

FSC® INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

FSC International Generic Indicators

FSC-STD-01-004 V1-0 EN



DRAFT 2-0 FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

With Notes for Standard Development Groups and FSC
Accredited Certification Bodies

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FSC INTERNATIONAL GENERIC INDICATORS

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DRAFT 2-0

The Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC) is an independent, not for profit, non-government organization established to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

FSC's vision is that the world's forests meet the social, ecological, and economic rights and needs of the present generation without compromising those of future generations.

Note on this draft

This Second Draft of International Generic Indicators will be submitted for a public consultation period of minimum 60 days.

The Final Draft of International Generic Indicators will be developed after the second public consultation, unless further rounds of public consultation are required due to substantial feedback from stakeholders. The timeline and outline of the process can be viewed on the [IGI Website](http://www.igi.fsc.org) (www.igi.fsc.org).

The Final Draft of the IGIs will be approved by the FSC Board of Directors.

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A Objective

The objective of the Standard is to provide a set of International Generic Indicators (IGIs) that aim to:

- Operationalize at national level the FSC Principles and Criteria Version 5 (P&C V5).
- Ensure the consistent application of the P&C across the globe.
- Improve and strengthen the credibility of the FSC System.
- Improve the quality of the National Standards.
- Support a faster and more efficient National Standards approval process.
- Replace the Certification Body's Interim Standards in countries that lack approved National Standards.

B Scope

The International Generic Indicators will be used as the starting point for the development of National Standards either by registered Standard Development Groups (SDGs) or by FSC-accredited Certification Bodies (CBs).

All aspects of this standard are considered to be normative, including the scope, effective date, references, glossary of terms, tables and annexes, unless otherwise stated. As part of the FSC Normative Framework, this Standard is subject to the review and revision cycle as described in Procedure FSC-PRO-01-001.

C Effective date

Approval date	xxx
Publication date	xxxx
Effective date	xxxx
Period of validity	until xxxxxxxx (or until replaced or withdrawn)

D References

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

<i>FSC-DIR-20-007</i>	<i>FSC Directive on Forest Management Evaluations</i>
<i>FSC-POL-01-004</i>	<i>Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC</i>
<i>FSC-POL-20-003</i>	<i>The Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification</i>
<i>FSC-POL-30-001</i>	<i>FSC Pesticides Policy</i>
<i>FSC-POL-30-401</i>	<i>FSC Certification and the ILO Conventions</i>
<i>FSC-POL-30-602</i>	<i>FSC Interpretation on GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms)</i>

<i>FSC-PRO-01-001</i>	<i>The Development and Approval of FSC Social and Environmental International Standards</i>
<i>FSC-PRO-01-005</i>	<i>Processing Appeals</i>
<i>FSC-PRO-01-008</i>	<i>Processing Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme</i>
<i>FSC-PRO-01-009</i>	<i>Processing Formal Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme</i>
<i>FSC-STD-01-002</i>	<i>Glossary of Terms</i>
<i>FSC-STD-01-003</i>	<i>SLIMF Eligibility Criteria</i>
<i>FSC-STD-01-005</i>	<i>FSC Dispute Resolution System</i>
<i>FSC-STD-30-005</i>	<i>FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups</i>
<i>FSC-STD-60-002</i>	<i>Structure and Content of National Forest Stewardship Standards</i>
<i>FSC-STD-60-006</i>	<i>Development of National Forest Stewardship Standards</i>

E Glossary of Terms

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in *FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0 FSC Principles and Criteria* apply.

Part I: Introduction to the IGLs

1. Purpose of the International Generic Indicators

The International Generic Indicators (IGIs) are a set of indicators which address each element of each criterion in FSC Principles & Criteria Version 5 (P&C V 5-0).

Together with National Standards and interim standards, where either exist, they will form a common starting point for regional or national standard setting.

The International Generic Indicators are adaptable at regional or national level. The rules for this adaptation are defined in FSC-STD-60-002 and any refinement to those rules (e.g. the Transfer Procedure).

2. Towards the International Generic Indicators - Draft 2-0

The process towards the second draft of the IGLs started after finalizing the first public consultation of Draft 1-0 in April 2013. From the feedback received on the first consultation, it was clear that several broad themes needed to be addressed for the second draft. These fall into four categories:

- simplify;
- reduce the number;
- consider the Scale, Intensity and Risk (SIR) and;
- focus on performance.

The IGI Group created a set of Drafting Rules for the drafting process that addresses these four 'meta issues'. In addition, the IGI Group made some changes on its organizational structure, creating the following committees to respond to the complexity and different aspects associated with developing the second draft:

- Consultation committee: responsible for selecting the methodology to collect and analyze the comments received during the second public consultation.
- Drafting committee: responsible to analyze every comment and propose indicators for each criterion applying the Drafting Rules.
- Communication and engagement committee: responsible to coordinate all the communications and gather a more comprehensive feedback from all stakeholders during the second public consultation.

The methodology for preparing the second draft was a systematic and iterative process in which the Drafting Committee, through the use of the Drafting Rules, revised and proposed indicators for each criterion. The proposed indicators were analyzed by the Technical Experts and approved in their final form by the Working Group.

For the revision of the standard, a set of filter questions were applied as a first step, asking whether each indicator was:

1. Globally Applicable: Does the indicator apply to ALL types of forest?
2. Auditable?
3. Performance based?
4. Written in clear, simple language?
5. Redundant?
6. Addresses SIR?

Finally, any remaining concerns were identified and addressed throughout the standard.

3. Drafting Rules

The Drafting Rules were used to complete the second draft of the IGIs. The purpose of the Drafting Rules was to clarify how Draft 1-0 Indicators were revised to Draft 2-0 Indicators.

The following documents were used as basis for the Drafting Rules:

- FSC-STD-60-002 Structure and Content of National Forest Stewardship Standards.
- Filter Questions, as developed in the IGI Group meeting in Madrid, June 2013.
- Drafting Rules developed for Draft 2-0 during the IGI Group meeting in Madrid, June 2013.
- Methodology to deal with 'lists', developed in the IGI Working Group meeting in Vancouver, August 2013.

The following Drafting Rules were applied to the IGIs Draft 1-0, to develop the indicators suggested in Draft 2-0:

1. Each indicator shall specify one aspect of compliance.
2. When an FSC Criterion includes several requirements (e.g. FSC Criterion 6.9 a), b), c), associated indicators shall be developed for each requirement.
3. Specific: Each indicator should refer to a single aspect of performance to be evaluated. An indicator which includes more than one aspect to be evaluated shall list these aspects separately as sub-divisions of the indicator.
4. Measurable: Indicators shall specify outcomes or levels (i.e. thresholds) of performance that are measurable during an evaluation at a reasonable cost. The level of performance required to comply with the indicators should be clear to the reader.
5. Achievable: Indicators shall not be defined in terms of design or descriptive characteristics, and shall not favour a particular technology or patented item.
6. Relevant: Indicators shall only include elements that contribute to the achievement of the objective of the applicable FSC Criterion.
7. Tangible: Indicators shall be written using a clear and consistent vocabulary, free from subjective elements. The use of such phrases as "ordinarily", "substantial", "proactive", "appropriate to", "minimize", "wherever possible", "thorough" or "best available" should be avoided.
8. Indicators shall reflect the Precautionary Approach.
9. Each indicator applies to The Organization, as stated in the Principle and Criteria. As a result, the indicator will not state, "The Organization shall ...".
10. Each indicator is stated in the present tense, meaning that it expresses what is meant to be in place at the time of audit and not at some future date.
11. As the Principles and Criteria are written as 'shall' statements, this is not repeated in the indicators.
12. Each indicator applies throughout the Management Unit. As a result, the indicator will not state '... within the Management Unit...'.
13. The only exception for this is when a Criterion also includes activities outside, adjacent to / surrounding the Management Unit. In these cases the geographic scope of the requirement will be clarified by including '... within the Management Unit...'.
14. In order to avoid duplication, identical requirements that fall within more than one criterion (such as training and monitoring) are put in a single indicator in one criterion. Generally, training requirements are under Criterion 2.5.

Generally, monitoring requirements are within Criteria 8.1 or 8.2. The exception to this rule is when monitoring is explicitly mentioned in the Criteria, such as 9.4.

15. Cross reference to be included where there is a duplicate indicator elsewhere in the standard.
16. In simplifying language, do not change substance of requirement.
17. If a normative document is referenced (e.g., ILO Code of Practice), reference the code and point to national adaptation to bring in national laws and codes which address this where they exist.
18. Do not replace a specific requirement with a more general one (e.g., if ILO only requires a first aid kit, indicator must not require a full-blown first aid program).

4. Scale, Intensity and Risk – SIR

During the first public consultation, stakeholders commented that the IGIs should address Scale, Intensity and Risk (SIR). The IGI group worked hard to address this feedback.

For each Criterion where SIR is explicitly incorporated, the IGIs Draft 2-0:

- Provides an interpretation Note on how SIR applies for that Criterion;
- Identifies Scale, Intensity, and/or Risk as the key variable(s);
- If needed, refines or adds information to the indicator(s).

Two parallel projects have been initiated by FSC to help explore and define the SIR concept. The first directed at very large scale operations, and the second directed at small operations and community forestry.

1. The General Assembly 2011 (Motion 20) requested FSC to commission a participatory study of the social and environmental landscape level impacts of large operations, with recommendations of best practice indicators and procedures. The study also aims at defining quantifiable thresholds on what constitutes a 'large' operation, affecting whole towns and local, regional or national policies and development. The results of the study can be used to clarify the concept of Scale, Intensity and Risk as expressed in IGIs and to assist the standard developers in setting specific requirements to the large operations in the national context. The Final Report of the study will be available at the General Assembly 2014.
2. As a first step to responding to concerns about smallholders, a project has been launched to carry out a series of field tests with community and indigenous Certificate Holders in order to assess the level of applicability of the IGIs for smallholders and inform guidance for the development of indicators within National Standards adequate for these forest managers.

The first round of field testing was carried out in early November 2013 in Honduras, in one timber-producing community and one non-timber forest product producing indigenous community. The assessment was at the criterion level and focused primarily on the new elements in the Principles & Criteria Version 5 and those changed from Version 4, using indicators from IGI Draft 1-0 and the Honduran SLIMF standard to assess understanding, applicability and the ability for the communities to comply. The fieldwork component was followed by a Working Group meeting to discuss the results and propose measures to address issues identified in the field.

A second round of field testing will be carried out in February in Bolivia and Tanzania. This second round will include a full indicator-level assessment of the IGIs Draft 2-0 in both smallholder and indigenous contexts.

The results of both these rounds will be compiled into a formal report and circulated widely in order to gather input and feedback as to the best way to proceed. The results will also be presented in the global Social Chamber meeting and Certification Body meeting in February 2014, and their participants consulted.

The public consultation on the IGIs Draft 2-0 is viewed as an essential contribution to this work. In the online survey, a field has been developed to allow providing feedback on smallholder applicability for each IGI. Proposed wording for indicators is also welcome.

Part II: FSC Principles, Criteria and International Generic Indicators and Notes for Standard Developers

Principle 1: Compliance with laws

The Organization* shall* comply with all applicable laws, regulations and nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements. (P1 V4)

NOTE: Every National Standard has a list of applicable laws and regulations. This is a requirement of FSC-STD-20-002 Structure, content and local adaptation of generic Forest Stewardship Standards and FSC-STD- 60-002 Structure and content of National Forest Stewardship Standards. **Annex A** of this Standard provides examples of Applicable laws, regulations and nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements. Standards Development Groups and Certification Bodies will need to check their lists against these examples.

- 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. (C1.1 V4)

- 1.1.1 *Legal registration** to carry out all activities within the scope of the certificate is documented.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall identify where *customary rights** govern use and access, and, where applicable, write additional indicators to ensure that these rights to carry out activities within the scope of the certificate are documented. This exercise is also relevant for Controlled Wood National Risk Assessments.

NOTE: Examples of verifiers of registration may include a valid business license to operate within the jurisdiction, and a tax registration number. Small and community forests may have other kinds of evidence of their legal existence (*persona juridica*), or may not need to be legally defined or registered; for example, entities managing some family-owned forests or *Management Units** on indigenous lands.

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

NOTE: Standards Developers shall establish national-level indicators on the appropriate process to recognize and grant *customary rights** related to use and access and how such recognized *customary rights** are to be documented.

- 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. (C2.1 V4)

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

NOTE: Standards Developers shall identify where *customary tenures** to manage and use resources exist at the national level and ensure that these are incorporated into indicators.

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

NOTE: Standards Developers shall determine at the national or regional level how to clearly define *management unit** boundaries. Clearly defined boundaries mean that conformity assessment bodies can verify the boundaries independently. This may be through delineation, which would mean that the boundaries have been surveyed, and either a detailed and legal boundary description is available or physical demarcation with landmarks has been completed, which would allow the entire boundary to be traced and verified on the ground. However, there may also be other options for defining boundaries in a way that they can be verified independently such as through the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

- 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. (C1.1, 1.2, 1.3 V4)

1.3.1 All activities, including the harvest of products and/or supply of *ecosystem services**, are carried out in compliance with:

1. *Applicable laws** and regulations and administrative requirements,
2. Obligatory codes of practice, and
3. Legal* and customary rights*.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall adapt Annex A in order to list all *applicable laws**, obligatory codes of practice and *legal** and *customary rights** at the national and sub-national level.

1.3.2 Timely payment is made of all applicable legally prescribed charges connected with *forest** management

1.3.3 Activities covered by the *management plan** and operational plans are designed to comply with all applicable *laws**.

- 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. (C1.5 V4)

1.4.1 Measures are developed and implemented to systematically provide *protection** from illegal harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall ensure that these measures do not limit the rights of indigenous peoples* and *local communities**, consistent with *Principle* 3* and *Principle* 4*.

NOTE: 'Systematically' means that this *Criterion** requires *The Organization** to develop a package or system of protection measures, and implement them, where this is appropriate and legally possible, emphasizing prevention rather than control 'after the event'. Standards Developers shall include appropriate measures in their standards. This may include:

- a. Forest roads have gates and/or have controlled access to areas of high *risk**;
- b. Temporary roads are physically closed off after harvesting;

- c. Forest roads are patrolled to detect and prevent *illegal** access to the *forest**; and
 - d. Personnel and resources have been assigned to detect and control illegal activities promptly, within their *legal** rights.
- 1.4.2 Where *protection** by *The Organization** is not legally possible, a system is implemented to work with regulatory bodies to identify, report, control and discourage unauthorized or illegal activities.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop indicators that apply when the land is owned by a third party and when *The Organization** should implement a collaborative strategy with the regulatory body, landowner and/or other stakeholders to prevent, by all reasonable means, illegal activities. This *Criterion** recognizes that it is not always possible for *The Organization** to enforce protective measures, for example when *The Organization* is not the landowner or does not have appropriate legal rights of control. *The Organization** may not have the right to erect fences, to lock gates, or to expel those carrying out such unauthorized or illegal activities.

- 1.4.3 If illegal or unauthorized activities are detected, appropriate actions are undertaken 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. (C1.1, 1.3)
- 1.5.1 Records demonstrate compliance with *applicable national laws**, local laws, *ratified** international conventions and obligatory codes of practice, relating to the transportation and trade of forest products up to the point of first sale.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop indicators that apply when *The Organization** is to have procedures and practices that provide effective control of forest products from the point of origin (for example, the standing tree), until ownership is transferred. Where legally required, *The Organization** must also have and use a system to identify products as having verified legal compliance up to the point of first sale, for example, through documentation or marking and tracking systems.

- 1.5.2 Where CITES has been *ratified** nationally, compliance with CITES provisions is demonstrated, including through possession of certificates for harvest and trade in any CITES species that are harvested by *The Organization**.

NOTE: Compliance with the applicable provisions and requirements of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES 1975) is required where CITES has been ratified nationally and Standards Developers shall indicate what provisions exist for CITES nationally. Compliance includes possession of permits for harvest or trade in any CITES-listed species, if applicable. CITES certificates require statement of geographic origin, scientific name of the species involved, and measurements taken and recorded as prescribed.

- 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*. (C2.3 V4)

- 1.6.1 A publically available dispute resolution mechanism is in place; developed through *engagement** with *affected stakeholders**.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall include in their standards that developing this mechanism requires proactive engagement to identify disputes. Identifying *indigenous peoples** and *local communities** with rights is addressed in *Criterion** 3.1 and *Criterion** 4.1. Control of resources and FPIC is addressed in *Criterion** 3.2 and *Criterion** 4.2. Protection of special sites is addressed in *Criterion** 3.5 and in *Criterion** 4.7. Protection of traditional knowledge and intellectual property is addressed in *Criterion** 3.6 and *Criterion** 4.8.

Disputes could also be about *legal and customary rights** including but not limited to *forest** ownership, challenged title to the land, and challenged ownership of forest concessions.

- 1.6.2 Disputes related to issues of *applicable laws** or *customary law** that can be settled out of court in a timely manner are responded to promptly, and are either resolved or in the process of being resolved.

- 1.6.3 An up to date record of disputes related to issues of *applicable laws** or *customary law*, is held including:

1. Steps taken to resolve grievances;
2. Outcomes of all grievances resolution processes including fair compensation; and
3. Unresolved grievances and the reasons why they are not resolved.

- 1.6.4 Operations cease in areas while disputes exist of:

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

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop indicators that define thresholds to evaluate the magnitude and seriousness of a dispute, including:

- a) Whether the dispute involves local rights holders, local *forest** workers or local residents;
- b) Whether the dispute involves the legal or *customary rights** of *Indigenous Peoples**;
- c) The range of issues and/or interests involved;
- d) Whether the potential impacts on the disputants are irreversible or cannot be mitigated;
- e) Whether the dispute involves vexatious grievors or disputants, and/or
- f) Whether the dispute involves issues related to meeting the applicable FSC national standard.

- 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.
(New)

- 1.7.1 An anti-corruption policy is developed, endorsed by senior management, made publically available at no cost and implemented that meets or exceeds existing anti-corruption legislation, including a commitment not to offer or receive bribes in money or any other form of corruption
- 1.7.2 In the absence of anti-corruption legislation, alternative measures are developed, endorsed by senior management, made publically available at no cost and implemented that include a commitment not to engage in any form of bribery and/or corruption.
- 1.7.3 No evidence is found of bribes offered or received in money or any other form of corruption.

NOTE: This *Criterion** recognizes that corruption is generally regarded as illegal but not all countries have or implement anti-corruption laws and regulations.

Where anti-corruption laws and regulations do not exist or are ineffective, Standards Developers shall include other anti-corruption measures include for example that, where national legislation permits, *The Organization** develops or participates in formal integrity pacts with other organizations in the public and private sectors, such that each participant agrees in well publicized statements not to engage in corruption by offering or receiving bribes, whether in money or in any other forms. An independent third party should then monitor performance related to such statements, with expertise in such matters.

- 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. (C1.6)
 - 1.8.1 A publicly available statement, endorsed by senior management and made publically available at no cost, makes a long- term commitment to *forest** management practices consistent with the FSC *Principles** and *Criteria** and related Policies and Standards.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall include in their standards that *The Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC* has been developed as a means for preventing 'green washing'. Therefore, the publicly available document should, in addition to the statement of commitment to adhere to the FSC *Principles** and *Criteria**, contain the commitments listed for the self-declaration statement required by FSC-POL-01-004 Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC. These are for non-involvement in the following unacceptable activities:

- a) Illegal logging or the trade in illegal wood or forest products;
- b) Violation of traditional and human rights in forestry operations;
- c) Destruction of high conservation values in forestry operations;
- d) Significant conversion of forests to *plantations** or non-forest use;
- e) Introduction of *genetically modified organisms** in forestry operations; and
- f) Violation of any of the ILO Core Labour Conventions as defined in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work

- 1.8.2 *The Organization** is not directly or indirectly engaged in any of the unacceptable activities identified in the Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC (FSC-POL-01-004)

Principle 2: Workers' rights and employment conditions.

The Organization* shall* maintain and/or enhance the social and economic wellbeing of workers (New)

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. (C4.3 V4)*

2.1.1 Employment practices and conditions for *workers** demonstrate conformity with or uphold the principles and rights of work addressed in the ILO Core Labour Conventions.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall demonstrate how principles and rights as further specified in the following eight ILO Core Labour Conventions are upheld in national circumstances. This may be done with the Annex to Principle 1 that lists the applicable laws. This may also be done in part by demonstrating the degree to which ILO requirements are addressed in national and regional regulations. The next step would then be to identify gaps between the requirements of ILO Core Labour Conventions and national and regional regulations and describe how these gaps are addressed.

- a) Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- b) Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)
- c) Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)
- d) Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
- e) Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
- f) Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)
- g) Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
- h) Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)

A list of the articles of these conventions that apply to *The Organisation*, is available as part of the IGI package of documents.

2.1.2 *Workers** can establish or join labour organizations of their own choosing subject only to the rules of the labour organization concerned.

2.1.3 Agreements resulting from collective bargaining with representatives of trade unions or informal organizations are implemented.

2.2 *The Organization* shall* promote gender equality* in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of engagement* and management activities. (New, per Motion 12 at GA 2002)*

2.2.1 There is no evidence of discrimination in employment practices and working conditions, and terms of employment take appropriate account of gender-based needs.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall establish national-level indicators on employment practices, working conditions, and terms of employment that take appropriate

account of gender-based needs. The following examples may be appropriate, but are not exclusive nor need they be in place simultaneously:

- a) *Engagement** and information in local languages as well as in national languages, especially when there is a possibility that women and some minority groups may be unfamiliar with the national language;
- b) Meetings and management committees organized to include women and men, and to facilitate the active participation of both;
- c) Any payments to local residents or community members go to women and men, avoiding the assumption that payments to men always equally benefit women and children;
- d) Specific efforts to provide appropriate employment opportunities for women, and to adapt existing employment opportunities and conditions to make them suitable for women and compatible with women's role in the family and society;
- e) Salary scales and employment conditions to promote equality of opportunity, and common pay and grading systems (equal pay for similar work), and equitable participation in job responsibilities, promotions, positions and training opportunities for men and women;
- f) Maternity and paternity leave, and other provisions for parents;
- g) Flexible working policies and practices (variable hours, part-time, home-working, work during school terms, etc.) and vacation policies; and
- h) Procedures for preventing and eliminating sexual harassment and discrimination based on gender, marital status, parenthood or sexual orientation.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall define at the national level, including through *national laws**, how gender equality is ensured.

- 2.2.2 There is no evidence of systematic sexual harassment and gender discrimination.
- 2.2.3 An effective mechanism is in place to allow *workers** to confidentially and without retaliation report on sexual harassment and gender discrimination.
- 2.2.4 Incidents involving gender discrimination or sexual harassment are dealt with in an effective and timely manner.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall establish national-level indicators on addressing incidents of gender discrimination or sexual harassment. 'Timely manner' means that *The Organization** cannot unduly postpone resolving the situation. This means that complaints of sexual harassment and gender discrimination are investigated and resolved including putting in place measures to avoid similar occurrences.

- 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. (C4.2 V4, revised to comply with ILO and FSC-POL-30-401)

2.3.1 A health and safety (H&S) program is developed and implemented that meets or exceeds the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.

2.3.2 *Workers** are provided with personal protective equipment appropriate to their assigned tasks. Use of this equipment is enforced.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall define at the national level, including through *national laws**, how *worker** health and safety is protected and how this meets with the requirements the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work and ILO Convention 155, Occupational Safety and Health Convention (1981).

NOTE: Standards Developers shall ensure that the greater the scale, intensity and risk of management activities, the greater the need for the practices to meet or exceed recommendations of the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work. Forestry operations are risky regardless of the scale and intensity of operation.

2.3.3 Records are kept on compliance with the H&S program and on accident rates and lost time to accidents.

2.3.4 The frequency and severity of accidents are generally decreasing, over time.

2.3.5 The H&S program is periodically reviewed and informed by the Health and Safety records. Additional to periodic review, a focused review of policies and practices is undertaken after every major incident or accident.

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**. (New)

2.4.1 Wages paid by The Organization meet or exceed, in all circumstances, *legal** minimum wage rates, where such rates exist.

2.4.2 When either minimum forest industry wage standards or other recognized forest industry wage agreements or *living wages** exist that are higher than *legal** minimum wage rates, then wages paid meet or exceed at least one of those higher minimums.

2.4.3 When no minimum wage levels exist, *living wages** are established through *engagement** with *workers**. Wages paid meet or exceed the established *living wage** rates.

2.4.4 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. (C7.3 V4)

2.5.1 A documented, up to date training program is in place to ensure that all *workers** are safely and effectively contributing to the implementation of the *management plan** including:

1. Effective procedures are developed and implemented to ensure all staff including *workers** and contractors responsible for implementing *forest** activities comply with applicable *legal** requirements. (Criterion 1.5);

2. Managers, employees and contractors have training about the content and meaning of the eight ILO Core Labour Conventions (Criterion 2.1);
3. Training is provided to manager, security staff and supervisors to recognize and report on instances of sexual harassment and gender discrimination. (Criterion 2.2);
4. *Workers** and contractors that use hazardous substances are given adequate instruction in their safe use and disposal to ensure that use does not pose health *risks**. (Criterion 2.3);
5. For particularly dangerous jobs or jobs entailing a special responsibility, *workers** receive specialized training ensuring that they are equipped to carry out their responsibilities. (Criterion 2.5).
6. *Workers** are fully aware of where indigenous *peoples** have *legal** and customary rights related to management activities (Criterion 3.2);
7. All relevant *workers** are trained to identify and implement applicable elements of UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 (Criterion 3.4);
8. All relevant *workers** are trained to identify sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to *indigenous peoples** and implement the necessary measures to protect them before the start of *forest** management activities to avoid negative impacts (Criterion 3.5 and Criterion 4.7);
9. *Workers** are fully aware of where local *communities** have *legal** and customary rights related to management activities (Criterion 4.2);
10. *Workers** trained to carry out social, environmental and economic impact assessment and develop appropriate mitigation measures. (Criterion 4.5);
11. If *pesticides** are used, all *workers** involved in their use have up-to-date training in handling, application and storage procedures. (Criterion 10.7); and
12. *Workers** are appropriately trained and able to effectively implement procedures for cleaning up spills of waste products. (Criterion 10.12).

NOTE: Standards Developers shall define at the national level what categories of *workers** and / or job require specialist training in order to meet the requirements of this *Criterion**.

2.5.2 Training and education records are maintained for all *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**. (New to address gap in P&C V4).

2.6.1 A publically available dispute resolution process is in place, developed through *engagement** with *workers**.

2.6.2 Grievances related to *workers** loss or damage of property, occupational diseases* or injuries are responded to promptly, and are either resolved or in the process of being resolved.

2.6.3 An up to date record of grievances related to *workers** loss or damage of property, occupational *diseases** or injuries is held including:

1. Steps taken to resolve grievances;
2. Outcomes of all grievance resolution processes including fair compensation; and
3. Unresolved grievances and the reasons why they were not resolved.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall establish national-level indicators on grievances related to *workers** loss or damage of property, *occupational diseases** or injuries. Loss' refers to the private property of *workers**. 'Damage' refers to both private property and the health and life of workers.

2.6.4 Fair compensation is provided to *workers** for loss or damage of property and occupational *disease** or injuries.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall establish the national-level of fair compensation for loss and damage to property means that compensation has to be provided when caused through a fault of *The Organization**. Fairness is subjective, therefore the *engagement** process and resulting mechanisms are also important to determine what is considered fair by all involved actors. This process might also include the involvement of third party mediation.

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. (P3 V4)

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. (New).*

3.1.1 A systematic process is used to identify all *indigenous peoples** within the *Management Unit** or that may be affected by management activities.

NOTE: This *Criterion** requires identification of *indigenous peoples** with a fair and legitimate claim to be allowed access to benefits, goods or *ecosystem services** from the *Management Unit**. They include those who have affirmed their rights to land, *forests** and other resources based on long established use, and also those who have not yet done so (due for example, to a lack of awareness or empowerment). Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that *The Organization** records all existing claims of rights. *Indigenous peoples** affected by management activities include those neighboring the *Management Unit**, and those that are more distant, who may experience negative impacts as a result of activities within the *Management Unit**. In these cases they would be *affected stakeholders** according to *Criterion** 7.6.

3.1.2 Through *engagement** with the *indigenous peoples**, the following are identified, documented and/or mapped:

1. Their customary and *legal** rights of *tenure**;
2. Their customary and *legal** access to, and use *rights** of the *forest** resources and ecosystem services*;
3. Their customary and *legal** rights and obligations that apply within the *Management Unit**;
4. The evidence supporting these rights and obligations;
5. Areas where rights are contested between *indigenous peoples**, governments and/or others.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall ensure that where there is no written text or records to support these claims to rights, culturally acceptable ways for identifying, agreeing to and documenting the rights and obligations of *indigenous peoples** are used. In addition, Standards Developers shall incorporate the following requirements into the development of national standards:

- a) Determining the representatives & contact points (in each community) for the various activities in which their *engagement** is required, including where appropriate, local institutions, organizations and authorities;

- b) Establishing a mutually agreed, culturally appropriate communication channel with each indigenous community, allowing for information to flow in both directions;
- c) Ensuring that all groups are equally represented and included;
- d) Using the agreed channels to communicate all related information;
- e) Recording all meetings, all points discussed and all agreements reached;
- f) Approving the content of meeting records; and
- g) Sharing the results of all *engagement** activities with the community to gain their formal approval of the content and intended use before proceeding

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*. (C3.1 and 3.2 V4)*

3.2.1 *Indigenous peoples* are informed in culturally appropriate ways 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*.*

NOTE: The terminology 'within or related to' clarifies that this *Criterion** covers the protection of the rights, resources, *lands and territories** inside and outside the *Management Unit**, as affected by management activities related to the *Management Unit**. Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that this requirement is included in national and regional standards.

3.2.2 *There is no evidence of infringement on the legal* and customary rights* of indigenous peoples* related to management activities.*

3.2.3 *Where such rights exist, indigenous peoples* are permitted to access and/or transit through the Management Unit* where this does not cause non-compliance with this standard and the management objectives*.*

3.2.4 *Delegation of control by indigenous peoples* over management activities of resources over which they have rights occurs only with the indigenous peoples*' free, prior and informed consent*, including:*

1. *Ensuring indigenous peoples* know their rights and obligations regarding the resource;*
2. *Informing the indigenous peoples* of the value, in economic, social and environmental terms, of the resource over which they are considering delegation of control;*
3. *Informing the indigenous peoples* of their right to withhold consent to the proposed management activities to the extent necessary to protect rights, resources, lands and territories*;*
4. *Informing the indigenous peoples* of the current and future planned forest* management activities;*

5. Defining the decision making processes to be used by the community and the Organisation;
6. Defining the fair negotiation of consent agreements including fair compensation for the use of the resource, in a culturally acceptable way for the *indigenous peoples**, and if needed with the assistance of neutral advisors;
7. Ensuring any agreement reached is documented and formally acknowledged;
8. Monitoring that the agreement is being upheld by all parties;
9. Periodically re-negotiating the terms of the consent agreement to take into account changing conditions and grievances; and
10. Traditional knowledge and *intellectual property** is identified, recognized and documented if feasible, while respecting the confidentiality of that knowledge and the *protection** of *intellectual property** rights.

NOTE: Standard Developers shall refer to the *FSC Guidance for the Implementation of the Right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent* within national and regional standards.

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

- 3.3.1 In the event of delegation of control over management activities, a binding agreement is concluded that includes:
1. Duration
 2. Provisions for renegotiation, renewal and termination
 3. Economic conditions including but not limited to costs and benefit sharing;
 4. Provisions for monitoring by *indigenous peoples** to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreement; and
 5. Other terms and conditions agreed to by all parties.

NOTE: Binding agreements' may be, but are not limited to, written agreements. They must reflect cultural requirements and may also be based on oral and honour systems, to be applied in cases where written agreements are not favoured by *indigenous peoples**, either for practical reasons or on principle. Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that *The Organization** maintains appropriate records of these agreements that may include written accounts, audio or film records, etc.

3.3.2 Records of binding agreements are maintained.

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) (C3.2 V4, revised to comply with FSC-POL-30-401, ILO 169 and UNDRIP)

- 3.4.1 *Indigenous peoples** are informed of their rights, customs and culture defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169.

NOTE: This Criterion refers to those articles of the UN Declaration and ILO Convention that cover explicitly the rights, customs and culture and spiritual relationship between *indigenous peoples** and the *Management Unit**. This *Criterion** applies also in countries and jurisdictions that have not ratified the UN Declaration and/or ILO Convention 169. Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 requirements are included in national standards.

- 3.4.2 There is no evidence of infringement of UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall further define this responsibility at the national level given that in the context of this *Criterion**, '*uphold**' does not imply an unlimited responsibility for *The Organization**.

NOTE: Compliance with this *Criterion** may exceed *The Organization's** legal obligations in the country or jurisdiction within which the *Management Unit** lies. Standards Developers shall ensure that in cases where there are conflicts between the *legal** or *customary rights** of *indigenous peoples** and other resource users, such cases are identified and mechanisms are in place to ensure that they be settled on a case-by-case basis, and if necessary, with recourse to dispute resolution mechanism specified in *Criterion** 1.6 or the grievance mechanism specified in *Criterion** 4.6

NOTE: Where this *Criterion** is in conflict with laws, separate FSC procedures apply (see FSC-STD-20-007 Forest Management Evaluations). Such 'conflicts' are defined as situations where it is not possible to comply with the *Principles and Criteria** and a law at the same time (Source: FSC 2011). In the case of this *Criterion**, an example would be that one or more articles of the ILO Convention 169 are in conflict with a specific law. Standards Developers shall identify situations where UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 are in conflict with local laws.

- 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**. (C3.3 V4, revised to POL 30-401)

- 3.5.1 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance for which *indigenous peoples** hold *legal** or *customary rights** and measures to protect them are identified through culturally appropriate *engagement**.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall ensure that the tool recommended in Step 3 of the *FSC Guidance for the Implementation of the Right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent* for culturally appropriate *engagement** is referenced in developing appropriate participatory mapping.

- 3.5.2 Measures to protect such sites are agreed, documented and implemented through culturally appropriate *engagement** with *indigenous peoples**.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that culturally appropriate measures are used to identify such sites. If *indigenous peoples** determine that physical identification of sites, or documentation on maps and/or in management plans, would threaten the value or *protection** of the sites, then other means will be used. Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that culturally appropriate measures are used to identify such sites.

- 3.5.3 Wherever and whenever cultural or archaeological sites 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. (New)*
 - 3.6.1 Traditional knowledge and *intellectual property** is protected and is only used when the holders of that traditional knowledge and *intellectual property** have provided their *Free, Prior and Informed Consent**.
 - 3.6.2 A binding agreement is concluded with the *indigenous peoples** through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** for the utilization of *indigenous peoples'* traditional knowledge and *intellectual property** before such utilization takes place.
 - 3.6.3 The benefits accruing from the use of *indigenous peoples*' traditional knowledge and intellectual property** are shared equitably with *indigenous peoples**

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*. (New)*

- 4.1.1 A systematic process is used to identify all *local communities** within the *Management Unit** or that may be affected by management activities.

NOTE: This *Criterion** requires identification of *local communities** with a fair and legitimate claim to be allowed access to benefits, goods or *ecosystem services** from the *Management Unit**. This includes those *local communities** that have affirmed their rights to land, *forests** and other resources based on long established use, as well as those that have not yet done so (due for example, to a lack of awareness or empowerment). Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that *The Organization** records all existing claims of rights.

*Local communities** affected by management activities include those neighbouring the *Management Unit**, and those that are more distant that may experience negative impacts as a result of activities within the *Management Unit**. These *local communities* are *affected stakeholders** according to *Criterion* 7.6*.

- 4.1.2 Through *engagement** with the *local communities**, the following are identified, documented and/or mapped:
1. Their customary and *legal** rights of *tenure**;
 2. Their customary and *legal** access to, and use *rights** of the *forest** resources and *ecosystem services**;
 3. Their *customary** and *legal** rights and obligations that apply within the *Management Unit**;
 4. The evidence supporting these rights and obligations;
 5. Areas where rights are contested between *local communities** , governments and/or others.

NOTE: Standards Developers *shall** ensure that where there is no written text or records to support these claims to rights, culturally acceptable ways for identifying, agreeing to and documenting the rights and obligations of *local communities** are used.

- 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 and lands and territories*. Delegation by local communities* of control over management activities to third parties requires Free, Prior and Informed Consent*. (C3.1 and 3.2 V4)*

- 4.2.1 *Local communities** are informed in culturally appropriate ways of 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**.

NOTE: The terminology 'within or related to' clarifies that this *Criterion** covers the protection of the rights, resources, *lands and territories** inside and outside the *Management Unit**, as affected by management activities related to the *Management Unit**. Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that this requirement is included in national and regional standards.

- 4.2.2 There is no evidence of infringement on the *legal** and *customary rights** of *local communities** related to management activities.
- 4.2.3 Where such rights exist, *local communities** are permitted to access and/or transit through the *Management Unit** where this does not cause non-compliance with this standard and the management *objectives**.
- 4.2.4 Delegation of control by *local communities** over management activities of resources over which they have rights occurs only with their *free, prior and informed consent**, including:
1. Ensuring *local communities** know their rights and obligations regarding the resource;
 2. Informing the *local communities** of the value, in economic, social and environmental terms, of the resource over which they are considering delegation of control;
 3. Informing the *local communities** of their right to withhold consent to the proposed management activities to the extent necessary to protect rights, resources, *lands and territories**;
 4. Informing the *local communities** of the current and future planned *forest** management activities;
 5. Defining the decision making processes to be used by the community and the Organisation;
 6. Defining the fair negotiation of consent agreements including fair compensation for the use of the resource, in a culturally acceptable way for the *local communities**, and if needed with the assistance of neutral advisors;
 7. Ensuring any agreement reached is documented and formally acknowledged;
 8. Monitoring that the agreement is being upheld by all parties;
 9. Periodically re-negotiating the terms of the consent agreement to take into account changing conditions and grievances; and
 10. Traditional knowledge and *intellectual property** is identified, recognized and documented if feasible, while respecting the confidentiality of that knowledge and the *protection** of *intellectual property** rights.

- 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. (C4.1 V4)*

- 4.3.1 *Reasonable* opportunities for employment, training and other services are identified, communicated and provided to local communities*, contractors and suppliers.*

NOTE: Under this *Criterion**, training opportunities and other services to be provided by *The Organization**, include skills training necessary to enable *local communities** to participate fully in forest management activities according to the rights identified in *Criterion* 4.1*.

Another example would be training provided by *The Organization** to *workers** and local suppliers, to enable them to provide the services and local value adding to *The Organization** required according to *Criterion* 5.4*. Compliance with this *Criterion* 4.3* does not require *The Organization** to enable or to underwrite the formation of new local businesses where none existed previously. However, the training and services that provided could improve the conditions necessary for such local businesses to emerge. Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that this requirement is included in national and regional standards.

FSC does not imply that *The Organization** must provide employment or training to anyone in *local communities**. The test of 'reasonable opportunities' would allow *The Organization** not to employ people who have a record of poor attendance at work, or who could pose a threat to existing *workers**, or whose health might make them unsuitable as users of sharp tools or operators of machinery.

NOTE: As the scale and intensity of management activities increase, so too must *The Organization's** efforts increase to provide *reasonable** opportunities for employment, training and other services to *local communities**, contractors and suppliers. Standards Developers shall identify thresholds for small *scale** and low *intensity* Organizations**.

- 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. (C4.4 v4)*

- 4.4.1 *Opportunities for local social and economic development are identified through engagement* with local communities* and other relevant organizations.*

NOTE: As the *scale** and *intensity** of management activities increase, so too must *The Organization* implement additional activities, through *engagement** with *local communities**, that contribute to their social and economic development. Standards Developers shall identify thresholds for small *scale** and low *intensity* Organizations**.

NOTE: The *engagement** required by this *Criterion** will provide the basis for determining the needs of *local communities** and the appropriate activities by *The Organization**. For example, the needs of *local communities** and the level and extent of efforts required to meet these needs depend on the socio-economic conditions, and will therefore differ between countries but also between sub-national regions within countries and even between *local communities** within such sub-national regions. Socio-economic conditions that will affect the needs and

efforts may include, for example, the size of the community, its accessibility and its poverty status. Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that this requirement is included in national and regional standards.

4.4.2 Local development projects and activities and associated budgets are developed and implemented for local social and economic development taking into account related activities promoted by relevant organizations.

NOTE: For large *scale**, high *intensity** and large socio-economic impact organizations, a development plan shall be developed and implemented, in addition to the project and activities. Standard Developers *shall** define the threshold for large *scale**, high *intensity** and large socio-economic impact organizations.

Activities in the development plan should include those that are:

- a) Requested by free and collective decisions of the *local communities**;
- b) Priorities for the communities;
- c) Sustainable in the long term;
- d) Beneficial to the *local communities** as a whole;
- e) Relevant to the poverty status of the *local communities**;
- f) Distributed equitably within the *local communities**

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. (C4.4 V4)

4.5.1 Through *engagement** with *local communities**, effective measures are identified and implemented to avoid and mitigate any significant negative social, environmental and economic impacts of management activities.

NOTE: This *Criterion** does not prohibit *The Organization** from providing services to *local communities** and thereby competing with services provided by local businesses, for example transport services or company stores that are open not only to *workers** but also to local people. Standards Developers shall develop indicators to define the degree to which *The Organization** has a responsibility to contribute to mitigating the resulting negative social and economic impacts on affected communities.

Examples of negative social and economic are:

- 1. Marginalization of other players in the local economy, for example small farmers or local businesses;
- 2. Increased local unemployment;
- 3. Out-migration of local people or decline of local skills and labour;
- 4. Road and industrial accidents; and
- 5. Loss or damage affecting legal or customary rights, property, or livelihoods of *local communities**.

NOTE: As the *scale intensity and risk** of negative impacts from management activities increases, so too must *The Organization**, through *engagement** with *local communities**, take action to identify, avoid and mitigate significant negative social,

environmental and economic impacts. Standards Developers shall identify thresholds for small *scale** and low *intensity** *Organizations**.

- 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 publically available dispute resolution process is in place, developed through *engagement** with *local communities**.
- 4.6.2 Grievances related to the impacts of management activities are responded to promptly, and are either resolved or in the process of being resolved.
- 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 grievances resolution processes including fair compensation; and
 3. Unresolved grievances and the reasons why they are not resolved.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall establish national-level indicators on grievances related to negative social and environmental impacts that include, for example, loss or damage affecting legal or *customary rights**, property, resources or livelihoods of *local communities** or individuals.

- 4.6.4 Fair compensation is provided to *local communities** and individuals for damage caused by negative impacts of management activities.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall establish national-levels of fair compensation. Fairness is subjective, therefore the engagement process and resulting mechanisms are also important to determine what all involved actors consider fair. This process might also include the involvement of third party mediation.

- 4.6.5 Operations cease in areas while disputes exist of:
1. Substantial magnitude;
 2. Substantial duration; or
 3. Involving a *significant** number of interests

NOTE: Standards Developers shall define the factors that may be considered to evaluate the magnitude and seriousness of a dispute, such as:

- a) Whether the dispute involves local rights holders, local forest *workers** or local residents;
- b) Whether the dispute involves the legal or customary rights of *Indigenous Peoples**;
- c) The range of issues and/or interests involved.

- 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** and measures to protect them are identified through culturally appropriate *engagement**.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall ensure that the tool recommended in Step 3 of the *FSC Guidance for the Implementation of the Right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent* for culturally appropriate *engagement** is referenced in developing appropriate participatory mapping.

- 4.7.2 Measures to protect such sites are agreed, documented and implemented through culturally appropriate *engagement** with *local communities**.

NOTE: If *local communities** determine that physical identification of sites, or documentation on maps and/or in management plans, would threaten the value or *protection** of the sites, then other means will be used. Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that culturally appropriate measures are used to identify such sites.

- 4.7.3 Wherever and whenever cultural or archaeological sites 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. (New)

- 4.8.1 Traditional knowledge and *intellectual property** is protected and is only used when the holders of that traditional knowledge and *intellectual property** have provided their *Free, Prior and Informed Consent**.

- 4.8.2 A binding agreement is concluded with the *local communities** through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** for the utilization of *local communities'** traditional knowledge and *intellectual property** before such utilization takes place.

NOTE: If *local communities** determine that physical identification of sites, or documentation on maps and/or in management plans, would threaten the value or *protection** of the sites, then other means will be used. Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that culturally appropriate measures are used to identify such sites.

- 4.8.3 The benefits accruing from the use of *local communities'** traditional knowledge and *intellectual property** are shared equitably with *local communities**.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that binding agreements are consistent with *Criterion** 3.3 and may be, but are not limited to, written agreements. They must reflect cultural requirements and may also be based on oral and honor systems, to be applied in cases where written agreements are not favored by *local communities**, either for practical reasons or on principle. *The*

*Organization** must maintain appropriate records of these agreements that may include written accounts, audio or film records, etc.

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. (C5.2 and 5.4 V4).

- 5.1.1 Consistent with management *objectives** the range of resources and *ecosystem services** are identified.

NOTE: The term *objectives**, as used in this standard, refers to specific management goals, outcomes, and approaches established to achieve the requirements of this standard. Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that *The Organization** establishes specific *objectives** that correspond to the management practices and outcomes required by this standard. *The Organization** may also establish overarching, aspirational *objectives** for managing the *forest** providing these do not contradict the requirements of this standard.

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

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop indicators to identify under what circumstances *The Organization** is not required to engage in the commercial use of the products and benefits of the *Management Unit** if such use would have negative impacts on the primary *objectives** of conservation or protection.

- 5.2 *The Organization** shall normally harvest products and services from the *Management Unit** at or below a level which can be permanently sustained. (C5.6 V4)

- 5.2.1 Harvest rates for timber are based on an analysis that includes:

1. A *precautionary approach** that reflects the quality of information used;
2. Up-to-date growth and yield information;
3. Up-to-date inventory data;
4. Volume and area reductions caused by mortality and decay as well as natural disturbances such as fire, insects and disease;
5. Sensitivity analyses of the factors that apply to harvest rate calculations, with specific attention to input estimations and assumptions where data are weak; and
6. Volume and area reductions to account for adherence to all other requirements in this standard.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall provide clear direction to small holders on how to complete this analysis where little or no prior analysis has been completed and / or where data is weak or does not exist. In addition, Standards Developers shall determine the appropriate spatial and time scale regarding forest productivity

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

NOTE: Standards Developers shall ensure that the rate of harvest for large, regionally dispersed FMUs does not allow concentrating the annual harvest in one sub-unit or any one species in a way that compromises the Organization's ability to meet all other aspects of the standard.

- 5.2.3 Actual annual harvest rates for timber are recorded and the harvest over a ten-year period does not exceed the allowable cut determined in 5.2.2 for the same ten-year period.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that *The Organization** may cut more than one year's volume within one year, provided that all other requirements of this standard are met and provided that harvest rates do not exceed the allowable cut when averaged over ten years. The 10-year timeframe is the default, and deviations must be justified at the national level.

NOTE: Standards Developers may identify catastrophic natural disturbances (such as windthrow, fire, and pest epidemics) or forest restoration *objectives** that may warrant temporary and non-routine annual harvest rates in excess of allowable cut levels.

- 5.2.4 For extraction of *non-timber forest products** under *The Organization's** control a sustainable harvest level is calculated and adhered to. Sustainable harvest levels are based on best available inventory and productivity data.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall identify *non-timber forest products** in the national and regional context that may be threatened by management activities to ensure that their harvest does not threaten ecological values.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall note that controlling and managing hunting, fishing and collecting are addressed in *Criterion** 6.6. Controlling illegal hunting, fishing and collecting are covered under *Criterion** 1.4.

- 5.2.5 Where *non-timber forest products** under *The Organization's** control are identified as being threatened by management activities, actual harvest rates are documented.
- 5.2.6 Harvest rates for commercially harvested *non-timber forest products** under *The Organization's** control are adjusted when monitoring of actual harvest rates indicates over-harvesting.
- 5.2.7 Strategies are developed and implemented to maintain and / or enhance the provision of *ecosystem services**.

- 5.3 *The Organization** shall demonstrate that the positive and negative *externalities** of operations are included in the *management plan**. (C5.1 V4)

- 5.3.1 Strategies to address *externalities** that result from management activities are identified and included in the *management plan**.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop indicators to address negative externalities at the national level. Externalities may result in costs because of the need to prevent, mitigate, restore or compensate negative impacts as required in these *Principles** and *Criteria**. This will therefore require appropriate financial

planning and cost accounting by *The Organization** for the *Management Unit**. Refer to *Criterion** 5.5 below. Positive and negative social impacts shall be identified through *engagement** set out in *Principles** 2, 3 and 4 as well as in *Criterion** 7.6. Positive and negative ecological impacts shall be identified in the assessments in *Criterion** 6.1.

- 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. (C5.2 V4)

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

NOTE: As the scale of the *Management Unit** and the intensity of management increases, so too will the need to use and / or establish local processing, local services, and local value adding. Standards Developers shall identify thresholds for small *scale** and low *intensity** *Organizations**.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall define what 'local' means in the context of this *Criterion**. The intention of this *Criterion** is for *The Organization** to promote further socio-economic benefits through economic opportunities beyond the direct employment by *The Organization**. The desired outcome is that *The Organization** stimulates the local economy through the purchase of relevant local services and products, or supports the creation of relevant new local services and supply of relevant local products. In areas where local service providers are already in place, the preference is to support these businesses before hiring other service providers who are not local.

- 5.4.2 *Reasonable** attempts are made to establish and encourage capacity where local goods, services, processing and value-added facilities are not available and where this does not encourage harvest in excess of those established on *Criterion** 5.2.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop indicators that define under what circumstances *The Organization** must provide training opportunities, especially in areas where economic development history has been limited. Refer to *Criterion** 4.3.

- 5.5 *The Organization** shall demonstrate through its planning and expenditures proportionate to *scale, intensity and risk**, its commitment to long-term economic viability*. (C5.1 V4)

- 5.5.1 Budgets allocate sufficient funds to implement the *Management Plan** in order to meet this standard and to ensure long-term *economic viability**.

NOTE: As the scale of the *Management Unit** and the intensity of management increases, so too will the need to demonstrate a commitment to long term *economic viability**. Larger operations in particular may be able to demonstrate conformity through business plans, long-term financial projections and related planning tools. Standards Developers shall identify thresholds for small *scale** and low *intensity** *Organizations**.

- 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**.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall note that the expenditures referred to in this *Criterion** include, for example, costs related to:

- a) Safeguards against 'mining' (over-exploitation) of the resources or 'creaming' (excessive selective harvesting) of the *Management Unit's** most valuable species, according to *Criterion** 5.2; and
- b) Preventing, mitigating or compensating for negative externalities as required in the *Principles and Criteria** (see *Criterion** 5.3).

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. (P6 V4)**

NOTE: please, see **Annex B** of this Standard for a chart on Representative Sample Areas.

6.1 (New) *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 assess *environmental values** within, and, where potentially affected by management activities, outside of the *Management Unit**, including:

1. Ecosystem *functions** (including a baseline of carbon stocks and fluxes);

NOTE: Standards Developers shall note that as the *scale intensity and risk** of negative impacts from management activities increases, so too must *The Organization** increase the assessment of *environmental values** at a level of detail, *scale** and frequency sufficient for the purpose of deciding the necessary *conservation** measures, and for detecting and monitoring possible negative impacts of those activities.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall note that carbon storage and fluxes are to be assessed subject to *scale, intensity and risk*. This may be deduced from national data on carbon stocks and fluxes.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall note that FSC Ecosystem Services Unit is developing a simple online tool for the purpose of assessing carbon stocks and fluxes.

2. *Biological diversity** (natural community types and their extent, current community types and their extent, rare species (*Criterion** 6.5) and community types (*Criterion** 6.4), natural disturbance regimes);

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop indicators at the national level that include, for each of the current *forest** types, an assessment of the following:

- a) The distribution and spatial extent of the *forest** types, including patch size, age class or seral stage distribution, and the amount of old *forest**;
- b) The current frequency and distribution of undisturbed residual habitat;
- c) Identification of natural *forest** types, structure, age classes, wildlife and plant communities which are under-represented or in a degraded condition;

3. Water resources (water quality, riparian habitats, condition and characteristics of watercourses and water bodies; sensitive areas; water bodies needing restoration;

and presence of mangroves, wetlands, and other water purifying or flood regulating ecosystems);

4. Soils (soil types, sensitive soils, soils in need of restoration, etc.); and,

5. Landscape *values** (*Criterion** 6.8).

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop indicators at the national level that recognize that *Criterion** 6.8 covers the structure and layout of the *Management Unit**, both internally and in relation to the surrounding landscape. It has the following purposes: enhancing environmental and economic resilience, and enhancing landscape values. The landscape values covered by *Criterion** 6.8 include connectivity between vegetation types and ecosystems, partly to provide wildlife corridors and partly for aesthetic reasons. Landscape values also include the values assigned by individuals as well as those assigned by communities.

NOTE: National Standards developers shall identify Best Available Information, where it exists and subject to *scale, intensity and risk**. Best Available Information shall be agreed to by Standards Developers and should consider:

- a) Information from field surveys;
- b) Information from databases relevant to the *environmental values**;
- c) Information obtained through consultation with local and regional experts;
- d) Information obtained through *engagement** with *indigenous peoples**, *local communities** and affected *stakeholder** and interested *stakeholder**.

6.1.2 Assessments are conducted at appropriate *scales** so that:

1. Impacts of management activities are assessed (*Criterion** 6.2);
2. *Risks** to environmental *values** are identified;
3. Necessary *conservation** measures to protect values are identified; and,
4. Monitoring of impacts or environmental changes can be conducted.

6.2 (revised 6.1) 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**. (C6.1 V4)

6.2.1 Potential impacts of all management activities on identified *environmental values** within and outside the *Management Unit**, are identified and assessed during management planning and prior to site-disturbing activities.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall specify *scale, intensity and risk** thresholds in national standards. This shall take into account that as the *scale intensity and risk** of negative impacts from management activities on *environmental values** increases, so too must *The Organization** increase the scope and *intensity** of the identification and assessment of potential impacts.

6.2.2 The assessment of potential impacts is at a level of detail and at a *scale** that is sufficient to identify and describe:

1. Necessary impact prevention and mitigation measures;
2. Monitoring to detect and mitigate possible negative impacts can be identified; and

3. Both site-specific and larger-scale impacts can be identified and addressed.

6.2.3 The potential cumulative impacts of multiple management activities on identified *environmental values** are identified and assessed.

- 6.3 (revised 6.1) *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. (C6.1 V4)

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

NOTE: Standards Developers shall specify *scale, intensity and risk** thresholds in their standards. This needs to take into account that as the *scale intensity and risk** of negative impacts from management activities on *environmental values** increases, *The Organization** must increase the identification and implementation of effective actions to prevent negative impacts and the mitigation and repair of negative impacts that occur.

NOTE: Standards developers shall develop indicators to prevent the following negative impacts of management activities:

- a) Loss of productive land;
- b) Soil disturbance and compaction;
- c) Nutrient loss on sensitive sites;
- d) Impacts on hydrologic regimes
- e) Soil erosion; and
- f) Damage to special sites

6.3.2 Negative impacts to *environmental values** are prevented, including through implementation of prescribed management activities.

6.3.3 Where impact prevention is unsuccessful, measures are adopted to prevent further damage, and negative impacts to *environmental values** are mitigated and repaired.

- 6.4 (revised 6.2) *The Organization* shall** protect *rare species** and *threatened species** and their *habitats** in the *Management Unit** through *conservation zones**, *protection areas**, *connectivity** 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**. (C6.2 V4)

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

NOTE: Standards Developers shall specify *scale, intensity and risk** thresholds in national standards. This shall take into account that as the *scale intensity and risk** of negative impacts from management activities on *rare species** and *threatened species** and their *habitats** increases, and as the *conservation** status and ecological requirements of the *rare and threatened species** increase, *The Organization** must increase the protection of *rare species** and *threatened species** and their *habitats** through *conservation zones**, *protection areas**, *connectivity** and/or (where necessary) other direct measures.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall note that *habitats** for *rare and threatened species** include areas for procreation, feeding and shelter, including seasonal cycles of breeding, migration, hibernation, etc.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall identify Best Available Information, where it exists and subject to *scale, intensity and risk**. Best Available Information shall be agreed to by Standards Developers and should consider:

- a) All CITES species and those listed on national, regional and local lists of rare and *threatened species**;
- b) Information from field surveys;
- c) Information from databases relevant to the *environmental values**;
- d) Information obtained through consultation with local and regional experts;
- e) Information obtained through *engagement** with *indigenous peoples**, local *communities** and affected *stakeholder** and interested *stakeholder**.

6.4.2 Potential impacts of management activities on *rare and threatened species** and their *habitats** are identified.

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 measures for their survival and viability, such as the species' recovery programs.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall introduce conservation measures for particular groups of *rare and threatened species** into national standards.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall note that the primary focus is on the *protection** of habitats, populations, and individuals affected by activities in the *Management Unit**. However, where relevant, Standards Developers shall develop indicators at the national level directing *The Organization** to coordinate with landscape level conservation efforts.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall note that *conservation zones** and *protection areas** are areas of land and *ecosystems** actively managed to provide a credible assurance of achieving any one or more of the following objectives:

- a) *To achieve the long-term maintenance of viable populations of species resident in the Management Unit* (Criterion* 6.6), with special reference to rare and threatened species* and their habitats* (Criterion* 6.4);*
- b) *To achieve the long-term maintenance of samples of native ecosystems* found in, or typical of, the Management Unit*. This*

includes their characteristic age and size distributions and soil characteristics, with special reference to rare and threatened *ecosystems** and *habitats**, and those that are vulnerable to disturbances, sufficient to serve as baseline reference points for detecting and monitoring environmental changes in other parts of the *Management Unit** (Criterion* 6.5);

- c) To establish and maintain native *ecosystems**, adapted to the site (Criterion* 6.5), as a contribution to the *conservation** of flora and fauna in the region (Criterion* 6.6), and to their resilience* and adaptability to climate change. *Conservation zone** and *protection areas** are managed in ways that provide credible assurances these or other objectives are achieved, to be determined case by case. These may require interventions, and may not necessarily exclude other practices such as *reduced impact harvesting**.

6.4.4 Hunting, fishing, trapping and collection of *rare or threatened species** is prevented.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall note that where effective regulatory controls exist and are implemented, *The Organization** is not required to provide their own control measures.

- 6.5 (revised 6.4 and 10.5) *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, *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 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. (C6.4 and 10.5 V4)

- 6.5.1 Prior to the first assessment and using the Best Available Information and scientifically rigorous methods, *native ecosystems** that exist, or would exist under *natural conditions** are identified.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall identify Best Available Information, where it exists and subject to *scale, intensity and risk**. Best Available Information shall be agreed to by Standards Developers and should consider:

- a) Information from field surveys;
- b) Information from databases relevant to the *environmental values**;
- c) *Information obtained through consultation with local and regional experts*;
- d) Information obtained through *engagement** with *indigenous peoples**, *local communities** and affected stakeholders* and interested stakeholders*.

- 6.5.2 Prior to the first assessment and using the Best Available Information and scientifically rigorous methods, representation analysis is conducted to identify native *ecosystems** that are not adequately represented in the protected in the *Management Unit** in sufficient condition to function as natural ecosystems.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall provide locally appropriate advice in line with the Annex B diagram that illustrates how to assess the adequacy of representativeness in proportion to the conservation status and value of ecosystems within the landscape, the size of the *Management Unit**, and the intensity of management. A minimum of 10% by area within the *Management Unit** shall be included in the national standard, with instruction on where a greater proportion is needed.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall note that adequate representation is to be determined proportionate to the *conservation** status and value of the *ecosystems** at the *landscape** level, and the size of the *Management Unit** and the *intensity** of *forest** management.

NOTE: National Standards developers shall identify Best Available Information, where it exists and subject to *scale, intensity and risk**. Best Available Information shall be agreed to by Standards Developers and should consider:

- a) Information from field surveys;
- b) Information from databases relevant to the *environmental values**;
- c) Information obtained through consultation with local and regional experts;
- d) Information obtained through *engagement** with *indigenous peoples**, *local communities** and affected *stakeholder** and interested *stakeholder**.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall note that only areas that are protected, not degraded and sufficiently intact to function as a natural *ecosystems** can be included as contributing to the representative sample areas. Very small areas and areas that are degraded so that they can no longer function as natural *ecosystems** are not included in the identification of the existing representative sample areas.

6.5.3 Representative sample areas of natural native *ecosystems** are designated, protected, and/or restored in the *Management Unit**;

1. Existing representative sample areas of sufficient condition to function as natural ecosystems are mapped and protected within the *Management Unit**;
2. If representative sample areas of sufficient condition do not exist within the *Management Unit**, or if existing representative sample areas inadequately represent native ecosystems, a proportion of the *Management Unit** is restored to more *natural conditions**; and
3. The sum of existing 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.”

NOTE: Standards Developers shall provide locally appropriate advice in line with the Annex B diagram that illustrates how to assess the adequacy of representativeness in proportion to the conservation status and value of ecosystems within the landscape, the size of the *Management Unit**, and the intensity of management. A minimum of 10% by area within the *Management Unit** shall be included in the national standard, with instruction on where a greater proportion is needed.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall note that adequate representation is to be determined proportionate to the *conservation** status and value of the *ecosystems**

at the *landscape** level, and the size of the *Management Unit** and the *intensity** of *forest** management.

NOTE: National Standards developers shall identify Best Available Information, where it exists and subject to *scale, intensity and risk**. Best Available Information shall be agreed to by Standards Developers and should consider:

- a) Information from field surveys;
- b) Information from databases relevant to the environmental *values**;
- c) Information obtained through consultation with local and regional experts;
- d) Information obtained through *engagement** with *indigenous peoples**, local *communities** and affected *stakeholder** and interested *stakeholder**.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall note that only areas that are protected, not degraded and sufficiently intact to function as a natural *ecosystems** can be included as contributing to the representative sample areas. Very small areas and areas that are degraded so that they can no longer function as natural *ecosystems** are not included in the identification of the existing representative sample areas.

NOTE: Standards developers shall ensure that guidelines for the appropriate management of conservation zones and *protection areas**, and for their size, design and *connectivity**, are included in national standards.

6.6 (revised 6.2 and 6.3) *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. (C6.2 and C6.3 V4)

6.6.1 Best Available Information is used to identify the habitat characteristics required by the range of naturally occurring species and their genetic diversity, that may be affected by management activities.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall identify Best Available Information, where it exists and subject to *scale, intensity and risk**. Best Available Information shall be agreed to by standards developers and should consider:

- a) Habitat classification analyses;
- b) Information from field surveys;
- c) Information from databases relevant to the *environmental values**;
- d) Information obtained through consultation with local and regional experts;
- e) Information obtained through *engagement** with *indigenous peoples**, local *communities** and affected *stakeholder** and interested *stakeholder**.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall note that the intent of this indicator is to give particular consideration to species and biodiversity not covered in *Criterion** 6.4, including species or species' guilds with populations that are influenced by management activities. These may include:

- a) *Forest** interior specialists;

- b) Early successional *forest** specialists:
 - c) Mature *forest** specialists,
 - d) *Forest** understory species,
 - e) Species with large territories or home ranges with populations that may be dependent on specific *habitat** conditions,
 - f) Species at risk from *habitat** fragmentation and species with very restricted ranges limited by specific *habitat** conditions.
- 6.6.2 Experts knowledgeable about the local biodiversity are engaged, and relevant sources are consulted in identifying naturally occurring species and *genotypes** and their natural distribution.
- 6.6.3 Assessments are completed to determine if management activities provide sufficient habitat characteristics for the range of naturally occurring species and their genetic diversity.
- 6.6.4 *Habitat** characteristics to maintain and *restore** biodiversity are protected or recruited, including through the implementation of management activities.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall note that, consistent with the natural forest type, *habitat** attributes and structures to be protected and recruited include:

- a) Old commercial and non-commercial trees whose age noticeably exceeds the average age of the main canopy;
- b) Trees with special ecological value;
- c) Vertical and horizontal complexity;
- d) Standing dead trees;
- e) Dead fallen wood;
- f) Understory plants;
- g) Resting sites;
- h) Small wetlands, bogs, fens;
- i) Ponds; and
- j) Small *non-forest* open areas*

NOTE: Standard Developers shall include thresholds in their standards for the following elements in the above list:

- a) Standing dead trees;
- b) Dead fallen wood

NOTE: Standards Developers shall identify:

- a) Timber harvest and silvicultural methods that maintain and *restore** *natural forest** diversity, composition, and structure;
- b) Thresholds and guidelines for retention of trees throughout harvest areas as individual trees or in patches or groups of live trees and snags, including trees representative of the naturally dominant species for the site;

- c) Thresholds and guidelines for retention of woody debris, and other vegetation representative of the natural stand;
- d) Thresholds and guidelines for regulation of opening sizes and rotation lengths for even-aged operations are regulated to ensure a range of stand ages that maintain all natural *habitat** types and prevent fragmentation, and to prevent cumulative watershed impacts; and
- e) Configuration of harvesting to ensure *connectivity**.

6.6.5 Up-to-date information is maintained about hunting, fishing, trapping or collecting activities, including authorized or permitted harvest levels;

6.6.6 Effective measures are in place to limit hunting, fishing, trapping or collecting activities so that naturally occurring native species, their genetic diversity and their natural distribution are maintained

NOTE: Standard Developers shall ensure that in regions where hunting is threatening species diversity the following indicators are included in national standards:

- a) 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;
- b) An internal regulation banning and punishing the transportation of and trade in bush meat and firearms in logging company vehicles; Illegal hunting *shall** be forbidden;
- c) A system of regular and punctual controls to ensure hunting policies are respected is implemented;
- d) Effective mitigation measures are in place to ensure that *workers** do not increase hunting trapping or collecting of bushmeat or wild fish.

6.7 (revised 6.5 and 10.2) *The Organization* shall** protect or restore natural water courses, 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. (C6.5 V4)

6.7.1 Natural water courses and water bodies are identified and mapped.

NOTE: Standard Developers shall note that water courses include seasonal, temporary and permanent brooks, creeks, streams and rivers, including their riparian or edge vegetation. Water bodies include, riparian or wetland systems, lakes, swamps, bogs, springs and their associated seasonal zones and vegetation.

6.7.2 Natural water courses, and water bodies, and water quality are protected,

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop regionally specific and appropriate indicators for the following generic management activities:

- a) Verifiable stream buffer widths and other measures to protect natural water courses and water bodies, their connectivity, instream habitat, and fish, invertebrates, and other aquatic species;
- b) Measures to protect native vegetation in riparian zones of water courses and water bodies, including feeding, breeding, or cover habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species, and needed inputs of wood and leaf litter into aquatic areas.
- c) Measures to prevent negative changes in water quantity and quality, including through maintaining stream shading sufficient to protect against temperature changes beyond natural parameters;
- d) Measures to maintain natural hydrological patterns and stream flows.

- e) Measures to prevent impacts from road location, construction, maintenance and use;
- f) Measures to prevent sedimentation of water bodies and soil erosion from harvesting, roads, and other activities; and
- g) Measures to prevent impacts from chemicals or fertilizers

6.7.3 Where *protection** measures implemented do not protect watercourses and water bodies from impacts of forest* harvesting activities, measures are implemented that *restore**:

- 1. Natural water courses, water bodies and their *connectivity**;
- 2. *Habitat** for aquatic species that breed in surrounding uplands;
- 3. *Habitat** for predominantly terrestrial species that breed in adjacent aquatic *habitats**;
- 4. *Habitat** for species that use riparian areas for feeding, cover, and travel;
- 5. *Habitat** for plant species associated with riparian areas;
- 6. Stream shading and inputs of wood and leaf litter into the adjacent aquatic areas;
- 7. In stream *habitat**; and
- 8. Water quality and water quantity.

6.7.4 Natural water courses and water bodies, and water quality that have been damaged by past land or water use by *The Organization**, are restored. Where there is continued environmental degradation caused by previous managers and the activities of third parties, measures are implemented that prevent or mitigate continued environmental degradation.

6.7.5 Blockages of watercourses, stream flows and fish passages are not created, and existing artificial blockages are removed or remedied wherever the Organization has the authority to do so.

6.8 (revised 10.2 and 10.3) *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**. (C10.2 V4)

6.8.1 The *landscape** is managed to maintain and/or *restore** habitat connectivity and a varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales and regeneration cycles consistent with natural forest types and disturbance patterns.

NOTE: Standard Developers shall note that *Criterion** 6.8 covers the structure and layout of the *Management Unit**, both internally and in relation to the surrounding *landscape** and has the following purposes: enhancing environmental and economic resilience, and enhancing landscape values. The *landscape values** covered by this *Criterion** include *connectivity** between vegetation types and ecosystems, partly to provide wildlife corridors and partly for aesthetic reasons. *Landscape values** also include the values assigned by individuals as well as those assigned by communities.

6.8.2 Where the current mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales and regeneration cycles is significantly different than the natural condition, or where the current structure of the *forest** lacks natural levels of diversity, management activities and measures are implemented that enhance or restore spatial diversity

- 6.9 (revised 6.10) *The Organization* shall* not convert natural forest* to plantations*, nor natural forests* or plantations* to any other land use, except when the conversion:*
- a) affects a very limited portion of the area of the *Management Unit**
 - b) will produce clear, substantial, additional,
 - c) secure long-term conservation* benefits in the *Management Unit**, and
 - d) c) does not damage or threaten *High Conservation Values**, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those *High Conservation Values**. (C6.10 V4)
- 6.9.1 *Forest* areas that have been converted (either from plantation* to non-forest* use or from natural forest* to plantation* or to non-forest* use) since 1994 and / or are scheduled for conversion are identified.*
- 6.9.2 *No conversion to plantations* or non-forest* lands occurs, except in circumstances where the conversion:*
- 1. *Affects no more than 0.5% of the total area of the Management Unit* in the current or any future year and does not result in a cumulative total area converted in excess of 5% of the Management Unit* since November 1994; and*
 - 2. *The conversion will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation* benefits in the Management Unit*; and*
 - 3. *Does not damage or threaten High Conservation Values*, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those High Conservation Values*.*
- 6.10 (revised 10.9) *Management Units* containing plantations* that were established on areas converted from natural forest* after November 1994 shall* not qualify for certification, except where:*
- a) *Clear and sufficient evidence is provided that The Organization* was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion, or*
 - b) *the conversion affected a very limited portion of the area of the Management Unit* and is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure long term conservation* benefits in the Management Unit*. (C10.9 V4)*
- 6.10.1 *Areas of plantations*, their original establishment dates, and the prior status of the areas are identified.*
- 6.10.2 *No areas have been converted from natural forest* to plantation* since November 1994 except where:*
- 1. *The Organization* provides clear and sufficient evidence that it was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion; or*
 - 2. *The conversion will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation* benefits in the Management Unit*; and*
 - 3. *The total area of plantation* on sites converted from natural forest* since November 1994 is less than 5% of the total area of the Management Unit*.*

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.**

NOTE: please, see Annex C of this Standard for a Guidance - Conceptual Framework for Planning / Monitoring.

- 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. (C7.1 V4)

- 7.1.1 Policies (vision and values) that contribute to meeting the requirements of this standard are described in the *management plan**.

NOTE: As the *scale** of the *Management Unit** and the *intensity** of management increases, so to will the need to set policies (visions and values) and *objectives** for management. The *risk** is to economic, social and *environmental values** if policies (visions and values) and *objectives** are not set. Standards Developers shall identify thresholds for small *scale** and low *intensity** *Organizations**.

- 7.1.2 Specific, operational management *objectives** that collectively address the requirements of this standard are presented in the *management plan**.

NOTE: The term *objectives**, as used in this standard, refers to specific management goals, outcomes, and approaches established to achieve the requirements of this standard. Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that *The Organization** establishes specific *objectives** that correspond to the management practices and outcomes required by this standard. *The Organization** may also establish overarching, aspirational *objectives** for managing the *forest** providing these do not contradict the requirements of this standard.

- 7.2 *The Organization** shall have and implement a *management plan** for the *Management Unit** which is fully consistent with the policies and *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. (C7.1 V4)

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

- 7.2.2 The *management plan** is implemented and addresses the following elements:

1. A summary of the results of assessments, including:
 - a) Natural resources and environmental *values**, as identified in *Principle* 6* and *Principle* 9*;
 - b) Social, economic and cultural resources and condition, as identified in *Principle 6*, *Principle* 2* to *Principle* 5* and *Principle* 9*; and
 - c) Major social and environmental risks in the area, as identified in *Principle 6*, *Principle* 2* to *Principle* 5* and *Principle* 9*.
2. A summary of programs and activities regarding:
 - a) *Workers**' rights, occupational health and safety, *gender equality**, as identified in *Principle 4*;
 - b) *Indigenous peoples**, community relations, local economic and social development, identified, as in *Principle* 3*, *Principle* 4* and *Principle* 5*; and
 - c) Stakeholder *engagement** and the resolution of disputes; and grievances, as identified in *Principle* 7* and *Principle* 9*;
 - d) Planned management activities and timelines, silvicultural systems used, typical harvesting methods and equipment, as identified in *Principle* 10*
 - e) The rationale for harvesting rates of timber and other natural resources, as identified in *Principle 5*;
3. Measures to identify, conserve and/or restore:
 - a) Rare and threatened species and habitats;
 - b) Water bodies and riparian zones;
 - c) Landscape connectivity, including wildlife corridors;
 - d) Representative Sample Areas, as identified in *Principle* 6*; and
 - e) *High Conservation Values**, as identified in *Principle* 9*
4. Measures to assess, prevent, and mitigate negative impacts of management activities on:
 - a) *Environmental values**, as identified in *Principle* 6* and *Principle* 9*; and
 - b) Social Values, as identified in *Principle* 2* to *Principle* 5* and *Principle* 9*;
5. A description of the monitoring program, as identified in *Principle* 8*, including:
 - a) Growth and yield, as identified in *Principle* 5*;
 - b) Environmental values, as identified in *Principle* 6*;
 - c) Operational impacts, as identified in *Principle* 10*;
 - d) High Conservation Values, as identified in *Principle* 9*; and
 - e) Monitoring systems based on stakeholder *engagement** planned or in place, as identified in *Principle* 2* to *Principle* 5* and *Principle* 9*; and
6. Maps describing the natural resources and land use zoning on the FMU.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that the *management plan** shall only to be as complex as the forest itself and those management activities to which it applies. The *management plan** must include all components listed in this *indicator**, but for smaller and less intensively managed *forests**, some components may be addressed briefly and without reference to technical documents. Standards Developers shall provide further guidance at the national level to ensure that the *management plan** is sufficient to capture decisions and activities in a manner consistent with the requirements of this standard.

As the *scale** of the *Management Unit** and the *intensity** of management increases, so to will the need to ensure that the *management plan** covers *forest** management planning and social management planning. Standards Developers shall identify thresholds for small *scale** and low *intensity** *Organizations**.

The *risk** is to economic, social and *environmental values** if the *management plan** does not cover *forest** management planning and social management planning.

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

7.3.1 Verifiable targets, and the frequency that they are assessed, are established for monitoring the progress towards each management *objective** and used as the basis for monitoring in *Principle* 8*.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall ensure that *The Organization** establishes objectives under *Criterion* 7.1* consistent with the requirements of this standard. Verifiable targets for these *objectives** must be established here in *Criterion* 7.3*. These targets must be verifiable, but need not be quantitatively measurable. These verifiable targets are likely to vary depending on the *scale** and *intensity** of management activities.

- a) Variables for which verifiable targets shall be established include:
- b) Site productivity, yield of all products harvested;
- c) Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the vegetation;
- d) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna;
- e) Water quality and quantity;
- f) Soil erosion, compaction, fertility and carbon content;
- g) Wildlife populations, *biodiversity** and status of High Conservation Values*;
- h) Sensitive cultural and environmental resources;
- i) Stakeholder satisfaction with *engagement**;
- j) Benefits of management operations provided to local *communities**;
- k) Number of occupational *accidents**; and
- l) Overall economic *viability** of the *Management Unit**

- 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. (C7.2 V4)

7.4.1 *The management plan** is revised and updated periodically 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

NOTE: Refer to Conceptual Framework for Planning / Monitoring annexed to this *Principle** for an example of plan revision periodicity.

- 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. (C7.4 V4)

- 7.5.1 A summary of the *management plan** is *publicly available** at no cost, unless *The Organization** makes the entire *management plan** available at no cost, excluding confidential information, in which case a summary is not required
- 7.5.2 The complete *management plan**, excluding confidential information, is available to *affected stakeholders** on request. At its discretion, *The Organisation** may charge for the actual costs of reproduction and handling

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop the list of confidential information, consistent with *National laws** and that may include information that is:

- a) Related to investment decisions;
- b) About intellectual *property** rights;
- c) Client confidential;
- d) By law confidential;
- e) Protecting wildlife species and *habitats**; and
- f) About sites that are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to *indigenous peoples** or local *communities** (see *Criterion** 3.5 and *Criterion** 4.7) as requested by these groups.

- 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. (C4.4 V4)

- 7.6.1 Procedures are developed and implemented to ensure that *affected stakeholders** are proactively and transparently engaged in the following processes:

1. Dispute resolution mechanisms (*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), sites (*Criterion** 3.5, *Criterion** 4.7) and impacts (*Criterion** 4.5);
4. *Local communities'** socio-economic development activities (*Criterion** 4.4); and
5. High Conservation Value* assessment, management and monitoring (*Criterion** 9.1, *Criterion** 9.2, *Criterion** 9.4).

- 7.6.2 *Engagement** procedures describe how:

1. Appropriate representatives and contact points are determined (including where appropriate, local institutions, organizations and authorities);
2. Mutually agreed, culturally appropriate communication channels are established and then used, allowing for information to flow in both directions;
3. All actors (women, youth, elderly, minorities) are represented and engaged with equally
4. All meetings, all points discussed and all agreements reached are recorded;
5. The content of meeting records is approved; and
6. The results of all engagement* activities will be shared with those involved and how their formal content and intended use will be approved before proceeding with management activities.

NOTE: As the *scale** of the *Management Unit** and the *intensity** of management increases, so to will the need to proactively engage *affected stakeholders** in management planning and monitoring processes, and engage *interested stakeholders** on request. The *risk** is to the interests of *affected stakeholders** and *interested stakeholders**. Standards Developers shall identify thresholds for small *scale** and low *intensity** *Organizations**.

- 7.6.3 *Affected stakeholders** are notified in advance of management planning and monitoring processes that are likely to have negative impact on them, and provided with an opportunity for *engagement** in order to identify ways to avoid or reduce any expected impacts.
- 7.6.4 *Interested stakeholders** are notified in advance of, and provided with an opportunity for *engagement** in management planning and monitoring processes that are likely to have an impact on 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 *objectives**, its progress with the activities planned, and the achievement of its verifiable targets.

- 8.1.1 A regular, comprehensive, and replicable written approach is in place and implemented that monitors the implementation of the *Management Plan** including its policies and objectives and achievement of the verifiable targets.

NOTE: Monitoring evaluates whether verifiable targets are met and to allow The *Organization** to implement adaptive management. This should be done in line with the planning cycles, so that timely data can influence decision-making at an early stage. This will help determine the intensity, frequency, scheme, schedules and procedures for monitoring. There is flexibility regarding all these factors, as long as the monitoring enables adaptive management.

Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that monitoring procedures are consistent and replicable over time, suitable for quantifying changes over time, and suitable for identify *risks** and unacceptable impacts. Monitoring needs to include the changes of the conditions of the *Management Unit**, with and without interventions.

NOTE: As *scale, intensity and risk** of management activities increases, so too does the need to monitor the implementation of the *Management Plan**, including:

- a) Policies and objectives
- b) Progress with the activities planned, and
- c) The achievement of verifiable targets.

Standards Developers shall identify thresholds for small *scale** and low *intensity** *Organizations**.

- 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. (C8.2 V4)

- 8.2.1 A regular, comprehensive, and replicable written approach is in place and implemented that monitors the environmental impacts of management activities.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall ensure that in order to assess changes that take place over time, monitoring procedures allow for comparison of results between assessment periods, and for estimations of rates and directions of change. This implies that baseline data exists. For example, *Criterion** 6.1 requires the assessment of *environmental values** in the *Management Unit**.

Monitoring shall be sufficient to identify and describe environmental impacts, including:

- a) The results of regeneration activities (*Criterion* 10.1*);
- b) The results of regeneration activities (*Criterion* 10.1*);
- c) The use of ecologically well adapted species for regeneration (*Criterion* 10.2*);
- d) Invasiveness or other adverse impacts associated with any alien *species** within and outside the *Management Unit** (*Criterion* 10.3*);
- e) The use of *genetically modified organisms** to confirm that they are not being used. (*Criterion* 10.4*);
- f) The results of silvicultural activities (*Criterion* 10.5*);
- g) Adverse impacts to environmental *values** from fertilizers (*Criterion* 10.6*);
- h) Adverse impacts from then use of chemical pesticides (*Criterion* 10.7*);
- i) Adverse impacts from then use of biological control agents (*Criterion* 10.8*);
- j) The impacts from natural hazards (*Criterion* 10.9*);
- k) The impacts of infrastructural development, transport activities and silviculture to rare and threatened *species**, *habitats**, *ecosystems**, landscape *values** water and soils (*Criterion* 10.10*);
- l) The impacts of harvesting and extraction of timber on non-timber forest products*, environmental *values**, merchantable wood waste and other products and services (*Criterion* 10.11*); and
- m) Environmentally appropriate disposal of waste (*Criterion* 10.12*).

NOTE: As *scale, intensity and risk** of management activities increases, so too does the need to monitor and evaluate the environmental and social impacts of the activities carried out in the Management Unit, and changes in its environmental condition. Standards Developers shall identify thresholds for small *scale** and low *intensity* Organizations**.

8.2.2 A regular, comprehensive, and replicable program is in place and implemented that monitors social impacts of management activities.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall ensure that in order to assess social and economic impacts, monitoring procedures allow for comparison of results between assessment periods, and for estimations of rates and directions of change, including:

- a) Evidence of illegal or unauthorized activities (*Criterion* 1.4*);
- b) Compliance with applicable national *laws**, local *laws**, *ratified** international conventions and obligatory codes of practice* (*Criterion* 1.5*);
- c) Resolution of disputes and grievances (*Criterion* 1.6, Criterion* 2.6, Criterion* 4.6*);
- d) Programs and activities regarding *workers*' rights* (*Criterion* 2.1*);
- e) *Gender equality**, Sexual harassment and gender discrimination (*Criterion* 2.2*);
- f) Programs and activities regarding occupational health and safety (*Criterion* 2.3*);
- g) Payment of wages (*Criterion* 2.4*);
- h) Worker Training (*Criterion* 2.5*);
- i) Where pesticide*s are used, the health of *workers** exposed to *pesticides** (*Criterion* 2.5 and Criterion* 10.7*)

- j) The identification of indigenous peoples* and local *communities** and their legal and *customary rights** (*Criterion** 3.1 and *Criterion** 4.1);
- k) Full implementation of the terms agreed in FPIC agreements (*Criterion** 3.2 and *Criterion** 4.2);
- l) *Indigenous peoples** and community relations (*Criterion** 3.2, *Criterion** 3.3 and *Criterion** 4.2);
- m) *Protection** of sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to *indigenous peoples** and local *communities** (*Criterion** 3.5 and *Criterion** 4.7);
- n) The use of traditional knowledge and intellectual *property** (*Criterion** 3.6 and *Criterion** 4.8);
- o) Local economic and social development (*Criterion** 4.2, *Criterion** 4.3, *Criterion** 4.4, *Criterion** 4.5);
- p) The production of diversified benefits and / or products (*Criterion** 5.1);
- q) Actual compared to projected annual harvests of timber and non-timber forest *products** (*Criterion** 5.2);
- r) The use of local processing, local services and local value added manufacturing (*Criterion** 5.4);
- s) Long term economic *viability** (*Criterion** 5.5); and
- t) *High Conservation Values** 5 and 6 identified in *Criterion** 9.1.

8.2.3 A regular, comprehensive, and replicable written approach is in place and implemented that monitors changes in environmental conditions.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall ensure that in order to identify and describe changes in environmental conditions monitoring procedures allow for comparison of results between assessment periods, and for estimations of rates and directions of change, including:

- a) *Environmental values** and ecosystem *functions** including carbon sequestration and storage (*Criterion** 6.1);
- b) Rare and threatened *species** (*Criterion** 6.4);
- c) Representative sample areas (*Criterion** 6.5);
- d) Naturally occurring native species and Biological *diversity** (*Criterion** 6.6);
- e) Water courses, water bodies and riparian zones (*Criterion** 6.7);
- f) Landscape values* (*Criterion** 6.8);
- g) Conversion of natural *forest** to *plantations** (*Criterion** 6.9);
- h) The status of plantations established after 1994 (*Criterion** 6.10); and
- i) *High Conservation Values** 1 to 4 identified in *Criterion** 9.1.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall provide reference to tools that can be used to accurately to estimate carbon stocks.

8.3 *The Organization** shall* analyze the results of monitoring and evaluation and feed the outcomes of this analysis back into the planning process. (C8.4 V4)

8.3.1 Monitoring and evaluation results are analyzed and activities are adapted in a timely way to ensure that the requirements of this standard are met.

NOTE: Management *objectives**, targets and activities are interrelated. The management *objectives** will determine the targets and the planned management activities. Standards Developers shall develop indicators to ensure that implementation of these management activities on the ground and their impacts will affect achievement of the predetermined targets and management *objectives**.

NOTE: As *scale, intensity and risk** of management activities increases, so too does the need to analyze the results of monitoring and feed the outcomes of this analysis back into the planning process. Standards Developers shall identify thresholds for small *scale** and low *intensity* Organizations**.

8.3.2 The analysis of the monitoring and evaluation results is incorporated in the periodic revision of the *Management Plan**.

8.3.3 Management *objectives**, planned targets and / or management activities are revised if their results are not in conformance with the requirements of this standard

8.4 *The Organization* shall** make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring free of charge, excluding confidential information. (C8.5 V4)

8.4.1 A summary of the monitoring results, excluding confidential information, is publicly available at no cost.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop the list of confidential information that may include information:

- a) Related to investment decisions
- b) About intellectual property* rights;
- c) Which is client confidential
- d) Which is by law confidential;
- e) Whose provision could put at *risk** the *protection** of wildlife species and *habitats**; and
- f) About sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to *indigenous peoples** or local *communities** (see *Criteria* 3.5 and 4.7) as requested by these groups.

The summary could include a table of the monitoring undertaken, the management *objectives** and targets being monitored, the frequency of the monitoring program and the results. *The Organization** is permitted to share the full results of monitoring in order to save the time of preparing a summary.

This *Criterion** also applies to the result of monitoring of *High Conservation Values** according to *Criterion** 9.4.

8.5 *The Organization* shall** have and implement a tracking and tracing system proportionate to *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. (C8.3 V4)

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

NOTE: Standards developers shall ensure that indicators are developed to ensure this system is compatible with the following relevant FSC Chain of Custody standards:

- a) FSC-STD-40-004 (Chain of Custody)
- b) FSC-STD-40-005 (Controlled Wood)
- c) FSC-STD-30-010 (Group certification)
- d) FSC-STD-50-001 (Logo Use)

- 8.5.2 Information about all products that leave the *forest** is compiled and documented, including, at a minimum, the following information:
1. Species;
 2. Product type;
 3. Volume (or quantity) of product;
 4. Information to trace the material to the cutblock;
 5. Logging or production date; and
 6. Whether or not the material was sold to a Chain of Custody certified organization.
- 8.5.3 Sales invoices 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; Species;
 3. Product type;
 4. The volume (or quantity) sold;
 5. Forest Management / Chain of Custody certificate code; and
 6. FSC Product Group.

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****

NOTE: Applicable to the whole of Principle 9. Standards Developers shall ensure that the national *High Conservation Value** advice is up to date with that provided by FSC internationally. *High Conservation Value** advice from current approved standards will necessarily be the starting point for that included in the updated national standards. In addition, the FSC Approved National *High Conservation Value** advice shall be used as the basis for this assessment. Reference: Common Guidance for High Conservation Value Identification [click here](#)

NOTE: The 'FSC Good practice guide to meeting FSC certification requirements for biodiversity and High Conservation Value Forests in Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMFs)' or later guidance should be referred to in the development of national frameworks for *High Conservation Values** [click here](#)

- 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, regional or national levels.

HCV 2 – Landscape-level *ecosystems** and mosaics. 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**.

(C9.1 V4)

- 9.1.1 An assessment is completed using Best Available Information that identifies and records the location and status of *High Conservation Value** Categories

1-6, as defined in Criterion 9.1; the *High Conservation Value** Areas they rely upon; and their condition.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall ensure that thresholds shall be defined at the national level. As *scale, intensity and risk** of management activities increase and the likelihood of the occurrence of the *High Conservation Values* increase, so too does the need to assess and record the presence and status of the *High Conservation Values** in the *Management Unit**, through *engagement** with *affected stakeholders**, *interested stakeholders** and other experts. Independent expert review may be appropriate in the context of larger, more intensively managed forests. Standards Developers shall ensure that thresholds shall be defined at the national level.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall identify Best Available Information, where it exists and subject to *scale, intensity and risk**. Best Available Information shall be agreed to by standards developers and should include:

- a) Any FSC approved national HCV Framework where present, or HCV international framework;
- b) HCV surveys of the *Management Unit**;
- c) Consultation with relevant databases and maps;
- d) Consultation with relevant local and regional experts; other available sources; and/or
- e) Review of the results by knowledgeable expert(s) independent of the organization

9.1.2 The assessment includes *engagement** with *affected** and *interested stakeholders** 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. (C9.2 V4)

9.2.1 Threats to identified *High Conservation Values** are documented using Best Available Information.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall identify Best Available Information, where it exists and subject to *scale, intensity and risk**. Best Available Information shall be agreed to by standards developers and should include:

- a) Any FSC approved national *High Conservation Value** advice where present, or Common Guidance for High Conservation Value Identification [click here](#);
- b) Information from field surveys;
- c) Information from databases relevant to the *High Conservation Value**;
- d) Information obtained through consultation with local and regional experts;
- e) Information obtained through *engagement** with *indigenous peoples**, local *communities** and affected *stakeholder** and interested *stakeholder**.

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

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop national indicators to ensure that that identification of the management strategies and actions utilizes FSC approved

national *High Conservation Value** advice where present, or FSC *High Conservation Value** international advice; *High Conservation Value** surveys of the *Management Unit**; consultation with relevant databases and maps; consultation with relevant local and regional experts; and other available sources, such as Best Available Information on conservation needs of HCV 1.

In addition, Standards developers shall ensure that the following strategies and management actions are included when recognized to be nationally applicable in development of standards, as well as additional approaches covered by pending FSC *High Conservation Value** Management Guide:

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.

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**.

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**.

HCV 4 – Strategies to protect any water catchments of importance to *local communities** located within or downstream of the *Management Unit**, and upstream and upslope 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. Strategies to fully maintain carbon stocks within 15% of the median of natural range of variation at the *landscape** *scale**. Where enhancement is identified as the *objective**, measures to *restore** carbon stocks to this range of variation.

HCV 5 – Strategies to protect the community's and/or *indigenous peoples**' needs in relation to the *forest** *Management Unit** developed in cooperation with representatives and members of *local communities** and *indigenous peoples**.

HCV 6 – Strategies to protect the cultural values developed in cooperation with representatives and members of *local communities** and *indigenous peoples**.

9.2.3 *Affected** and *interested stakeholders** and local and regional experts are engaged in the identification and development of management strategies

and actions to maintain and/or enhance the identified *High Conservation Values**.

- 9.2.4 The strategies developed are effective to maintain and/or enhance the *High Conservation Values** and are subject to the *Precautionary Approach**

NOTE: Standards Developers shall ensure that the *Precautionary Approach** applies to threats to *High Conservation Values** and require that explicit and effective measures are in place to prevent damage and avoid risks, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, when the presence of *High Conservation Values** is uncertain, or when the vulnerability and sensitivity of *environmental values** are uncertain.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall ensure that, in the context of the Precautionary Approach, it is understood that *High Conservation Values** are considered to be critical, fundamental, significant or valuable, so any threat to a *High Conservation Value** is considered to be a threat of severe or irreversible damage.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall identify thresholds for small *scale** and low *intensity* Organizations**. As *scale, intensity and risk** of management activities increase and the likelihood of the occurrence of the *High Conservation Values** increase, so too does the need to assess and record the presence and status of the *High Conservation Values** in the *Management Unit**, through *engagement** with *affected stakeholders**, *interested stakeholders** and other means and sources. Independent expert review may be appropriate in the context of larger, more intensively managed forests. Standards Developers shall identify thresholds for small *scale** and low *intensity* Organizations**.

- 9.3 *The Organization* shall** implement strategies and actions that maintain and/or enhance the identified *High Conservation Values**. These strategies and actions *shall** implement the *precautionary approach** and be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk* of management activities. (C9.3 V4).

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

NOTE: Standards Developers shall identify thresholds for small *scale** and low *intensity* Organizations**. As *scale, intensity and risk** of management activities increase, so too does the need to implement the precautionary approach and implement strategies and actions that maintain and/or enhance the identified *High Conservation Values**. Thresholds shall be defined at the national level. Standards Developers shall identify thresholds for small *scale** and low *intensity* Organizations**.

- 9.3.2 The *precautionary approach** is applied when strategies and actions for each *High Conservation Value** are implemented, subject to the *scale, intensity and risk** of the management activities.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall ensure that the *precautionary approach** is used, by requiring that explicit and effective measures be in place to prevent damage and avoid risks to the *High Conservation Values**, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of environmental values are uncertain.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall ensure that, in the context of the Precautionary Approach, it is understood that, *High Conservation Values** are considered to be

critical, fundamental, significant or valuable, so any threat to a *High Conservation Value** is considered to be a threat of severe or irreversible damage.

9.3.3 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. (C9.4 V4).

9.4.1 A program of periodic monitoring assesses:

1. Implementation of strategies;
2. The status of *High Conservation Values** including areas on which they depend; and
3. The effectiveness of the management strategies and actions for the *protection** of the HCVs.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall identify thresholds for small *scale** and low *intensity* Organizations**. As *scale, intensity and risk** of management activities increase, so too does the need to increase the assessment of changes in the status of *High Conservation Values**, and adapt management strategies to ensure their effective *protection**. Thresholds shall be defined at the national level. Standards Developers shall identify thresholds for small *scale** and low *intensity* Organizations**.

9.4.2 The monitoring program includes *engagement** with *affected** and *interested stakeholders** and experts.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall determine thresholds for scale, intensity of operations and potential risk to *High Conservation Value** values that would trigger engagement for this indicator.

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

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

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. (New)**

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** (New).

10.1.1 All harvested sites are regenerated in a timely manner that:

1. Protects affected environmental *values**, for example, exposed soils where these are at *risk** of erosion; and
2. Is suitable to recover overall pre-harvest or natural *forest** composition, structure, productivity, full stocking, and optimum growth rates of the managed species in order to maintain or enhance overall production from the Management Unit*.

10.1.2 Regeneration activities are implemented in a manner consistent with:

1. Regeneration objectives that will produce pre-harvest or more natural *conditions**;
2. Natural vegetation characteristics of the site determined in the environmental assessment, and
3. The allowable annual cut determination.

NOTE: Standards developers shall include the following provisions in national standards:

- a) For harvest of existing *plantations**, *regeneration objectives** establish the cover that existed prior to the harvest or more natural *conditions** using ecologically well-adapted species;
- b) For harvest of natural forests*, *regeneration objectives** establish pre-harvest or more natural conditions;
- c) For harvest of degraded natural forests*, *regeneration objectives** establish more natural conditions
- d) 'Cover that existed prior to harvest' means prior to the most recent harvest. 'Pre-harvest' can be either *plantation**; natural *forest** either purely natural, meaning the same as the historic natural *condition**, or a degraded natural stand, degraded by previous harvest or natural events."

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. (C10.4 C4).

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

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop indicators at the national level based on appropriate rationale for the use of non-local *genotypes** of *native species**. This rationale may include:

- a) Growth rates not meeting management objectives;
- b) Yields not being viable for the local species;
- c) Native species and / or local genotypes becoming extinct;
- d) Native species and / or local genotypes being resistant to disease and pests;
- e) Site stresses such as water;
- f) Climate change adaptation; or
- g) Capacity to stock carbon.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop rationale at the national level for the use of non-native *species**. This rationale may include afforestation of degraded agriculture and range lands.

10.2.2 Species chosen for regeneration are consistent with the regeneration 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. (C6.9 and C10.8 V4)

10.3.1 *Alien species** are used only when direct experience and / or the results of scientific research demonstrate that impacts can be controlled and effective measures are in place to control their spread outside the area in which they are established.

10.3.2 Spread of invasive species is controlled.

10.3.3 If systems and measures to control invasiveness are ineffective with species introduced by the Organization, programs to eliminate the *alien species** are devised and implemented.

10.4 *The Organization* shall** not use genetically modified organisms* in the *Management Unit**. (C6.8 V4).

10.4.1 *Genetically Modified Organisms** (GMOs) are not used.

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

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

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop provisions to prevent high-grading.

10.6. *The Organization* shall** avoid, or aim at eliminating, the use of fertilizers. When fertilizers are used, *The Organization** shall prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to *environmental values**. (C10.7 V4)

10.6.1 The use of fertilizers is avoided, or is being reduced with the aim of elimination, including by the use of silvicultural practices that avoid or reduce the need for fertilizers.

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

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

NOTE: Standards developers shall ensure that buffer zones around rare plant communities, riparian zones and streams and other wetlands are included in national standards.

10.6.4 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. (C6. and C10.7 V4)

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 result in non-use or overall reductions in applications.”

NOTE: Standards Developers shall note in their standards that an integrated pest management strategy includes:

- a) Recording of all specific circumstances for which *pesticide** use is being considered;
- b) Identifying and documenting consideration of potentially effective non-*pesticide** methods of control;
- c) A clear preference for non-*pesticide** methods of control when this would be effective, even if it is not the cheapest approach in the short term;
- d) If *pesticides** are used and two *pesticides** are equally effective, the least hazardous *pesticide** is used; and
- e) Objective evidence to demonstrate that when *pesticides** are used they are the only effective way to meet management *objectives**.

NOTE: Standards developers shall ensure that the *FSC Guide To integrated pest, disease and weed management in FSC certified forests and plantations (2009)* and associated policies or a local equivalent integrated pest management guide is used to develop indicators for this Criterion.

10.7.2 Chemical *pesticides** prohibited by FSC’s pesticide Policy are not used in the *Management Unit* unless derogation has been granted by FSC.

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

10.7.4 The use of *pesticides** complies with the requirements for the transport, storage, handling, application and emergency procedures for clean-up following accidental spillages as specified in ILO publications on the use of chemicals, national publications and *national laws** and *local laws**.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall reference the following ILO Guides:

- a) Safety and Health in the Use of Agrochemicals: A Guide; and,
- b) 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** including:

1. Non-use of *pesticides** known to harm aquatic species and other wildlife;
2. Restrictions on applications during unfavorable (e.g., windy) conditions;
3. Avoidance of chemicals whose initial or break-down components are toxic to plants and animals; and
4. No-application buffer zones around:
Rare and threatened *species* habitat**;
Rare plant communities; and
Riparian zones.

10.7.6 Damage to *environmental values** or human health from *pesticide** use is prevented. If damage occurs then it is mitigated or repaired.

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*. (C6.8 V4)

10.8.1 Use of biological control *agents** complies with the national *laws** and internationally accepted scientific protocols*.

NOTE: Standards developers shall ensure that the *FSC Guide To integrated pest, disease and weed management in FSC certified forests and plantations (2009)* or a local equivalent integrated pest management guide is used to develop indicators for this *Criterion**.

10.8.2 *Environmental values** are protected from adverse impacts caused by the use of *biological control agents**.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop indicators at the national level recognizing that with regards to *biological control agents**, *environmental values** includes *High Conservation Values**, biodiversity, soils, native plants, *rare and threatened species**, water resources and water quality.

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

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

10.8.5 Damage to *environmental values** caused by *The Organization*'s* use of *biological control agents** is identified and mitigated or remediated.

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

10.9.1 The *risk** of management activities to increase natural hazards is assessed.

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

NOTE: Standards developers shall identify where the potential for the following natural hazards exist at the national level:

- a) Droughts;
- b) Floods;
- c) Fires;
- d) Landslides;
- e) Storms;
- f) Avalanches;

NOTE: Recognizing that the *scale** and *intensity** of management activities may increase the potential negative impacts from natural hazards, Standards Developers shall define at the national level how to reduce the *risks**.

The following are examples of strategies to reduce potential negative impacts.

- a) Catastrophic Fire damage (recognizing that fire is an essential part of some ecosystems, most appropriate measures may be to manage for more natural forest structure, composition, and disturbance regimes.). Fire detection systems and control measures, fire management plans, including preparation and training of fire crews, provision and regular maintenance of suitable equipment, creation and maintenance of fire breaks and reservoir ponds;
- b) Storm damage and windthrow. These can be reduced by wind mapping and silvicultural regimes including those that avoid unstable stand boundaries;
- c) Pests, plant diseases, pathogens. These can be minimized by clearance of fallen wood, standing dead wood and coarse woody debris, in line with best scientific and local knowledge. This needs to balance the amount of such material removed with the dual *objectives** of reducing habitats for pests and pathogens with that needed for healthy decomposition cycles and populations of predators and parasites to exert natural control over pests. These can also be minimized by decreasing stress on species through species-site matching in accordance with *Criterion** 10.2, monitoring (*Principle** 8), together with integrated pest management (*Criterion** 10.7), controlled burning, cover crops, species diversification, silvicultural practices which prevent weed growth and maintain growth of crop species at optimum levels and reduced harvest intensity;
- d) Flood damage. This may be reduced by preserving natural patterns of drainage and wetlands (see also *Criterion** 6.7) and by installing effective drainage structures.

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. (C6.5 V4)

10.10.1 Measures are developed and implemented in existing infrastructure and infrastructure development, transport and *silviculture** activities to ensure:

- 1. Erosion control;
- 2. Protection of rare and threatened *species**, *habitats**, *ecosystems** and landscape values*;
- 3. *Protection** of water quality and quantity within and outside the *Management Unit** affected by management activities;

4. Protection* of streams, wetlands and water bodies within and outside the *Management Unit**;
5. Protection* of soils;
6. Free flow of water including natural drainage patterns, and passage of aquatic species.

10.10.2 Disturbance or damages to water resources, soils, *rare and threatened species**, *habitats**, *ecosystems** and *landscape values** are repaired and restored 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. (C5.3 and C6.5 V4)

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.

10.11.2 Harvesting practices optimize utilization of *forest** products and merchantable materials

10.11.3 Sufficient amounts of dead and decaying biomass and *forest** structure are retained on-site after harvesting to conserve *environmental values**.

10.11.4 Harvesting practices minimize damage to *environmental values**.

10.11.5 Damage to other products and services is avoided.

10.11.6 Harvesting practices minimize damage to standing residual trees and residual woody debris on the ground.

NOTE: Standards developers shall incorporate these documents where they apply at the national level:

The 'FAO Model Code of Forest Harvesting Practice';

RIL Logging Documents

10.12 *The Organization* shall** dispose of waste materials in an environmentally appropriate manner. (C6.7 V4)

10.12.1 Collection, clean up, transportation and disposal of all wastes are done in an environmentally appropriate way.

NOTE: Standards Developers shall develop indicators at the national level that consider that waste products include:

- a) Hazardous waste, including Chemical waste and batteries;
- b) Containers;
- c) Motor and other fuels and oils;
- d) Rubbish including metals, plastics and paper; and
- e) Abandoned buildings, machinery and equipment.

Annex A

Examples of *applicable laws**, regulations and nationally-ratified* international treaties, conventions and agreements:

NOTE: The content of this table shall be aligned with the Controlled Wood list of laws developed for the nation/region.

1. Legal rights to harvest	
1.1 Land <i>tenure*</i> and management rights	Legislation covering land <i>tenure*</i> rights, including customary rights as well as management rights that includes the use of <i>legal*</i> methods to obtain <i>tenure*</i> rights and management rights. It also covers <i>legal*</i> business registration and tax registration, including relevant <i>legal*</i> required licenses.
1.2 Concession licenses	Legislation regulating procedures for the issuing of <i>forest*</i> concession licenses, including use of <i>legal*</i> methods to obtain concession license. Especially bribery, corruption and nepotism are well-known issues in connection with concession licenses.
1.3 Management and harvesting planning	Any national or sub-national <i>legal*</i> requirements for Management Planning, including conducting <i>forest*</i> inventories, having a <i>forest* Management Plan*</i> and related planning and monitoring, impact assessments, consultation with other entities, as well as approval of these by competent authorities.
1.4 Harvesting permits	National and sub-national laws and regulations regulating the issuing of harvesting permits, licenses or other <i>legal*</i> document required for specific harvesting operations. It includes the use of <i>legal*</i> methods to obtain the permit. Corruption is a well-known issue in connection with the issuing of harvesting permits.
2. Taxes and fees	
2.1 Payment of royalties and harvesting fees	Legislation covering payment of all legally required <i>forest*</i> harvesting specific fees such as royalties, stumpage fees and other volume based fees. It also includes payments of the fees based on correct classification of quantities, qualities and species. Incorrect classification of <i>forest*</i> products is a well-known issue often combined with bribery of officials in charge of controlling the classification.
2.2 Value added taxes and other sales taxes	Legislation covering different types of sales taxes which apply to the material being sold, including selling material as growing <i>forest*</i> (standing stock sales).
2.3 Income and profit taxes	Legislation covering income and profit taxes related to the profit derived from sale of <i>forest*</i> 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 or related to salary payments.
3. Timber harvesting activities	

3.1 Timber harvesting regulations	Any <i>legal</i> * requirements for harvesting techniques and technology including selective cutting, shelter wood regenerations, clear felling, transport of timber from felling site and seasonal limitations etc. Typically this includes regulations on the size of felling areas, minimum age and/or diameter for felling activities and elements that <i>shall</i> * be preserved during felling etc. Establishment of skidding or hauling trails, road construction, drainage systems and bridges etc. <i>shall</i> * also be considered as well as planning and monitoring of harvesting activities. Any legally binding codes for harvesting practices <i>shall</i> * be considered.
3.2 Protected sites and species	International, national, and sub national treaties, laws, and regulations related to protected areas allowable <i>forest</i> * uses and activities, and/or, rare, threatened, or endangered species, including their <i>habitats</i> * and potential <i>habitats</i> *.
3.3 Environmental requirements	National and sub national laws and regulations related to the identification and/or <i>protection</i> * of <i>environmental values</i> * including but not limited to those relating to or affected by harvesting, acceptable level for soil damage, establishment of buffer zones (e.g. along water courses, open areas, breeding sites), maintenance of retention trees on felling site, seasonal limitation of harvesting time, environmental requirements for <i>forest</i> * machineries, use of <i>pesticides</i> * and other chemicals, biodiversity <i>conservation</i> *, air quality, <i>protection</i> * and <i>restoration</i> * of water quality, operation of recreational equipment, development of non-forestry infrastructure, mineral exploration and extraction, etc..
3.4 Health and safety	Legally required personal <i>protection</i> * equipment for persons involved in harvesting activities, use of safe felling and transport practice, establishment of <i>protection</i> * zones around harvesting sites, and safety requirements to machinery used. Legally required safety requirements in relation to chemical usage. The health and safety requirements that <i>shall</i> * be considered relate to operations in the <i>forest</i> * (not office work, or other activities less related to actual <i>forest</i> * operations).
3.5 Legal employment	Legal requirements for employment of personnel involved in harvesting activities including requirement for contracts and working permits, requirements for obligatory insurances, requirements for competence certificates and other training requirements, and payment of social and income taxes withhold by employer. Furthermore, the points cover observance of minimum working age and minimum age for personal involved in hazardous work, legislation against forced and compulsory labor, and discrimination and freedom of association.
4. Third parties' rights	
4.1 Customary rights	Legislation covering customary rights relevant to <i>forest</i> * harvesting activities including requirements covering sharing of benefits and indigenous rights.
4.2 Free prior and informed consent	Legislation covering "free prior and informed consent" in connection with transfer of <i>forest</i> * management rights and customary rights to the organization in charge of the harvesting operation.

4.3 Indigenous peoples rights	Legislation that regulates the rights of <i>indigenous people*</i> as far as it's related to forestry activities. Possible aspects to consider are land <i>tenure*</i> , right to use certain <i>forest*</i> related resources or practice traditional activities, which may involve <i>forest*</i> lands.
5. Trade and transport NOTE: This section covers requirements for <i>forest*</i> management operations as well as processing and trade.	
5.1 Classification of species, quantities, qualities	Legislation regulating how harvested material is classified in terms of species, volumes and qualities in connection with trade and transport. Incorrect classification of harvested material is a well-known method to reduce/avoid payment of legality prescribed taxes and fees.
5.2 Trade and transport	All required trading permits <i>shall*</i> exist as well as legally required transport document which accompany transport of wood from <i>forest*</i> operation.
5.3 Offshore trading and transfer pricing	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 considered as an important generator of funds that can be used for payment of bribery and black money to the <i>forest*</i> operation and personal involved in the harvesting operation. Many countries have established legislation covering transfer pricing and offshore trading. It <i>should*</i> be noted that only transfer pricing and offshore trading as far as it is legally prohibited in the country, can be included here.
5.4 Custom regulations	Custom legislation covering areas such as export/import licenses, product classification (codes, quantities, qualities and species).
5.5 CITES	CITES Certificates (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Washington Convention).

Annex B

Representative Sample Areas

		Intensity of Management					Ecosystem Status/Value in Landscape
		Highly Natural				Intensive Plantation	
Size of Management Unit	Very Large						
	Small	10%					

NOTE: The percentage of the management unit in RSA status is generally expected to increase proportionately with increases in the size of the management unit, the intensity of management, and/or the status and value of ecosystems at the landscape level. The arrows and their direction represent these increases.

The status and value of ecosystems at the landscape level refers to: a) protected area (PA) levels, i.e., the extent to which natural ecosystems are protected in the landscape, both within the management unit and the immediately surrounding area; and b) the significance of the forest management unit from the perspective of landscape level conservation. As management unit size increases, the focus will be increasingly on conditions within the management unit, as very large management units are themselves likely to comprise landscapes.

The significance of the chart is in its substantive content and concepts, including the preceding notes, and not in its specific formatting. The number of columns, rows, and cells is, at present, merely illustrative. It is less critical that National/Regional Standards use a chart per se, and more important that their provisions are substantively commensurate, regardless of their format.

Annex C

Guidance: Conceptual Framework for Planning / Monitoring.

MANAGEMENT PLANNING DOCUMENT (FOR EXAMPLE, WILL VARY WITH SIR AND JURISDICTION)	PLAN REVISION PERIODICITY	ELEMENT BEING MONITORED (PARTIAL LIST)	MONITORING PERIODICITY	WHO MONITORS THIS ELEMENT (FOR EXAMPLE, WILL VARY WITH SIR AND JURISDICTION)	FSC PRINCIPLE OR CRITERION
Site Plan	Annual	Creek crossings	When in the field and annually	Operational staff	P10
		Roads	When in the field and annually	Operational staff	P10
		Retention patches	Annually, sample	Operational staff	P6, P10
		RTE species	Annually	Consulting Biologist	P6
		AAC	Annually	Woodlands manager	C5.2
		Insect disease outbreaks	Annually, sample	Consulting Biologist / Ministry of Forests	
Business Plans	Annual	Expenditures	Annually	COO	P5
		Contribution to local economy	Quarterly	General Manager	P5
Engagement Plan	Annual	Employment statistics	Annually	General Manager	P3, P4
		Social Agreements	Annually, or as agreed in Engagement Plan	Social Coordinator	P3, P4
		Grievances	Ongoing	HR Manager	P2, P3, P4
		Sexual discrimination	Ongoing	HR Manager	
5-Year	5 years	Wildlife	To be	Ministry of	P6

MANAGEMENT PLANNING DOCUMENT (FOR EXAMPLE, WILL VARY WITH SIR AND JURISDICTION)	PLAN REVISION PERIODICITY	ELEMENT BEING MONITORED (PARTIAL LIST)	MONITORING PERIODICITY	WHO MONITORS THIS ELEMENT (FOR EXAMPLE, WILL VARY WITH SIR AND JURISDICTION)	FSC PRINCIPLE OR CRITERION
Management Plan		populations	determined	Environment	
		Coarse Woody Debris	Annually	Ministry of Forests	P10
		Free growing / regeneration	Annually, sample		
Sustainable Forestry Management Plan	10 years	Age class distribution	Ten years	Ministry of Environment	P6
		10 year AAC	Annually, ten years	Ministry of Forests / Woodlands manager	C5.2