ More than 20 years' experience in Sustainable Forest Management and certification/ SDG member since 2015.
Mr. Alain Bienvenu OS-SEBI	General Inspectorate of Forest Economy Services/ FSC Member	Forestry Engineer, Coordinator of the Forest Legality and Traceability Unit (CLFT)/ 29 years' experience in forestry techniques, inventory data collection and processing, and over 10 years' experience in FLEGT Congo legality audits. SDG member since 2015.

Name	Organization	Resume/Professional Experience
Social Chamber		
Mr. BARROS Lilian Laurin	Comptoir Juridique Junior (CJJ)	Jurist, Permanent Secretary of the CJJ and Platform for Sustainable Forest Management Projects/ Programme Manager/ FSC Member/ SDG member since 2015.
Mr. DIHOUKAMBA Parfait	REPALEAC-CONGO FSC Member	National Coordinator - Network of Indigenous and Local Populations for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa. Architect Engineer, Expert in indigenous forest peoples for over 20 years. SDG member since 2015.
Maître PONGUI BRICE SEVERIN	CDHD - Rep. Congo/US Forest Service	Adviser on participatory approach to combating poaching, illegal logging and the associated timber trade (Audit, Survey, Awareness-raising). More than 15 years' experience in social and environmental management and policy, FSC certification, consideration of workers' rights in Forest Management operations and legality compliance. SDG Member since 2015.

Technical Experts

Name	Expertise	Areas of support
Mr. Armand Brice DZATINI ECKO	CNIAF, National Centre of Inventories and Management of Forest and Wildlife Resources Armand Brice DZATINI ECKO: Forest management engineer and GIS operator. Specialized in Integrated Management of Tropical Forests and Territories. 16 years' experience in forest inventory and management. Deputy Supervisor of the National Forest Inventory Project (IFN) for the elaboration of the Land Allocation Plan in the Republic of the Congo. SDG Member since 2015/ FSC Member	Forest management
Mrs. LOKOKA NGOMA Tirié Lytina	Forest Monitoring consultant / FSC member	Biological diversity/ Forest management/ Ecosystems and landscapes
Mr. Gildas Ricklin Chablys OBIMBOLA	Cercle d'Appui à la Gestion Durable des Forêts (CAGDF), Forest management partner Organization. National expert, Open Timber Portal. SDG member since 2015/ FSC Member.	Social forest management monitoring

Mr. Jervais NKOULOU	AGRECO – Congo. Forest Engineer with more than 20 years' experience in Forest management, certification and responsible forest management auditing.	Forest management
Mr. Freddy ELION MPAN	Ministry of Forest Economy. Technical Director Protected Areas, the Republic of the Congo. More than 15 years of experience in natural resource, Wildlife and protected areas management.	Forest conservation and landscape management
Dr. Norbert GAMI	Wildlife Conservation Society – the Republic of the Congo. Doctorate with over 29 years' experience in community conservation and 10 years in forest certification audits in the Congo Basin. FSC Member/ SDG member since 2015.	Participatory landscape mapping and social aspects of forest management and landscape conservation.

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.

FSC-POL-20-003	<i>FSC Policy on the Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification</i>
FSC-POL-30-001	<i>FSC Pesticides Policy</i>
FSC-POL-30-602	<i>FSC Interpretation on GMOs: Genetically Modified Organisms</i>
FSC-STD-20-007	<i>Forest Management Evaluations</i>
FSC-STD-30-005	<i>FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups</i>
FSC-PRO-01-008	<i>Processing Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme</i>
FSC-PRO-30-006	<i>Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools</i>
FSC-DIR-20-007	<i>FSC Directive on FSC Forest Management Evaluations</i>
FSC-GUI-30-003	<i>FSC Guidelines for the implementation of the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)</i>

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 Legal registration to carry out all activities within the scope of the certificate is documented and unchallenged.

Verifiers:

- a) Registration with the government departments responsible for the economy, taxation and legal matters
 - Commerce, credit and real-estate register
- b) Registration with social security office and labour department
 - Attestation of registration with CNSS
 - Declaration of existence
 - Registration with ONEMO
- c) Registration with the forestry department
 - Registration/approval certificate
 - Professional accreditation

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

Verifiers (Required for concessions granted at most five years before date of audit):

- Call for tenders by forestry department
- Minutes/report of forestry commission
- Notification of approval of dossier by the Director General of the Forest Economy

1.1.3 The operations of The Organization have not been suspended by a court decision of administrative measure.

Verifiers:

- Absence of court rulings
- Absence of notification of suspension

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) Logging permits
 - Agreements

- Special permit
- b) Periodic authorizations
 - Authorization to begin operations
 - Authorization for annual harvest
 - Authorization to conclude operations, provisional and for vacation of site
- c) Administrative documents and authorizations
 - Trading licence
 - Approval of customs agent
 - MDDEFE registration/approval certificate
- d) Documents relating to conformity of processing unit
 - Agreement
- e) Documents attesting conformity of external sources of log supply
 - Partner's logging title
 - Supply contract
 - Partner's authorization for annual harvest
- f) Right of use verifiers
 - Approved management plan

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

Verifiers:

Natural forests

- a) Compliance with procedures leading to the granting of a logging title (REQUIRED FOR CONCESSIONS granted at most five years before date of audit)
 - Official notice of call for tenders
 - Minutes/report of forestry commission
 - Notification of approval of dossier by the Director General of the Forest Economy
- b) Compliance with procedures leading to the granting of periodic authorizations
 - Decree approving the management plan signed by the President of the Republic
 - Dossier of applications for authorization to begin operations, carry out annual harvests, complete operations and vacate site
 - Reports on verification of annual harvests, final cut and non-extracted timber
 - Authorizations to begin operations, perform annual harvests, conclude operations and vacate the site
- c) Compliance with procedures for environmental impact studies
 - Approval of consultancy firm
 - Impact study report
 - Account of the meeting held to validate the impact study report

Plantations

- Dossier containing notarized deeds or other documents drawn up in authentic form
- Boundary marker plan
- Report on boundary demarcation
- Minutes of engagement meeting involving the forestry department, local authorities, local communities and Indigenous Peoples
- Forestry department reports on recognition of area to be classified/listed
- Letter stating claims of local communities to the classification committee
- Minutes of the classification meeting
- Decree of classification/listing
- Report of mission to verify availability of plots, carried out by the General Directorate of the Forest Economy
- Publicity notice by the Ministry for the Forest Economy
- Bailiff's order
- Joint order of the Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Finance setting sale prices
- Minutes of the sales committee

1.2.3 The boundaries of all Management Units within the scope of the certificate are clearly marked or documented and clearly shown on maps.

Verifiers:

- Forest maps
- Inspection reports by the Departmental Direction of Forest Economy and the central government department

1.2.4 The Organization ensures that all its sub-contractors have the required authorizations and pay their employees in accordance with the legal norms.

Verifiers:

- Authorizations issues by the competent government departments
- Business contract
- Staff supply contract

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; and
- 3) obligatory codes of practice.

Verifiers:

- a) Validity of documents stating legal rights to manage and use resources
 - Agreement
 - Special permit
 - Authorization to begin operations
 - Authorization for annual harvest / provisional harvesting authorization
 - Authorization to conclude operations and vacate site
 - Trading licence
 - Approval of customs agent
 - MDDEFE registration certificate/approval
 - Partner's logging title
 - Supply contract
 - Partner's authorization for annual harvest
- b) Compliance with customary and use rights of local and indigenous communities and commitments made to them
 - Report of management plan monitoring and evaluation committee
 - Departmental Direction of Forest Economy inspection report
 - Terms of reference/agreement document
 - Compliance with commitments made to other social partners
 - Meeting minutes
- c) Compliance with regulations on working conditions
 - i. Recruitment and relations with the company
 - Copy of offer of employment sent to ONEMO
 - Employer's register, duly stamped
 - Employment contract
 - Internal regulations displayed
 - List of workers registered with the national social security office (CNSS) / Letter accompanying current dossiers
 - ii. Health and safety at work
 - Minutes/reports of hygiene and health & safety committee
 - Registers of medical examinations
 - Registers of accidents in the workplace
 - Safety registers
 - Management plan monitoring and evaluation report
 - iii. Compliance with working hours directives
 - Timetable of working hours displayed
 - Authorization of overtime by the departmental labour office

- iv. Compliance with terms of contracts with sub-contractors
 - Business contract with sub-contractors
 - Staff supply contract
- d) Compliance with provisions of documents concerning environmental management, development, harvesting and processing
 - i. Compliance with biodiversity regulations
 - Field monitoring and audit reports
 - Departmental Directorate of the Forest Economy inspection report
 - Report of the management plan monitoring and evaluation committee
 - ii. Compliance with public health and Hygiene measures in industrial sites and workers camps.
 - Order approving staff of the company's health centre
 - Authorization to operate the health centre issued by the Health Ministry
 - Minutes of meetings of the health and safety committee
 - Report of the management plan monitoring and evaluation committee
 - iii. Compliance with waste management measures
 - Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy monitoring inspection report
 - Report of the management plan monitoring and evaluation committee
 - iv. Compliance with annual harvesting area limits
 - Annual harvesting authorization
 - Departmental and central government Directorate of Forest Economy inspection reports
 - Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy and central government department activity reports
 - v. Compliance with regulations on forest road building
 - Management plan
 - Plan of operations
 - Road network map
 - Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy inspection reports
 - vi. Compliance with rules governing tree species, diameters and harvesting volumes
 - Management plan
 - Annual plan of operations
 - Annual harvesting permit
 - Logging register
 - Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy inspection reports
 - Operational management plan

- vii. Compliance with regulations on marking tree trunks and logs
 - Logging register
 - Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy inspection reports
- viii. Compliance with regulations on keeping worksite and transportation documents
 - Logging register
 - Waybill
 - Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy inspection reports
- ix. Compliance with regulations on leaving timber on site
 - Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy inspection reports
 - Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy activity reports
 - Logging register
- x. Compliance with processing quotas
 - Annual production statements
 - Forest Products for Export Inspection Service report
 - Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy annual production verification report
- xi. Compliance with measures relating to installation of a processing unit
 - Agreement
 - Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy inspection report
- xii. Compliance with regulations for recording logs when they enter the processing unit
 - Register of timber entering factory
 - Waybill
 - Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy inspection report
- xiii. Compliance with legality on the part of external suppliers of logs
 - Partner's logging title
 - Supply agreement
 - Partner's annual harvesting permit
 - Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy inspection report
- xiv. Compliance with social contractual clauses in respect of local communities and Indigenous Peoples
 - Special terms of reference of the agreement
 - Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy inspection report
 - Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy activity report
- xv. Compliance with obligations relating to community development funds
 - Copies of cheques
 - Minutes of fund management committee meetings

xvi. Compliance with national plans and standards for the construction of social and cultural facilities

- Terms of reference specific to the agreement
- Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy inspection report
- Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy activity report

1.3.2 Payment is made in a timely manner of all applicable legally prescribed charges connected with forest management.

Verifiers:

- a) Conformity of tax declarations
 - Declaration of revenues/income
 - Customs declaration
 - Declaration of exports
 - Declaration of imports
- b) Conformity in respect of payment of fees and charges relating to forestry activities
 - Copies of cheques demonstrating payment in accordance with the applicable regulations
 - Register recording payments of charges/payment receipts
- c) Conformity in respect of payment of duties and taxes relating to the importation of goods.
 - Liquidation statement
 - Copies of cheques
 - Receipts providing evidence of payment
 - Framework agreement
- d) Conformity in respect of payment of all applicable direct and indirect taxes and charges from which the company is not exempted
 - Copies of cheques
 - Receipts
- e) Conformity in respect of payment of contributions
 - Payment certificates
 - Copies of cheques/payment slips
- f) Conformity in respect of submission of annual business accounts
 - Company balance sheet
 - Annual statement of wages
- g) Compliance with deadlines relating to forestry, customs, tax, sales and social security transactions
 - Minutes of violation reports
 - Transaction documentation
 - Copies of cheques
 - Receipts

- 1.3.2.1 The forest manager ensures that requirements relating to taxes, fees and other regulatory charges are complied with by sub-contractors in forestry operations taking place in the Management Unit (MU).

Verifiers:

- Conformity of tax declarations relating to business activity
- Conformity in respect of payment of business charges, duties and direct and indirect taxes

- 1.3.3 Activities covered by the management plan are designed to comply with all applicable laws.

Verifiers:

- a) Conformity of management documents
 - Inventory report
 - Supplementary survey reports
 - Management plan
- b) Validation of documents by the administration and stakeholders
 - Minutes of meeting to approve the inventory and supplementary survey report
 - Minutes of meeting to approve the management plan
- c) Validation of operational management plans
 - Operational management plan
 - Minutes of meeting to approve the operational management plan
 - Annual harvesting permit

- 1.3.3.1 The Organization encourages and supports its sub-contractors in recovering abandoned timber and by-products of processing.

Verifier:

- Business contract with sub-contractors

- 1.3.3.2 The Organization respects contracts agreed with sub-contractors.

Verifiers:

- Business contract
- Staff supply contract

- 1.4 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.**

- 1.4.1 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 prevent illegal access to the forest; and
 - 4) designation of personnel and resources to rapidly detect and control illegal activities during the exercise of legal user rights.

Verifiers:

- Internal illegal activities monitoring report
- Company's internal regulations
- Departmental Directorate of Forest economy inspection report
- Report of the management plan monitoring and evaluation committee

1.4.2 Where protection is the legal responsibility of regulatory bodies, a system is implemented to work with these regulatory bodies to identify, report, control and discourage unauthorized or illegal activities.

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

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 inside the *forest* concession is demonstrated.

Verifiers:

- a) Conformity of different means of transport for forest products
 - Driving licence
 - Vehicle logbook
 - Insurance certificate
- b) Conformity of permits and approvals to transport forest products
 - Transport permits
 - Vehicle Technical Inspection Certificate
 - Transport certificate
 - Harvesting approval certificate
- c) Conformity of inspections of means of transport
 - Report on technical inspection visits
 - Vehicle Technical Inspection Certificate
- d) Compliance with obligations or restrictions relating to the transportation of timber
 - Waybill
 - Manifest/bill of lading (shipping)
 - Cargo identification list
- e) Conformity of marking of timber being transported
 - Timber marks
 - Company marking hammer
 - Departmental Directorate of Forest Economy inspection report
- f) Conformity of documents accompanying timber being transported and marketed
 - Certificate of origin

- Specification sheet
- Plant health certificate
- Pro forma commercial invoice
- Customs declaration
- Export declaration
- Import declaration
- Delivery slip
- Export verification authorization (AVE)
- FLEGT authorization

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 is in place; developed through culturally appropriate engagement with affected stakeholders.

Verifiers:

- Written procedure for recording and dealing with requests and grievances
 - Register of requests and grievances
 - Minutes of engagement platform meetings involving the company and local communities
- 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 dispute resolution processes; and
 - 3) unresolved disputes, the reasons why they have not been resolved, and how they will be resolved.
- 1.6.4 Operations suspended in areas where disputes exist:
- 1) of substantial magnitude; or
 - 2) of substantial duration; or
 - 3) involving a significant number of interests

- 1.6.5 In the event of goods belonging to local and indigenous populations being destroyed by The Organization, compensatory measures are taken in accordance with the legislation and regulations in force.

Verifiers:

- Record of findings
- Receipts for compensation payments made

- 1.6.6 The Organization has a functional mechanism for engagement with stakeholders regarding sustainable management of its concession.

Verifiers:

- Reports or minutes of engagement committee meetings

- 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.**

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

- 1.7.2 The policy meets or exceeds related legislation.

- 1.7.3 The policy is publicly available at no cost.

- 1.7.4 Bribery, coercion and other acts of corruption do not occur.

- 1.7.5 Corrective measures are implemented within The Organization if corruption does occur.

- 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 and 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 shall not use child labour.

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 2.1.1.2.

2.1.1.2 Persons between the ages of 16 to 17 years may be employed in light work if such employment does not interfere with schooling nor is it harmful to their health or development and that they work only outside of school hours during normal day-time working hours.

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.

2.1.1.4 The Organization shall prohibit the worst forms of child labour.

2.1.2 The Organization shall eliminate all forms of forced and compulsory labour.

2.1.2.1 Employment relationships are voluntary and based on mutual consent.

2.1.2.2 Employees of The Organization have access to the policy documents and procedures relating to rights to work, employment and social security.

2.1.2.3 There is no evidence of any practice indicative of forced or compulsory labour, including, but not limited to, the following:

- 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.

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

2.1.3.1 Employment and occupation practices are non-discriminatory.

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

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 Workers' representatives and members of trade union branches have received training in the exercise of their functions.

2.1.4.4 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.

2.1.4.5 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.
- 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
- 2.2.3 Work typically carried out by women (nurseries, silviculture, non-timber forest product harvesting, weighing, packing, etc.) is included in training and health & safety programmes to the same extent as work typically carried out by men.
- 2.2.4 Women and men are paid the same wage when they do the same work.
- 2.2.5 Women are paid directly and using mutually agreed methods (e.g. direct bank transfer, direct payments for school fees, etc.) to ensure they safely receive and retain their wages.
- 2.2.6 Maternity leave is of at least fifteen (15) weeks' duration: 9 weeks prior to and 6 weeks after childbirth and the mother has 1 hour for breast feeding per day when she resumes duty.
- 2.2.7 Paternity leave is available and there is no penalty for taking it.
- 2.2.8 Meetings, management committees and decision-making forums are organized to ensure that both women and men are represented.
- 2.2.9 Confidential and effective mechanisms exist for reporting and eliminating cases of sexual harassment and discrimination based on gender, marital status, parenthood or sexual orientation.

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.
- 2.3.2 Workers have personal protective equipment appropriate to their assigned tasks.
- 2.3.3 Use of this personal protective equipment is enforced.
- 2.3.4 Records are kept on health and safety practices, including accident rates and time lost to accidents.
- 2.3.5 The health and safety practices are reviewed and revised as required after major incidents or accidents, or when there is a significant increase in their frequency or seriousness.

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 legal minimum wage rates, where such rates exist.

2.4.2 Wages paid meet or exceed:

- 1) minimum forest industry standards; or
- 2) other recognized forest industry wage agreements; or
- 3) the minimum/living wage, when this is higher than the legal minimum wage.

2.4.3 Wages, salaries and contracts are paid on time.

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.**

2.5.1 Workers have job-specific training consistent with Annex B and supervision to safely and effectively contribute to the implementation of the management plan and all management activities.

2.5.2 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.

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

2.6.3 Up-to-date records of workers' grievances relating to loss or damage of workers' 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 they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.

2.6.4 Fair compensation is provided to workers for work-related loss or damage of property and occupational diseases or injuries.

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.

3.1.2 Through culturally appropriate engagement with the Indigenous Peoples identified in 3.1.1, the following 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 the Indigenous Peoples and The Organization.
- 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 in the Management Unit, and where applicable, within The Organization's *sphere of influence** as defined in indicator 9.1.2.1.

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* (FPIC).

3.2.1 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.

3.2.2 The legal and customary rights of Indigenous Peoples are not violated by The Organization.

3.2.3 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.

3.2.4 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 resources, 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.

3.2.5 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 community is satisfied.

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** (FPIC). 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.

3.3.2 Records of binding agreements are maintained.

3.3.3 The binding agreement contains the provisions for monitoring by Indigenous Peoples of The Organization's compliance with its terms and conditions including provision for the delegation of monitoring function to a third party of their own choice.

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 (UNDRIP) and ILO Convention 169 are not violated by The Organization.

3.4.2 Where evidence that rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples, as defined in 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 Pygmy Peoples hold legal or customary rights are identified through culturally appropriate engagement.

3.5.2 Measures to protect such sites are agreed, documented and implemented through culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples. When Indigenous Peoples determine that physical identification of sites in documentation or on maps would threaten the value or protection of the sites, then other means will be used.

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 as directed by local and national laws.

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.

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.

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.

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 and The Organization;
- 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.

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 when, where and how they can comment on and request modification to management activities to the extent necessary to protect their legal and customary rights.

4.2.2 The legal and customary rights of local communities to maintain control over management activities are not violated by The Organization.

4.2.3 Where evidence exists that legal and customary rights of local communities 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.

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

- 1) Ensuring local communities know their rights and obligations regarding the resource;
- 2) Informing the local communities of the value of the resource, in economic, social and environmental terms;
- 3) Informing the local communities of their right to withhold or modify consent to the proposed management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights and resources; and

- 4) Informing the local communities of the current and future planned forest management 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.
- 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 Reasonable opportunities are communicated and provided to local communities, local contractors and local suppliers for:
 - 1) Employment,
 - 2) Training, and
 - 3) Other services.
- 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 through culturally appropriate engagement with local communities and other relevant Organizations.
 - 4.4.2 Projects and additional activities are implemented and/or supported that contribute to local social and economic benefit in accordance with the provisions of the regulations in force and the terms of reference.
- 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.
- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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 cease in areas while disputes exist of:

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

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.

4.7.2 Measures to protect such sites are agreed, documented and implemented through culturally appropriate engagement with local communities. When local communities determine that physical identification of sites in documentation or on maps would threaten the value or protection of the sites, then other means will be used.

4.7.3 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 local communities, and as directed by local and national laws.

4.8 *The Organization shall *uphold** the right of *local communities** 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 *local communities** 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 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.

4.8.2 Local communities are compensated according to the binding agreement reached through free, prior and informed consent for the use of traditional knowledge and intellectual property.

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.
 - 5.1.1 The range of resources and ecosystem services that could strengthen and diversify the local economy are identified.
 - 5.1.2 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.
 - 5.1.3 When The Organization uses FSC Ecosystem Services Claims, The Organization shall refer to the FSC-PRO-30-006 procedures to take note of additional requirements.
- 5.2** **The Organization*** shall normally harvest products and services from the *Management Unit** at or below a level which can be permanently sustained.
 - 5.2.1 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.
 - 5.2.1.1 Rotation is based on growth, minimum exploitable diameters and the results of management inventories.
 - 5.2.1.2 The estimates for the harvesting potential for the next rotation is calculated in the management plan.
 - 5.2.2 Based on the timber harvesting level analysis, a maximum allowable annual cut for timber is determined, according to the prescriptions of the management plan.
 - 5.2.3 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.
 - 5.2.4 For extraction of non-timber forest products and the use of services for commercial purposes by The Organization or its sub-contractors, a sustainable level is calculated and adhered to. Sustainable harvest levels are based on Best Available Information.
- 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.
- 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.
 - 5.4.2 Reasonable attempts are made to establish and encourage capacity where local goods, services, processing and value-added facilities are not available, in conformity with the national laws and regulations.

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 There is a funding plan which forecasts the costs of and revenues from implementation of the forest management plan and a detailed activities funding plan for at least five years.
- 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.**
- 6.1.1 Best Available Information is used to identify environmental values within, and, where potentially affected by management activities, outside of the Management Unit.
- 6.1.2 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.
- 6.2** **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*.**
- 6.2.1 An environmental impact assessment identifies potential present and future impacts of management activities on environmental values, from the stand level to the landscape level.
- 6.2.2 The environmental impact assessment identifies and assesses the impacts of the management activities prior to the start of site-disturbing activities in the management unit (MU).
- 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 and implemented to prevent negative impacts and to protect environmental values.
- 6.3.2 Where negative impacts to environmental values occur, measures are adopted to prevent further damage, and negative impacts are mitigated and/or repaired.
- 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.

- 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.
- 6.4.3 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.
- 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.***
 - 6.5.1 Best Available Information is used to identify native ecosystems that exist, or would exist under natural conditions, within the Management Unit.
 - 6.5.2 Representative Sample Areas of native ecosystems are protected, where they exist.
 - 6.5.3 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** to more natural conditions.
 - 6.5.4 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.
- 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.***
 - 6.6.1 Management activities maintain the plant communities and habitat features found within the native ecosystems in which the Management Unit is located.
 - 6.6.2 Where the activities of The Organization has eliminated plant communities or habitat features, management activities aimed at re-establishing such habitats are implemented.
 - 6.6.3 Management maintains, enhances, or *restores** habitat features associated with native ecosystems, to support the diversity of naturally occurring species and their habitats.
 - 6.6.4 Effective measures are taken, and personnel appointed, to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting activities to ensure that the diversity and natural distribution of native species is 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) shall be known and complied with.
 - 6.6.6 There is an internal regulation banning and punishing the transportation of and trade in bush meat, firearms, munitions and hunters in the vehicles belonging to The Organization and its sub-contractors, and governing the keeping of firearms on The Organization's premises. This regulation shall be known, disseminated and complied with.

- 6.6.7 A system of regular and punctual controls to ensure hunting policies are respected is implemented.
- 6.6.8 Effective mitigation measures are in place to regulate the practices of hunting, trapping or collecting of bush meat or wild fish by the workers of The Organization.
- 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.
- 6.7.2 Where implemented protection measures do not protect watercourses, water bodies, riparian zones and their connectivity from impacts of forest management, *restoration** activities are implemented.
- 6.7.3 Where natural watercourses, water bodies, riparian zones and their connectivity have been damaged by past activities on land and water by The Organization during the period of implementation of the management plan, *restoration** activities are implemented.
- 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*.***
- 6.8.1 A varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales, and regeneration cycles is maintained appropriate to the landscape.
- 6.8.2 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 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 a very limited portion of the Management Unit, and
 - 2) Will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation and social 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.
- 6.10 *Management Units* containing plantations* that were established on areas converted from natural forest* between 1 December 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
- 4) 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.
 - 7.1.3 Summaries of the defined policies and management objectives are included in the management plan and 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.
 - 7.2.2 The management plan addresses the elements listed in Annex D 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:
 - 1) Monitoring results, including results of certification audits;
 - 2) Evaluation results;
 - 3) Stakeholder engagement results;
 - 4) New scientific and technical information, and
 - 5) 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 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, Criterion 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) in the Management Unit, and where applicable, within The Organization's *sphere of influence** as defined in indicator 9.1.2.1;
 - 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) in the Management Unit, and where applicable, within The Organization's *sphere of influence** as defined in indicator 9.1.2.1.
- 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 and culturally appropriate 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 all the stakeholders involved and affected by the management activities.
- 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 within the Management Unit, and where applicable in the *sphere of influence** of The Organization as defined in indicator 9.1.2.1.
- 7.6.4 On request, interested stakeholders take part in culturally appropriate engagement in the monitoring and planning 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 drawn up and executed for monitoring the implementation of the management plan (including its policies and management objectives), for the 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.

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

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

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

8.3.1 Adaptive management procedures are implemented so that monitoring results feed into periodic updates to the planning process and the resulting management plan.

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

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

8.4.1 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.

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.

8.5.2 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) of product;
- 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.
- 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 name;
 - 4) Product description;
 - 5) The volume (or quantity) sold;
 - 6) Certificate code; and
 - 7) The FSC Claim “FSC 100%” identifying products sold as FSC certified.

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, including Annex H, the High Conservation Value Framework, that records the location and status of High Conservation Value Categories 1-6 in the Management Unit, as defined in Criterion 9.1; the High Conservation Value Areas they rely upon (Annex H), and their condition.

Note: Examples of the best available information include, but are not limited to, field information on ecological and socio-economic conditions and human interventions in the landscape, the results of regional assessments (motion 34/2017 and more recent landscape assessment within the framework of Motion 23), expert knowledge, peer reviews; field (under the canopy) analyses of ecological, social, and socio-economic values and conditions, including varying degrees of integrity in terms of natural disturbances, forest types, human interventions, fragmentation, and/or biodiversity values.

- 9.1.2 This assessment includes the identification of Intact Forest Landscapes, as of January 1, 2017 (according to GFW IFL data), in the MU and where applicable those in The Organization's **sphere of influence***.

Note: Organizations protecting >50% of the IFLs in the MU (as a core area) are not required to identify a **sphere of influence***.

- 9.1.2.1 If The Organization identifies a **sphere of influence*** to contribute to Intact Forest Landscapes protection efforts outside the Management Unit, this is carried out by

using remote sensing and mapping tools. The designation of the *sphere of influence** considers, at least, the criteria listed below (the list is not exhaustive):

- 1) Geographical and ecological criteria: Area adjacent to or connected to the concession that contributes to habitat connectivity: wildlife corridor and watershed; all areas containing IFLs or HCVs linked to the concession.
- 2) Socio-economic criteria: all hunting areas, customary territories that interact with concession; infrastructure and forest roads, tracks, and infrastructure that facilitate access to the area.
- 3) Operational criteria: supply chain and partners, areas where the company has partners and direct influence (subcontractors, suppliers, and partners).

Note: The *sphere of influence** is based on the FSC definition and includes any area where The Organization is likely to have a positive or negative impact on the integrity of the landscape. When designating the *sphere of influence**, it is important for Organizations to consider the scale and intensity of the conservation issues and actors present in the landscape.

- 9.1.2.2 If The Organization identifies the *sphere of influence**, this is carried out in consultation with Government authorities, affected rights holders and affected and interested stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, Traditional Peoples and local communities, and includes IFLs with a protection status, with a view to contribute to the preservation of intact forest landscapes.

Note: Some suggestions on how the identified *sphere of influence** could be materialized include: description in meeting minutes that include participatory mapping, GIS maps, collaboration agreement documents that include maps and/ or a description of the concerned areas and stakeholders involved, intervention plans, activity reports. The designation of the *sphere of influence** takes into account, among other things, the connectivity of IFLs and actors operating in the same space in order to build synergies for better conservation and monitoring of IFLs.

- 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.

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.

- 9.2.1 Threats to High Conservation Values in the Management Unit and, where applicable, to the IFLs in The Organization's *sphere of influence** are identified using Best Available Information.
- 9.2.2 Management strategies and actions, including those consistent with Annex G and Annex H, High Conservation Value Framework, 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.
- 9.2.3 If The Organization identifies the *sphere of influence**, management strategies and actions are developed to contribute to the preservation of Intact Forest Landscapes in the *sphere of influence** and to address threats identified in 9.2.1.
- 9.2.4 Affected rights holders, interested and affected stakeholders and experts are involved in the development of management strategies and actions to preserve and/or enhance the High Conservation Values identified in the MU and, if The Organization has identified the *sphere of influence**, to contribute to the preservation of the IFLs located in the *sphere of influence**.

- 9.2.5 A core area of the Intact Forest Landscapes is designated in the Management Unit using Best Available Information, maximizing the representativeness of the landscapes and taking into account connectivity with adjacent protected areas and/or neighbouring Intact Forest Landscapes.

Note: Examples of field information sources include available results of national and regional assessments (e.g. Motion 34/2017 impact assessment), expert knowledge and peer review, field analyses (below the canopy) of ecological, social and socio-economic values and conditions, field analysis of the different degrees of integrity in terms of natural disturbances, forest types, human interventions, fragmentation and/or biodiversity values.

- 9.2.6 Management strategies are developed to protect core areas within the Management Unit while respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples, traditional peoples, and local communities through FPIC.
- 9.2.7 Management strategies to maintain HCV2 values in IFL areas outside of core areas in the MU are consistent with Annex J.
- 9.2.8 The Organization marks out a core area as specified in Indicator 9.2.5 in the Intact Forest Landscape, as of 1 January 2017, according to the following conditions:
- 1) If The Organization decides not to establish the *sphere of influence**, it marks out a core area that ensures the protection of > 50% of the area of intact forest landscapes contained in the management unit.
 - 2) Where the *sphere of influence** is applied, The Organization ensures that the proportion of IFLs protected in the management unit and *sphere of influence** is at least 70%.
 - 3) If the proportion of protected IFLs in the *sphere of influence** and the MU is greater than or equal to 70%, the core area covers at least 20% of the IFLs contained in the MU.
 - 4) If the proportion of total IFL area that is protected within the *sphere of influence** and MU is less than 70%, the proportion of IFLs that are protected within the MU is increased beyond 20%. This ensures that at least 70% of the total IFL area within the MU and *sphere of influence** is protected.

Note 1: As a precautionary measure, the core area may, under no circumstances, be less than 20% of the IFLs contained in the management unit.

Note 2: Independent of the core area, The Organization is expected to ensure that its management activities do not reduce the total area of any Intact Forest Landscape (IFL) whether fully or partially overlapping with the Management Unit below 50,000 hectares.

- 9.2.9 Management strategies developed to protect core areas include:
- 1) The management methods defined for conservation zones (where a core area is located in the conservation zones);
 - 2) Increased efforts to prevent poaching;
 - 3) A ban on road building, except in cases of extreme necessity (for conservation, safety or public interest and in line with 9.2.11).
- 9.2.10 The strategies developed are effective in maintaining and/or enhancing the High Conservation Values.

9.2.11 Management strategies allow limited industrial activity within core areas, but only if all the effects of such activity, including fragmentation:

- 1) are restricted to a very limited portion of the core area;
- 2) do not reduce the area of the Intact Forest Landscape to below 50 000 ha; and
- 3) will produce clear, substantial, additional, long-term conservation and social benefits.

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 *pre-cautionary 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 in line with Annexes G, H and J.

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.

9.3.3 Core areas are protected consistent with Criterion 9.2.

9.3.4 Limited industrial activity in core areas is consistent with Indicator 9.2.11.

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

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 assesses:

- 1) Implementation of strategies by The Organization in the Management Unit and in its *sphere of influence** (where the latter is applied);
- 2) The status of High Conservation Values in the Management Unit, 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, including the strategies implemented by The Organization in its *sphere of influence** to contribute to preserving/protecting IFLs. The strategies and actions for HCV protection and maintenance are in line with annex H.

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

9.4.2.1 The monitoring of the integrity of IFLs in The Organization's *sphere of influence** (if The Organization has identified the *sphere of influence**) includes remote sensing and mapping tools.

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

- 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 contained in the Management Unit.
- 9.4.5 If The Organization has identified the *sphere of influence**, management strategies and actions are adapted when monitoring or other new information shows that these strategies and actions are insufficient to contribute to preserving/protecting IFLs within the *sphere of influence**.

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**.

10.1.1 Harvested sites are regenerated in a timely manner that:

- 1) protects affected environmental values; and
- 2) appropriately re-establishes overall pre-harvest composition and structure or more natural conditions in the case of plantations.

10.1.2 Regeneration activities are implemented in a manner that:

- 1) For harvest of existing plantations, regenerate to the vegetation cover that existed prior to the harvest or to more natural conditions using ecologically well-adapted species;
- 2) For harvest of natural forests, regenerate to pre-harvest or to more natural conditions; or
- 3) For harvest of degraded natural forests, regenerate to more natural conditions.

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 ecologically well adapted to the site, are native species and are of local provenance, unless clear and convincing justification is provided for using non-local genotypes or non-native 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.

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

10.3.4 Management activities are implemented, preferably in cooperation with separate regulatory bodies where these exist, with an aim to control 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 (OMGs) are not used by The Organization in the management unit.

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

10.5.1 The silvicultural practices implemented are consistent with the objectives of the management plan.

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.

10.6.1 The use of fertilizers is minimized or avoided.

10.6.2 When fertilizers are used, their ecological and economic benefits are at least 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/described in a procedure.

10.6.4 When fertilizers are used, measures are taken to protect environmental values, including measures to prevent damage.

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

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 silviculture 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.

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.

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.

10.7.4 The Organization defines and applies a policy and procedures for the preparation, storage, transportation, clean-up of accidental spills and handling of the chemicals used. These procedures shall be compatible with the ILO publications on health and safety in the use of agro-chemicals ("Guide to safety in the use of chemicals at work").

10.7.5 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.

10.7.7 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) The Organization demonstrates that the *pesticide** is the only effective, practical and cost-effective way to control the pest according to the information available.

- 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*.*
- 10.9.1 Potential negative impacts of natural hazards on infrastructure, forest resources and communities in the Management Unit are identified.
- 10.9.2 The Organization exploits all the possible and available options to develop and implement measures to mitigate the identified potential risks.
- 10.9.3 The risk for management activities to increase the frequency, distribution or severity of natural hazards is identified for those hazards that may be influenced by management.
- 10.9.4 Management activities are modified and/ or measures are developed and implemented to ensure that the identified risk is not aggravated.
- 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.*
- 10.10.1 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 Management activities are performed so as to minimize impact on the environmental values identified in Criterion 6.1.
- 10.10.3 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.
- 10.11** *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 identified in Criteria 9.1 and 9.2.
- 10.11.2 Harvesting practices optimize the use of forest products and merchantable materials in accordance with the national regulations.
- 10.11.3 Removal of unutilized biomass is reduced to a minimum; branches and pieces of bark are left in the forest.
- 10.11.4 Harvesting practices minimize damage to standing residual trees and other environmental values in accordance with national directives or the regional code of the FAO.

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

10.12.1 All non-organic wastes and fuels are treated in appropriate locations – see indicator 1.3.1, verifiers, section e) ii and iii.

10.12.2 Chemicals, their containers, solid and non-organic wastes, in particular oils and fuels, are collected and removed or recycled in accordance with the national and/or international regulations. See indicator 1.3.1, verifiers, section e) ii and iii.

10.12.3 Appropriate equipment is available for collecting and transporting non-organic wastes. See also indicator 1.3.1, verifiers, section e) ii and iii.

10.12.4 Employees are trained in the collection and transportation of non-organic wastes.

F ANNEXES

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

N.B. 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
1. Legal rights to harvest	
1.1 Land tenure and management rights	<u>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.</u> ○ Loi n°17-2000 du 31 décembre 2000 relative à la propriété foncière (prévoit des mesures de sauvegarde pour les CLPA) ○ Loi 25-2008 du 22 septembre 2008 portant régime agro foncier ○ Loi 52-83 du 21 avril 1983 portant code domanial et foncier ○ Loi 5-2011 du 25 février 2011 portant promotion et protection des droits des populations autochtones en République du Congo ○ Loi 16-2000 du 20 novembre 2000 portant code forestier ○ Loi 43-2014 du 10 octobre 2014 d'orientation pour l'aménagement et le développement du territoire (consacre le principe de participation) ○ Décret 2002-437 du 31 décembre 2002 fixant les conditions de gestion et d'utilisation des forêts ○ Décret 2006-255 et 2006-256 du 28 juin 2006 portant constatation et reconnaissance des droits fonciers coutumiers ○ Décret 2006-255 et 2006-256 du 28 juin 2006 portant institution, attributions, composition et fonctionnement d'un organe ad hoc de reconnaissance des droits fonciers coutumiers ○ Loi n°19-2005 du 24 novembre 2005 règlementant l'exercice de commerce en République du Congo ○ Acte uniforme de l'OHADA relatif au droit commercial général ○ Acte uniforme du 17 avril 1997 relatif au droit commercial des sociétés commerciales et au groupement d'intérêt économique ○ Loi n°9-2015 du 18 juillet 2015 portant Organisation de l'activité industrielle ○ Traité International sur les ressources Phytogénétiques pour l'alimentation et l'agriculture du 03 Novembre 2001 à ROME en Italie

Category	Law/ regulation
1.2 Concession licences	<u>Legislation regulating procedures for issuing <i>forest</i> concession licences, including the use of <i>legal</i> methods to obtain concession licences. Bribery, corruption and nepotism are particularly well-known issues that are connected with concession licenses.</u> ○ Loi 16-2000 du 20 novembre 2000 portant code forestier ○ Décret n°2002-437 du 31 décembre 2002 fixant les conditions de gestion et d'utilisation des forêts ○ Loi n°5-2009 du 22 septembre 2009 sur la corruption, la concussion et la fraude et les infractions assimilées en République du Congo
1.3 Management and harvesting planning	<u>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.</u> ○ Loi 16-2000 du 20 novembre 2000 portant code forestier ○ Loi 003/91 du 23 avril 1991 sur la protection de l'environnement ○ Arrêté n°5053/MEF/CAB définissant les directives nationales d'aménagement durable des concessions forestières ○ Décret 2009-415 du 20 novembre 2009 fixant le champ d'application, le contenu de l'étude et de la notice d'impact environnemental et social ○ Arrêté 835/MME/DGE fixant les conditions d'agrément ou des évaluations d'impacts sur l'environnement en République du Congo ○ Arrêté 6075 du 9 avril 2011 déterminant les espèces animales intégralement et partiellement protégées ○ Arrêtés de définition des UFA ○ Arrêtés d'attribution des UFA ○ Décrets d'Approbation des plans d'aménagement des UFA ○ Arrêtés portant institution, Organisation et fonctionnement du conseil de concertation de l'unité de gestion forestière ○ Arrêtés portant Organisation et fonctionnement du fond de développement local de la SDC de l'unité de gestion forestière ○ Accord de LUSAKA(en ZAMBIE) sur les opérations concertées visant le commerce illicite de la faune et de la flore sauvage du 08 Septembre 1994, ○ Loi 48-83 du 21 avril 1983 définissant les conditions de la conservation et de l'exploitation de la faune sauvage ○ Loi 37-2008 du 28 novembre 2008 sur la faune et espèces protégées ○ United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (1992) ○ RAMSAR Convention ○ CITES Convention ○ COMIFAC Convergence Plan Edition 2 (2015-2025) ○ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (8 May 1992, New York, USA)

Category	Law/ regulation
1.4 Harvesting permits	<u>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.</u> ○ Loi 16-2000 du 20 novembre 2000 portant code forestier ○ Décret n°2002-437 du 31 décembre 2002 fixant les conditions de gestion et d'utilisation des forêts ○ Décret 2009-303 fixant les modalités de sélection des offres de soumission ○ Arrêté 5053 de 2007. Directives nationales d'aménagement durable des concessions forestière
2. Taxes and fees	
2.1 Payment of royalties and harvesting fees	<u>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.</u> ○ Loi 16-2000 du 20 novembre 2000 portant code forestier ○ Loi 14-2009 du 30 décembre 2009 modifiant certaines dispositions de la loi 16-2000 du 20 novembre 2000 ○ Arrêté 2739 modifiant et complétant l'arrêté 1585 du 05 mai 2003 modifiant et complétant l'arrêté 6387 du 31 décembre 2002 fixant les valeurs FOB pour le calcul de la taxe d'abattage et de la taxe à l'exportation des bois ○ Arrêté 22/718 et Arrêté 22/719 fixant les valeurs FOB pour le calcul de la taxe d'abattage et de la taxe à l'exportation des bois ○ Arrêté 23444 du 31 décembre 2014 fixant les valeurs FOT pour le calcul de la taxe d'abattage ○ Arrêté 22717 du 19 décembre 2014 fixant les valeurs FOB pour la détermination des valeurs FOT pour le calcul de la taxe d'abattage des bois en grume et de la taxe à l'exportation de bois ○ Arrêté n°6380 du 31 décembre 2002 fixant la taxe de déboisement des forêts naturelles ○ Arrêté 6382 de 2002 fixant la taxe de superficie ○ Arrêté 6381 de 2002 fixant le tarif de la taxe d'abattage des bois des plantations industrielles ○ Arrêté 6379 de 2002 sur la taxe sur les produits forestiers accessoires ○ Arrêté 6383 de 2002 fixant les taux de la taxe à l'exportation des produits forestiers bruts ou transformés des forêts naturelles ou des plantations ○ Arrêté 6384 de 2002 fixant la taxe sur les produits de bois et les produits dérivés de bois à l'importation ○ Arrêté 6385 de 2002. Produits des affaires contentieuses revenant au Fond forestier

Category	Law/ regulation
	○ Arrêté 6386 Déterminant les zones de taxation forestière ○ Arrêté 2930 de 2004. Frais d'agrément et carte professionnelle des forestiers ○ Arrêtés portant Organisation et fonctionnement du fond de développement local de la SDC de l'unité de gestion forestière ○ Special terms and conditions relating to management agreements
2.2 Value added taxes and other sales taxes	<u>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).</u> ○ Code général des impôts ○ Loi des finances en cours ○ Décret sur les taxes à l'importation et exportation, ○ Convention sur le Commerce International d'espèce de faune et de flore Sauvage menacées d'extinction du 03 mars 1973 à Washington aux USA, amendée en 1979, 1983 et 1987 ○ Arrêté 6379 de 2002 sur la taxe sur les produits forestiers accessoires ○ Arrêté 6383 de 2002 fixant les taux de la taxe à l'exportation des produits forestiers bruts ou transformés des forêts naturelles ou des plantations ○ Arrêté 6384 de 2002 fixant la taxe sur les produits de bois et les produits dérivés de bois à l'importation
2.3 Income and profit taxes	<u>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.</u> ○ Code général des impôts ○ Loi de finance en vigueur ○ Loi n°003/2007 du 24 janvier 2007 portant déclaration d'exportation et d'importation ○ Arrêté 6379 de 2002 sur la taxe sur les produits forestiers accessoires ○ Arrêté 6383 de 2002 fixant les taux de la taxe à l'exportation des produits forestiers bruts ou transformés des forêts naturelles ou des plantations ○ Arrêté 6384 de 2002 fixant la taxe sur les produits de bois et les produits dérivés de bois à l'importation
3. Timber harvesting activities	
3.1 Timber harvesting regulations	<u>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 construc-</u>

Category	Law/ regulation
	<u>tion, 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.</u> ○ Loi 16-2000 du 20 novembre 2000 portant code forestier ○ Décret n°2002-437 du 31 décembre 2002 fixant les conditions de gestion et d'utilisation des forêts ○ Management agreement of each Organization ○ Decree authorizing opening of FMUs ○ Regional code of practice for reduced impact forest harvesting, FAO 2004
3.2 Protected sites and species	<u>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.</u> ○ Loi n°37-2008 du 28 novembre 2008 sur la faune et les aires protégées ○ Loi n°48/83 du 21 avril 1983 définissant les conditions de la conservation et l'exploitation de la faune sauvage ○ Loi n°49/83 fixant les différentes taxes prévues par la loi n°37-2008 ○ Arrêté n°0103 fixant les dispositions relatives à l'exportation des produits de la faune et de la flore sauvage ○ Arrêté 3863 déterminant les animaux intégralement et partiellement protégés prévus par la loi 48/83 du 21 avril 1983 définissant les conditions de la conservation et l'exploitation de la faune sauvage ○ Arrêté 6075 du 9 avril 2011 déterminant les espèces intégralement et partiellement protégées ○ Note circulaire précisant les espèces soumises à la CITES (2015) DF ○ International Plant Protection Convention (6 December 1951, Rome, Italy) ○ Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (16 January 1972, Paris, France) ○ African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, revised 11 July 2003, Maputo, Mozambique (ratified by the Republic of the Congo but not yet in force) ○ Convention on Biological Diversity (5 June 1992, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) ○ Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity (29 January 2000, Montreal, Canada) ○ RAMSAR Convention
3.3 Environmental requirements	<u>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</u>

Category	Law/ regulation
	<u>for forest machineries, use of pesticides* and other chemicals, biodiversity conservation, air quality, protection and restoration* of water quality, operation of recreational equipment, development of non-forestry infrastructure, mineral exploration and extraction, etc.</u> ○ Loi 003/91 du 23 avril 1991 sur la protection de l'environnement ○ Loi N°4-2005 du 11 avril 2005 portant Code minier ○ Décret 2009-415 du 20 novembre 2009 fixant le champ d'application, le contenu de l'étude et de la notice d'impact environnemental et social ○ Loi n°13-2003 du 10 avril 2003 portant Code de l'eau ○ Arrêté 9028/MDERFPPS/ DGT / DSSHST du 10 décembre 1986 relatif aux mesures spéciales de sécurités et d'hygiène applicables aux entreprises des travaux forestiers ○ Arrêté n° 1450/MIME/DGE du 18 novembre 1999 relatif à la mise en application de certaines dispositions sur les installations classées de la loi 003/91 sur la protection de l'environnement ○ Arrêté n° 835/MIME/DGE du 06 septembre 1999 fixant les conditions d'agrément pour la réalisation des études ou des évaluations d'impact sur l'environnement en République du Congo ○ Arrêté n° 4406/ MTE/CAB fixant les conditions d'agrément pour la réalisation des évaluations environnementales ○ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (8 May 1992, New York, USA) ○ Décret 2006-591 portant ratification du protocole de Kyoto
3.4. Health and safety	<u>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).</u> ○ Loi n°45-75 du 15 mars 1975 instituant un code de travail en République populaire du Congo ○ Loi n°6-96 du 6 mars 1996 modifiant et complétant certaines dispositions de la loi 45-75 instituant un code de travail en République populaire du Congo ○ Loi N° 004/86 du 25 février 1986 instituant le code de sécurité sociale en République Populaire du Congo ○ Décret n°2000-29 du 17 mars 2000 portant composition et fonctionnement de la commission nationale technique d'hygiène, de sécurité, du travail et de prévention des risques professionnels ; ○ Arrêté n°9028/MTERFPPS/DGT/DSSHST du 10 décembre 1986 relatif aux mesures spéciales de sécurité et d'hygiène applicables aux entreprises de travaux forestiers ○ Arrêtés 9030 instituant le comité d'hygiène et sécurité

Category	Law/ regulation
	○ Arrêtés 9031 Organisation et fonctionnement de la commission d'homologation des machines dangereuses ○ Arrêtés 9032 relative aux mesures particulières de sécurité et d'hygiène applicables aux établissements de bâtiments et travaux publics ○ Arrêtés 9034 déterminant les modalités de constitution des centres socio-sanitaires communs à plusieurs entreprises installées en République Populaire du Congo ○ Arrêtés 9036 relative aux mesures générales d'hygiène et de sécurité applicables dans les entreprises industrielles, commerciales, agricoles et forestières ○ Arrêtés 9035 portant classification des entreprises en ce qui concerne les moyens minima qui leurs sont imposés en matière de médicament et de matériel sanitaire ○ Arrêté 9029/MTERFPPS/ DGT/DSSHST du 10 décembre 1986 relatif aux machines dangereuses et les dispositifs de protection pour les machines dangereuses ○ Arrêté n° 9033 du 10 décembre 1986 portant Organisation et fonctionnement des centres sociaux sanitaires des entreprises installées en République Populaire du Congo ○ Convention collective des entreprises agricoles et forestières en République du Congo (Mars 1992). (Voir convention 2014 sur les entreprises forestières)
3.5. Legal employment	<u>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 labour, and discrimination and freedom of association.</u> ○ ILO Convention ○ Accord de partenariat volontaire entre l'Union Européenne et la République du Congo du 6 avril 2011 ○ Loi n°45-75 du 15 mars 1975 instituant un code de travail en République populaire du Congo ○ Arrêté 1110 relatif à l'institution des délégués du personnel ○ Arrêté 1711 portant composition et fonctionnement de la commission des litiges ○ Loi n°6-96 du 6 mars 1996 modifiant et complétant certaines dispositions de la loi 45-75 instituant un code de travail en République populaire du Congo Loi 16-2000 du 20 novembre 2000 portant code forestier ○ Décret n° 78/361/MGT.SGFPT.DTPS.ST.3/8 du 12 mai 1978 fixant pour les entreprises agricoles et assimilés la réglementation des heures supplémentaires et les modalités de leur rémunération ○ Décret 2008-942 du 31 décembre 2008 fixant le montant du salaire minimum inter professionnel garanti (SMIG) ○ Loi 3-2000 du 1er février 2000 sur les conditions d'exercice de la sous traitance au Congo

Category	Law/ regulation
	- Loi 022/88 du 17 septembre 1988 portant modification de la loi 001/86 du 22 février 1986 remplaçant et complétant la loi n°03/85 du 14 février 1985 portant création de l'office national de l'emploi et de la main d'œuvre (ONEMO) et modification du code de travail - Arrêté 9029/MTERFPPS/ DGT/DSSHST du 10 décembre 1986 relatif aux machines dangereuses et les dispositifs de protection pour les machines dangereuses - Arrêté 9030/MTERFPPS/ DGT/DSSHST du 10 décembre 1986 instituant les comités d'hygiène et de sécurité dans les entreprises - Loi N° 004/86 du 25 février 1986 instituant le code de sécurité sociale en République Populaire du Congo - Arrêté général n°3018 du 29 septembre 1953 déterminant la contexture du registre employeur et dispensant certaine entreprise de tenir tout ou partie dudit registre

4. Third parties' rights

4.1 Customary rights	<u>Legislation covering customary rights relevant to forest harvesting activities, including requirements covering the sharing of benefits and indigenous rights.</u> - Loi 5-2011 du 25 février 2011 portant promotion et protection des droits des populations autochtones en république du Congo - Loi 10-2004. Loi foncière - Arrêtés sur le cahier de charge particulier relatif au contrat de transformation industrielle de bois conclu entre le concessionnaire, le gouvernement et les communautés locales et les populations autochtones; - Arrêtés sur le conseil de concertation et le fond de développement local de la série de développement communautaire de l'unité forestière d'aménagement.
4.2 Free, Prior and Informed consent	<u>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.</u> - Loi 5-2011 du 25 février 2011 portant promotion et protection des droits des populations autochtones en république du Congo - Loi 16-2000 du 20 novembre 2000 portant code forestier
4.3 Indigenous Peoples' rights	<u>Legislation that regulates the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 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 practise traditional activities, which may involve forest lands.</u> - Loi 5-2011 du 25 février 2011 portant promotion et protection des droits des populations autochtones en république du Congo - Loi 16-2000 du 20 novembre 2000 portant code forestier

5. Trade and transport

N.B.: This section covers requirement for forest management operations, as well as processing and trade.

Category	Law/ regulation
5.1 Classification of species, quantities, qualities	<u>Legislation regulating how harvested material is classified in terms of species, volumes and quantities in connection with trade and transport. Incorrect classification of harvested materials is a well-known method of reducing or avoiding payment of legally prescribed taxes and fees.</u> ○ Loi 16-2000 du 20 novembre 2000 portant code forestier ○ Code des impôts ○ Code de commerce ○ Arrêté 23444 du 31 décembre 2014 fixant les valeurs FOT pour le calcul de la taxe d'abattage ○ Arrêté 22717 du 19 décembre 2014 fixant les valeurs FOB pour la détermination des valeurs FOT pour le calcul de la taxe d'abattage des bois en grume et de la taxe à l'exportation de bois ○ CITES Convention
5.2 Trade and transport	<u>All required trading and transport permits shall exist as well as legally required transport documents which accompany the transport of wood from forest operations.</u> ○ Loi 018/89 du 31 octobre 1989, définissant les différentes activités de transport routier et activité connexe au transport automobile et fixant les redevances à percevoir pour la délivrance des autorisations exigées pour l'exercice de ces professions ○ Décret 98/39 du 29 janvier 1998 portant Organisation et réglementation du trafic maritime en provenance et à destination de la république du Congo ○ Décret n°2011-491 du 29 juillet 2011 réglementant l'accès et l'exercice de la profession ○ Loi n°16-2013 du 19 juillet 2013 portant création du guichet unique des opérations transfrontalières ○ Loi n°3-2007 réglementant les importations, les exportations et les réexportations ○ Loi 19-2005 portant réglementation de l'exercice de la profession de commerçant en République du Congo ○ Loi n°6-94 portant réglementation des prix, des normes commerciales, constatation et répression des fraudes ○ Décret 2009-156 portant code des marchés publics ○ Arrêté n°11185/MEFB-CAB fixant les modalités d'attribution et d'utilisation du numéro d'identification unique ○ Arrêté 461 de 2003. Programme de contrôle des produits forestiers à l'exportation ○ Décret 90/135 du 31 mars 1990 sur les agreement et les autorisations de transport (rondins) ○ Décret 261-59 du 20 janvier 1959 portant registres d'immatriculation en matière de transport et de commercialisation du bois ○ Décret 2002-437 du 31 décembre 2002 sur les conditions de gestion et d'utilisation des forêts

Category	Law/ regulation
	○ Décret n°90/135 du 31 mars 1990 réglementant l'accès à la profession du transporteur routier et l'exercice aux activités connexes aux transports automobiles en République du Congo ○ Décret 2003-61 du 6 mai 2003 portant réglementation de l'immatriculation des véhicules automobiles ○ Arrêté 2844 du 12 avril 2005, fixant les conditions d'arrêté 1033/MTMMM-CAB du 14 mai 2008 instituant le document de suivi de la cargaison sur le trafic international des marchandises en provenance et à destination du Congo ○ Arrêté 45-51 du 9 août 2002 fixant les montants de redevance, droit et frais afférent à l'accomplissement des actes administratifs liés à la navigation fluviale et aux activités connexes ○ Arrêté 5694 du 17 septembre 2001, fixant les conditions requises pour l'obtention de l'agrément et aux professions connexes au transport automobile. Code la route CEMAC ○ Arrêté n°11599 du 15 novembre 2004 portant réglementation du contrôle technique de véhicule Code de transport CEMAC code de navigation CEMAC (Annexe 9-8) ○ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES, 3 March 1973, Washington)
5.3 Offshore trading and transfer pricing	<u>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 enacted 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.</u> ○ Loi n°6-94 du 1er juin 1994 portant réglementation des prix, des normes commerciales, constatation et répression des fraudes ○ Loi n°19-2005 du 24 novembre 2005 réglementant l'exercice de la profession de commerçant en République du Congo ○ Loi n°3-2007 du 24 janvier 2007 réglementant les importations, les exportations et les réexportations ○ Loi des finances de l'année en cour ○ Arrêté n°11185/MEFB-CAB fixant les modalités d'attribution et d'utilisation du numéro d'identification unique ○ Arrêté n°1033/MTMMM-CAB du 14 mai 2008 instituant le document de suivi de la cargaison sur le trafic international des marchandises en provenance et destination du Congo
5.4 Customs regulations	<u>Customs legislation covering areas such as export/import licenses and product classification (codes, quantities, qualities and species).</u> ○ Code des douanes

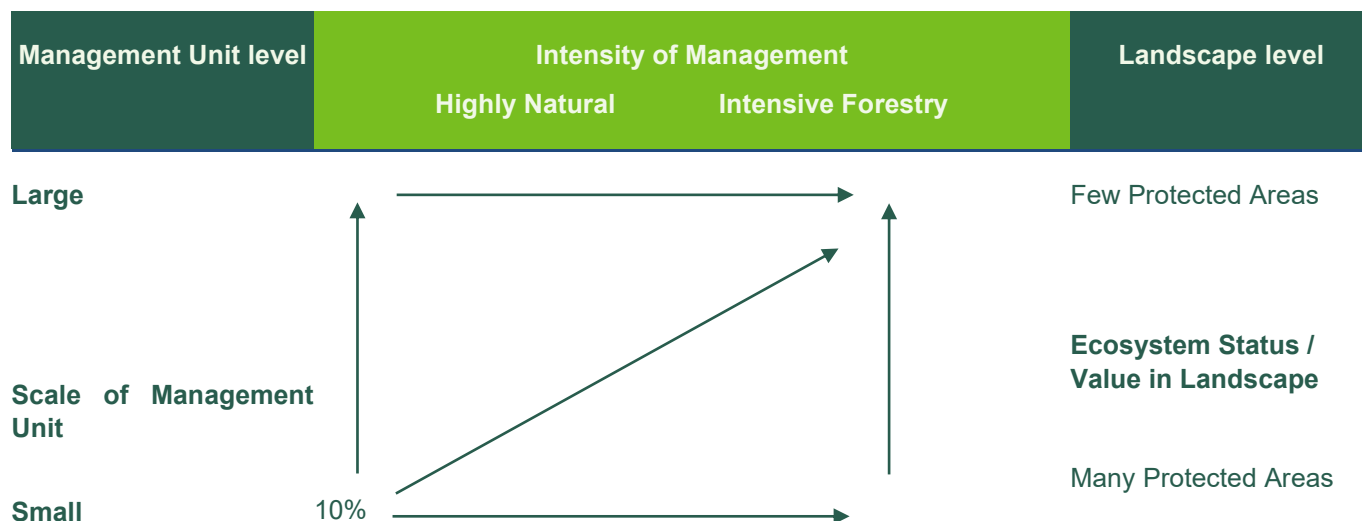
Category	Law/ regulation
	○ Code général des impôts (loi de finances en vigueur)
5.5 CITES	<u>CITES permits (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, also known as the Washington Convention).</u> ○ Ratified by Law no. 34/82 of 7 July 1982, adhered to by the Republic of the Congo on 31 January 1983
6. Due diligence / due care (identification and mitigation of risks)	
6.1 Due diligence / due care (identification and mitigation of risks)	<u>Legislation requiring due diligence/due care procedures, such as systems for identifying and mitigation risks, declaration obligations and/or the keeping of trade-related documents.</u>
7. Ecosystem services	
	<u>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)</u> Texts currently being developed

Annex B Training requirements for workers (Principle 2)

Workers with respect to their workplace 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 the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and ILO Convention 169 (Criterion 3.4);
- 8) 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);
- 9) Identify where local communities have legal and customary rights related to management activities (Criterion 4.2);
- 10) Carry out social, economic and environmental impact assessments and develop appropriate mitigation measures (Criterion 4.5);
- 11) Implement activities related to the maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services, when FSC Ecosystem Services Claims are used (Criterion 5.1);
- 12) Handle, apply and store *pesticides** (Criterion 7.1); and
- 13) Implement procedures for cleaning up spills of waste materials (Criterion 10.12).

Annex C Conservation Area Network Conceptual Diagram (Principle 6)



The diagram shows how the area of the Management Unit included in the Conservation Areas Network is generally expected to increase from the 10% minimum as the size, intensity of management, and/or the status and value of ecosystems at the landscape level each increase. The arrows and their direction represent these increases.

The far-right column titled 'Ecosystems Status/Value in the Landscape' signifies the extent to which native ecosystems are protected at the landscape level and the relative requirements for further protection in the Management Unit.

The far-left column titled 'Area of Management Unit' shows that as the Management Unit area increases, the Management Unit will itself be at the landscape level and so will be expected to have a Conservation Areas Network containing functional examples of all of the naturally occurring ecosystems for that landscape.

Annex D 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 and procedure FSC-PRO-30-006 (sections I, II, III and IV).
- 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 and procedure FSC-PRO-30-006 (sections I, II, III and IV);
 - 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 and procedure FSC-PRO-30-006 (sections I, II, III and IV);
 - iii. Social values and Indigenous cultural landscapes, as identified in Principles 2 to 5 and Principle 9;
 - iv. Intact Forest Landscapes and core areas, as identified in 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 and procedure FSC-PRO-30-006 (sections I, II, III and IV);
 - 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; and
 - x. Global Forest Watch (GFW) 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 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: This will vary with SIR and jurisdiction)	FSC Principle/ Criterion
Site plan (Harvest plan)	Annual	Creek crossings	Ongoing observation in the field and annually	Operations and management teams	P10
Site plan Annual operation plan (AOP)		Roads	Ongoing observation in the field and annually	Operations and management teams	P10
Site plan AOP		Respect for sensitive areas and cultural sites	Ongoing observation in the field and annual assessment	Operations and management teams	P6, P10
Site plan AOP		Rare, threatened and endangered species	Ongoing observation in the field and annual assessment	Operations and management teams	P6
Site plan AOP		Annual harvest levels 10-year allowable annual cut	Annually Annually, 10 years	Operations and management teams Ministry of Forests/ Woodlands manager	C5.2
Budget	Annual	Expenditure	Ongoing and annually	Chief Financial Officer	P5
	Annual	Contribution to local economy	Annually	Social Coordinator Engagement Committee	P5
Engagement plan	Annual	Employment statistics	Annually	Human Resources Manager	P3, P4
		Internal social agreements and external social agreements	Annually or as agreed in the engagement plan	General Manager Human Resources Manager	P2, P3, P4

Sample Management Plan Document	Management Plan Revision Periodicity	Element being monitored (Partial List)	Monitoring Periodicity	Who Monitors this Element? (Note: This will vary with SIR and jurisdiction)	FSC Principle/Criterion
5-year management plan	5 years			Social Coordinator	
		Internal and external conflicts	Ongoing	Human Resources Manager Social Coordinator	P2, P3, P4
	5 years	Harvest forecasts and operating infrastructure		General Manager	P6, P10
		Social programme, wildlife and financial forecasts	Management plan	Social Coordinator Engagement committee Financial Director	P6
		Annual felling over 5 years	5-yearly assessment	Ministry of Forests Operations and Management team Financial Director Social Coordinator PROGEPP	P7, P10
Sustainable Forest management plan	25 years minimum, revised between years 10 and 20	Age class distribution Size class distribution	Between 10 and 20 years	Operations and Management team Consulting firm	P6
		Wildlife populations	Between 10 and 20 years	Environmental NGO	P6
Ecosystem Services Certification Document	5 years	ES value concerned.	Prior to validation and verification	General Manager	FSC-PRO-30-006 Ecosystems procedure

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 for planted forests;
 - 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 (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 of infrastructural development, transport activities and silviculture to rare and threatened species, habitats, ecosystems, landscape values, water and soils (Criterion 10.10);
 - x. 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
 - xi. Environmentally appropriate disposal of waste materials (Criterion 10.12).
- 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 in cases where traditional products are marketed (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. Actual compared to projected annual harvests of timber forest products (Criterion 5.2);
 - xix. The use of local processing, local services and local value-added manufacturing (Criterion 5.4);
 - xx. Long-term economic viability (Criterion 5.5); and
 - xxi. 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 (for planted forests) (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, as identified in Criterion 9.1, and the effectiveness of actions taken to maintain and/or improve them.

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

Strategies for maintaining High Conservation Values may not necessarily preclude harvesting. However, the only way to maintain some High Conservation Values will be through protection of the High Conservation Value Area that supports them.

- **HCV 1** – 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. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to develop, expand, and/or *restore** habitats for such species are in place.
- **HCV 2** – 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. Examples include protection zones and set-aside areas, with any commercial activity in areas that are not set-aside being limited to low-intensity operations that fully maintain forest structure, composition, regeneration, and disturbance patterns at all times. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to *restore** and reconnect forest ecosystems, their intactness, and habitats that support natural biological diversity are in place.
- **HCV 3** – Strategies that fully maintain the extent and integrity of rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to *restore** and/or develop rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia are in place.
- **HCV 4** – 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. 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. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to *restore** water quality and quantity are in place. Where identified HCV 4 ecosystem services include climate regulation, strategies to maintain or enhance carbon sequestration and storage are in place.
- **HCV 5** – 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.
- **HCV 6** – Strategies to protect the cultural values are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

Note: Background information on the assessment of *core areas** of Intact Forest Landscapes

A. Threshold for vast majority (*Core Area**)

The Organization protects a core area in accordance with the requirements of Indicator 9.2.8.

Note: As a precautionary measure, the core area may, under no circumstances, be less than 20% of the IFLs 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 (based on Motion 65), the size of a core area was 80% of the area of an Intact Forest Landscape 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 FSC 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 <i>forest</i>
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 <i>restoration</i> *
	Anti-erosion arrangements for all types of open roads (outfalls, settling basins, bridge-side bollards) and monitoring of works	
	Arrangements to facilitate <i>restoration</i> * on closure (barricades, diversionary trenches, dismantling)	<i>Restoration</i> * of the canopy / road after 3 to 5 years
	Crossings of watercourses: Avoiding the crossing of watercourses as much as possible. If bridges or dams cannot be avoided, they should be constructed to the highest specification. - Dismantling bridges over watercourses when logging operations are completed	Minimizing impact on watercourses, avoiding silting, so that the forest upstream is not affected by stagnating water, etc.
	Planning of roads: - plan to build roads far from protected areas; - build roads in specific habitats (e.g. forest with open canopy); - respect special habitats, avoid sensitive areas (buffer zones, slopes...).	Minimizing impact of roads in sensitive areas.
	Re-using old roads as much as possible	Minimizing impact of roads
	Wildlife protection: Limitation of access, controls at barriers, and closure of roads when logging has finished in an area	Preventing poaching and/or having a positive impact by controlling traffic
Structure of the forest	Identification and <i>protection</i> of saplings and retention of a number of seed-bearing trees, <i>protection</i> of sensitive tree species	Minimizing impact on saplings, particularly those of the species being felled

Logging operations	Implementation measures	Mitigation of impacts on the forest
	Definition of a maximum felling diameter to retain monumental trees	Keeping monumental trees
	Definition of buffer areas around major rivers, within which felling is prohibited. A ban on felling trees that might fall into watercourses	Minimizing impact on sensitive areas (rivers, wetlands), avoiding erosion, silting, sedimentation
	Optimization of evacuation trails and protection of saplings along such trails	Minimizing the area affected and, in particular, protecting the tree species being felled
	Limitation of the number of trees felled per hectare	Minimizing impact on the structure of the forest
	Optimisation of the location of quarries in relation to sensitive areas / <i>restoration</i> *	Minimizing impact on sensitive areas (rivers, wetlands), avoiding silting
Soil protection	Avoiding soil compaction and deep rutting due to evacuation operations and logging yards	Minimizing impact or <i>restoration</i> * when logging is completed
Pollution	Responsible management of fuels and wastes so as to avoid pollution	Avoiding pollution of the forest with fuels and other wastes
Integrity of the forest cover and of wildlife	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 encampments 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	Idem, 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 km², in Cameroon and in the south of the Republic of the 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 the 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 m²/ha and 504 m²/ha) of the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) were affected by roads and skidding trails.

CO₂ emissions for the baseline scenario and the project scenario were respectively 13.8 et 6.6 tCO₂ eq./ha, or between 2.9% and 1.4% of the CO₂ stock of the above-ground biomass (471 tCO₂ 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 the 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 the Congo shows that the average width of main roads is 24.5 m, and in the case of secondary roads 20.5 m. These figures are lower than the RIL standards for the Republic of the Congo, where the maximum permitted threshold for main roads is 33m and for secondary roads 26 m (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.”

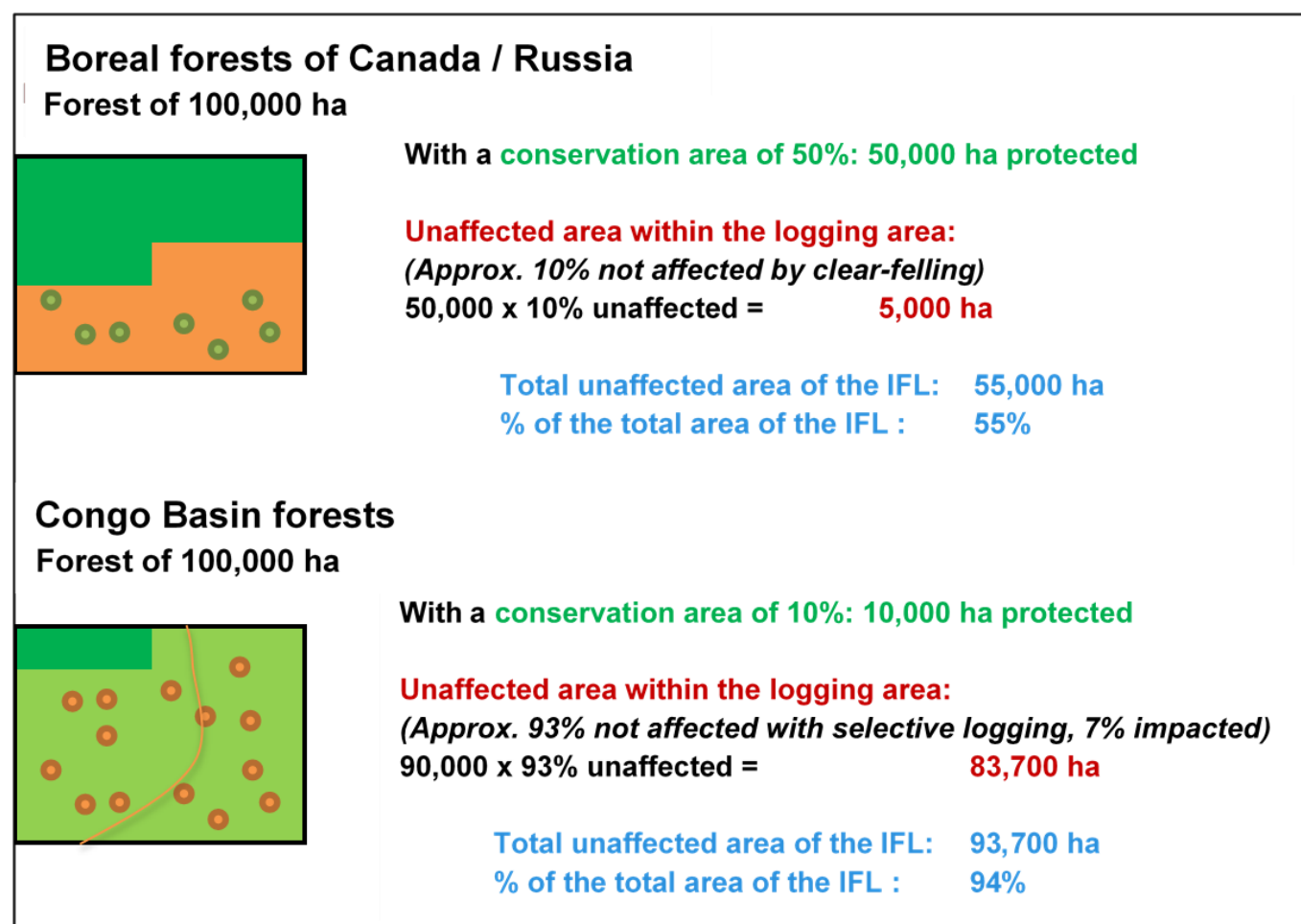
On the ground, it has been noted that vegetation establishes itself very rapidly on roadside verges receiving sunlight and that, after a few years, there is recolonization of the actual carriageway by pioneering sun-loving species, though this depends on the extent to which the soil is compacted. Such 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. Miehé, 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 within the MU as presented in Annex J.

Annex H HCV Framework (Principle 9)

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.

IDENTIFICATION OF HCV1

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

- List of national parks, integral nature reserves, fauna reserves, special reserves or wildlife sanctuary
- List of UNESCO and Ramsar sites, Biosphere Reserve, World Heritage Sites
- List of national parks, integral nature reserves, fauna reserves, special reserves or wildlife sanctuary, consultation with relevant local and regional experts
- World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas www.keybiodiversityareas.org/home
- Important Bird Areas (IBA), Key Biodiversity Areas, Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, Centres of Plant Diversity, etc. <http://datazone.birdlife.org/eba>
- Relevant databases and maps, consultation with relevant local and regional experts
- Consultation with relevant local and regional experts, IUCN Red List, CITES Appendices, OFAC resources http://www.observatoire-comifac.net/biodiversity.php?dom=mammals&sub_dom=biogeography, Map of Life <https://mol.org>, WWF Wildfinder <http://www.worldwildlife.org/science/wildfinder/>
- Arrêté n° 6075 du 9 avril 2011 déterminant les espèces animales intégralement et partiellement protégées
- CITES Appendices <https://www.cites.org/fra/disc/species.php>
- IUCN Red List. National species lists <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>
- Relevant databases and maps, national or regional assessment of biodiversity

2. Description of interested and affected stakeholders:

- Indigenous Peoples, local communities, 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:

- See <https://www.cites.org/fra/disc/species.php>.
- See also examples in the HCV national interpretation document.

5. Geographic areas where HCV1 is likely present:

- Inside forest concessions in all over the Republic of the Congo
- Areas protected by national laws
- Protected areas by international conventions ratified by the Republic of the Congo
- Areas recognized for their biodiversity values by other institutions
- Forests in proximity to protected areas and proposed protected areas (1 to 10 km buffer zone), forests that provide habitats for the same biodiversity; and forest that provide habitat connectivity or other supporting values.
- Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)
- Endemic Bird Areas (EBA)

- Critical temporal concentrations of biodiversity (important areas for migration and wintering sites)

6. Maps of HCV1 areas in the country:

- See specific maps in the HCV Congolese interpretation and in the website links provided in section 1 above.

7. Threats to HCV1 areas in the country:

- HCV 1.1: Extinction or reduction of population densities of wildlife species due to hunting by forest harvesting workers; Reduction in the diversity of species and ecosystems due harvesting activities.
- HCV 1.2 and 1.3: Extinction or drastic reduction of the populations of flora and wildlife species.

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:

HCV1.1

- Control mechanisms in place to regulate hunting and fight against poaching
- Information and awareness raising on national hunting regulations and practices
- Reinforce the implementation of measures to ensure respect for national antipoaching laws
- Implementation of reduce impact logging technics (minimization of road sizes, allowing canopy bridges, avoid sensitive zones during harvesting, etc.)
- Planification and building of roads far from protected areas
- Limit agricultural activities to the community development area

HCV 1.2 and 1.3

- Increase of minimum harvesting diameters of rare and threatened tree species
- Set aside conservation series of habitats with high concentrations of biodiversity in the management plan
- Use of reduced impact logging technics to protect future trees, rare tree species, seed trees, fruit trees important for wildlife
- Implement regeneration measures for species that present regeneration difficulties or deficit
- Control mechanisms in place to regulate hunting and fight against poaching
- Limit agricultural activities to the community development area

MONITORING HCV1

Strategies that fully maintain the extent and integrity HCV 1 is done in collaboration with local experts, ENGOs and/ or research institutes

- Annual compilation and analysis of post-harvest data on HCV 1 for each annual harvesting area and comparison after every 5 years
- Compilation and analysis of antipoaching monitoring data after every 3 months and evaluation of the evolution of poaching activity
- Compilation and analysis of post-harvest data on the state of rare and threatened wildlife species every T+5 years and T+10 years
- Compilation and analysis every 3 months of the number of human/ hunting indices in the conservation series.

Examples of monitoring indicators:

- Quantity/percentage of seed trees protected during harvesting
- Quantity/percentage of future trees protected during harvesting
- Percentage of rare and threatened species damaged during harvesting
- Volume harvested per annual harvesting area
- Ratio of the number of poached wildlife seized on the number of patrols executed
- Presence indices of rare and threatened species
- Number of sensitization meetings organized
- Number of human presence indices in the conservation series

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.

IDENTIFICATION OF HCV 2

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

- <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/>
- <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/congo>
- <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

2. Description of interested and affected stakeholders:

- Indigenous Peoples, local communities, Forestry Companies
- Local and regional experts
- Environmental NGOs, research institutes
- Protected area managers
- Mining and extractive industries operators
- Local government authorities
- Other relevant landscape project managers

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:

- Inside forest concessions in all over the Republic of the Congo
- Inside protected areas, swamps, peatlands and other non-classified areas

5. Maps of HCV2 areas in the country:

- See IFL shape files:
- <https://www.google.com/search?q=Global+for-est+watch+2017+IFL+map&tbm=isch&source=univ&client=firefox-b->

[d&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjy65OF7Z3kAhWCJ1AKHbq8BzsQ7Al6BAgJECQ&biw=1088&bih=498](https://www.globalforestwatch.org/d&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjy65OF7Z3kAhWCJ1AKHbq8BzsQ7Al6BAgJECQ&biw=1088&bih=498)

- <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/>
- See specific maps in the HCV Congolese interpretation and in the website links provided in section 1 above.

6. Threats to HCV2 areas in the country:

- Deforestation or degradation by forest harvesting activities, agriculture; urbanization, infrastructures as well as extractives industries and poor forest governance.
- Over exploitation of flora and wildlife resources

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.
3. Measures are established and implemented to ensure that IFLs in the MU and the sphere of influence* are protected. These strategies will be adapted according to monitoring outcomes to guarantee that the IFL protection threshold in the management unit and in The Organization's *sphere of influence** remains at or above 70%.

Examples of protection measures:

- Putting in place protection zones and set-aside areas, with no commercial logging.
- Carve out community development areas of the management unit out of HCV 2 areas.
- Control mechanisms are in place to regulate hunting and fight against poaching
- Information and awareness raising on national hunting regulations and practices
- Implementation of reduced impact logging technics (minimization of road sizes, allowing canopy bridges, avoid sensitive zones during harvesting etc. (see also Table 1 in Annex G).
- Implement stricter reduced impact logging technics in case of harvesting in IFL areas (reduction of road densities, reduction of road widths, reduction of harvesting rates/ ha, etc. (see annex J).
- Develop collaborations with other land users and stakeholders to better protect IFLs within the *sphere of influence** of The Organization.
- Actively participate in various land use planning committees and commissions to prevent overlapping rights and ensure better protection of Intact Forest Landscapes.

MONITORING HCV2

Strategies that fully maintain the extent and integrity of HCV 2 are developed and implemented in collaboration with local experts and/ or research institutes.

An assessment of the state of IFLs is conducted every five years at the landscape level to ensure the effectiveness of strategies implemented to permit the protection of at least 70% of IFLs across the MU and the *sphere of influence** defined in 9.1.2.1.

Examples of monitoring measures:

- Realization of wildlife inventories every 5-10 years (following WCS wildlife inventory protocol used between 2007-2014).
- Annual monitoring of the respect for the boundaries of conservation zones through tele-detection.
- Annual road size monitoring data analysis to check with respect to the minimum provided for in the management plan and RIL procedures in each annual harvesting area.
- Annual evaluation of the damages caused by forest harvesting activities (tree felling, log trail paths, roads opening etc.) in the annual harvesting area
- Inventory of the biomass on harvesting roads after 3 and 10 years

Examples of monitoring indicators:

- Surfaces affected by agriculture
- Average size of roads
- Total surfaces affected by harvesting roads
- Recolonization of roads after harvesting
- State of intact forest landscapes at the MU level and at the level of the *sphere of influence** (see also Indicators 9.1.2.1 and 9.4.2.1).
- Level of protection of IFLs in the MU and within the *sphere of influence**.
- Ecological connectivity of IFLs in the *sphere of influence**.

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

IDENTIFICATION OF HCV3

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

- Consultation with relevant local and regional experts, ENGOs
- Culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples and affected and interested stakeholders
- <http://www.iucnredlistofecosystems.org/>
- <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>
- <https://databasin.org/>
- Arrêté 5053/MEF/CAB du 19 juin 2007
- <http://www.coforchange.eu/fr>
- Habitat assessments, conservation plans, recovery plans, and other published reports by governments, research institutions, or conservation organizations.

2. Description of Interested and affected stakeholders:

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

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

- IUCN Red List of ecosystems, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, WWF Global 200 Ecoregions, Ecosystems described as threatened by forest logging in national directives, Other rare, threatened, or endangered habitats and other habitats and habitat features that are vulnerable and/or important to HCV 1.

4. Geographic areas where HCV3 is likely present:

- Inside forest concessions in all over the Republic of the Congo

5. Maps of HCV3 areas in the country:

- See specific maps in the HCV Congolese interpretation and in the website links provided in section 1 above.

6. Threats to HCV3 areas in the country:

- Significant reduction of rare and threatened habitats/ecosystems due to the negative impacts of forest harvesting activities.

STRATEGIES FOR MAINTAINING HCV3

1. Strategies that fully maintain the extent and integrity of rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia are 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:

- Carve out community development areas of the management unit out of HCV 3 areas.
- Conservation of samples of rare and sensitive ecosystems (marking out and implementation of protection measures included in the management plan).
- Implementation of reduce impact logging technics on the rest of the management unit (good planning of roads, minimization of road sizes, controlled felling, allowing canopy bridges, avoid sensitive and humid zones during harvesting, etc.)

MONITORING HCV3

- Monthly compilation and analysis of post-harvest data by the forest manager
- Annual compilation and analysis of post-harvest data by forest manager

Examples of monitoring indicators:

- Number of indices of harvesting in buffer zones of riparian areas
- Number of indices of human presence in the HCV 3 conservation zone per km covered during control operations
- HCV 3 surfaces affected by agricultural encroachments.

HCV4 – Critical ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.

IDENTIFICATION OF HCV4

1. Description of Best Available Information in the country for identifying HCV4:

- Culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples, local communities 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:

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

3. Examples of HCV4 critical ecosystem services in the country:

- Forest fed river, main drinking water sources, forest protecting rivers important for community fishing, forest protecting water used for crop irrigation, fragile soils that are favourable to gully erosion, steep slopes (>45%),etc.

4. Geographic areas where HCV4 is likely present:

- Inside forest concessions in all over the Republic of the Congo

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. See global map in the HCV national interpretation.

6. Threats to HCV4 areas in the country:

- Pollution of water sources used by the IPLCs for fishing or drinking
- Blockage/pollution water sources supplying important lakes and fishpond areas by forest harvesting activities
- Significant erosion of steep slopes.

STRATEGIES FOR MAINTAINING HCV4

1. Mapping and inclusion of measures to protect any water catchments and fishing areas of importance to local communities located within or downstream of the Management Unit in the management plan and procedures.
2. Mapping and inclusion of measures to protect areas within the unit that are particularly unstable or susceptible to erosion (high slope or upslope areas, Steep slope (>45%)) in the management plan and procedures.
3. Mapping and inclusion of measures to protect humid sensitive zones in the management plan and procedures
4. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore* water quality and quantity are in place.

5. 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:

- Harvest methods prescriptions, chemical use restrictions, and/or prescriptions for road construction and maintenance, to protect water catchments and upstream and upslope areas.

MONITORING HCV4

- Monthly compilation and analysis of post-harvest data by the forest manager
- Annual compilation and analysis of post-harvest data by forest manager

Examples of monitoring indicators:

- Number of crossings with significant erosion, number of harvesting areas with significant erosion, number of harvesting recorded in the buffer zone of riparian areas, number of water sources used by the IPLCs polluted etc.

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.

IDENTIFICATION OF HCV5

1. Description of Best Available Information in the country for identifying HCV5:

- Socio-economic studies, participatory mapping, culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLC)
- Management inventories and participative cartography maps

2. Description of Interested and affected stakeholders:

- Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLC), Forestry Companies, civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples' associations and environmental NGOs.

3. Examples of HCV5 sites and resources fundamental for local communities in the country:

- Comprised sources of water/ water catchments, Non-timber forest products (NTFP), wildlife products, etc.);

4. Geographic areas where HCV5 is likely present:

- Inside forest concessions in all over the Republic of the Congo

5. Maps of HCV5 areas in the country:

- Maps of HCV 6 are found in specific socio-economic studies and participative cartography reports of specific management units. See global map in the HCV national interpretation.

6. Threats to HCV5 areas in the country:

- The species run a risk of becoming rare if both forest manager and IPLC harvest without any common regulation
- There is also a risk of the over exploitation of some species by the IPLC

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
2. Fixation of maximum harvesting rates for key HCV 5 resources
3. Mapping of sites identified in the management documents and respect for protection measures for key HCV 5 resources
4. Implementation of antipoaching measures for key HCV 5 resources
5. Support and/ or promote the domestication of NTFP

MONITORING HCV5

Monitoring conducted through procedures developed in cooperation with the communities through culturally appropriate engagement.

- Annual report on the quantities of NTFP harvested.
- Annual monitoring report on the conflicts registered related to HVC 5 resources.
- Annual report on the sales of bushmeat.

Some monitoring indicators include:

- Quantity of NTFP collected
- Nature, quantity of bush meat hunted
- Number of conflicts related to HCV 5.

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.

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/cg>

2. Description of Interested and affected stakeholders:

- Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLC), Forestry Companies, civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples' associations and environmental NGOs.

3. Examples of HCV6 significant cultural values in the country:

- Sacred sites, sacred trees, old villages, old tombs, animal "totems".

4. Geographic areas where HCV6 is likely present:

- Inside forest concessions in all over the Republic of the Congo

5. Maps of HCV6 areas in the country:

- Maps of HCV6 are found in specific socio-economic studies of concessionaires, but the HCV national interpretation document has some maps of heritage sites.

6. Threats to HCV6 areas in the country:

- Destruction or deterioration of HCV 6 by harvesting activities

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. Develop in cooperation with the IPLCs a concertation process and conflict resolution mechanism for issues related to HCV 6.
3. Mapping of sites identified in the management plan/procedures and ensure respect for protection measures.
4. Marking out the sites identified on the field and sensitizing workers to protect during harvesting activities.

MONITORING HCV6

Monitoring conducted through procedures developed in cooperation with the communities through culturally appropriate engagement.

- Annual compilation and analysis of post exploitation data for HCV 6 resources.
- Annual compilation and analysis of the conflicts related to HCV 6 resources.

Some monitoring indicators include:

- Number of sites destroyed or deteriorated by management activities
- Number of conflicts related to HCV 6.

Annex I List of rare and threatened species in the country or region

[Endangered species of the Congo \(the Republic of\) – List – Earth's Endangered Creatures](#)

Annex J Management strategies to be implemented to mitigate damage in Intact Forest Landscapes outside of core areas within the Management Unit for Indicator 9.2.7

- Taking into account the presence of specific High Conservation Values when planning the road network;
- Reduction of road density in Intact Forest Landscapes, particularly at the borders with neighbouring Protected Areas (PAs) and maintaining a 1000-metre road-free buffer area along the borders with neighbouring PAs.
- Introduction of a maximum harvesting density (threshold: 3 trees/hectare calculated on the scale of a 50-hectare plot per annual cutting area- this a spatial management measure that does not increase extraction rate; but redistributes it to avoid localized ecological damage like fragmentation and loss of connectivity that could result if commercial trees are cluster harvested within the MU; this threshold (usually) applies per a 30-year rotation cycle.
- Introduction of a maximum harvesting diameter (threshold 2 metres);
- Rehabilitation of degraded skidding trails and log yards in the event of significant compaction or rutting;
- Re-use of roads for 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.

Maximum dimensions permitted for dry season roads:

Type	Total width cleared for road building	Width of rolling surface	Clearance for road lighting
Permanent	25m	10m	2 x 7.5m
Main	22m	8m	2 x 7m
Secondary	19m	7m	2 x 6m

Maximum dimensions permitted for rainy season roads:

Type	Total width cleared for road building	Width of rolling surface	Clearance for road lighting
Permanent	25m	10m	2 x 7.5m
Main	25m	10m	2 x 7.5m
Secondary	23m	8m	2 x 7.5m

- Closure of secondary roads and control of access to main roads, using appropriate measures, in consultation with institutions responsible for wildlife management;
- Monitoring of deforestation and other disturbances using satellite imagery, drones or other tools;
- Strengthening the measures to combat poaching provided for in Criterion 6.6 (6.6.4, 6.6.5, 6.6.6, 6.6.7 and 6.6.8);
- Strengthening the measures to combat illegal harvesting;
- Specific monitoring of the impact of exploitation, particularly on wildlife, plant cover and forest dynamics;
- Monitoring the recolonization of roads and *restoration** if recolonization is insufficient, particularly in the case of secondary roads.

Annex K FSC 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 International Union for Conservation of Nature (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.

Adaptive management: A systematic process of continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of existing measures (Source: Based on International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website).

Additionality:

- Additionality outside the Management Unit: Conservation and/or restoration outcomes over and above those already achieved or planned to be achieved, and that would not have been achieved without the support and/or intervention of The Organization.

Projects must either be new (i.e., not already being implemented or planned), amended or extended so that conservation and/or restoration outcomes are enhanced beyond what would have been achieved, or planned or funded to be achieved without The Organization planning to remedy for historical conversion.

- Additionality inside the Management Unit: Conservation and/or restoration outcomes above and beyond those required by the applicable FSC standards.

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 neighbourhood of the Management Unit. The following are examples of affected stakeholders:

- Local communities
- Indigenous Peoples
- Workers
- Forest dwellers
- Neighbours
- 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, labour unions, etc.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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.

Affirmative action: A policy or a programme 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 V5-2).

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 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).

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).

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 V5-2).

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 behavioural 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/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 V5-2).

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 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 V5-2).

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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.

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 Principle 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 V5-2).

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).

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.

This list should be adapted or expanded by Standard Developers.

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).

Employment and Occupation: includes access to vocational training, access to employment and to particular occupations, and terms and conditions of employment (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 V5-2).

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, FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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 V5-2).

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).

Equivalent: For ecological equivalence, the same specific type of natural forest or High Conservation Value is restored or conserved as was destroyed.

For social remedy, equivalence shall be based on an independent assessment and agreement on remedy through Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) with the affected rights holders of the nature, quality, and quantity of all social harms as well as the ongoing future benefits these would have provided. Equivalence shall entail provision of the best means possible to ensure future community wellbeing. (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0)

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 V5-2).

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, P₂O₅ and K₂O, 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 (Source: ILO Convention 29, Article 2.1)

Forest: A tract of land dominated by trees (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2. 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, ADVISE-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 V5-2).

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, Odera 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 V5-2).

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 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 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 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, 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: 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 km² (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).

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 V5-2).

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;
- Labour (rights) organizations, for example labour 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 V5-2)

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 V5-2).

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 V5-2).

Legally competent: Mandated in law to perform a certain function (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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 V5-2).

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 V5-2).

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 V5-2).

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 V5-2).

Long-term: The timescale 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 V5-2).

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 V5-2).

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 V5-2).

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-to-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 V5-2).

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 favour 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 V5-2).

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 V5-2).

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 V5-2).

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 V5-2).

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 harm: see the definition for social harm (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).

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 V5-2).

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 colour (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, larvaecides, 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 V5-2).

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 harm: see the definition for social harm (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

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 imperilled 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 V5-2).

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 V5-2).

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 V5-2).

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 V5-2).

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 V5-2).

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).

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 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).

Sphere of Influence: The Sphere of Influence usually refers to areas outside the MU where decisions

and actions of The Organization interact with those of other stakeholders to shape the landscape. The Sphere of Influence also refers to decisions and actions by stakeholders that influence what happens in the landscape. The influence can be over ecological processes (migration corridors, gene flows, watershed alteration), social processes (delivery of critical civil services, land tenure clarification) or economic processes (job creation, benefit sharing schemes, infrastructure development). Each of these processes will play at different scales so the boundaries of the Sphere of Influence may be diverse. It includes contiguous IFLs that are directly connected to the management unit and corresponds to a zone of intervention by other stakeholders, whose actions are likely to shape IFL status in the landscape.

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).

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 V5-2).

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 V5-2).

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 affected area shall not exceed 5% of the Management Unit, irrespective of whether the conversion activities have taken place prior to or after The Organization is awarded with FSC forest management certification (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

Very limited portion of core area: The affected area shall not exceed 0.5% of the core area in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% 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 labourers, 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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