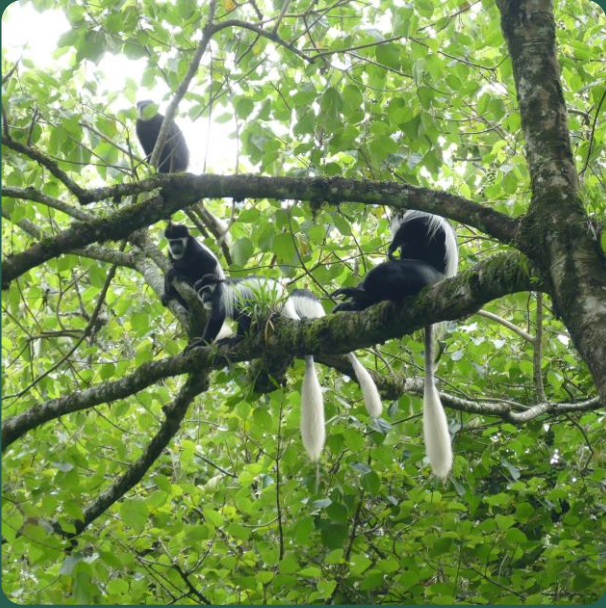




FSC INTERIM FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD FOR ETHIOPIA

FSC-STD-ETH-01-2024 EN



Photo credits:

Black and white *Colobus quereza quereza* monkey in Kafa Biosphere Reserve,
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NOTE ON THIS ENGLISH VERSION:

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Standard developed by	Soil Association Certification Limited Janette McKay Email: jmckay@soilassociation.org Severinus Jembe; Email: sjembe@soilassociation.org .		
Contact for comments:	FSC International – Performance and Standards Unit Adenauerallee 134 53113 Bonn Germany Phone: +49 -(0)228 -36766 -0 Fax: +49 -(0)228 -36766 -65 Email: psu@fsc.org		
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¹ The transition period is the timeline in which there is a parallel phase-in of the new version and phase-out of the old version of the standard. Six (6) months after the end of the transition period, certificates issued against the old version are considered invalid.

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A FOREWORD

(Informative section)

A.1 The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

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

FSC provides a system for voluntary accreditation and independent third-party certification. This system allows certificate holders to market their products and services as the result of environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management. FSC also sets standards for the development and approval of Forest Stewardship Standards and Interim Forest Stewardship Standards which are based on the FSC Principles and Criteria. In addition, FSC sets standards for the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (also known as certification bodies) that certify conformance with FSC's standards.

Environmentally appropriate forest management ensures that the production of timber, non-timber products and ecosystem services maintains the forest's biodiversity, productivity, and ecological processes.

Socially beneficial forest management helps both local people and society at large to enjoy long term benefits and also provides strong incentives to local people to sustain the forest resources and adhere to long-term management plans.

Economically viable forest management means that forest operations are structured and managed so as to be sufficiently profitable, without generating financial profit at the expense of the forest resource, the ecosystem, or affected communities. The tension between the need to generate adequate financial returns and the principles of responsible forest operations can be reduced through efforts to market the full range of forest products and services for their best value.

A.2 The FSC Principles and Criteria

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

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

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

B PREAMBLE

B.1 Objective

(Informative section)

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

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

B.2 Scope

(Normative section)

This standard shall be applied in the following scope:

Geographic region	The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Forest types	All forest types
Ownership types	All types of ownerships, including public, private and others
Scale and intensity categories (According to section 6 of FSC-STD-60-002)	All categories of Management Units, including provisions for small or low intensity managed forests (SLIMFs) (See section B.4 for the applicable SLIMF eligibility criteria)
Forest products (According to FSC-STD-40-004a)	Rough wood NTFPs: Fruits (Wild coffee and Wild cardamom); Honey.

B.3 Responsibility for Conformance

(Normative section)

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

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

Forest Stewardship standards are to be used in conjunction with international, national and local laws and regulations.

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

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

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

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

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

B.4 Note on the use of normative and non-normative elements in the standard

(Normative section)

Normative elements in the standard are:

Scope, effective date, validity period, glossary of terms, principles, criteria, indicators, tables and annexes, unless indicated otherwise.

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

Not normative elements in the standard that can be used for guidance only, are:

Verifiers, guidance notes and examples are included to support the implementation of this standard.

Auditors may use other means for verification where appropriate. The Organization may also use verifiers as a guide to what may be required to demonstrate conformity.

Normative elements that have been greyed out are not applicable in the country but are kept in the standard for transparency.

“SLIMF” (small or low-intensity managed forest(s)): The Organizations managing Management Units which qualify as SLIMF shall conform with all indicators in the standard, except where specific SLIMF indicators exist (marked as e.g., “SLIMF 1.7.1”), The Organizations above shall conform with them instead.

SLIMF eligibility criteria	National threshold
Small Management Units	Up to 100 hectares
Low intensity Management Units	The rate of harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI) within the total production forest area of the unit, AND EITHER the annual harvest from the total production forest area is less than 5000 cubic meters, OR the <i>average</i> annual harvest from the total production forest is less than 5000 m3 / year during the period of validity of the certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits.

Organizations including NTFPs in their certification scope shall conform with all indicators in the standard. Where specific NTFP indicators exist (marked as e.g., “NTFP 1.2.1”), these Organizations shall conform with them in addition.

Verbal forms for the expression of provisions	
[Adapted from ISO/IEC Directives Part 2: Rules for the structure and drafting of International Standards]	
“shall”	: indicates requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform with the standard; ‘shall not’ indicates a prohibition.
“should”	: indicates that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily re-quired. The Organization can meet these requirements in an equivalent way provided this can be demonstrated and justified.
“may”	: indicates a course of action permissible within the limits of the standard; ‘need not’ indicates that a specified course of action is not a requirement.
“can”	: is used for statements of possibility and capability, whether mate-rial, physical or causal.

The text of the Principles and the Criteria under section F contain terms that are formatted in italics and marked with an *asterisk**. These terms are defined in the annex of Glossary of terms.

This document is subject to the review and revision cycle as described in FSC-PRO-60-007 EN *Structure, Content and Development of Interim National Standards*.

B.5 Interpretations and Disputes

(Normative section)

Interpretation requests regarding Interim Forests Stewardship Standards are submitted directly to FSC for processing and approval. Approved interpretations are published in the international FSC website (see: INT-STD-60-006_01).

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

C CONTEXT

C.1 General description of the forestry sector

(Informative section)

With its dramatic geological history, broad latitudinal spread and immense altitudinal range, Ethiopia spans a remarkable number of the world's broad ecological regions. These range from the depressions in the Afar (115 m below sea level) to the spectacular mountain tops of Ras Dashen in the north and the Bale Mountains in the southeast. This variety of habitats also supports a rich variety of different species, which contributes to the overall biological diversity (or “biodiversity”) of the country. Ethiopia has some of the world’s rarest animals and plants, but these are now in danger of disappearing forever due to overuse and loss of natural habitat. Recent data on the forest resources of Ethiopia, documented in FAO’s Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), puts Ethiopia among countries that have forest cover ranging between 10 to 30 percent of their total land area. According to FRA (FAO, 2015), Ethiopia’s forest cover is 12.4 million hectares (11.5 percent). Factors that contributed to accelerating the decline of vegetation cover in the country between 1990 and 2010 include the high level of poverty, coupled with the increase in human population, the consequent demand for forest products such as firewood and the subsequent conversion of forests and woodlands into farmlands and settlements. Between 1990 and 2000, the extent of Ethiopia’s forests (including both forests and woodland) decreased by 1.4 million hectares. By 2005, the forest cover had further declined and was estimated to cover 13.0 million hectares. In other words, Ethiopia lost over two million hectares of forest, with an annual average loss of 140,000 hectares (FAO, 2015), between 1990 and 2005. Currently, the forested area is estimated to be 12.4 million hectares, which represents 11.4 percent of the total land area. The main reasons for deforestation are clearing of forests and woodlands for agricultural purposes, fuelwood, charcoal production and construction materials. The fact that plantation forestry has been very far from meeting the country’s demand for wood indicates the inevitability of deforestation. The underlying causes of deforestation are closely linked with the vicious cycle of mutually reinforcing factors such as poverty, population growth, poor economic growth and the state of the environment.

The Government of Ethiopia has devised a strategy to reverse the situation by means of tree-planting activities. The tree-planting campaign has been conducted throughout the country on an annual basis since 2008 and according to government information, forest cover is increasing. Between 2010 and 2015 an increase in forested area has been recorded, with an estimated gain of 40 000 hectares a year (FAO, 2015). To conserve and protect the forest resources of the country, Ethiopia has established protected forest areas, which are about 80 in number and represent a total area of 26 879.15 km². In Ethiopia the contribution of forests to local livelihoods and the national economy is significant but is largely unrecorded and hence unrecognized. Forest resources are among several natural resources that have substantial socioeconomic, cultural and ecological importance in Ethiopia. There is a growing awareness of the significance of forest resources and the link between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well - being (EFS, 2014).

Forests are also the source of timber and non-timber forest products (NTFPs). The economic value of Ethiopian forests is not given the proper attention, even if they are sources of ecosystem services, including NTFPs that sustain rural livelihoods. The most important NTFPs that generate substantial income for rural households and foreign currency earnings in Ethiopia are coffee, honey and natural gums and resins. Ethiopia has a National Conservation Strategy (EPA, 1997) and put in place an Environmental Policy in 1997. Regional States have formulated their own ‘Regional Conservation Strategies’, including Tigray, Afar, Amhara, Oromia, Somali, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples, Gambella and Benshangul-Gumuz Regional States.

In Ethiopia, total wood production was estimated to increase from 100,718 to 107,943 thousand m³ between 2005 and 2010. About 97 percent of the total wood production outflow is characterized by fuelwood and charcoal production, while timber and sawn timber contributed a mere three percent. Forest products in Ethiopia are categorized into different subsectors, each contributing to the national GDP (African Business Association - ABDAS). These subsectors are gums and resins, honey, tree seed and seedlings, forest coffee, spices, bamboo, timber and medicinal plants. Timber is the main source of raw material for construction, household utensils and charcoal production. The Ethiopian forests and woodlands are depositories and gene pools for several domesticated and/or important wild plants and wild relatives of domesticated plants. For example, Coffee (*Coffea arabica*) is found in the wild in the moist evergreen montane forests of the south and southwest of the country. The forest resources are seriously threatened by deforestation, habitat destruction and subsequent decline in regeneration, forest fire and vegetation clearance for farm/settlement establishment. Absence of policy and law addressing farm forestry (agroforestry) and issues related to land and tree tenure have also contributed to the prevailing genetic erosion of fruits and nuts.

A total of 277 mammalian species of which 29 are endemic are known to occur in Ethiopia including those that require urgent conservation action i.e. Walia Ibex (*Capra walie*), Gelada Baboon (*Theropithecus gelada*), Mountain Nyala (*Tragelaphus buxtoni*), Ethiopian Wolf (*Canis simensis*), Starck's Hare (*Lepus starcki*). Some of these endangered species have very restricted distribution, including Walia Ibex, which is the most endangered mammalian species in the world.

Ethiopia has a rich avifauna, with a total of 861 species (about 40% of Africa's total), of the total 29 are endemic, 16 are exclusively restricted to the geographical boundary of Ethiopia while 13 are shared with Eritrea; there are 14 bird species which are vulnerable to extinction (10% chance of disappearance within a 100 years) including Hartwood's Francolin, Prince Ruspoli's Turaco, Greater Spotted Eagle, Lesser Kestrel, Yellow-throated Serin, Nechisar Nightjar, Wattled Crane, Degodi Lark, White-tailed Swallow, Sidamo Long-clawed Lark, Lappet-faced Vulture, Abyssinian Bush Crow, Corncrake and Imperial Eagle. There are 16 species, which are near threatened. Ethiopian freshwater bodies are known to contain over 180 species of fish of which some 37-57 are reportedly endemic (see Annex Table 8) (Golubstov and Mina, 2003). The Rift Valley lakes basin has over 25 fish species and accounts for about 50% of total inland fish production. Also, it has already been indicated that the most important commercial types of fish are tilapia, Nile perch and catfish.

Ethiopia's arthropod fauna, including insects, is poorly known. Many insects are of great use to humankind since there are the primary agents of plant pollination and in most communities, they occupy intermediate positions along the food chain. Some are harmful to humankind as they act as vectors to diseases of humans and domestic animals. Insects are dominant in freshwater systems and occupy all conceivable habitats of the earth. However, insect ecosystems can broadly be classified into three major ecosystems, namely aquatic ecosystem, agro-ecosystem and forest ecosystem. The majority of almost all orders of insect species are associated with forest ecosystems.

Out of 277 mammals 29, out of the 862 birds 16, out of 201 reptiles 10, and out of 63 amphibians 34 are endemic to Ethiopia. Out of the bird species, 31 are globally threatened; among these 5 are critically endangered, 12 endangered and 14 are classified as vulnerable species. Various migratory birds considered endangered at the international level also visit about fifty sites in Ethiopia every year.

The major threats to protected areas emanate from settlement within the parks or adjacent to them, crop cultivation, grazing, deforestation and mineral extraction.

The Ethiopian government has a vision of restoring 22 million hectares of degraded lands and forests by 2030. By doing so, the country aims not only to increase tree cover and restore degraded forests, but also to significantly enhance the forestry sector's contribution to agricultural production systems, water and energy; to improve food and nutritional security; and to create more opportunities for employment and household income.

Bamboo is one of the most important natural resources in Ethiopia and contributes to the bioeconomy as a potential source for high-value products. Ethiopia has the largest bamboo resource in Africa, belonging to two main Indigenous species—*Yushania alpina* (highland bamboo) and *Oxytenanthera abyssinica* (lowland bamboo)—concentrated in the Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Gambela, Oromia, Southern Nations Nationalities Peoples and Tigray regional states. In addition, the Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute (EEFRI), International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR) and other development agencies have introduced more than 40 bamboo species, which are being validated for their growth, yield and performance. Bamboo's annual economic contribution to Ethiopia's gross domestic product (GDP) is estimated at Ethiopian Birr (ETB) 56,250,000, and close to 750,000 people depend on bamboo (EEFCCC, 2017).

In early 2018 the National Forest Law was revised and now clearly recognizes the rights of communities and acknowledges their role in managing natural forests and establishing plantations, without unduly compromising ecological services or biodiversity. The new forest law contains the following three key changes: - Recognizing participatory forest management as a vehicle to enhance the role of communities in sharing responsibilities and benefits of managing natural forests in accordance with agreed-upon management plans. - Providing incentives for private forest developers through mechanisms such as lease-free land, better access to land use and forest ownership certificates, and tax holiday until and including the first harvest (for private investors and associations) and the second harvest (for communities); and boundaries: severe penalties on those who expand farming into forests; tamper with forest boundaries; or set fires, harm endangered species, settle, or hunt or graze animals in state, communal, association or private forests. This means therefore that with the FSC INS for Ethiopia in place the government of Ethiopia and other partners will be in a better position to achieve the desired goal

C.2 Background information on the standard development

(Informative section)

This standard was developed according to the rules and regulations laid out in FSC-PRO-60-007 V1-2 in the period from 1 April 2022 to 21 January 2024. Soil Association Certification (SA Cert) registered with FSC Performance and Standards Unit (PSU) to develop the Interim Forest Stewardship Standard (IFSS) for Ethiopia using the Generic Forest Stewardship Standard (GFSS) with financial support from International Bamboo and Rattan Organization (INBAR) and Forests of the World (FoW) through their local partner Ethio Wetlands in April 2022. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the original timeline of completion by September 2022 was not feasible.

The standard underwent two stakeholder consultations. The first consultation occurred online, hosted on both the Soil Association website and the FSC consultation platform, from February 23 to March 30, 2023. The second consultation took place from 23 May to 30 May 2023. During the second round of consultations, three face-to-face meetings were held with stakeholders. The initial meeting, held on May 23-24, 2023, engaged forest communities in Gemechisa and Uwa Kebele. Kebele, the smallest administrative unit in Ethiopia, involved representatives from the Oromo and Sheka communities residing in the Sheka zone. Subsequently, a two-day meeting was held at Jimma City's Honey Land Hotel on May 27-28, 2023, bringing together participants from four Ethiopian regions Gambela, Southwest Ethiopia, South Ethiopia, and Sidama. Attendees included community representatives, government officials, and non-governmental organizations operating in these regions.

The third and final stakeholder meeting convened as a national consultation at Swiss Inn Nexus Hotel, Addis Ababa City on May 30, 2023. 45 participants from the twelve regions of Ethiopia attended, including 10 community members representing diverse backgrounds such as Oromo, Afar, Majangir, Sheka and Dassenach. The primary topics discussed during this meeting centred around the High Conservation Value

(HCV) framework, Indigenous People (IPs) and NTFPs – (Honey, Cardamom, Ethiopian Long Pepper, Forest Coffee).

By the conclusion of the morning session, participants had put forth several verifiers, all of which were subsequently incorporated into the draft IFSS. Additionally, stakeholders collectively decided to exclude Ethiopian Long Pepper (*Piper capense*) from the list of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) within the IFSS. The rationale behind this exclusion was its current lack of economic viability.

During the afternoon session, the facilitator from SA Cert led a discussion to assess the applicability of Principle 3 (P3) in the Ethiopian context. Although the consensus leaned toward its irrelevance for Ethiopia, the Principle was nevertheless adapted to allow flexibility for potential future developments.

The Interim Forest Stewardship Standard (IFSS) for Ethiopia serves as a comprehensive framework for evaluating all forest types, including plantations and natural forests, which also encompasses bamboo forests.

D REFERENCES

(Informative section)

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

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

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

E PRINCIPLES*, CRITERIA* AND INDICATORS*

(Normative section)

PRINCIPLE* 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

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

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

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

Verifiers: Certificate of Registration, Participatory Forest Management (PFM Agreement)

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

Verifiers: Certificate of Registration, management plan, Certificate from the Federal Cooperative Agency, or an organ established at regional levels to execute the cooperative societies proclamation, lead and regulate the cooperative sector, Registration Certificate from the Bureau of Justice.

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

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

NTFP 1.2.1 The Organization provides legal tenure or other related evidence that proves rights of resource management and usage of NTFPs within the scope of certification.

Guidance note: It is important to note here that it is necessary to ensure that the tree resource ownership is not disputed. In some situations, it is possible that landowners are not the ones who planted the trees on their land holdings, especially in family situations, so it is important to ascertain that no other person in the family has a claim over the trees presented for certification.

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

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

Verifiers: Lease agreement, Land rent agreement, Land grant agreement, Land holding certificate, Kebele (regional government), Maps and land use plans, Maps, Department of land administration, Participatory Forest Management (PFM Agreement), management plan, work permit, payment documents, Kobo system.

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

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

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

NTFP 1.3.1. When NTFPs are intended for human consumption, all applicable legal and administrative requirements for hygiene and food safety are complied with.

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

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

Verifiers: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Rural Land, Administration and Land Use Proclamation No. 456/2005; Proclamation No. 1065/2018-Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization Proclamation, Public Health Proclamation No. 200/2000; Social agreement Participatory Forest Management (PFM Agreement)

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

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

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

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

Verifiers: Proclamation No. 1065/2018-Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization Proclamation; Proclamation No. 456/2005; Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Rural Land Administration and Use Proclamation, Regulation No.151/2012; Oromia Region Rural Land Administration and Use Regulation.

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

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

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

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

Verifiers: Proclamation No. 1065/2018-Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization Proclamation; Proclamation No. 575/2008 A Proclamation to Provide For The Establishment Of The Ethiopian Wildlife Development And Conservation; Proclamation No.541/2007.ON To Provide For The Development, Conservation and Utilization Wildlife; Proclamation No.1223/2020 Development, Management and Utilization of Community Watersheds Proclamation.

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

- 1.6.1 A publicly available dispute resolution process is in place; developed through culturally appropriate engagement with affected stakeholders.
- 1.6.2 Disputes related to issues of applicable laws or customary law that can be settled out of court are responded to in a timely manner, and are either resolved or are in the dispute resolution process.
- 1.6.3 Up to date records of disputes related to issues of applicable laws or customary law, are held including:
 - 1) Steps taken to resolve disputes;
 - 2) Outcomes of all dispute resolution processes; and
 - 3) Unresolved disputes, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.
- 1.6.4 Operations cease in areas where disputes exist:
 - 1) Of substantial magnitude; or
 - 2) Of substantial duration; or
 - 3) Involving a significant number of interests.

Verifiers: A Regulation to Implement the Oromia Region Customary Courts, Proclamation No. 240/2021, Regulation No. 10/2021, by laws, Records of dispute resolution, Land use map and field observation.

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

- 1.7.1 A policy is implemented that includes a commitment not to offer or receive bribes of any description.
- SLIMF 1.7.1 A written or verbal declaration not to give or receive bribes (money) or to engage in other forms of corruption is communicated to neighbours and customers.
- 1.7.2 The policy meets or exceeds related legislation.
- 1.7.3 The policy is publicly available at no cost.
- 1.7.4 Bribery, coercion and other acts of corruption do not occur.
- 1.7.5 Corrective measures are implemented if corruption does occur.

Verifiers: Proclamation No. 1236/2021 The Revised Proclamation for The Establishment of The Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission Proclamation.

- 1.8 *The Organization** shall demonstrate a *long-term** commitment to adhere to the FSC *Principles** and *Criteria** in the *Management Unit**, and to related FSC Policies and Standards. A statement of this commitment shall be contained in a *publicly available** document made freely available.**
- 1.8.1 A written policy, endorsed by an individual with authority to implement the policy, includes a long-term commitment to forest management practices consistent with FSC Principles and Criteria and related Policies and Standards.
- 1.8.2 The policy is publicly available at no cost.

PRINCIPLE* 2: WORKERS* RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

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

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

2.1.1 The Organization shall not use child labour.

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

2.1.1.2 In countries where the national law or regulations permit the employment of persons between the ages of 13 to 15 years in light work such employment should not interfere with schooling nor, be harmful to their health or development. Notably, where children are subject to compulsory education laws, they shall work only outside of school hours during normal day-time working hours.

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

2.1.1.4 The Organization shall prohibit worst forms of child labour.

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

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

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

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

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

2.1.3.1 Employment and occupation practices are non-discriminatory (including ethnicity discrimination) as stated in the Ethiopian Labour Proclamation No 1156/2019.

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

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

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

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

2.1.4.4 Collective bargaining agreements are implemented where they exist.

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

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

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

2.2.3 Work typically carried out by women (nurseries, silviculture, non timber forest products harvesting, weighing, packing, etc.) is included in training and health & safety programs to the same extent as work typically carried out by men.

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

2.2.5 Women are paid directly and using mutually agreed methods (e.g. direct bank transfer, direct payments for school fees, etc.) to ensure they safely receive and retain their wages as stated in section 57 of chapter 2 of the Ethiopian Labour Proclamation No. 1156/2019.

2.2.6 Maternity leave includes no less than 30 consecutive days with pay before childbirth and a period of 90 consecutive days after childbirth as articulated in Article 88 of Chapter 1 of the Ethiopian Labour Proclamation No. 1156/2019.

2.2.7 Paternity leave of 3 days with pay is available and an additional five consecutive days in the case of exceptional and serious events without pay as articulated in Chapter 2 Section 81 of Labour Proclamationno.1156/2019.

2.2.8 Meetings, management committees and decision-making forums are organized to include women and men, and to facilitate the active participation of both as described in Ethiopian Labour Proclamation No. 1156/2019.

2.2.9 Confidential and effective mechanisms exist for reporting and eliminating cases of sexual harassment and discrimination based on gender, marital status, parenthood or sexual orientation as enshrined in the Ethiopian Labour Proclamation No. 1156/2019.

Verifiers: Payment slips, payroll; maternity leave provisions in employment contracts and human resource policy of the organisation, interviews with workers; paternity leave provisions in employment contracts and human resource policy of the organisation, meeting Minutes; reporting mechanisms in place and records of incidents.

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

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

NTFP 2.3.1.1 Health and safety risks associated with NTFPs management and harvest are identified and evaluated, and the health and safety practices appropriate to the risks are developed and implemented.

NTFP 2.3.1.2 The Organization identifies any potential risk associated with food borne diseases and develops appropriate Health & Safety guidelines to mitigate such risk in the harvesting and processing of NTFPs.

NTFP 2.3.1.3 There are documented procedures compliant with the Food Quality Control and Food Standard requirements of the Public Health Proclamation NO.200/2000 for harvesting/collection and packaging of all NTFPs meant for human consumption.

NTFP 2.3.1.4 A hygiene procedure is in place which ensures that equipment used in processing edible NTFPs is clean and free from remnants of previously harvested material.

NTFP 2.3.1.5 A procedure is in place for taking samples of harvested edible NTFP materials at processing sites and for recording and storing them.

NTFP 2.3.1.6 The harvesting manager is familiar with relevant health and safety guidelines related to the harvesting of NTFPs.

SLIMF 2.3.1 Each worker is informed about the health and safety measures corresponding to his/her activity and these meet or exceed the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.

2.3.2 Workers have personal protective equipment appropriate to their assigned tasks.

2.3.3 Use of personal protective equipment is enforced.

2.3.4 Records are kept on health and safety practices including accident rates and lost time to accidents.

2.3.5 The frequency and severity of accidents are consistently low compared to national forest industry averages.

2.3.6 The health and safety practices are reviewed and revised as required after major incidents or accidents.

Verifiers: Up-to-date accident records.

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

2.4.1 Wages paid by The Organization in all circumstances meet or exceed legal minimum wage rates prescribed in the Ethiopian Labour Proclamation No. 1156/2019 Chapter 2 Section 55.2.

2.4.1.1 The Organization periodically revises minimum wage rates based on studies which take into account the country's economic development, labour market and other working conditions.

2.4.2 Wages paid meet or exceed:

- 1) Minimum forest industry standards; or
- 2) Other recognized forest industry wage agreements; or
- 3) Living wages that are higher than legal minimum wages.
- 4) National minimum wage as prescribed by Section 55 of Chapter 2 of Labour Proclamation 1156/2019.

2.4.3 While maintaining confidentiality, pay scales and payslips are available to workers.

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.

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

NTPF 2.5.1 Workers, harvesting and processing NTFPs or their representatives (e.g., Community representatives), have a signed contract including an agreement as to what is being harvested and how this is to be carried out.

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

Verifiers: Training records, training certificates where applicable; interviews with workers

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRINCIPLE* 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES'* RIGHTS

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

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

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

- 1) Self-identification as Indigenous at the individual level and acceptance by the community as their member;
- 2) Historical continuity with pre-colonial/pre-settler societies;
- 3) Strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources;
- 4) Distinct social, economic, or political systems;
- 5) Distinct language, culture, and beliefs;
- 6) Non-dominant groups of society;
- 7) Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities.

Guidance note: In some cases, Indigenous Peoples may need to be assisted in identifying their rights as Indigenous Peoples. To support this process, FSC promotes the following list of characteristics set by the United Nations: Organizations should also consult with national & international Indigenous peoples' organizations or non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

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

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

Verifiers: A report describing: the Indigenous Peoples identification process and the Indigenous Peoples identified in the Management Unit and in the neighbourhood; evidence of consultation and conversation with the Indigenous Peoples; information on the issues 1-8 as listed in indicator 3.1.2.

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

- 3.2.1 Through culturally appropriate engagement Indigenous Peoples are informed when, where and how they can comment on and request modification to management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, lands and territories.
- 3.2.2 The legal and customary rights of Indigenous Peoples are not violated by The Organization.
- 3.2.3 Where evidence exists that legal and customary rights of Indigenous Peoples related to management activities have been violated the situation is corrected, if necessary, through culturally appropriate engagement and/or through the dispute resolution process as required in Criteria 1.6 or 4.6.
- 3.2.4 Free, Prior and Informed Consent is granted by Indigenous Peoples prior to management activities that affect their identified rights through a process that includes:
 - 1) Ensuring Indigenous Peoples know their rights and obligations regarding the resource;
 - 2) Informing the Indigenous Peoples of the value of the resource, in economic, social and environmental terms;
 - 3) Informing the Indigenous Peoples of their right to withhold or modify consent to the proposed management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, lands and territories; and
 - 4) Informing the Indigenous Peoples of the current and future planned forest management activities.
- 3.2.5 Where the process of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) has not yet resulted in an FPIC agreement, the Organisation and the affected Indigenous Peoples are engaged in a mutually agreed FPIC process that is advancing, in good faith and with which the community is satisfied.

Verifiers: Clearly documented Indigenous Peoples rights; A record of awareness creation to the Indigenous Peoples on their rights; a clearly documented FPIC process and awareness of the same among the Indigenous Peoples.

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

- 3.3.1 Where control over management activities has been granted through *Free Prior and Informed Consent* based on culturally appropriate engagement, the binding agreement contains at least:
 - 1) the duration of the current agreement;
 - 2) the conditions upon which consent is granted;

- 3) provisions for suspension, termination, renegotiation and renewal;
- 4) the condition upon which the mutually-agreed, proactive dispute resolution process is triggered;
- 5) the economic conditions of the consent.

Guidance note: An affected rights holder may not want to enter a legally binding agreement with The Organization, as it may be perceived to have repercussions for any legal position or negotiation status with the state. In these situations, parties may decide to utilize a different form of agreement (e.g., Memorandum of Understanding or Protocol Agreement) with explicitly stated objectives to respect the right to grant, withhold or withdraw FPIC. It is helpful to discuss this scenario early in the development of the Process Agreement.

3.3.2 Records of binding agreements are maintained.

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

Verifiers: FPIC binding agreements in place.

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

3.4.1 The rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples as defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 are not violated by The Organization.

3.4.2 Where evidence that rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples, as defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169, have been violated by The Organization, the situation is documented including steps to restore these rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples, to the satisfaction of the rights holders.

Verifiers: Interview with the Indigenous Peoples

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

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

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

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

Verifiers: Maps; sites inspection; interview with Indigenous Peoples.

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

3.6.1 Traditional knowledge and intellectual property are protected and are only used when the acknowledged owners of that traditional knowledge and intellectual property have provided their Free, Prior and Informed Consent formalized through a binding agreement.

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

Verifiers: Clearly documented FPIC process, binding agreements in place.

PRINCIPLE* 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

Verifiers: A record of the community identification process; list of identified communities; a clearly documented engagement process showing how to address issues 1-7 as listed in indicator 4.1.2., Participatory Forest Management (PFM Agreement).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Verifiers: Interview with communities, disputes record; awareness meetings minutes; a record of the FPIC process; interviews with traditional peoples.

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

4.3.1 Reasonable opportunities are communicated and provided to local communities, local contractors and local suppliers for:

- 1) Employment,
- 2) Training, and
- 3) Other services.

Verifiers: A pro local procurement and employment policy; list of contractors; a record of the communication of opportunities to the communities; training records; employment records, a record of the communication of work opportunities to the communities; interview with workers.

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

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

4.4.2 Projects and additional activities are implemented and/or supported that contribute to local social and economic benefit and are proportionate to the socio-economic impact of management activities.

SLIMF 4.4.2 The Organization gives priority to the use of local products and services.

Verifiers: Opportunities identification process documented; social and economic development projects register and number of beneficiaries, management plan, Social and Environmental Impact assessment (ESIA) Report.

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

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

Verifiers: Periodic Monitoring Reports; Documented mitigation measures; an implementation record of mitigation measures, ESIA Report.

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

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

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

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

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

4.6.4 Operations cease in areas while disputes exist of:

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

Verifiers: A documented dispute resolution procedure in place; An up-to-date record of grievances; Interview with local communities, Minutes of the dispute resolution process; compensation agreement.

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

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

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

- 4.7.3 Whenever sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance are newly observed or discovered, management activities cease immediately in the vicinity until protective measures have been agreed to with the local communities, and as directed by local and national laws.

Verifiers: Cultural sites clearly demarcated on maps; Sites physically demarcated in Management Unit; engagement process clearly documented; maps; protection measures documented; newly identified sites record.

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

- 4.8.1 Traditional knowledge and intellectual property of traditional peoples are protected and are only used when the owners of that traditional knowledge and intellectual property have provided their Free, Prior and Informed Consent formalized through a binding agreement.
- 4.8.2 Traditional peoples are compensated according to the binding agreement reached through Free, Prior and Informed Consent for the use of traditional knowledge and intellectual property.

Verifiers: Binding agreement in place; clearly documented FPIC process; Interview local communities.

PRINCIPLE* 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST*

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

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

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

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

SLIMF 5.1.2.1 The Organization produces diverse benefits and products, based on the range of resources and ecosystem services existing in the Management Unit.

SLIMF 5.1.2.2 The benefits and products identified in 5.1.1 that are outside of The Organization's management objectives are made available for others to produce, to strengthen and diversify the local economy.

5.1.3 When The Organization uses FSC Ecosystem Services Claims, The Organization shall comply with applicable requirements in FSC-PRO-30-006.

Verifiers: A record of resources and ecosystem services available; management plan, baseline surveys; a list of resources and ecosystem services utilized by local organizations; list of organizations utilizing local resources and NTFPs resource mapping document, market analysis report.

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

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

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

NTFP 5.2.2 NTFPs sustainable harvest levels are based on an analysis of current Best Available Information on growth and yield.

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

5.2.4 For extraction of commercially harvested services and 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 Information.

NTFP 5.2.4.1 Collection/harvesting of NTFPs is carried out at appropriate times of the year so as:

- 1) To maximise the effective use of the plant resource
- 2) To minimise environmental impact
- 3) To ensure the harvestable parts are fully mature

NTFP 5.2.4.2 Collection/harvesting of NTFPs is restricted to selected trees or sections of the Forest, according to the Management Plan

NTFP 5.2.4.3 In the absence of reliable information on growth and regeneration for NTFPs there is a programme in place to collect detailed information for future management.

Verifiers: Up-to-date growth and yield information; up-to-date inventory data; volume and area reductions caused by mortality as well as natural disturbances such as fire, insects and disease; and volume and area reductions to account for adherence to all other requirements in this standard; record of actual annual harvest; annual allowable cut, records of harvesting, volume per clump/hectare, field reports of age composition after harvest, annual yield assessment report harvesting plan that shows the period of harvest record of harvesting pattern based on age composition and method, management plan, field monitoring and assessment report, stakeholder consultation, maps of harvesting area, forest products list.

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

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

SLIMF 5.3.1 The Organization allocates a budget related to preventing, mitigating or compensating for negative social and environmental impacts of management activities and are documented in the management plan.

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

Verifiers: Annual budget; management plan, ESIA report

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

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

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

Verifiers: A record of local processing and value adding facilities; a record of capacity building activities carried out; names of local people and facilities supported through The Organization's capacity building initiative; list of contractors and service providers; training records; employment policy (HR-Policy) and employment records management plan, value chain assessment report, field monitoring report.

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

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan; annual budget; a record of actual expenditures and investments; organization's audited accounts

PRINCIPLE* 6: ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES* AND IMPACTS

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

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

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

Guidance note:

Best Available Information includes:

- 1) Representative Sample Areas showing environmental values in their natural state.
- 2) Field surveys.
- 3) Databases relevant to the environmental values, for example, local forestry archive and natural reservation strategic information of state or above level;
- 4) Consultation with local and regional experts.
- 5) Culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous peoples, local communities and affected stakeholder and interested stakeholder.

SLIMF 6.1.1 The Organization identifies environmental values within, and, where potentially affected by management activities outside the Management Unit through consultation with local, regional and international experts.

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

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

SLIMF 6.1.2 Assessments of environmental values are conducted with a level of detail and frequency so that impacts of management activities on the identified environmental values can be assessed as per Criterion 6.2.

Verifiers: Initial environmental evaluation report; Annex I – HCV Framework; Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) report and comprehensive mitigation plan approved by the Environment Authorities

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

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

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

NTFP 6.2.2 Prior to the start of significant NTFPs harvesting activities, the impact of the activities on the environment is assessed.

Verifiers: EIA report; environmental compliance certificate; compliance report; management plan; a record of potential impacts to the environmental values; Project Proposal; site specific assessment procedure; a record of potential impacts to the environmental values.

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

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

NTFP 6.3.1.1 The Organization develops and implements effective actions to prevent or mitigate negative impacts of NTFPs management, harvesting and processing activities in the Management Unit.

NTFP 6.3.1.2 The diversity of organisms associated with NTFPs species are monitored to show that it has been maintained or increased.

6.3.2 Management activities prevent negative impacts to environmental values.

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

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

Verifiers: Monitoring reports; project proposal, initial environmental evaluation report; EIA report; environmental compliance certificate; compliance report; site specific assessment procedure; a record of potential impacts to the environmental values; management plan

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

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

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

SLIMF 6.4.2 Management activities are designed or modified to avoid negative impacts on rare and threatened species, and their habitats.

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

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

SLIMF 6.4.4 A system is in place to prevent hunting, fishing, trapping and collection of rare or threatened species.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Verifiers: Native ecosystems clearly demarcated and mapped out; Annex I HCV Framework; Protective measures in place; newly restored native ecosystems clearly demarcated and mapped out.; management plan.

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

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

6.6.2 Where past management has eliminated plant communities or habitat features, management activities aimed at re-establishing such habitats are implemented.

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

6.6.4 Effective measures are taken to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting activities to ensure that naturally occurring native species, their diversity within species and their natural distribution are maintained as guided by the Wildlife conservation and utilization regulation number 163/2008.

- 6.6.5 Mechanisms for wildlife protection are in place: Applicable national and/or international regulations on protection, hunting and trade in animal species or parts (trophies) shall be known and complied with;
- 6.6.6 An internal regulation banning and punishing the transportation of and trade in bush meat and firearms in the facilities and vehicles of The Organization;
- 6.6.7 A system of regular and punctual controls to ensure hunting policies are respected is implemented;
- 6.6.8 Effective mitigation measures are in place to ensure that workers do not increase hunting, trapping or collecting of bush meat or wild fish.

Verifiers: Fire management plan; invasive weed control plan; grazing control plan; management plan; habitat restoration plans; reports of illegal activities taking place in Management Unit; map clearly showing distribution of native ecosystems.

6.7 *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.*

- 6.7.1 Protection measures are implemented to protect natural water courses, water bodies, riparian zones and their connectivity, including water quantity and water quality.
- 6.7.2 Where implemented protection measures do not protect water courses, water bodies, riparian zones and their connectivity, water quantity or water quality from impacts of forest management, restoration activities are implemented.
- 6.7.3 Where natural water courses, water bodies, riparian zones and their connectivity, water quantity or water quality have been damaged by past activities on land and water by The Organization, restoration activities are implemented.
- 6.7.4 Where continued degradation exists to watercourses, water bodies, water quantity and water quality caused by previous managers and the activities of third parties, measures are implemented that prevent or mitigate this degradation.

Verifiers: Management plan; procedures for protecting watercourses; land use plan; erosion control plan; restoration plans; Water quality and quantity monitoring reports; watercourses clearly mapped with their buffer zones clearly demarcated.

6.8 *The Organization* shall manage the landscape* in the Management Unit* to maintain and/or restore* a varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales* and regeneration cycles appropriate for the landscape values* in that region, and for enhancing environmental and economic resilience*.*

- 6.8.1 A varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales, and regeneration cycles is maintained appropriate to the landscape.
- 6.8.2 The mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales, and regeneration cycles is restored where it has not been maintained appropriate to the landscape.

Verifiers: Management plan; harvesting records; restoration plans.

- 6.9** *The Organization** shall not convert *natural forest** or *High Conservation Value Areas** to *plantations** or to *non-forest land-use**, nor transform *plantations** on sites directly converted from *natural forest** to *non-forest land-use**, except when the *conversion**:
- Affects a very limited portion** of the *Management Unit**, and
 - Will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term *conservation** and social benefits in the *Management Unit**, and
 - Does not damage or threaten *High Conservation Values**, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those *High Conservation Values**.
- 6.9.1 There is no conversion of natural forest or High Conservation Value Areas to plantations, nor conversion of natural forests to non-forest land use, nor conversion of plantations on sites directly converted from natural forest to non-forest land use, except when the conversion:
- Affects a very limited portion of the Management Unit, and
 - Will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation and social benefits in the Management Unit; and
 - Does not damage or threaten High Conservation Values, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those High Conservation Values.
- 6.10** *Management Units** containing *plantations** that were established on areas converted from *natural forest** between 1 December 1994 and 31 December 2020 shall not qualify for certification, except where:
- The conversion affected a *very limited portion** of the *Management Unit** and is producing clear, substantial, *additional**, secure long-term *conservation** benefits in the *Management Unit**, or
 - The Organization** which was *directly** or *indirectly** involved in the conversion demonstrates *restitution** of all *social harms** and *proportionate** *remedy** of *environmental harms** as specified in the applicable FSC Remedy Framework, or
 - The Organization** which was not involved in the conversion but has acquired *Management Units** where conversion has taken place demonstrates *restitution** of *priority social harms** and *partial remedy** of *environmental harms** as specified in the applicable FSC Remedy Framework.
- 6.10.1 Based on Best Available Information, accurate data is compiled on all conversions between 1 December 1994 and 31 December 2020 within the Management Unit
- 6.10.2 Areas converted from natural forest to plantation between 1 December 1994 and 31 December 2020 are not certified, except where:
- The conversion affected a very limited portion of the Management Unit and is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation benefits in the Management Unit, or
 - The Organization which was directly or indirectly involved in the conversion demonstrates restitution of all social harms and proportionate remedy of environmental harms as specified in the applicable FSC Remedy Framework, or
 - The Organization which was not involved in conversion but has acquired Management Units where conversion has taken place demonstrates restitution of priority social harms and partial remedy of environmental harms as specified in the applicable FSC Remedy Framework, or
 - The Organization qualifies as a small-scale smallholder.

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

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

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

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

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

PRINCIPLE* 7: MANAGEMENT PLANNING

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

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

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

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan; harvesting procedures; operational plans; harvesting plan, specific operational management plan, bylaws.

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

7.2.1 The Organization achieves its management objectives through implementation of actions, procedures, Strategies and measures stated in the management plan.

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

7.2.2 The management plan addresses the elements listed in Annex E, and is implemented.

Verifiers: Management plan; procedures.

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan.

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

7.4.1 The management plan is revised and updated periodically consistent with Annex F 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.

Verifiers: Management plan; monitoring reports; stakeholder consultation reports; scientific reports; harvesting plans and publications, revised management plan, meeting minutes.

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

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

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

Verifiers: A summary of the management plan excluding confidential information.

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

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

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

7.6.2 Culturally appropriate engagement is used to:

- 1) Determine appropriate representatives and contact points (including where appropriate, local institutions, organizations and authorities);
- 2) Determine mutually agreed communication channels allowing for information to flow in both directions;
- 3) Ensure all actors (women, youth, elderly, minorities) are represented and engaged equitably;

- 4) Ensure all meetings, all points discussed and all agreements reached are recorded;
 - 5) Ensure the content of meeting records is approved; and
 - 6) Ensure the results of all culturally appropriate engagement activities are shared with those involved.
- 7.6.3 Affected rights holders and affected stakeholders are provided with an opportunity for culturally appropriate engagement in monitoring and planning processes of management activities that affect their interests.
- SLIMF 7.6.3 Culturally appropriate engagement is completed with affected stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples to ensure that their concerns are addressed in the development and implementation of management and monitoring activities.
- 7.6.4 On request, interested stakeholders are provided with an opportunity for engagement in monitoring and planning processes of management activities that affect their interests.

Verifiers: A record of the consulted stakeholders; stakeholder consultation report, management plan, monitoring records.

PRINCIPLE* 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

Verifiers: Documented monitoring procedures, monitoring and assessment plan, budget plan for M&E.

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

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

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

Verifiers: Monitoring reports; socio-economic survey reports; Monitoring procedures, ESIA document, contract agreement with ESIA body, management plan.

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

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

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

Verifiers: Monitoring reports; analysed monitoring data; revised (updated) *management plan**.

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

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

Verifiers: A summarized monitoring report.

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.

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

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

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

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

NTFP 8.5.2. It is demonstrated based on the best available information or pollen analysis that at least 50% of the collected pollen originates from within the FSC certified MU before the honey (and/or all other bee collection products and exudates) can be sold with FSC claim: FSC 100%.

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

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

Verifiers: A traceability procedure; all transaction data (invoices, purchase orders, delivery notes, waybills, receipts), marketing plan, sales documents, product stock details and information.

PRINCIPLE* 9: HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Verifiers: HCV framework; HCV Assessment report; method of stakeholder engagement; record of engaged stakeholders and their concerns; results of the stakeholder engagement; HCV's are clearly mapped.

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

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

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

- 9.2.3 Affected rights holders, affected and interested stakeholders and experts are engaged in the development of management strategies and actions to maintain and/or enhance the identified High Conservation Values.
- 9.2.4 Management strategies are developed to protect core areas.
- 9.2.5 The vast majority of each Intact Forest Landscape is designated as core area.
- 9.2.6 The strategies developed are effective to maintain and/or enhance the High Conservation Values.
- 9.2.7 Management strategies allow limited industrial activity within core areas only if all effects of industrial activity including fragmentation:
 - 1) Are restricted to a very limited portion of the core area;
 - 2) Do not reduce the core area below 50,000 ha, and
 - 3) Will produce clear, substantial, additional, long-term conservation and social benefits.

Verifiers: Management Plan; Annex J -HCV Framework; Stakeholder consultation reports; HCV monitoring records.

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

- 9.3.1 The High Conservation Values and the High Conservation Value Areas on which they depend are maintained and/or enhanced, including by implementing the strategies developed.
- 9.3.2 The strategies and actions prevent damage and avoid risks to High Conservation Values, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of High Conservation Values are uncertain.
- 9.3.3 Core areas are protected consistent with Criterion 9.2.
- 9.3.4 Limited industrial activity in core areas is consistent with Indicator 9.2.7.
- 9.3.5 Activities that harm High Conservation Values cease immediately and actions are taken to restore and protect the High Conservation Values.

Verifiers: Monitoring reports; stakeholder interviews; site visits.

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

- 9.4.1 A program of periodic monitoring assesses:
 - 1) Implementation of strategies;
 - 2) The status of High Conservation Values, including High Conservation Value Areas on which they depend; and
 - 3) The effectiveness of the management strategies and actions for the protection of High Conservation Values, to fully maintain and/or enhance-the High Conservation Values.

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

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

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan; monitoring procedures; monitoring reports; stakeholder engagement reports; Site visits, stakeholder interviews; A record of the stakeholders engaged.

PRINCIPLE* 10: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

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

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

10.1.1 Harvested sites are regenerated in a timely manner that:

- 1) Protects affected environmental values; and
- 2) Is suitable to recover overall pre-harvest or natural forest composition and structure.

10.1.2 Regeneration activities are implemented in a manner that:

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

Verifiers: A record of regenerated areas and species used; environmental values present; site visits.

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

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

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

Verifiers: Rationale for choosing species, a record of the species used, management plan and site visits, records of harvesting practiced by age structure, reports of silvicultural practices, field assessment reports (on regeneration potential, vigour growth of the clumps, harvesting volume, enrichment planting, management when flowering happen and seed collection), Annual field records.

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

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

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

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

10.3.4 Management activities are implemented, preferably in cooperation with separate regulatory bodies where these exist, with an aim to control the invasive impacts of alien species that were not introduced by The Organization.

Verifiers: Research reports; import permits; phytosanitary certificates; mitigation measures; species record; justification for the choice; interviews with stakeholders; site visits; Management plan, mitigation measures for control of alien species spread in place, assessment records, conformity letter from the government authority based on the ESIA, Legal documents and arrangement that shows the effective mitigation measures for the alien species, maps of the controlled area, field observation and records, frequent field monitoring and verification reports, maps that show the controlled range, report of the regulatory body, assessment report, Interviews with the affected community.

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

10.4.1 Genetically modified organisms are not used.

Verifiers: A record of species used; management plan.

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan; site visits, records of thinning practice applied based on age structure, reports showing harvesting season and methods.

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

10.6.1 The use of fertilizers is minimized or avoided.

10.6.2 When fertilizers are used, their ecological and economic benefits are equal to or higher than those of silvicultural systems that do not require fertilizers.

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

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

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

Verifiers: Rationale for use of fertilizers; management plan; records of fertilizer usage and frequency; record of negative impacts and mitigation measures taken, records of fertilizer usage and frequency, record of negative impacts and mitigation measures taken.

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

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

NTFP 10.7.1.1 Sickness of bees is treated physically such as with steam or fire to disinfect the beehives.

NTPF 10.7.1.2 For treatment of varroa mites, the following substances are used:

- 1) formic acid, lactic acid, acetic acid and oxalic acid;
 - 2) menthol, eucalyptol and camphor.
- 10.7.2 Prior to using chemical pesticides, the requirements of the Environmental and Social Risk Assessment framework for Organizations (FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0 FSC Pesticides Policy clause 4.12) are met.
- 10.7.3 Affected rights holders and affected and interested stakeholders are provided with an opportunity for engagement in the development of the Environmental and Social Risk Assessment in a culturally appropriate manner.
- 10.7.4 The Environmental and Social Risk Assessment is reviewed and, if necessary, revised within the certificate cycle.
- 10.7.5 A decision process and rationale are in place to select the pest, weed or disease control option that demonstrates least social and environmental damages, more effectiveness and equal or greater social and environmental benefits.
- 10.7.6 Records of pesticide usage are maintained, including trade name, active ingredient, quantity of active ingredient used, period of use, number and frequency of applications, location and area of use and reason for use.
- 10.7.7 The use of pesticides complies with the ILO document "Safety in the use of chemicals at work" regarding requirements for the transport, storage, handling, application and emergency procedures for cleanup following accidental spillages.
- 10.7.8 If pesticides are used, application methods minimize quantities used, while achieving effective results, and provide effective protection to surrounding landscapes.
- 10.7.9 Damage to environmental values and human health from pesticide use is prevented and mitigated or repaired where damage occurs.
- 10.7.10 When pesticides are used:
- 1) The selected pesticide, application method, timing and pattern of use offers the least risk to humans and non-target species; and
 - 2) Objective evidence demonstrates that the pesticide is the only effective, practical and cost effective way to control the pest.

Verifiers: Integrated Pest Management Systems used; types of active ingredients of chemical pesticides used; pesticides usage records; site visits, interviews with employees and stakeholders; safety methods used; mitigation measures for negative effects of pesticides; chemical use procedures; chemical use records; rationale for choosing pesticide.

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

- 10.8.1 The use of biological control agents is minimized, monitored and controlled.
- 10.8.2 Use of biological control agents complies with Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its associated scientific protocols.
- 10.8.3 The use of biological control agents is recorded including type, quantity, period, location and reason for use.

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

Verifiers: Site visits, management plan; interviews with workers; interviews with stakeholders; usage records; prevention and mitigation measures, risk assessment reports, regular monitoring report.

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

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

10.9.2 Management activities mitigate these impacts.

SLIMF 10.9.2 Where capacity and resources allow, management activities mitigate potential unacceptable negative impacts of natural hazards. If capacity or resources do not allow, The Organization or manager communicates with government or relevant local organizations about mitigation capacity and possibilities.

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

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

Verifiers: Natural Hazards assessment reports; management plan; a record of Natural Hazards occurring; interviews with workers and stakeholders; mitigation measures to minimize risk, communication records of managers with government or relevant organizations about mitigation of Natural Hazards.

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

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

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan; procedures for infrastructure development and maintenance; Silvicultural management prescription, contract agreement with infrastructure developers, environmental impact assessment report.

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

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

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

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

10.11.4 Harvesting practices avoid damage to standing residual trees, residual woody debris on the ground and other environmental values.

Verifiers: Management plan; harvesting procedures; site visits; interview with workers; harvesting records, EIA report.

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

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

Verifiers: Waste collection records; waste management procedure; site visit; interviews with workers and stakeholders.

G ANNEXES

(Normative section)

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

The following is the minimum list of *applicable laws**, regulations and nationally ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements, in FSC-STD-60-004 (International Generic Indicators*).

Note: This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of applicable legislation. If any additional legislation applies, CHs shall also comply with it.

1. Legal rights to harvest

1.1 Land tenure and management rights

- Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia 1994,
- Proclamation No. 1223/2020: Development, Management and Utilization of Community Watersheds.
- Proclamation No. 85 /2010: Benishangul Gomez Regional State Rural Land Administration and Use.
- Proclamation No.541/2007: To Provide for the Development Conservation and Utilization of Wildlife.
- Proclamation No. 1065/2018: Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization
- Council Of Ministers Regulations No. 135.12007: Council of Ministers Regulations on the Payment of Compensation for Property: Situated on Landholdings Expropriated for Public Purposes.
- Proclamation No. 197/2000 Ethiopian Water Resources Management Proclamation.
- Proclamation No.1161/2019: To Determine Expropriation of Landholdings for Public Purpose, Payments of Compensation and Resettlement.
- A Regulation to Implement the Oromia Region Customary Courts, Proclamation No. 240/2021, Regulation No. 10/2021.
- Proclamation No. 89/11997: Rural Land Administration of the Federal Government of Ethiopia.
- Proclamation No. 769/2012: A Proclamation on Investment.
- Proclamation No. 839/2014: To Provide for The Classification Of Cultural Heritages into National and Regional Cultural Heritages.
- Proclamation No. 575/2008: To Provide for the Establishment of The Ethiopian Wildlife Development and Conservation Authority.
- Proclamation No. 192 Of 1980: To Provide for the Conservation and Development of Forest and Wildlife Resources.

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- Proclamation No. 66/2000, Dec. 24/2007: The Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State, Rural Land Administration and Use Regulation.
 - Proclamation No. 1236/2021: The Revised Proclamation for the Establishment of the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission Proclamation.
 - Regulation No.151/2012: Oromia Region Rural Land Administration and Use Regulation.
 - Proclamation No.133/2006: A Proclamation Issued to Provide for The Revised Rural Land Administration and Use of the Amhara National Regional State.
 - Proclamation No 147/2012: The Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization.
 - Proclamation No. 456/2005: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Rural Land Administration and Use Proclamation.
 - Proclamation No. 1065/2018 Forest Development Conservation and Utilization.
 - Proclamation No. 545 /2007: To Provide for the Ratification of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption.
 - Proclamation No. 891/1997 Rural Land Administration.

1.2 Concession licenses

- Proclamation No. 1065/2018 Forest Development Conservation and Utilization,
- Proclamation No.541/2007: To Provide for The Development Conservation and Utilization of Wildlife.
- Proclamation No. 891/1997 Rural Land Administration.
- Proclamation No. 456/2005: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Rural Land Administration and Use Proclamation.

1.3 Management and harvesting planning

- Proclamation No. 1065/2018 Forest Development Conservation and Utilization,
- Proclamation No.541/2007: To Provide for the Development Conservation and Utilization of Wildlife.
- Proclamation No. 891/1997 Rural Land Administration.
- Proclamation No. 456/2005: Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Rural Land Administration and Use Proclamation.

1.4 Harvesting permits

- Proclamation No. 1065/2018 Forest Development Conservation and Utilization.
 - Proclamation No.541/2007: To Provide for the Development Conservation and Utilization of Wildlife.
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2. Taxes And Fees

2.1 Payment of royalties and harvesting fees

- Proclamation No. 1065/2018 Forest Development Conservation and Utilization.
- Proclamation No.541/2007: To Provide for the Development Conservation and Utilization of Wildlife.

2.2 Value added taxes and other sales taxes

- Proclamation No. 1180/2020: Investment Proclamation.
- Proclamation No. 1156/2019: Labour Proclamation.

2.3 Income and profit taxes

- Proclamation No. 1180/2020: Investment Proclamation.
- Proclamation No. 1156/2019: Labour Proclamation.

3. Timber harvesting activities

3.1 Timber harvesting regulations

- Proclamation No. 1065/2018 Forest Development Conservation and Utilization.

3.2 Protected sites and species

- Proclamation No.993/2017: To Ratify the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Agreement
- Proclamation No. 634/2009: To Ratify the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

3.3 Environmental requirements

- Proclamation No. 482/2006: To Provide for Access to Genetic Resources and Community Knowledge and Community Rights.
- Proclamation No. 575/2008: To Provide for the Establishment of the Ethiopian Wildlife Development and Conservation Authority
- Proclamation No. 192 Of 1980: To Provide for the Conservation and Development of Forest and Wildlife Resources
- Proclamation No.1065/2018: Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization.
- Proclama Tionno. 197/2000 Ethiopian Water Resources Management
- Proclamation No.1090/2018: To Provide for Hazardous Waste Management and Disposal Control
- Council of Ministers Regulation No. 327/2014: Council, of Ministers Regulation to Provide for the Establishment of the Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute.
- Proclamation No.300/2002: Environmental Pollution Control
- Proclamation No. 674/2010: To Provide for the Registration and Control of Pesticide.
- Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Radiation Protection Proclamation No. 79/1993
- Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Environmental Impact Assessment Proclamation 299/2002

- Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Environmental Policy, 1997
- Proclamation No. 299/2002 Environmental Impact Assessment.

3.4 Health and safety

- Proclamation No. 690/2010: To Provide for Social Health Insurance
- Proclamation NO.200/2000 Food Quality Standards Control,
- Proclamation No.1156/2019: Labour
- Proclamation No.377/2003: Labour
- Proclamation No. 513/2007: Solid Waste Management
- Proclamation No. 661/2009: Food, Medicine and Health Care Administration and Control
- Public Health Proclamation No. 200/2000.

3.5 Legal employment

- Proclamation No.1156/2019: Labour
- Proclamation No.377/2003: Labour
- Proclamation No.1237/2021: To Provide for Arbitration and Conciliation Working Procedure.
- Proclamation No. 515/2006: The Federal Civil Servants.
- Proclamation No.1113/2019: Organizations of Civil Societies.
- Proclamation No. 715/2011: To Provide for Private Organization Employees' Pension
- Ethiopian Revenues and Customs Authority Establishment Proclamation No. 587-2008

4. Third parties' rights

4.1 Customary rights

- Regional customary laws and Courts of Ethiopia,
- Proclamation No. 85 /2010: Benishangul Gomez Regional State Rural Land Administration and Use
- A Regulation to Implement the Oromia Region Customary Courts, Proclamation No. 240/2021, Regulation No. 10/2021
- Proclamation No. 66/2000, Dec. 24/2007: The Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State, Rural Land Administration and Use Regulation
- Regulation No.151/2012: Oromia Region Rural Land Administration and Use Regulation.
- Proclamation No.133/2006: A proclamation issued to provide for the Revised Rural Land Administration and Use of the Amhara National Regional State
- Proclamation No 147/2012: The Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization.

4.2 Free Prior and Informed Consent

- Regional customary laws and Courts of Ethiopia,
- Proclamation No. 85 /2010: Benishangul gurus Regional State Rural Land Administration and Use.
- A Regulation to Implement the Oromia Region Customary Courts, Proclamation No. 240/2021, Regulation No. 10/2021.
- Proclamation No. 66/2000, Dec. 24/2007: The Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State, Rural Land Administration and Use Regulation.
- Regulation No.151/2012: Oromia Region Rural Land Administration and Use Regulation.
- Proclamation No.133/2006: A proclamation issued to provide for the Revised Rural Land Administration and Use of the Amhara National Regional State.
- Proclamation No 147/2012: The Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization.
- Proclamation No.541/2007: To Provide for the Development Conservation and Utilization of Wildlife.

4.3 Indigenous Peoples' rights

- Regional customary laws and Courts of Ethiopia,
- Proclamation No. 85 /2010: Benishangul Gumuz Regional State Rural Land Administration and Use
- A Regulation to Implement the Oromia Region Customary Courts, Proclamation No. 240/2021, Regulation No. 10/2021
- Proclamation No. 66/2000, Dec. 24/2007: The Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State, Rural Land Administration and Use Regulation
- Regulation No.151/2012: Oromia Region Rural Land Administration and Use Regulation.
- Proclamation No.133/2006: A proclamation issued to provide for the Revised Rural Land Administration and Use of the Amhara National Regional State
- Proclamation No 147/2012: The Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Regional State Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization
- Proclamation No.541/2007: To Provide for the Development Conservation and Utilization of Wildlife
- A Regulation to Implement The Oromia Region Customary Courts, Proclamation No. 240/2021, Regulation No. 10/2021
- Proclamation No. 482/2006: A Proclamation to Provide for Access to Genetic Resources and Community Knowledge and Community Right.

5. Trade and transport

NOTE: This section covers requirements for *forest** management operations as well as processing and trade.

5.1 Classification of species, quantities, qualities

- Proclamation No. 769/2012: A Proclamation Investment.
- Proclamation No. 1065/2018: Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization

5.2 Trade and transport

- Proclamation No. 769/2012: A Proclamation Investment.
- Proclamation No. 1065/2018: Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization
- Ethiopian Revenues and Customs Authority Establishment Proclamation No. 587-2008.

5.3 Offshore trading and transfer pricing

- Proclamation No. 1236/2021: The Revised Proclamation for the Establishment of The Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission Proclamation
- Proclamation No. 545 /2007: A Proclamation to Provide for the Ratification of The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption.

5.4 Custom regulations

- Ethiopian Customs Proclamation No. 859-2014
- Ethiopian Revenues and Customs Authority Establishment Proclamation No. 587-2008.

5.5 CITES

- Proclamation No. 575/2008: To Provide for The Establishment of the Ethiopian Wildlife Development and Conservation Authority.
- Proclamation No. 192 Of 1980: To Provide for The Conservation and Development of Forest And Wildlife Resources.
- Proclamation No.541/2007: To Provide for the Development Conservation and Utilization of Wildlife.

6. Due diligence / due care

6.1 Due diligence / due care procedures

- Ethiopian Customs Proclamation No.859-2014.
- Ethiopian Revenues and Customs Authority Establishment Proclamation No. 587-2008, Proclamation No.541/2007: A Proclamation to Provide for the Development Conservation and Utilization of Wildlife.
- Proclamation No. 1065/2018: Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization.

7. Ecosystem Services

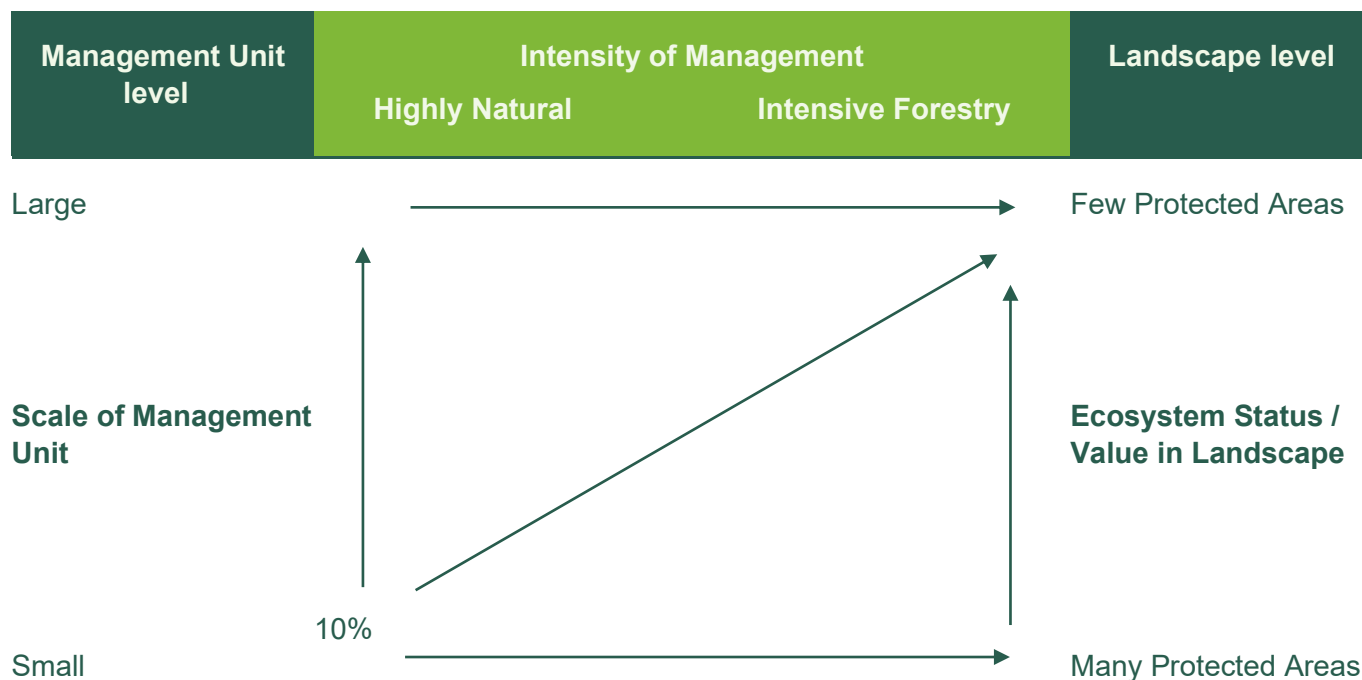
- Proclamation No. 1065/2018: Forest Development, Conservation and Utilization.
 - Proclamation No. 197/2000: Ethiopian Water Resource Management Proclamation.
 - Proclamation No. 192 Of 1980: A Proclamation to Provide for The Conservation and Development of Forest and Wildlife Resources.
 - Proclamation No.300/2002: Environmental Pollution Control Proclamation.
 - Proclamation No. 513/2007: Solid Waste Management
 - Proclamation No.541/2007: A Proclamation to Provide for The Development Conservation And Utilization of Wildlife.
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Annex B Training requirements for workers (Principle 2)

Workers shall be able to:

- 1) Implement forest activities to comply with applicable legal requirements (Criterion 1.5);
- 2) Understand the content, meaning and applicability of the eight ILO Core Labour Conventions (Criterion 2.1);
- 3) Recognize and report on instances of sexual harassment and gender discrimination (Criterion 2.2);
- 4) Safely handle and dispose of hazardous substances to ensure that use does not pose health risks (Criterion 2.3);
- 5) Carry out their responsibilities for particularly dangerous jobs or jobs entailing a special responsibility (Criterion 2.5);
- 6) Identify where Indigenous Peoples have legal and customary rights related to management activities (Criterion 3.2);
- 7) Identify and implement applicable elements of UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 (Criterion 3.4);
- 8) 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) Identify where local communities have legal and customary rights related to management activities (Criterion 4.2);
- 10) Carry out social, economic and environmental impact assessments and develop appropriate mitigation measures (Criterion 4.5);
- 11) Implement activities related to the maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services, when FSC Ecosystem Services Claims are used (Criterion 5.1);
- 12) Handle, apply and store pesticides (Criterion 10.7); and
- 13) Implement procedures for cleaning up spills of waste materials (Criterion 10.12).

Annex C Conservation Area Network conceptual diagram (Principle 6)



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

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

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

Annex D List of rare and threatened species in the country or region (Principle 6)

Plants

- *Hagenia abyssinica* - African Redwood
- *Juniperus procera* - African Pencil Cedar
- *Acacia bricchettiana*
- *Acacia prasinata*
- *Podocarpus falcatus*
- *Taverniera abyssinica*
- *Cordeauxia edulis*

Mammals

- *Capra walie* - Walia Ibex
- *Tragelaphus buxtoni* - Mountain Nyala
- *Tragelaphus scriptus* - meneliki Menelik's bushbuck
- *Alcelaphus buselaphus swaynei* - Swayne's Hartebeest
- *Canis simensis* - Ethiopian Wolf
- *Chlorocebus djamdjamensis* - Bale monkey
- *Cercopithecus mitis boutourlinii* - Boutourlini's Blue Monkey
- *Graphiurus* sp. "B"
- *Lophuromys brevicaudus* - Short-tailed Brush-furred Rat
- *Lophuromys brunneus* - Thomas's Ethiopian Brush furred Rat
- *Lophuromys chercherensis* - Mount Chercher Brush-furred Rat
- *Lophuromys chrysopus* - Ethiopian Forest Brush furred Rat
- *Lophuromys flavopunctatus* - Ethiopian yellow-spotted Brush-furred Rat
- *Lophuromys melanonyx* - Black-clawed Brush-furred Rat
- *Lophuromys menageshae* - North Western Rift Brush-furred Rat
- *Lophuromys simeinsis*

Order: Rodentia → Family: Nesomyidae

- *Dendromus lovati* - Lovat's Climbing Mouse
- *Megadendromus nikolausi* - Nikolaus's Mouse
- *Dendromus mystacalis* - Chestnut Climbing Mouse
- *Arvicanthis abyssinicus* - Abyssinian Grass Rat
- *Arvicanthis blicki* - Blick's Grass Rat
- *Arvicanthis saturatus*
- *Desmomys harringtoni* - Harrington's Desmomys
- *Dasymys griseifrons* - Grayish brown shaggy rat
- *Desmomys yaldeni* - Yalden's Desmomys
- *Theropithecus gelada* - Gelada
- *Colobus guereza gallarum* - Neumann's black-and-white colobus

Order: Eulipotyphla → Family: Soricidae

- *Crocidura baileyi* - Bailey's Shrew
- *Crocidura bottegoides* - Bale Shrew
- *Crocidura glassi* - Glass's Shrew
- *Crocidura harena* - Harena Shrew
- *Crocidura Lucina* - Lucina's Shrew
- *Crocidura macmillani* - Macmillan's Shrew
- *Crocidura phaeura* - Guramba Shrew
- *Stenocephalemys albipes* - White-footed Stenocephalemys

- *Lophuromys pseudosikapusi* - Sheko Forest Brush-furred Rat
- *Mylomys rex* - Ethiopian Mylomys
- *Mastomys awashensis* - Awash Mastomys
- *Mus imberbis* - Striped-back Mouse
- *Mus proconodon*
- *Mus mahomet* - Mahomet Mouse
- *Mus* sp. "Harena"
- *Mus* sp.1 (M. cf. triton)
- *Nilopegamys plumbeus* - Ethiopian Water Mouse
- *Otomys typus* - Ethiopian Vlei Rat
- *Otomys fortiori* - Ethiopian Vlei Rat
- *Otomys helleri* - Ethiopian Vlei Rat
- *Otomys yalden* - Ethiopian Vlei Rat
- *Otomys cheesmani* - Ethiopian Vlei Rat
- *Otomys simiensis* - Ethiopian Vlei Rat
- *Stenocephalemys* sp. A
- *Crocidura thalia* - Thalia's Shrew
- *Crocidura afeworkbekelei* - Sanetti Shrew
- *Crocidura yaldeni* - Beletta Shrew

- *Stenocephalemys albocaudata* - Ethiopian Narrow-headed Rat
- *Stenocephalemys griseicauda* - Gray-tailed Narrow-headed Rat
- *Stenocephalemys "pseudogriseicauda"*
- *Stenocephalemys ruppi* - Rupp's Stenocephalemy

Family → Spalacidae

- *Tachyoryctes macrocephalus* - Big-headed Mole Rat

Order: Chiroptera → Family: Vespertilionidae

- *Myotis scotti* - Scott's Mouse-eared Bat
- *Plecotus balensis* - Ethiopian Big-eared Bat
- *Scotophilus ejetai* - Ejetas's house mouse

Order: Lagomorpha → Family: Leporidae

- *Lepus starcki* - Ethiopian Highland Hare

Birds

- Harwood's Francolin - *Pternistis harwoodi*
- Moorland Francolin - *Scleroptila psilolaema*
- Blue-winged Goose - *Cyanochen cyanoptera*
- Nechisar Nightjar - *Caprimulgus solala*
- Brown-faced Go-away-bird - *Corythaixoides personatus*
- Ruspoli's Turaco - *Tauraco ruspolii*
- Spot-breasted Lapwing - *Vanellus melanocephalus*
- Yellow-fronted Parrot - *Poicephalus flavifrons*
- Ethiopian Bushcrow - *Zavattariornis stresemanni*
- White-tailed Swallow - *Hirundo megaensis*
- Abyssinian Catbird - *Parophasma galinieri*
- Red-billed Pytilia - *Pytilia lineata*
- Abyssinian Longclaw - *Macronyx flavicollis*
- Yellow-throated Seedeater - *Crithagra flavigula*
- Salvadori's Seedeater - *Crithagra xantholaema*
- Ankober Serin - *Crithagra ankoberensis*
- Ethiopian Siskin - *Serinus nigriceps*
- Abyssinian Woodpecker - *Dendropicos abyssinicus*
- Sidamo Lark - *Heteromira fra sidamoensis*.

Annex E Elements of the management plan (Principle 7)

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

5) A description of the monitoring program, as identified in Principle 8, including:

- i. Growth and yield, as identified in Principle 5;
- ii. Ecosystem services when FSC ecosystem services claims are used as identified in Criterion 5.1;
- iii. Environmental values, as identified in Principle 6;
- iv. Operational impacts, as identified in Principle 10;
- v. High Conservation Values, as identified in Principle 9;
- vi. Monitoring systems based on stakeholder engagement planned or in place, as identified in Principle 2 to Principle 5 and Principle 7;
- vii. Maps describing the natural resources and land use zoning on the Management Unit;
- viii. Description of the methodology to assess and monitor any development and land use options allowed in Intact Forest Landscapes and core areas including their effectiveness in implementing the precautionary approach;
- ix. Description of the methodology to assess and monitor any development and land use options allowed in Indigenous cultural landscapes including their effectiveness in implementing the precautionary approach; and
- x. Global Forest Watch map, or more accurate national or regional map, describing the natural resources and land use zoning on the Management Unit, including the Intact Forest Landscapes core areas.

Annex F Conceptual framework for planning and monitoring (Principle 7)

Sample Management Plan Document (Note: These will vary with SIR and jurisdiction)	Management Plan Revision Periodicity	Element Being Monitored (Partial List)	Monitoring Periodicity	Who Monitors This Element? (Note: These will vary with SIR and jurisdiction)	FSC Principle / Criterion
Site Plan (Harvest 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
		Rare Threatened and Endangered species	Annually	Consulting Biologist	P6
		Annual harvest levels	Annually	Woodlands Manager	C5.2
		Insect disease outbreaks	Annually, sample	Consulting Biologist / Ministry of Forests	
Budgeting	Annual	Expenditures	Annually	Chief Financial Officer	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	Social Coordinator	P3, P4

Sample Management Plan Document (Note: These will vary with SIR and jurisdiction)	Management Plan Revision Periodicity	Element Being Monitored (Partial List)	Monitoring Periodicity	Who Monitors This Element? (Note: These will vary with SIR and jurisdiction)	FSC Principle / Criterion
Engagement Plan					
		Grievances	Ongoing	Human Resources Manager	P2, P3, P4
5-Year management plan	5 years	Wildlife populations	To be determined	Ministry of Environment	P6
		Coarse Woody Debris	Annually	Ministry of Forests	P10
		Free growing / regeneration	Annually, sample		
Sustainable Forestry management plan	10 years	Age class distribution Size class distribution	Ten years	Ministry of Environment	P6
		10 year Allowable Annual Cut	Annually, ten years	Ministry of Forests / Woodlands manager	C5.2
Ecosystem Services Certification Document	5 years	Prior to validation and verification	Prior to validation and verification	General Manager	FSC-PRO-30-006

Annex G Monitoring requirements (Principle 8)

- 1) Monitoring in 8.2.1 is sufficient to identify and describe the environmental impacts of management activities, including where applicable:
 - i. The results of regeneration activities (Criterion 10.1);
 - ii. The use of ecologically well adapted species for regeneration (Criterion 10.2);
 - iii. Invasiveness or other adverse impacts associated with any alien species within and outside the Management Unit (Criterion 10.3);
 - iv. The use of genetically modified organisms to confirm that they are not being used (Criterion 10.4);
 - v. The results of silvicultural activities (Criterion 10.5);
 - vi. Adverse impacts to environmental values from fertilizers (Criterion 10.6);
 - vii. Adverse impacts from the use of pesticides (Criterion 10.7);
 - viii. Adverse impacts from the use of biological control agents (Criterion 10.8);
 - ix. The impacts from natural hazards (Criterion 10.9);
 - x. The impacts of infrastructural development, transport activities and silviculture to rare and threatened species, habitats, ecosystems, landscape values, water and soils (Criterion 10.10);
 - xi. The impacts of harvesting and extraction of timber on non-timber forest products, environmental values, merchantable wood waste and other products and services (Criterion 10.11); and
 - xii. Environmentally appropriate disposal of waste materials (Criterion 10.12).
- 2) Monitoring in 8.2.1 is sufficient to identify and describe social impacts of management activities, including where applicable:
 - i. Evidence of illegal or unauthorized activities (Criterion 1.4);
 - ii. Compliance with applicable laws, local laws, ratified international conventions and obligatory codes of practice (Criterion 1.5);
 - iii. Resolution of disputes and grievances (Criterion 1.6, Criterion 2.6, Criterion 4.6);
 - iv. Programs and activities regarding workers' rights (Criterion 2.1);
 - v. Gender equality, sexual harassment and gender discrimination (Criterion 2.2);
 - vi. Programs and activities regarding occupational health and safety (Criterion 2.3);
 - vii. Payment of wages (Criterion 2.4);
 - viii. Workers' training (Criterion 2.5);
 - ix. Where pesticides are used, the health of workers exposed to pesticides (Criterion 2.5 and Criterion 10.7);
 - x. The identification of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and their legal and customary rights (Criterion 3.1 and Criterion 4.1);
 - xi. Full implementation of the terms in binding agreements (Criterion 3.2 and Criterion 4.2);
 - xii. Indigenous Peoples and community relations (Criterion 3.2, Criterion 3.3 and Criterion 4.2);

- xiii. Protection of sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to Indigenous Peoples and local communities (Criterion 3.5 and Criterion 4.7);
- xiv. The persistence of Indigenous cultural landscapes and associated values of significance to Indigenous Peoples (Criterion 3.1, Criterion 3.5);
- xv. The use of traditional knowledge and intellectual property (Criterion 3.6 and Criterion 4.8);
- xvi. Local economic and social development (Criterion 4.2, Criterion 4.3, Criterion 4.4, Criterion 4.5);
- xvii. The production of diversified benefits and/or products (Criterion 5.1);
- xviii. The maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services (Criterion 5.1);
- xix. Activities to maintain or enhance ecosystem services (Criterion 5.1);
- xx. Actual compared to projected annual harvests of timber and non-timber forest products (Criterion 5.2);
- xxi. The use of local processing, local services and local value added manufacturing (Criterion 5.4);
- xxii. Long term economic viability (Criterion 5.5); and
- xxiii. High Conservation Values 5 and 6 identified in Criterion 9.1.

3) Monitoring procedures in 8.2.2 are sufficient to identify and describe changes in environmental conditions including where applicable:

- i. The maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services (Criterion 5.2) (when The Organization uses FSC ecosystem services claims);
- ii. Environmental values and ecosystem functions including carbon sequestration and storage (Criterion 6.1); including the effectiveness of actions identified and implemented to prevent, mitigate and repair negative impacts to environmental values (Criterion 6.3);
- iii. Rare and threatened species, and the effectiveness of actions implemented to protect them and their habitats(Criterion 6.4);
- iv. Representative Sample Areas and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.5);
- v. Naturally occurring native species and biological diversity and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.6);
- vi. Water courses, water bodies, water quantity and water quality and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.7);
- vii. Landscape values and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or restore them (Criterion 6.8);
- viii. Conversion of natural forest to plantations or conversion to non-forest (Criterion 6.9);
- ix. The status of plantations established after 1994 (Criterion 6.10); and
- x. High Conservation Values 1 to 4 identified in Criterion 9.1 and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or enhance them.

Annex H Instructions for Standards Developers to develop indicators for Intact Forest Landscape core areas (Principle 9)

A. Threshold for vast majority

The definition of vast majority is 80% of the total area of Intact Forest Landscapes within the Management Unit as of January 1, 2017. The vast majority also meets or exceeds the definition of Intact Forest Landscape.

The threshold for vast majority may be established below 80% providing it achieves the greatest amount of conservation gains based on national or eco-regional considerations and still meets or exceeds the definition of Intact Forest Landscape.

Thresholds above 80% shall be considered in nations and/or eco-regions where Intact Forest Landscapes are relatively rare and/or fragmented, and/or where large amounts of Intact Forest Landscapes have been lost since 2000.

In developing nationally or eco-regionally specific thresholds of vast majority Standard Developers shall consider the following:

1. Evidence to demonstrate the relative abundance of Intact Forest Landscapes and the level of risk of degradation to Intact Forest Landscapes from human activities, including:
 - a. Relative scarcity of Intact Forest Landscapes nationally or eco-regionally. The more scarce Intact Forest Landscapes, then the higher the threshold for vast majority;
 - b. The degree to which national or eco-regional Intact Forest Landscapes have been degraded by human activities since 2000 and are therefore, scarce, rare or fragmented. The quicker the degradation of Intact Forest Landscapes, then the higher the threshold for vast majority;
 - c. The types of human activities that have resulted in the degradation of Intact Forest Landscapes since 2000. The more damaging the human activities to the intactness of Intact Forest Landscapes, then the higher the threshold for vast majority;
 - d. The risk of damage to Intact Forest Landscapes from human activities. The greater the risk to Intact Forest Landscapes, then the higher the threshold for vast majority;
 - e. Amount and relative permanence of protection of Intact Forest Landscape core areas comparing different intensities of industrial activity. Protection should maintain or enhance the integrity and other ecological attributes of Intact Forest Landscape core areas. The more permanent the protection of Intact Forest Landscapes, then the lower the threshold for vast majority;
 - f. The nature and distribution of ecological values within and adjacent to Intact Forest Landscapes. The greater the concentration of these values within and adjacent to Intact Forest Landscapes, then the higher the threshold for vast majority;
 - g. The nature and distribution of cultural values and legal and customary rights within and adjacent to Intact Forest Landscapes; and
 - h. The outcomes of culturally appropriate engagement with affected rights holders affected and interested stakeholders;

B. Developing Indicators for Assessing and Protecting Intact Forest Landscapes

Standard Developers shall consider the following information when developing indicators for Criteria 9.1 and 9.2.

The outcome shall be nationally or eco-regionally appropriate requirements to identify, assess and protect the vast majority of Intact Forest Landscapes as core areas.

Core areas are intended to be protected from activities that impact their intactness including commercial logging, mining, and the construction of roads, dams, and other infrastructure.

1. The Indicators developed for the identification and designation of core areas shall:
 - a. Respect the right to Free Prior and Informed Consent of affected rights holders (Criterion 3.1 and 4.1);
 - b. Ensure the legal and customary rights of affected rights holders to use the core areas are upheld;
 - c. Ensure that core areas contain the most ecologically valuable, contiguous, and intact portions of the Intact Forest Landscapes;
 - d. Ensure the shape of core areas is designed to maximize their interior habitats.
 - e. Ensure that core areas contain habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species and other wildlife that depend on large contiguous areas of unaltered forest;
 - f. Ensure that core areas maintain or restore connectivity between core areas both within and adjacent to the Management Unit; and
 - g. Ensure that core areas are not smaller than 50,000 ha.
2. The Indicators developed for the protection of core areas shall ensure:
 - a. The legal and customary rights of affected rights holders to use the core areas are upheld;
 - b. Indigenous Peoples, traditional peoples and ^[SEP]forest dependent communities ^[SEP]are given priority to design and implement alternative management and conservation activities compatible with protection of core areas;
 - c. Prevention of illegal logging, windthrow, degradation, and other edge effect impacts within core areas;
 - d. Management of road construction and the intensity of other activities adjacent to core areas to prevent illegal logging, windthrow, degradation, and other edge effect impacts within core areas; and
 - e. Identification of appropriate buffer zone widths adjacent to core areas where road construction and other activities are managed to prevent edge effect impacts within the core areas.
3. The Indicators developed for the protection of core areas shall ensure intactness of core areas, considering activities that impact intactness, including commercial logging, mining, and the construction of roads, dams, and other infrastructure. Examples of management that protects the intactness of core areas include conservation zones as well as areas that may or not have legal protection such as set asides, reserves, deferrals, community reserves, and Indigenous protected areas.
4. The Indicators developed for Intact Forest Landscapes shall clarify that the portions of Intact Forest Landscapes not designated as Core Areas shall be managed to protect and/or maintain High Conservation Values Category 2.

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

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

- **HCV 1** – Protection zones, harvest prescriptions, and/or other strategies to protect threatened, endangered, endemic species, or other concentrations of biological diversity and the ecological communities and habitats upon which they depend, sufficient to prevent reductions in the extent, integrity, quality, and viability of the habitats and species occurrences. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to develop, expand, and/or restore habitats for such species are in place.
- **HCV 2** – Strategies that fully maintain the extent and intactness of the forest ecosystems and the viability of their biodiversity concentrations, including plant and animal indicator species, keystone species, and/or guilds associated with large intact natural forest ecosystems. Examples include protection zones and set-aside areas, with any commercial activity in areas that are not set-aside being limited to low-intensity operations that fully maintain forest structure, composition, regeneration, and disturbance patterns at all times. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and reconnect forest ecosystems, their intactness, and habitats that support natural biological diversity are in place.
- **HCV 3** – Strategies that fully maintain the extent and integrity of rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and/or develop rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia are in place.
- **HCV 4** – Strategies to protect any water catchments of importance to local communities located within or downstream of the Management Unit, and areas within the unit that are particularly unstable or susceptible to erosion. Examples may include protection zones, harvest prescriptions, chemical use restrictions, and/or prescriptions for road construction and maintenance, to protect water catchments and upstream and upslope areas. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore water quality and quantity are in place. Where identified HCV 4 ecosystem services include climate regulation, strategies to maintain or enhance carbon sequestration and storage are in place.
- **HCV 5** – Strategies to protect the community's and/or Indigenous Peoples' needs in relation to the Management Unit are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.
- **HCV 6** – Strategies to protect the cultural values are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

Annex J High Conservation Values framework (Principle 9)

Overarching Best Available Information

The following tables show the types of overarching Best Available Information (BAI) that is applicable for assessments, strategies, and monitoring for all HCVs or specific categories of HCVs. The BAI applies to all Organizations that are not SLIMF. For SLIMFs, the BAI applies where indicated. The purpose of listing overarching BAI here is to avoid having to list it repetitively in the following sections. BAI that is more specific to individual HCV Interpretations is included in the following sections.

Best Available Information for Identifying and Assessing National or Regional HCV Interpretations		SLIMF
All HCV Categories, All Elements	Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and results of field surveys or consultations with stakeholders that are most credible, accurate, complete, and/or pertinent and that can be obtained through reasonable effort and cost, subject to the scale and intensity of the management activities and the Precautionary Approach. High Conservation Value surveys of the Management Unit; relevant databases and maps; culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples, affected rights holders, affected and interested stakeholders, and relevant local and regional experts; FSC Guidelines for the Implementation of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (2021); review of the results by knowledgeable expert(s) independent of The Organization.	X
HCV 2, Element 1, IFLs	Global Forest Watch Intact Forest Landscapes maps (2017) www.globalforestwatch.org , or other maps based on a more recent and accurate Intact Forest Landscapes inventory using a refined methodology.	X
HCV 5, Element 1, and HCV 6, Element 2, Values fundamental to local communities	Culturally appropriate engagement with local communities is the primary BAI for these elements.	X
HCV 5, Element 2, and HCV 6, Element 3, Values fundamental to Indigenous Peoples	Culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples is the primary BAI for these elements.	X

Best Available Information for Developing Management Strategies for National or Regional HCV SLIMF Interpretations

All HCV Categories, All Elements	Identification of threats, using: Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and results of field surveys or consultations with stakeholders that are most credible, accurate, complete, and/or pertinent and that can be obtained through reasonable effort and cost, subject to the scale and intensity of the management activities and the Precautionary Approach. Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, affected rights holders, affected and interested stakeholders, and experts.	X
HCV 5, Element 1, and HCV 6, Element 2, Values fundamental to local communities	Culturally appropriate engagement with local communities is the primary BAI for these elements. The “fundamentality” and “critical... importance” of the resources should also be determined through engagement.	X
HCV 5, Element 2, and HCV 6, Element 3, Values fundamental to Indigenous Peoples	Culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples is the primary BAI for these elements. The “fundamentality” and “critical... importance” of the resources should also be determined through engagement.	X

Best Available Information* for Monitoring National or Regional HCV Interpretations

SLIMF

All HCV Categories, All Elements	BAI includes: Engagement with rights-holders, consistent with Criteria 3.5, 4.5 and 4.7; culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples and affected and interested stakeholders; information on engaging with representatives of the Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities; monitoring conducted by the Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities; and engagement with experts.	X
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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.

All information in the following sections applies to all Organizations. The exception is BAI that is not shown as applicable to SLIMFs; however, the Interpretations, Strategies, and Assessment and Monitoring methods still apply. See also the Overarching BAI listed above.

A. National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 1, for HCV Identification

National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 1:	Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Element 1: Concentrations of biological diversity that are significant at global, regional, or national levels:		
Protected areas, including: National Parks, National Forest Priority Areas, Regional Forest Priority Areas, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Wildlife Reserves, Controlled Hunting Areas, Community Conservation Areas, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves. (Per: EBI; MEFC, 2018; others.), Menagesha Suba National Park, Majang Biosphere Reserve, Lake Tana Biosphere Reserve, Semien Mountain National Parks, Abijata-Shalla National Parks, Babile Elephant Sanctuaries, Omo National Park, Borena National Park, Yango Dirasa National Park, Chebera Churchura National Park, Gambella National Park, Borena Saint National Park, Choke Mountain, Kaffa Biosphere Reserve	For lists and maps, see Protected Areas (see References) and UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (see References). See also: the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute, National Biodiversity strategy and action plan, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and the applicable Regional State Government.	Click or tap here to enter text.
The Bale Mountains massif, including both upper and lower elevations, the Mena-Angetu forest, the Haremma forest, and other areas outside the National Park. (Per: Kimbrough, 2021; Siegel, 2018; WWF, 2004; WWF, 2000.) Kafa,Sheka and Yayu Biosphere reserves “Church forests” (aka sacred groves), including in the central and Northern highlands. (Per: Aerts et al, 2016) Other isolated, relict forest fragments, including dry Afromontane forests. (Per: Aynekulu et al, 2016) Migratory staging areas, breeding areas, hibernation areas, and other significant seasonal concentrations of species.	Key Biodiversity Areas (see References).	Click or tap here to enter text.

National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 1:	Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Per the precautionary approach, other areas that should be considered HCV 1, pending further assessment: Natural forests and other native ecosystems within Key Biodiversity Areas.		
Element 2: Concentrations of endemic species that are significant at global, regional, or national levels:		
Protected areas, the Bale Mountains massif, and church forests (see Element 1), and AZE sites and Ethiopian wolf areas (see Element 3). (Per: Kimbrough, 2021; Siegel, 2018; Foquet et al, 2019) Other significant concentrations of endemic plant or animal species, e.g., populations of an endemic species that is Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, or Near Threatened, and/or populations of multiple endemic species. Bale MNP, Choke Mountain, Semein Mountain, Shalla Lake, Chebera Churchura, Menagesha Suba, Lake Tana Biosphere, Arsi Mountain Parks	See the BAI for these Interpretations, at Elements 1 and 3. For lists of endemic animal species, see IUCN Red List (see References) and applicable national species lists, including: Vivero et al (2005) and wildlife species lists at the EBI, Animal Biodiversity Directorate, National Biodiversity strategy and action plan, (see References).	Click or tap here to enter text.
Per the precautionary approach, other areas that should be considered HCV 1, pending further assessment: Natural forests and other native ecosystems within Endemic Bird Areas.	Endemic Bird Areas (see References).	Click or tap here to enter text.
Element 3: Concentrations of rare, threatened, or endangered species that are significant at global, regional, or national levels:		
Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites: Simien Mountains National Park (for <i>Capra walie</i>), Little Abbai River (for <i>Nilopegamys plumbeus</i>), and Bale Mountains National Park (for <i>Crocidura harena</i>, <i>Tachyoryctes macrocephalus</i>, <i>Altiphrynoides malcolmi</i>, <i>Balebreviceps hillmani</i>, Nyala and Ethiopian Wolf, <i>Minilik bushback</i>, <i>Erythrina brucei</i>, <i>Vepris dainelli</i>, Erica Shrub, <i>Lobelia sp.</i>, giant morelat and <i>Ericabatrachus baleensis</i>. Areas important to Ethiopian wolves and Chelada Baboon: Simien Mountain, North Wollo, South Wollo, Guassa-Menz,	For a map of the sites, see Alliance for Zero Extinction (see References).	Click or tap here to enter text.

National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 1:	Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Arsi Mtns, Bale Mountains. (Per: IUCN, 2011.) Senkelle sanctuaries (swanie heart beastefv) The Gura-Ferda administrative woreda and Kafa, Sheka highland Afromontane forests in Southwest Ethiopia. (Per: Foquet et al, 2019) Other significant occurrences of terrestrial and freshwater plant or animal species listed by the IUCN Red List or national species lists as Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, or Near Threatened. Including occurrences of: any Critically Endangered species, more than 1% of a listed species' population, several or more listed species, and/or listed species in special ecological niches, e.g., wide-ranging carnivores, keystone species, umbrella species, species with very small populations or ranges, and other conservation priority species. Sites with CITES listed animal or plant species.	For lists of rare, threatened, and endangered species, see the IUCN Red List (see References), and applicable national species lists, including: Vivero (2005) and wildlife species lists at the EBI, Animal Biodiversity Directorate (see References). CITES (see References)	

B. Assessments for HCV 1

National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 1 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 1 Interpretations: Identifying occurrences of the HCV 1 Interpretations listed above, along with any other HCV 1 occurrences, is the first, essential part of assessments. For all HCV 1: Other assessment elements include identifying HCV Areas, the condition of the HCVs, and threats to the HCVs. Potential threats include poaching, farm encroachment, Human- wildlife conflicts, fires as a result illegal honey harvesting and illegal tree cutting for timber and building construction. For protected areas: Confirm whether policies and practices effectively protect the area and its HCVs. (Per: EBI, 2022b; others) For additional guidance in identifying and assessing other examples of HCV 1 that may exist in the management unit, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.1, Identification of HCV 1)	See the BAI in Section A and the Overarching BAI, including re. engagement with Indigenous Peoples and rights-holders, and stakeholders interested in HCV conservation. See the BAI in Section A and the Overarching BAI, including re. engagement	Click or tap here to enter text.

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 1

National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 1 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 1 Interpretations: 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. For all HCV 1 Interpretations: Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to develop, expand, and/or restore habitats for such species. For protected areas: Develop and implement management and enforcement plans; establish clear boundary demarcations; educate local communities about the areas' status; where appropriate, use		Click or tap here to enter text.

National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 1 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
community-based planning and management; prevent unauthorized hunting and tree cutting; limit community fuelwood harvest to sustainable levels; address threats from squatting, grazing, illegal clearing for agriculture. (Per: Siegel, 2018; others) For protected areas: Develop and implement management and enforcement plans; establish clear boundary demarcations; educate local communities about the areas' status; where appropriate, use community-based planning and management; prevent unauthorized hunting and tree cutting; limit community fuelwood harvest to sustainable levels; address threats from squatting, grazing, illegal clearing for agriculture. (Per: Siegel, 2018; others) For church forests: Demarcate boundaries and prevent encroachment. Control tree cutting. Support regeneration, including by controlling grazing. Also consider: planting missing species; establishing buffers to reduce edge effects and increase forests' size and resilience; establishing agro-forestry connectivity corridors between forests. (Per: Aerts et al, 2016; AFR100) For the Gura-Ferda administrative woreda and areas within State-owned, communally managed lands: Ensure proper implementation of the 2018 Forest Proclamation granting ownership/tenure rights to communal entities. (Per: Atmadja et al, 2019; Foquet et al, 2019) For endemic and rare, threatened, or endangered species: Implement no hunting policies, except for sustainable levels of traditional harvest by local communities and Indigenous Peoples. Develop and implement species protection plans. Where bushmeat harvest is a threat, use culturally appropriate local education. (Per: Atmadja et al, 2019; Foquet et al, 2019) For areas important to Ethiopian wolves: Control grazing and domestic dogs; work with livestock managers to prevent poisoning; address threats from roads and agricultural conversion. (Per: IUCN, 2011; Siegel, 2018) For endemic, rare, threatened, or endangered tree species: Protect trees from unauthorized harvest, and manage the area to support the species' survival and recovery. Implement Ethiopia's Climate – Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Strategy, Ethiopian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (EBSAP), Ethiopian Forest Development	For examples of connectivity initiatives and support, see AFR100 (see References) Consider the strategies in IUCN (2011). and the Plant-for-Ethiopia project.	

National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 1 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Conservation utilization policy and strategy (2007) and Forest Development Conservation Proclamation (1065/2018). For additional guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 2).	Consider the strategies in MEF (2015). Consider the restocking criteria in Table 3 of MEFC (2018).	

D Monitoring for HCV 1

National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 1 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Monitoring that addresses Criterion 9.4 and its Indicators. Also consider monitoring for changes in internal and external threats to the HCVs. For some HCV Interpretations and occurrences, direct indicators should be used, e.g., field surveys of flora and fauna, or surveillance with drones. For others, indirect indicators may be sufficient and more efficient, e.g., changes in the quantity and quality of habitats for RTE species. Consider co-monitoring with local communities and Indigenous Peoples, including for monitoring of potential impacts and of potential illegal or unauthorized activities in the forest. For co-monitoring examples, see the Iwokrama International Center in Guyana, and the North Rupununi District Development Board in Guyana. Information management systems like SMART may be helpful (https://smartconservationtools.org/) For additional guidance on monitoring programs, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 3, the resources in Annex 1, and the example monitoring techniques in Annex 2). Lucey et al (2023) may also be helpful.	See the Overarching BAI. See the Overarching BAI See the Overarching BAI	Click or tap here to enter text.

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

All information in the following sections applies to all Organizations. The exception is BAI that is not shown as applicable to SLIMFs; however, the Interpretations, Strategies, and Assessment and Monitoring methods still apply. See also the Overarching BAI listed above.

A. National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 2, for HCV Identification

National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 2:	Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Element 1: Intact forest landscapes:		
Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs). Sheka Biosphere Reserve, Gambella National park, Bonga Forest Reserve, Kaffa Biosphere Reserve, Majang Biosphere Reserve	IFL maps for 2017; see Global Forest Watch IFL (see References).	Click or tap here to enter text.
Element 2: Large landscape-level ecosystems 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:		
Bale MNP, Semein MNB, Nono selle Forest, Kafta-Shiraro NP, Gambella NP, Alitash NP, Sheka BR, Yayo BR, Kaffa BR Jelo Muktar Forest, Yegof Natural Natural Forest, Wof Washa Forest, Yayo Biosphere Reserve, Harena Forest, Jibat Forest, The Harena Forest on the Northwest and Southeastern slopes of the Bale Mountains massif. (Per: WWF, 2004) Other relatively intact forest areas of 12,500 ha or larger. (Per: FSC, 2018a) Significant wetlands. Pending further assessment, consider as HCV 2: Flood plains in Tekeze Valley (Tigray), Baro-Akobo (Gambella), Omo-Gibe (South); Awash Valley and swamps of Fogera, Dembia, Beles and Borkena in Amhara region; Dabus River swamps in Beni-Shangul Gumz; highland swamps in Illubabor, Keffa and Wollega Zones and central Shewa highlands; Qumbi swamp, alpine lakes, and crater lakes of Bale Mountains, Ziquala, and Debre-Zeit;	Consider wetlands listed in EWNHS & WI (2018).	Click or tap here to enter text.

National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 2:	Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
swamps of Dubti, Afambo, Gemari and Lake Abe in Afar Region. (Per: EBI, 2022a) Other wetlands that may be significant.		
Element 3: 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:		
Per the precautionary approach, consider as HCV 2, pending further assessment: Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church Forest, Wondo Genet Forest, Chillimo Forest, The Bale Mountains massif, the Gura-Ferda Forest, and other natural forests in Southwestern Ethiopia encompassing a range of elevations and forest and non-forest ecosystems. Also the Sheka Forest Biosphere Reserve and Majang Forest Biosphere Reserves. (Per: Foquet et al, 2019; NABU, 2022) Areas especially important as biological connectivity corridors, e.g., riverine forests, and areas between forest areas across degraded or converted landscapes. Other forest ecosystems forming a significant landscape-level mosaic with other vegetation types used by a diversity of most native species.	For the Sheka and Majang Forest Biosphere Reserves, see UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (see References). Consult with the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (see AFR100 in References).	Click or tap here to enter text.

B. Assessments for HCV 2

National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 2 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 2 Interpretations: Identifying occurrences of the HCV 1 Interpretations listed above, along with any other HCV 1 occurrences, is the first, essential part of assessments.	See the BAI in Section A and the Overarching BAI, including engagement with Indigenous Peoples and rights-holders, and stakeholders interested in HCV conservation.	Click or tap here to enter text.
For all HCV 2: Other assessment elements include identifying HCV Areas, the condition of the HCVs, and threats to the HCVs. Potential threats include poaching, farm encroachment, Human- wildlife	See the BAI in Section A and the Overarching BAI, including re. engagement	

National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 2 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
conflicts, fires as a result illegal honey harvesting and illegal tree cutting for timber and building construction. For Intact Forest Landscapes: Within each IFL, identify any areas that are especially intact or important for RTE species, other species dependent on large intact forest, or connectivity to other IFLs. For additional guidance, see FSC (2020b).	See the Overarching BAI	

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 2

National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 2 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 2 Interpretations: 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. For all HCV 2 Interpretations: Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and reconnect forest ecosystems, their intactness, and habitats that support natural biological diversity are in place. For IFLs: The core area of each Intact Forest Landscape within the Management Unit is protected, comprising at least 80% of the Intact Forest Landscapes within the Management Unit; see Indicators 9.2.5 and 9.2.7 for more detail. When designating and protecting core areas, also follow Figures 7 and 8 of FSC (2020b) For significant wetlands. For guidance and support in restoring and maintaining connectivity corridors. For additional guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 2).	Consider FSC (2020b). Consider the conservation and restoration recommendations in EWNHS & WI (2018). Consult with the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (see AFR100 in References).	Click or tap here to enter text.

D. Monitoring for HCV 2

National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 2 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 2 Interpretations: Monitoring that addresses Criterion 9.4 and its Indicators. Also consider monitoring for changes in internal and external threats to the HCVs. Consider co-monitoring with local communities and Indigenous Peoples, including for monitoring of potential impacts and of potential illegal or unauthorized activities in the forest. (See HCV 1 for more detail.) For additional guidance on monitoring IFLs, consider: FSC (2020b) For additional guidance on monitoring programs, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 3, the resources in Annex 1, and the example monitoring techniques in Annex 2).	See the Overarching BAI See the Overarching BAI	Click or tap here to enter text.

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

All information in the following sections applies to all Organizations. The exception is BAI that is not shown as applicable to SLIMFs; however, the Interpretations, Strategies, and Assessment and Monitoring methods still apply. See also the Overarching BAI listed above.

A. National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 3, for HCV Identification

National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 3:	Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Element 1: Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems:		
Church forests (see HCV 1) and other remaining Afromontane forests in Northern Ethiopia and in the Central and Northern Highlands. (Per: Aerts et al, 2008; Aerts et al, 2016; Cardelus et al, 2013)		
Lowland forests in the Bench-Sheko Zone of Southwest Ethiopia. (Per: NABU, 2022)		
Acacia-Commiphora Woodland Ecosystem. Outside of protected areas, Sub-Afroalpine Ecosystems, Erica-Hypericum Woodlands, Dry Evergreen Montane Forests, Lowland Forest in Eastern Gambella Region. Also, Montane Moist Forest Ecosystems where threatened by conversion to agriculture, coffee and tea plantations, and ineffective Natural/National Forest Priority Area designations. (Per: EBI, 2022b)		
Per the precautionary approach, consider as HCV 3, pending further assessment and ground truthing: Primary forests and other remaining natural forests and woodlands. (Per: Lett, 2019; others)	For a 2001 map of primary forests, see Global Forest Watch – Primary (see References).	
Ecosystems on the IUCN Red List, if any are listed (an assessment is underway). (Per: IUCNRLE, 2022.)	IUCN Red List of Ecosystems (see References).	
Element 2: Rare, threatened, or endangered habitats:		
Bale MNP, Semein MNP, Berga wetland, Abijata-Shalla lakes NP, Gambella.		
Per the precautionary approach, RTE ecosystems listed at Element 1 above, and wetlands listed at HCV 2, should be considered RTE habitats, pending further assessment.		

National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 3:	Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Other habitats and habitat features that are very limited in extent, vulnerable, threatened, and/or important to HCV 1 biodiversity or species.		
Element 3: Refugia:		
Isolated areas that have not experienced extensive human disturbance and that are important to the survival of native plants and animals. Some HCV 1 and HCV 2 Interpretations may function as refugia, e.g., church forests, wetlands, areas important to Ethiopian wolves, portions of some protected areas, Berga Wetland, Chebera Churchura, Abijata-Shalla Lakea NP, Yangu Dirasa.		

B. Assessments for HCV 3

National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 3 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 3: Interpretations: Identifying occurrences of the HCV 1 Interpretations listed above, along with any other HCV 1 occurrences, is the first, essential part of assessments.	See the BAI in Section A and the Overarching BAI, including re. engagement with Indigenous Peoples and rights-holders, and stakeholders interested in HCV conservation.	
For all HCV 3: Other assessment elements include identifying HCV Areas, the condition of the HCVs, and threats to the HCVs. Potential threats include poaching, farm encroachment, Human- wildlife conflicts, trophy hunting, fires as a result illegal honey harvesting and illegal tree cutting for timber and building construction. For guidance in identifying and assessing other examples of HCV 3 that may exist in the management unit, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.3, Identification of HCV 3).		

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 3

National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 3 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 3 Interpretations: Strategies that fully maintain the extent and integrity of rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia. For all HCV 3 Interpretations: Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and/or develop rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia are in place. For remaining natural forest ecosystems: Prevent conversion to grazing, agriculture, and coffee and tea plantations. Limit tree removals and other utilization to sustainable levels. Where appropriate, implement Participatory Forest Management (PFM) and the 2018 Forest Proclamation granting ownership/tenure rights to communal entities. (Per: Hesselden, 2016; EBI 2022b; others) For additional guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 2).		

D. Monitoring for HCV 3

National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 3 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 3 Interpretations: Monitoring that addresses Criterion 9.4 and its Indicators. Also consider monitoring for changes in internal and external threats to the HCVs.”	See the Overarching BAI.	
For some HCV Interpretations and occurrences, direct indicators should be used, e.g., field surveys of the extent and condition of ecosystems and habitat. For others, indirect indicators may be sufficient	See the Overarching BAI.	

National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 3 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
and more efficient, e.g., monitoring of indicator species For additional monitoring guidance on monitoring programs, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 3, the resources in Annex 1 and the example monitoring techniques in Annex 2)		

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.

All information in the following sections applies to all Organizations. The exception is BAI that is not shown as applicable to SLIMFs; however, the Interpretations, Strategies, and Assessment and Monitoring methods still apply. See also the Overarching BAI listed above.

A. National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 4, for HCV Identification

National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 4:	Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Element 1: Water catchments in critical situations: Ziway-Shalla Lakes Water Shed, Upper Abay Sub-basin (Tana Lake), Awash Basin, Genale Dawa basin, “Church forests” (see HCV 1) and other Afromontane forests. (Per: Aerts et al, 2016; Ferede, 2017; Cardelus, 2013) Dry forests, including in Afar, Somali, Tigray, Amhara, and Beishangul-Gomuz Regions, for their function in attracting precipitation and preventing flooding. (Per: Atmadja et al, 2019) Bale Mountains National Park and massif, and other forested mountains and watershed that function as “water towers.” (Per: Siegel, 2018; WWF, 2004; Lett, 2019; Hesselden, 2016) Other watersheds, water bodies, and water sources relied upon by local communities or Indigenous Peoples drinking water, irrigation, or other daily uses, or that are otherwise a priority for water provisioning. (See HCV 5.)		
Element 2: Control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes in critical situations: Afromontane forests. (Per: Solomon et al, 2019). Erosion prone areas, e.g., forest areas on slopes of 15% or greater, and/or forest soils of unstable type. (Per: FSC, 2018a) Forest and woodlands that protect riverbanks. (Per: FSC, 2018a)		

See the BAI for HCV 5.

Soil maps, maps of erodible soils, Ethiopian Basin Authority, Abay basin initiatives, Soil and Water conservation Structures.

National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 4:	Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Element 3: Other ecosystem services in critical situations:		
Carbon storage and sequestration, including in Afromontane forests and woodlands. (Per: FSC, 2018a and 2018b) “Church forests” (see HCV 1) and other Afromontane forests, for temperature and climate regulation, pollinator habitats, fuelwood, livestock feed, etc. (Per: Aerts et al, 2016; Ferede, 2017; Cardelus, 2013)		
“Coffee forests,” i.e., relatively natural forests that are a repository of biodiverse wild coffee species. (Per: Hesselden, 2016; Aerts et al, 2016) Other forests that local communities or Indigenous Peoples rely upon for food and shelter. (See HCV 5) Other ecosystem services in critical situations	See the BAI for HCV 5	

B. Assessments for HCV 4

National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 4 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 4: Interpretations: Identifying occurrences of the HCV 1 Interpretations listed above, along with any other HCV 1 occurrences, is the first, essential part of assessments.	See the BAI in Section A and the Overarching BAI, including re. engagement with Indigenous Peoples and rights-holders, and stakeholders interested in HCV conservation.	
For all HCV 4: Other assessment elements include identifying HCV Areas, the condition of the HCVs, and threats to the HCVs. Potential threats include Soil erosion, Farming into water courses and wetlands, infrastructure development.	See the BAI in Section A and the Overarching BAI, including re. engagement	

National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 4 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For water sources and other areas relied upon by local communities or Indigenous Peoples. For guidance in identifying and assessing other examples of HCV 4 that may exist in the management unit, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.4, Identification of HCV 4). The FSC Ecosystem Services Procedure (FSC, 2019 and 2021b) may also provide helpful guidance.	See the BAI for HCV 5.	

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 4

National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 4 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For water catchments of importance to local communities located within or downstream of the Management Unit, and areas within the unit that are particularly unstable or susceptible to erosion: Protection zones, harvest prescriptions, chemical use restrictions, and/or prescriptions for road construction and maintenance, to protect water catchments and upstream and upslope areas. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore water quality and quantity are in place. For climate regulation: Strategies to maintain or enhance carbon sequestration and storage are in place. For church forests: See the strategies for HCV 1. For other Afromontane forests and dry forests: Prevent conversion to non-forest land uses. (Per: Solomon et al, 2019) For “water towers” and other forested watersheds: Maintain and restore natural forest cover (not eucalyptus), including to maintain and restore groundwater recharge and seasonal water storage functions, and to limit sediment discharge. (Per: Lett, 2019; FSC, 2018a and 2018b)	For additional considerations, see: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 2, including section 2.3.4).	

National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 4 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For coffee forests: See the strategies for HCV 3 and support traditional coffee harvest that maintains canopy cover. (Per: Hesselden, 2016; Aerts et al, 2016) For additional guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 2).		

D. Monitoring for HCV 4

National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 4 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 4 Interpretations: Monitoring that addresses Criterion 9.4 and its Indicators. Also consider monitoring for changes in internal and external threats to the HCVs. For water quality and quantity, soils, and other ecosystem services: See Annex B of FSC (2021b) for basic factors to consider monitoring.” For additional guidance on monitoring programs, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 3, the resources in Annex 1, and the example monitoring techniques in Annex 2).	See the Overarching BAI	

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.

All information in the following sections applies to all Organizations. The exception is BAI that is not shown as applicable to SLIMFs; however, the Interpretations, Strategies, and Assessment and Monitoring methods still apply. See also the Overarching BAI listed above.

A. National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 5, for HCV Identification

National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 5:	Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Element 1: Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.):		
Hot Spring (Ambo, Wolliso, Shebele, Sodere), Konso Soil Conservation structures, Irrecha Culture of the Oromo, Borena Rangeland (Borena Community), Kaffa, Sheka and Ilubabor forests, Gundon Culture. Watersheds, rivers, streams, and other water sources relied upon for drinking, other daily use, or irrigation. Fuelwood, “coffee forests,” dry forests used for harvest of gums and resins (e.g., frankincense, myrrh, gum Arabic), beekeeping trees, and sources of wild fruits and medicinal plants, used for subsistence and subsistence incomes in local communities (not inclusive of unsustainable harvest levels, illegal harvest, poaching, or harvest that harms RTEs or other HCVs). (Per: Lett, 2019; Siegel, 2018; Tadese, 2016; Aerts et al, 2016; Atmadja et al, 2019; Ferede, 2017) Pending further assessment, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves that may be HCV 5: Kafa, Yau, Sheka Forest, Lake Tana, and Majang Forest. (Per: References, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves) Other sites and resources from which local communities satisfy basic needs. For all HCV Interpretations.		
	Culturally appropriate engagement with the local communities. Supplemental BAI may include databases, maps, and community development organizations and professionals.	

National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 5:	Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Element 2: Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of Indigenous Peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.):		
Borena Rangeland, Afar and Somali lowland, Lake Tana (Woito community), Irrecha (Mountains, Lakes, Rivers), Sheka Forest, Gudo Forest (Southwest Ethiopia).	Culturally appropriate engagement with the Indigenous Peoples.	
See the HCV Interpretations for Element 1; some Indigenous Peoples likely rely on the same types of sites and resources.		
Other sites and resources relied upon by Indigenous Peoples.	Culturally appropriate engagement with the Indigenous Peoples.	
For all HCV Interpretations.	Supplemental BAI may include databases, maps, and organizations that represent or provide services for Indigenous Peoples.	

B. Assessments for HCV 5

National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 5 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 5: Identifying occurrences of the HCV 5 Interpretations listed above, along with any other HCV 5 occurrences, is the first, essential part of assessments.	Culturally appropriate engagement with local communities and Indigenous Peoples is the primary BAI. For supplemental BAI, see Section A and the Overarching BAI	
For all HCV 5: Other assessment elements include: engaging with stakeholders interested in HCV conservation, and identifying HCV Areas, the condition of the HCVs, and threats to the HCVs. Potential threats include foreign investors in rural areas without knowledge of local people's cultural values, farm encroachments, Forest fires and restrictions to access sites.	Culturally appropriate engagement with local communities and Indigenous Peoples is the primary BAI. For supplemental BAI, see Section A and the Overarching BAI	

National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 5 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 5 Interpretations: Consider conducting participatory mapping with the local communities or Indigenous Peoples. Consider doing the mapping early in the overall HCV and management planning process, to avoid disturbing culturally sensitive sites. Also consider initiating FPIC conversations before the mapping and assessment process.	The local communities and Indigenous Peoples	
Consider whether specific levels and practices of fuelwood harvest, gum and resin harvest, and other forest utilization are sustaining the resource, and also avoiding harm to biodiversity and other HCVs.		
For additional guidance on assessing HCV 5, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.5, Identification of HCV 5).		

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 5

National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 5 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 5 Interpretations: Strategies to protect the community's and/or Indigenous Peoples' needs in relation to the Management Unit are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of local communities and Indigenous Peoples. For sites and resources related to Indigenous Peoples: Strategies should not assume existing laws recognize or protect Indigenous Peoples' rights. (Per: IWGI, 2022) For coffee forests: See also the strategies at HCV 3 and 4. For dry forests used for gum and resin production: Limit tapping and tree removals to sustainable levels and ensure sufficient regeneration. (Per: Atmadja et al, 2019) For additional guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 2).	The local communities and Indigenous People	

D. Monitoring for HCV 5

National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 5 Interpretations:	Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 5 Interpretations: Monitoring that addresses Criterion 9.4 and its Indicators. Also consider monitoring for changes in internal and external threats to the HCVs.	See the Overarching BAI	
For all HCV 5 Interpretations: Monitoring conducted by or with the local communities or Indigenous Peoples, or using methodologies developed in cooperation with them through culturally appropriate engagement. Monitoring not conducted by the local communities or Indigenous Peoples should be validated by them.	See the Overarching BAI	
For all HCV 5 Interpretations: Factors to consider monitoring include the condition of the sites and resources, whether access is sufficient, whether use levels are sustainable, and the extent and nature of any conflicts regarding the HCV occurrences.	See the Overarching BAI	
For additional guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 3 and the resources in Annex 1).		

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.

All information in the following sections applies to all Organizations. The exception is BAI that is not shown as applicable to SLIMFs; however, the Interpretations, Strategies, and Assessment and Monitoring methods still apply. See also the Overarching BAI listed above.

A. National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 6, for HCV Identification

National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 6:	Best Available Information for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Element 1: Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance:		
Sofumar/(Shek Husein), Hora Harsede, Lalibela Rocheon Church, Axum, Fasil Palace, Hadar of Afar kunture Archeological Site, Melka, Ekebrgia capensis (Sheka), Ficus sychomorus (Oda Oromo), Acacia tortilis (Borena), Gudo, Kodo, traditional site. World Heritage sites designated for cultural, archaeological, or historical values. Pending further assessment, sites proposed for World Heritage status for cultural, archaeological, or historical values. Also Lake Tana Biosphere Reserve, Sheka Forest Biosphere Reserve, Kafa Biosphere reserve, Majang Forest Biosphere reserve, Yayu coffee Biosphere Reserve. Other recognized internationally or nationally important cultural, archaeological, or historical sites, resources, habitats, or landscapes Other internationally or nationally important archaeological sites, not yet recognized. (Per: Walker, 2018; Katz, 2019)	UNESCO World Heritage Sites (see References). UNESCO World Heritage Sites (see References) and UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (see References). Databases and expert organizations (see Stakeholders and Experts List).	
Element 2: Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities:		
Hora Harsede (Irrecha of Oromo, Gudo (Kudo site), Arda Jila –Geda system, The Konso Community Village, Me'e Boku, Sites, resources, habitats, or landscapes of cultural, ecological, economic, or	Culturally appropriate engagement with the local communities. Supplemental BAI may include databases, maps, and experts,	

National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 6:	Best Available Information for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
religious/sacred importance to local communities. For all Interpretations.	e.g., community development organizations.	
Element 3: Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of Indigenous Peoples:		
Borena Community-Yabelo, Awura Amba Community-Awura Amba Community, Konso Community-Traditional Village, Guji community-Me'e Boku. Sites, resources, habitats, or landscapes of cultural, ecological, economic, or religious/sacred importance to Indigenous Peoples. For all Interpretations.	Culturally appropriate engagement with the Indigenous Peoples. Supplemental BAI may include databases, organizations that represent or provide services for Indigenous Peoples, and archaeologists and anthropologists.	

B. Assessments for HCV 6

National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 6 Interpretations:	Best Available Information for assessing occurrences:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 6: Identifying occurrences of the HCV 6 Interpretations listed above, along with any other HCV 6 occurrences, is the first, essential part of assessments.	For Elements 2 and 3, HCVs important to local communities and Indigenous Peoples, culturally appropriate engagement with the communities and Indigenous Peoples is the primary BAI. For Element 1 and supplemental BAI for Elements 2 and 3, see Section A and the Overarching BAI.	
For all HCV 6: Other assessment elements include: engaging with stakeholders interested in HCV conservation; and identifying HCV Areas, the condition of the HCVs, and threats to the HCVs. Potential threats include foreign investors in rural areas without knowledge of local people’s cultural values, farm encroachments, Forest fires and restrictions to access sites.	The BAI in Section A and the Overarching BA	
For Elements 2 and 3, HCVs important to communities and Indigenous Peoples: Consider interactive mapping with the local communities and the Indigenous Peoples. Consider doing the mapping early in the overall HCV and management planning process, to avoid disturbing culturally sensitive sites. Also consider initiating FPIC conversations before the mapping and assessment process.	The communities and Indigenous Peoples, including elders or other members who may have knowledge of sites whose secrecy is to be guarded, e.g., grave sites, sacred sites, etc.	
For archaeological sites not yet recognized: Field surveys by local experts, local elders, and/or experts with field experience. (Per: Walker, 2018)		

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 6

National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 6 Interpretations:	Best Available Information for management strategies:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For HCV occurrences related to Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities: Strategies to protect the cultural values are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of the local communities and the Indigenous Peoples. For HCV occurrences related to Indigenous Peoples: Strategies should not assume existing laws recognize or protect Indigenous Peoples' rights. (Per: IWGI, 2022) For other HCV occurrences (i.e., those identified primarily due to global or national significance), strategies are based on Best Available Information, and considered effective for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV. For additional guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 2).	The local communities and Indigenous Peoples	

D. Monitoring for HCV 6

National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 6 Interpretations:	Best Available Information for monitoring occurrences:	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 6 Interpretations: Monitoring that addresses Criterion 9.4 and its Indicators. Also consider monitoring for changes in internal and external threats to the HCVs.	See the Overarching BAI.	
For HCV occurrences related to local communities or Indigenous Peoples: Monitoring conducted by or with the local communities or Indigenous Peoples, or using methodologies developed in cooperation with them through culturally appropriate engagement. Monitoring not conducted by the local communities or Indigenous Peoples should be validated by them.	See the Overarching BAI	
For all HCV 6 Interpretations: Factors to consider monitoring include the condition of the sites and resources, whether access is sufficient where appropriate, whether the secrecy of the sites is protected where appropriate, and the extent and nature of any conflicts regarding the HCV occurrences.		
For additional guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 3), and the resources in Annex 1.”	See the Overarching BAI	

Examples of Relevant Stakeholders and Experts

(This is a list of stakeholder and expert organizations likely to be relevant to HCV assessments, strategies, and/or monitoring, either in general, or for particular HCV categories or elements. The list is not exhaustive, may need to change over time, and can be updated by standards developers. Where additional stakeholders and experts are relevant to specific management units, they should also be identified and considered by managers.)

Environmental Stakeholders:

- Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS)
- Forests of the World, East Africa Office
- Greenpeace Africa
- Wildlife Conservation Society
- WWF Kenya/ROA Africa t
- Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme
- Gullele Botanic Garden (re. native biological diversity)
- IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO)
- University of Nairobi, Kenya
- Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources

Social Stakeholders and Community Development Organizations:

- Ethio Wetlands and Natural Resources Association (EWNRA)
- Ethiopian Coffee Forest Forum (ECFF)
- Forest Development Cooperatives
- Forest Farmers' Unions
- Konso Development Association (KDA)
- Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC)
- International Development Enterprises, Ethiopia
- Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU).

Other Expert Organizations – Environmental:

- Ethiopian Wolf Conservation Programme
- Gullele Botanic Garden (re. native biological diversity)
- IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO)
- University of Nairobi, Kenya
- Wondo Genet College of Forestry and Natural Resources

Other Expert Organizations – Social:

- Agency for Research and Conservation of the Cultural Heritage
- Department of Archaeology and Heritage Management, University of Addis Ababa
- Department of History and Archaeology, University of Nairobi, Kenya
- Institute of Ethiopian Studies, University of Addis Ababa
- Program for Archaeology and Heritage, Aksum University

Government Agencies:

- Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission (EFCCC)
- Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI)
- Ethiopian Environment and Forest Research Institute (EEFR)
- Ethiopian Geospatial Information Agency
- Federal Environmental Protection Authority
- Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority (EWCA), Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- Authority for Conservation of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- Regional State agencies

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(Relevant references may include weblinks or full references for BAI listed above, as well as supporting references for HCV Interpretations.)

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Annex K International Generic Indicators for the use and risk management of highly hazardous pesticides

10.7.11 A trend of replacement, reduction and/or removal of highly hazardous pesticides over time is demonstrated, or continued use is justified.

10.7.12 Control measures are proactively considered and/or implemented based on the likely impacts of the targeted pest, weed or disease and any intervention threshold to avoid unacceptable impacts on economic, environmental or social values.

10.7.13 Programmes are in place that have specific actions, timelines, targets and resources allocated to conduct, or support, research to identify and test less hazardous alternatives to replace FSC highly restricted highly hazardous pesticides and restricted highly hazardous pesticides.

NOTE: Less hazardous alternatives may include changes to management practices, species choice and tree breeding, biological control agents, non-chemical pesticides or other chemical pesticides.

10.7.14 Risk mitigation measures prioritise avoiding exposure of workers, affected stakeholders and/or environmental values to highly hazardous pesticides.

10.7.15 Risk mitigation measures for workers include the use of appropriate personal protective equipment consistent with FSC-POL-30-001b Personal Protective Equipment.

10.7.16 A pesticides buffer zone is established where a highly hazardous pesticide and/or application method requires one to ensure the protection of environmental values and social values.

10.7.17 An exclusion zone is established where a highly hazardous pesticide and/or application method requires one, as instructed by the label or other applicable sources, to avoid workers and affected stakeholders from being exposed to harm.

10.7.18 The location and duration of such an exclusion zone is communicated in a culturally appropriate manner.

10.7.19 Training programmes (see Criterion 2.5) for the use of highly hazardous pesticides include informing workers of known risks to human health and environmental values, and mitigation measures identified in the Environmental and Social Risk Assessment.

10.7.20 The implementation of risk mitigation measures is monitored.

10.7.21 The exposure of individual workers to highly hazardous pesticides is monitored.

NOTE: Examples of monitoring approaches can include:

- Records of highly hazardous pesticide applications,
- Checks on correct personal protective equipment use,
- Records of reported or observed health effects,
- Medical biomonitoring.

10.7.22 Environmental impacts of highly hazardous pesticide use and changes in environmental condition are monitored.

NOTE: Examples of monitoring approaches can include:

- Records of highly hazardous pesticide applications,
- Records of reported or observed environmental impacts,

- Environmental biomonitoring, e.g. using trigger values for particular organisms or groups of organisms.
- 10.7.23 Environmental and Social Risk Assessment(s), site operational plans, and site-specific risk mitigation and monitoring measures are consistent with safety data sheets (MSDS) and chemical label instructions.
- 10.7.24 Based on monitoring results, corrective action is taken where mitigation measures are not implemented as appropriate, or are not effective in managing risks to human health and environmental values.
- 10.7.25 Harm caused to workers and affected stakeholders by over-exposure to highly hazardous pesticide is treated. When treatment is not possible, fair compensation is provided.
- 10.7.26 Damage caused to environmental values by highly hazardous pesticides is repaired. When repairing damage is not possible, fair compensation is provided.
- 10.7.27 When highly hazardous pesticides are used in an emergency or by government order, use conforms with the procedure for the exceptional use of prohibited highly hazardous pesticides in Annex 3 of FSC-POL-30-001 FSC Pesticides Policy.

NOTE: While Annex 3 of the FSC Pesticides Policy addresses the use of Prohibited highly hazardous pesticides in emergency situations or by government orders, this indicator allows certificate holders to apply the same procedure to restricted highly hazardous pesticides and highly restricted highly hazardous pesticides in these situations, providing a window of thirty (30) days after starting the use of the chemical pesticide in which to complete a site specific Environmental and Social Risk Assessment.

Table. Reference Documents of HHP:

Reference Document	HC 1	HC 2	HC 3	HC 4	HC 5	HC 6	HC 7	HC 8	HC 9	HC 10
FSC POL-30-001a FSC Lists of highly hazardous pesticides (FSC)	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All	All
Global Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (UN)	Pt. 3 Ch 3.1, 3.5, 3.9 & Pt. 4 Ch. 4.2	Pt. 3, Ch. 3.1	Pt. 3, Ch. 3.6	Pt. 3, Ch. 3.5	Pt. 3, Ch. 3.7	Pt. 3, Ch. 3.9			Pt. 3, Ch. 3.8	Pt. 3, Pt. 4
The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard and Guidelines to Classification (WHO, IPCS & IOMC)	Tbl. 1, 6, 7	Tbl. 1, 2, 3, 7	Tbl. 1, 2, 3, 7	Tbl. 1, 2, 3, 7	Tbl. 1, 2, 3, 7	Tbl. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7				
International tools for preventing local pesticide problems: A consolidated guide to chemical codes and conventions (ECSPHR)	Sec. 3, Sec. 5.2.1		Ch. 3, Sec. 4.2.5, 4.3.5 & Ch. 6	Ch. 3, Sec. 4.2.5, 4.3.5 & Ch. 6						
International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management. Guidelines for personal protection when handling and applying pesticides (FAO & WHO)	Pt. 1, Sec. 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 & Annex 6	Pt. 1, Sec. 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 & Annex 6	Pt. 1, Sec. 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 & Annex 6	Pt. 1, Sec. 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 & Annex 6	Pt. 1, Sec. 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 & Annex 6	Pt. 1, Sec. 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 & Annex 6				
International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management. Guidelines on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (FAO & WHO)		Ch. 2,3 & 6			Ch. 2,3 & 6	Ch. 2,3 & 6				
Considerations of assessing the risks of combined exposure to multiple chemicals. Series on testing and assessment. No 296. 2018 (OECD)							Ch. 7			
WHO IPCS Integrated Risk Assessment (WHO)							All	Ch. 7		
Metabolites impact on non – target arthropods and pollinators								All		
International Code of Practice for use of pesticides (WHO)									All	All
Strategic Approach to International Chemicals management (UNEP)									All	All

Pt = Part, Ch = Chapter, Tbl = Table, Sec = Section, UN = United Nation, WHO = World Health Organization, IPCS = International Programme on Chemical Safety, IOMC = Inter-organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, ECSPHR = European Centre on Sustainable Policies for Human and Environmental Rights, FAO = Food and Agriculture Organization, OECD = Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and UNEP = United Nations Environment Program

Annex L Glossary of terms

Normative definitions for terms are given in FSC-STD-01-002 *FSC Glossary of Terms* apply. This glossary includes internationally accepted definitions whenever possible. These sources include, for instance, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) as well as definitions from online glossaries as provided on the websites of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Invasive Alien Species Programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity. When other sources have been used they are referenced accordingly.

The term 'based on' means that a definition was adapted from an existing definition as provided in an international source.

Words used in the International Generic *Indicators**, if not defined in this Glossary of Terms or other normative FSC documents, are used as defined in the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary or the Concise Oxford Dictionary.

Active ingredient: Part of the product that provides the pesticidal action (Source: FAO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management).

Adaptive management: A systematic process of continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of existing measures (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, based on International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website).

Additionality:

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

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

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

Affected Rights Holder: Persons and groups, including Indigenous Peoples, traditional peoples and local communities with legal or customary rights whose free, prior and informed consent is required to determine management decisions.

Affected stakeholder: Any person, group of persons or entity that is or is likely to be subject to the effects of the activities of a Management Unit. Examples include, but are not restricted to (for example in the case of downstream landowners), persons, groups of persons or entities located in the neighbourhood of the Management Unit. The following are examples of affected stakeholders:

- Local communities
- Indigenous Peoples
- Workers
- Forest dwellers
- Neighbours
- Downstream landowners
- Local processors

- Local businesses
- Tenure and use rights holders, including landowners
- Organizations authorized or known to act on behalf of affected stakeholders, for example social and environmental NGOs, labour unions, etc.

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

Affirmative action: A policy or a program that seeks to redress past discrimination through active measures to ensure equal opportunity, as in education and employment (Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017).

Alien species: A species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce (Source: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Invasive Alien Species Programme. Glossary of Terms as provided on CBD website).

Applicable law: Means applicable to The Organization as a legal person or business enterprise in or for the benefit of the Management Unit and those laws which affect the implementation of the FSC Principles and Criteria. This includes any combination of statutory law (Parliamentary-approved) and case law (court interpretations), subsidiary regulations, associated administrative procedures, and the national constitution (if present) which invariably takes legal precedence over all other legal instruments (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Aquifer: A formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that contains sufficient saturated permeable material to yield significant quantities of water to wells and springs for that unit to have economic value as a source of water in that region. (Source: Gratzfeld, J. 2003. Extractive Industries in Arid and Semi-Arid Zones. World Conservation Union (IUCN)).

Best Available Information: Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and results of field surveys or consultations with stakeholders that are most credible, accurate, complete, and/or pertinent and that can be obtained through reasonable effort and cost, subject to the scale and intensity of the management activities and the Precautionary Approach.

Binding Agreement: A deal or pact, written or not, which is compulsory to its signatories and enforceable by law. Parties involved in the agreement do so freely and accept it voluntarily.

Biological control agents: Organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other organisms (Source: Based on FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0 and World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website).

Biological diversity: The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (Source: Convention on Biological Diversity 1992, Article 2).

Chemical pesticide: Synthetically produced pesticide (Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0).

Child: any person under the age of 18 (ILO Convention 182, Article 2).

Collective bargaining: a voluntary negotiation process between employers or employers' organization and workers' organization, with a view to the regulation of terms and conditions of employment by means of collective agreements (ILO Convention 98, Article 4).

Confidential information: Private facts, data and content that, if made publicly available, might put at risk The Organization, its business interests or its relationships with stakeholders, clients and competitors.

Conflicts between the Principles and Criteria and laws: Situations where it is not possible to comply with the Principles and Criteria and a law at the same time (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Connectivity: A measure of how connected or spatially continuous a corridor, network, or matrix is. The fewer gaps, the higher the connectivity. Related to the structural connectivity concept; functional or behavioural connectivity refers to how connected an area is for a process, such as an animal moving through different types of landscape elements. Aquatic connectivity deals with the accessibility and transport of materials and organisms, through groundwater and surface water, between different patches of aquatic ecosystems of all kinds. (Source: Based on R.T.T. Forman. 1995. Land Mosaics. The Ecology of Landscapes and Regions. Cambridge University Press, 632pp).

Conservation Areas Network: Those portions of the Management Unit for which conservation is the primary and, in some circumstances, exclusive objective; such areas include representative sample areas, conservation zones, protection areas, connectivity areas and High Conservation Value Areas.

Conservation/Protection: These words are used interchangeably when referring to management activities designed to maintain the identified environmental or cultural values in existence long-term. Management activities may range from zero or minimal interventions to a specified range of appropriate interventions and activities designed to maintain, or compatible with maintaining, these identified values (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Conservation zones and protection areas: Defined areas that are designated and managed primarily to safeguard species, habitats, ecosystems, natural features or other site-specific values because of their natural environmental or cultural values, or for purposes of monitoring, evaluation or research, not necessarily excluding other management activities. For the purposes of the Principles and Criteria, these terms are used interchangeably, without implying that one always has a higher degree of conservation or protection than the other. The term 'protected area' is not used for these areas, because this term implies legal or official status, covered by national regulations in many countries. In the context of the Principles and Criteria, management of these areas should involve active conservation, not passive protection' (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Conversion: A lasting change of natural forest cover or High Conservation Value areas, induced by human activity. This may be characterized by significant loss of species diversity, habitat diversity, structural complexity, ecosystem functionality or livelihoods and cultural values. The definition of conversion covers gradual forest degradation as well as rapid forest transformation (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

- **Induced by human activity:** In contrast to drastic changes caused by natural calamities like hurricanes or volcanic eruptions. It also applies in cases of naturally ignited fires where human activities (e.g. draining of peatlands) have significantly increased the risk of fire.
- **Lasting change of natural forest cover:** Permanent or long-term change of natural forest cover. Temporary changes of forest cover or structure (e.g. harvesting followed by regeneration in accordance with the FSC normative framework) is not considered conversion.
- **Lasting change of High Conservation Value (HCV) areas:** Permanent or long-term change of any of the High Conservation Values. Temporary changes of HCV areas that do not negatively and permanently impact the values (e.g. harvesting followed by regeneration in accordance with Principle 9) is not considered a lasting change.
- **Significant loss of species diversity:** Loss of species is considered significant where rare species and threatened species or other locally important, keystone and/or flagship species are lost, whether in terms of numbers of individuals or in terms of number of species. This refers to both displacement and extinction.

NOTE: The establishment of ancillary infrastructure necessary to implement the objectives of responsible forest management (e.g. forest roads, skid trails, log landings, fire protection, etc.) is not considered conversion.

Conversion Threshold: The point at which degradation and/or clearing has occurred to an extent where recovery to natural forest conditions and/or High Conservation Value Areas is unlikely to be achieved without direct intervention (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

NOTE: Examples of direct intervention include but are not limited to removal of exotic species, physical protection of existing remnant native vegetation, re-wetting of drained soils, reintroduction of appropriate native species, and reintroduction of High Conservation Value species where suitable habitat remains or is re-established.

Core area: The portion of each Intact Forest Landscape designated to contain the most important cultural and ecological values. Core areas are managed to exclude industrial activity. Core Areas meet or exceed the definition of Intact Forest Landscape.

Criterion (pl. Criteria): A means of judging whether or not a Principle (of forest stewardship) has been fulfilled (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0).

Critical: The concept of criticality or fundamentality in Principle 9 and HCVs relates to irreplaceability and to cases where loss or major damage to this HCV would cause serious prejudice or suffering to affected stakeholders. An ecosystem service is considered to be critical (HCV 4) where a disruption of that service is likely to cause, or poses a threat of, severe negative impacts on the welfare, health or survival of local communities, on the environment, on HCVs, or on the functioning of significant infrastructure (roads, dams, buildings etc.). The notion of criticality here refers to the importance and risk for natural resources and environmental and socio-economic values (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Critical population density: Maximum acceptable number or density of individuals in a pest population, beyond which the pest threatens the achievement of management objectives. Assessment of the critical population density should take into account historical records from the affected area, the type of pest (insects, weeds, pathogens, etc.), and how the pest population is likely to change in relation to its density, including situations in which small populations show a positive relationship between population density and growth rate (the Allee effect). (Based on: International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and use of Pesticides 2006).

Culturally appropriate [mechanisms]: Means/approaches for outreach to target groups that are in harmony with the customs, values, sensitivities, and ways of life of the target audience.

Customary law: Interrelated sets of customary rights may be recognized as customary law. In some jurisdictions, customary law is equivalent to statutory law, within its defined area of competence and may replace the statutory law for defined ethnic or other social groups. In some jurisdictions customary law complements statutory law and is applied in specified circumstances (Source: Based on N.L. Peluso and P. Vandergeest. 2001. Genealogies of the political forest and customary rights in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, Journal of Asian Studies 60(3):761–812).

Customary rights: Rights which result from a long series of habitual or customary actions, constantly repeated, which have, by such repetition and by uninterrupted acquiescence, acquired the force of a law within a geographical or sociological unit (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Degradation: Changes within a natural forest or High Conservation Value area that significantly and negatively affect its species composition, structure and/or function, and reduces the ecosystem's capacity to supply products, support biodiversity and/or deliver ecosystem services (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

Direct involvement: Situations in which the associated organization or individual is first-hand responsible for the unacceptable activities (Source: FSC-POL-01-004 V2-0).

Discrimination: includes- a) any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction, social origin, sexual orientation, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation; b) such other

distinction, exclusion or preference which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation as may be determined by the Member concerned after consultation with representative employers' and workers' organization where such exist, and with other appropriate bodies (adapted from ILO Convention 111, Article1). 'Sexual orientation' was added to the definition provided in Convention 111, as it has been identified as an additional type of discrimination which may occur.

Dispute: for the purpose of the IGI, this is an expression of dissatisfaction by any person or organization presented as a complaint to The Organization, relating to its management activities or its conformity with the FSC Principles and Criteria, where a response is expected (Source: based on FSC-PRO-01-005 V3-0 Processing Appeals).

Dispute of substantial duration: Dispute that continues for more than twice as long as the predefined timelines in the FSC System (this is, for more than 6 months after receiving the complaint, based on FSC-STD-20-001).

Dispute of substantial magnitude For the purpose of the International Generic Indicators, a dispute of substantial magnitude is a dispute that involves one or more of the following:

- Affects the legal or customary rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
- Where the negative impact of management activities is of such a scale that it cannot be reversed or mitigated;
- Physical violence;
- Destruction of property;
- Presence of military bodies;
- Acts of intimidation against forest workers and stakeholders.

This list should be adapted or expanded by Standard Developers.

Due consideration: To give such weight or significance to a particular factor as under the circumstances it seems to merit, and this involves discretion (Black's Law Dictionary, 1979).

Economic viability: The capability of developing and surviving as a relatively independent social, economic or political unit. Economic viability may require but is not synonymous with profitability (Source: Based on the definition provided on the website of the European Environment Agency).

Eco-regional: Large unit of land or water containing a geographically distinct assemblage of species, natural communities, and environmental conditions (Source: WWF Global 200. http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/ecoregions/about/what_is_an_ecoregion/).

Ecosystem: A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit (Source: Convention on Biological Diversity 1992, Article 2).

Ecosystem function: An intrinsic ecosystem characteristic related to the set of conditions and processes whereby an ecosystem maintains its integrity (such as primary productivity, food chain, biogeochemical cycles). Ecosystem functions include such processes as decomposition, production, nutrient cycling, and fluxes of nutrients and energy. For FSC purposes, this definition includes ecological and evolutionary processes such as gene flow and disturbance regimes, regeneration cycles and ecological seral development (succession) stages. (Source: Based on R. Hassan, R. Scholes and N. Ash. 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Series. Island Press, Washington DC; and R.F. Noss. 1990. Indicators for monitoring biodiversity: a hierarchical approach. Conservation Biology 4(4):355–364).

Ecosystem services: The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include:

- provisioning services such as food, forest products and water;
- regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, air quality, climate and disease;
- supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and
- cultural services and cultural values such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other non-material benefits.

(Source: Based on R. Hassan, R. Scholes and N. Ash. 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Series. Island Press, Washington DC).

Emergency: A situation that requires immediate action to control the sudden invasion or infestation of a pest, which threatens either long-term stability of the ecosystem, human well-being or economic viability.

Events that happen cyclically and scenarios which are predicted through planning, monitoring or the application of an integrated pest management system cannot be considered an emergency.

For the purpose of the FSC Pesticides Policy, emergency situations require immediate action and cannot feasibly be controlled by a less hazardous alternative. (Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0).

Employment and Occupation: includes access to vocational training, access to employment and to particular occupations, and terms and conditions of employment (ILO Convention 111, Article1.3).

Engaging / engagement: The process by which The Organization communicates, consults and/or provides for the participation of interested and/or affected stakeholders ensuring that their concerns, desires, expectations, needs, rights and opportunities are considered in the establishment, implementation and updating of the management plan (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Environmental and social risk assessment (ESRA): A process to predict, assess and review the likely or actual environmental and social effects of a well-defined action, evaluate alternatives, and design appropriate mitigation, management and monitoring measures.

In the context of the FSC Pesticides Policy, it relates to chemical pesticide use (Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0).

Environmental biomonitoring: Act of observing and assessing the state and ongoing changes in ecosystems, components of biodiversity and landscape, including the types of natural habitats, populations and species. (Source: Encyclopaedia of Toxicology (Third Edition, 2014)).

Environmental harm: Any impact on the environment values as a result of human activity that has the effect of degrading the environment, whether temporarily or permanently (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Systematic process used to identify potential environmental and social impacts of proposed projects, to evaluate alternative approaches, and to design and incorporate appropriate prevention, mitigation, management and monitoring measures (Source: based on Environmental impact assessment, guidelines for FAO field projects. Food and agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO). Rome,-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Environmental values: The following set of elements of the biophysical and human environment:

- ecosystem functions (including carbon sequestration and storage);
- biological diversity;
- water resources;
- soils;

- atmosphere;
- landscape values (including cultural and spiritual values).

The actual worth attributed to these elements depends on human and societal perceptions (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value: refers to rates of remuneration established without discrimination based on sex (ILO Convention 100, Article 1b).

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

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

Exclusion zone: Area in which chemical pesticides are used, and which people are prevented from entering during and after pesticide application in order to avoid unacceptable risk of exposure. The exclusion zone remains in force until the risk of exposure has reduced to an acceptable level (the period of re-entry).

Externalities: The positive and negative impacts of activities on stakeholders that are not directly involved in those activities, or on a natural resource or the environment, which do not usually enter standard cost accounting systems, such that the market prices of the products of those activities do not reflect the full costs or benefits (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Fair compensation: Remuneration that is proportionate to the magnitude and type of services rendered by another party or of the harm that is attributable to the first party.

Fertilizer: Mineral or organic substances, most commonly N, P₂O₅ and K₂O, which are applied to soil for the purpose of enhancing plant growth.

Fibre Testing: a suite of wood identification technologies used to identify the family, genus, species and origin of solid wood and fibre based products.

Focal species: Species whose requirements for persistence define the attributes that must be present if that landscape is to meet the requirements of the species that occur there (Source: Lambeck, R., J. 1997. Focal Species: A multi-species Umbrella for Nature Conservation. Conservation Biology Vol 11 (4): 849-856.).

Forced or compulsory labour: work or service exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself/ herself voluntarily (ILO Convention 29, Article 2.1)

Forest: A tract of land dominated by trees (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0. Derived from FSC Guidelines for Certification Bodies, Scope of Forest Certification, Section 2.1 first published in 1998, and revised as FSC-GUI-20-200 in 2005, and revised again in 2010 as FSC-DIR-20-007 FSC Directive on Forest Management Evaluations, ADVISE-20-007-01).

Formal and informal workers organization: association or union of workers, whether recognized by law or by The Organization or neither, which have the aim of promoting workers rights and to represent workers in dealings with The Organization particularly regarding working conditions and compensation.

Fragmentation: The process of dividing habitats into smaller patches, which results in the loss of original habitat, loss in connectivity, reduction in patch size, and increasing isolation of patches. Fragmentation is considered to be one of the single most important factors leading to loss of native species, especially in forested landscapes, and one of the primary causes of the present extinction crisis. In reference to Intact

Forest Landscapes, the fragmentation of concern is understood to be that caused by human industrial activities. (SOURCE: Adapted from: Gerald E. Heilman, Jr. James R. Strittholt Nicholas C. Slosser Dominick A. Dellasala, BioScience (2002) 52 (5): 411-422.)

Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC): A legal condition whereby a person or community can be said to have given consent to an action prior to its commencement, based upon a clear appreciation and understanding of the facts, implications and future consequences of that action, and the possession of all relevant facts at the time when consent is given. Free, prior and informed consent includes the right to grant, modify, withhold or withdraw approval (Source: Based on the Preliminary working paper on the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples (...) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2004/4 8 July 2004) of the 22nd Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 19–23 July 2004).

FSC Transaction: Purchase or sale of products with FSC claims on sales documents (Source: ADV-40-004-14).

Gender equality: Gender equality or gender equity means that women and men have equal conditions for realizing their full human rights and for contributing to, and benefiting from, economic, social, cultural and political development (Source: Adapted from FAO, IFAD and ILO workshop on 'Gaps, trends and current research in gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment: differentiated pathways out of poverty', Rome, 31 March to 2 April 2009.).

Genetically modified organism: An organism in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination. (Source: Based on FSC-POL-30-602 FSC Interpretation on GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms)).

Genotype: The genetic constitution of an organism (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Good faith: A process of engagement where the parties make every effort to reach an agreement, conduct genuine and constructive negotiations, avoid delays in negotiations, respect agreements concluded and under development, and give sufficient time to discuss and settle disputes (adapted from Motion 40:2017).

Good Faith in negotiation: The Organization (employer) and workers' organizations make every effort to reach an agreement, conduct genuine and constructive negotiations, avoid unjustified delays in negotiations, respect agreements concluded and give sufficient time to discuss and settle collective disputes (Gerning B, Odero A, Guido H (2000), Collective Bargaining: ILO Standards and the Principles of the Supervisory Bodies. International Labour Office, Geneva).

Governmental order: The use of a specific chemical pesticide is ordered or carried out by governmental authorities independent of the Organization (Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0).

Grassland: Land covered with herbaceous plants with less than 10% tree and shrub cover (Source: UNEP, cited in FAO. 2002. Second Expert Meeting on Harmonizing Forest-Related Definitions for use by various stakeholders).

Habitat: The place or type of site where an organism or population occurs (Source: Based on the Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 2).

Habitat features: Forest stand attributes and structures, including but not limited to:

- Old commercial and non-commercial trees whose age noticeably exceeds the average age of the main canopy;
- Trees with special ecological value;
- Vertical and horizontal complexity;
- Standing dead trees;

- Dead fallen wood;
- Forest openings attributable to natural disturbances;
- Nesting sites;
- Small wetlands, bogs, fens;
- Ponds;
- Areas for procreation;
- Areas for feeding and shelter, including seasonal cycles of breeding;
- Areas for migration;
- Areas for hibernation.

Hazardous work (in the context of child labour): any work which is likely to jeopardize children's physical, mental or moral health, should not be undertaken by anyone under the age of 18 years. Hazardous child labour is work in dangerous, or unhealthy conditions that could result in a child being killed or injured/maimed (often permanently) and/or made ill (often permanently) as a consequence of poor safety and health standards and working arrangements.

In determining the type of hazard child labour referred to under (Article 3(d) of the Convention No 182, and in identifying where they exist, consideration should be given, inter alia, to

- Work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse;
- Work underground, under water at dangerous heights or in confined spaces;
- Work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads;
- Work in unhealthy environment which may, for examples, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health;
- Work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer (ILO, 2011: IPEC Mainstreaming Child labour concerns in education sector plans and Programmes, Geneva, 2011& ILO Handbook on Hazardous child labour, 2011).

Heavy work (in the context of child labour): refers to work that is likely to be harmful or dangerous to children's health (Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017).

High Conservation Value (HCV): Any of the following values:

- **HCV1:** Species Diversity. Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.
- **HCV 2:** Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics. Intact Forest Landscapes, large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- **HCV 3:** Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.
- **HCV 4:** Critical ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.
- **HCV 5:** Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or Indigenous Peoples (for example for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water), identified through engagement with these communities or Indigenous Peoples.

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

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

NOTE: The HCV concept applies to all ecosystems, including HCV areas in savannahs, grasslands, peatlands and wetlands - not only to natural forests and forest plantations.

High Conservation Value Areas: Zones and physical spaces which possess and/or are needed for the existence and maintenance of identified High Conservation Values.

High grading: High grading is a tree removal practice in which only the best quality, most valuable timber trees are removed, often without regenerating new tree seedlings or removing the remaining poor quality and suppressed understory trees and, in doing so, degrading the ecological health and commercial value of the forest. High grading stands as a counterpoint to sustainable resource management (Source: based on Glossary of Forest Management Terms. North Carolina Division of Forest Resources. March 2009).

Highly hazardous pesticide (HHP): chemical pesticides that are acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health and environment according to internationally accepted classification systems or are listed in relevant binding international agreements or conventions, or contain dioxins, or heavy metals. In addition, pesticides that appear to cause severe or irreversible harm to health or the environment under conditions of use in a country may be considered to be and treated as highly hazardous.

FSC distinguishes between FSC prohibited HHPs, FSC highly restricted HHPs and FSC restricted HHPs:

- **FSC prohibited HHPs:** chemical pesticides that: a) are listed or recommended for listing under Annex A (elimination) of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants or Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure or listed under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, or b) are acutely toxic and that can induce cancer (carcinogenic and likely to be carcinogenic), or c) contain dioxins or d) contain heavy metals).
- **FSC highly restricted HHPs:** chemical pesticide presenting two or three out of the following hazards: acute toxicity, chronic toxicity and environmental toxicity.
- **FSC restricted HHPs:** chemical pesticide presenting one out of three of the following hazards: acute toxicity, chronic toxicity and environmental toxicity.

(Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0).

ILO Committee on Freedom of Association: a Governing Body Committee set up in 1951, for the purpose of examining complaints about violations of freedom of association, whether or not the country concerned had ratified the relevant conventions. Is composed of an independent chairperson and three representatives each of governments, employers, and workers. If it decides to receive the case, it establishes the facts in dialogue with the government concerned. If it finds that there has been a violation of freedom of association standards or principles, it issues a report through the Governing Body and makes recommendations on how the situation could be remedied. Governments are subsequently requested to report on the implementation of its recommendations (Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017).

ILO Core (Fundamental) Conventions: these are labour standards that cover fundamental principles and rights at work: freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

The eight Fundamental Conventions are:

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

Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017.

ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, adopted by the International Labour conference at its Eighty-sixth Session, Geneva, 18th June 1998 (Annex revised 15 June 2010): is a resolute reaffirmation of ILO principles (art 2) which declares that all Members, even if they have not ratified the Conventions in question, have an obligation, arising from the very fact of membership in the organization, to respect, to promote and to realize, in good faith and in accordance with the Constitution, the principles concerning the fundamental rights which are the subject of those Conventions, namely:

- Freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- The elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour;
- The effective abolition of child labour; and
- The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017.

Indicator: A quantitative or qualitative variable which can be measured or described, and which provides a means of judging whether a Management Unit complies with the requirements of an FSC Criterion. Indicators and the associated thresholds thereby define the requirements for responsible forest management at the level of the Management Unit and are the primary basis of forest evaluation (Source: FSC-STD-01-002 V1-0 FSC Glossary of Terms (2009)).

Indigenous cultural landscapes: Indigenous cultural landscapes are living landscapes to which Indigenous Peoples attribute environmental, social, cultural and economic value because of their enduring relationship with the land, water, fauna, flora and spirits and their present and future importance to their cultural identity. An Indigenous cultural landscape is characterized by features that have been maintained through long-term interactions based on land-care knowledge, and adaptive livelihood practices. They are landscapes over which Indigenous Peoples exercise responsibility for stewardship.

NOTE: The adoption of the term Indigenous cultural landscapes is voluntary by Standard Development Groups. Standard Development Groups may choose not to use it. Through Free Prior and Informed Consent Indigenous Peoples may choose to use different terminology

Indigenous Peoples: People and groups of people that can be identified or characterized as follows:

- The key characteristic or Criterion is self-identification as Indigenous Peoples at the individual level and acceptance by the community as their member;
- Historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies;
- Strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources;
- Distinct social, economic or political systems;

- Distinct language, culture and beliefs;
- Form non-dominant groups of society;
- Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities.

(Source: Adapted from United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous, Factsheet 'Who are Indigenous Peoples' October 2007; United Nations Development Group, 'Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues' United Nations 2009, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 13 September 2007).

Indirect involvement: Situations in which the associated organization or individual, with a minimum ownership or voting power of 51%, is involved as a parent or sister company, subsidiary, shareholder or Board of Directors to an organization directly involved in unacceptable activities. Indirect involvement also includes activities performed by subcontractors when acting on behalf of the associated organization or individual (Source: FSC-POL-01-004 V2-0).

Industrial activity: Industrial forest and resource management activities such as road building, mining, dams, urban development and timber harvesting.

Infrastructure: In the context of forest management, roads, bridges, culverts, log landings, quarries, impoundments, buildings and other structures required in the course of implementing the management plan.

Intact Forest Landscape: a territory within today's global extent of forest cover which contains forest and non-forest ecosystems minimally influenced by human economic activity, with an area of at least 500 km² (50,000 ha) and a minimal width of 10 km (measured as the diameter of a circle that is entirely inscribed within the boundaries of the territory) (Source: Intact Forests / Global Forest Watch. Glossary definition as provided on Intact Forest website. 2006-2014).

Integrated pest management (IPM): Careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations, encourage beneficial populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human and animal health and/or the environment. IPM emphasizes the growth of a healthy forest with the least possible disruption to ecosystems and encourages natural pest control mechanisms (Source: Based on *FAO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management*).

Intellectual property: Practices as well as knowledge, innovations and other creations of the mind (Source: Based on the Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 8(j); and World Intellectual Property Organization. What is Intellectual Property? WIPO Publication No. 450(E)).

Intensity: A measure of the force, severity or strength of a management activity or other occurrence affecting the nature of the activity's impacts (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Interested stakeholder: Any person, group of persons, or entity that has shown an interest, or is known to have an interest, in the activities of a Management Unit. The following are examples of interested stakeholders.

- Conservation organizations, for example environmental NGOs;
- Labor (rights) organizations, for example labor unions;
- Human rights organizations, for example social NGOs;
- Local development projects;
- Local governments;
- National government departments functioning in the region;

- FSC National Offices;
- Experts on particular issues, for example High Conservation Values.
- (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Internationally accepted scientific protocol: A predefined science-based procedure which is either published by an international scientific network or union, or referenced frequently in the international scientific literature (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Intervention threshold: Population density level where the controlling measures of the targeted pest should start. It is determined in the IPM system and it is usually lower than the critical population density level.

Invasive species: Species that are rapidly expanding outside of their native range. Invasive species can alter ecological relationships among native species and can affect ecosystem function and human health (Source: Based on World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website).

Lands and territories: For the purposes of the Principles and Criteria these are lands or territories that Indigenous Peoples or local communities have traditionally owned, or customarily used or occupied, and where access to natural resources is vital to the sustainability of their cultures and livelihoods (Source: Based on World Bank safeguard OP 4.10 Indigenous Peoples, section 16 (a). July 2005.).

Landscape: A geographical mosaic composed of interacting ecosystems resulting from the influence of geological, topographical, soil, climatic, biotic and human interactions in a given area (Source: Based on World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website).

Landscape values: Landscape values can be visualized as layers of human perceptions overlaid on the physical landscape. Some landscape values, like economic, recreation, subsistence value or visual quality are closely related to physical landscape attributes. Other landscape values such as intrinsic or spiritual value are more symbolic in character and are influenced more by individual perception or social construction than physical landscape attributes (Source: Based on website of the Landscape Value Institute).

Legal: In accordance with primary legislation (national or local laws) or secondary legislation (subsidiary regulations, decrees, orders, etc.). 'Legal' also includes rule-based decisions made by legally competent agencies where such decisions flow directly and logically from the laws and regulations. Decisions made by legally competent agencies may not be legal if they do not flow directly and logically from the laws and regulations and if they are not rule-based but use administrative discretion (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

Legal registration: National or local legal license or set of permissions to operate as an enterprise, with rights to buy and sell products and/or services commercially. The license or permissions can apply to an individual, a privately-owned enterprise or a publicly-owned corporate entity. The rights to buy and sell products and/or services do not carry the obligation to do so, so *legal* registration applies also to Organizations operating a Management Unit without sales of products or services; for example, for unpriced recreation or for conservation of biodiversity or habitat (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Legal status: The way in which the Management Unit is classified according to law. In terms of tenure, it means the category of tenure, such as communal land or leasehold or freehold or State land or government land, etc. If the Management Unit is being converted from one category to another (for example, from State land to communal indigenous land) the status includes the current position in the transition process. In terms of administration, legal status could mean that the land is owned by the nation as a whole, is administered on behalf of the nation by a government department, and is leased by a government Ministry to a private sector operator through a concession (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Light work: national laws or regulations may permit the employment or work of persons 13 to 15 years of age on light work which is- a) not likely to be harmful to their health or development; and b) not such as to prejudice their attendance at school, their participation in vocational orientation or training programmes approved by the competent authority or their capacity to benefit from the instruction received (ILO Convention 138, Article 7).

Living wage: The remuneration received for a standard work week by a worker in a particular place sufficient to afford a decent standard of living for the worker and her or his family. Elements of a decent standard of living include food, water, housing, education, health care, transport, clothing, and other essential needs including provision for unexpected events (Source: A Shared Approach to a Living Wage. ISEAL Living Wage Group. November 2013).

Local communities: Communities of any size that are in or adjacent to the Management Unit, and also those that are close enough to have a significant impact on the economy or the environmental values of the Management Unit or to have their economies, rights or environments significantly affected by the management activities or the biophysical aspects of the Management Unit (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Local laws: The whole suite of primary and secondary laws (acts, ordinances, statutes, decrees) which is limited in application to a particular geographic district within a national territory, as well as secondary regulations, and tertiary administrative procedures (rules / requirements) that derive their authority directly and explicitly from these primary and secondary laws. Laws derive authority ultimately from the Westphalian concept of sovereignty of the Nation State (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Long-term: The time-scale of the forest owner or manager as manifested by the objectives of the management plan, the rate of harvesting, and the commitment to maintain permanent forest cover. The length of time involved will vary according to the context and ecological conditions, and will be a function of how long it takes a given ecosystem to recover its natural structure and composition following harvesting or disturbance, or to produce mature or primary conditions (Source: FSC-STD-01-002 V1-0 FSC Glossary of Terms (2009)).

Management objective: Specific management goals, practices, outcomes, and approaches established to achieve the requirements of this standard.

Management plan: The collection of documents, reports, records and maps that describe, justify and regulate the activities carried out by any manager, staff or organization within or in relation to the Management Unit, including statements of objectives and policies (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Management plan monitoring: Follow up and oversight procedures for the purpose of evaluating the achievement of the management objectives. The results of the monitoring activities are utilized in the implementation of adaptive management.

Management Unit: A spatial area or areas submitted for FSC certification with clearly defined boundaries managed to a set of explicit long term management objectives which are expressed in a management plan. This area or areas include(s):

- all facilities and area(s) within or adjacent to this spatial area or areas under legal title or management control of, or operated by or on behalf of The Organization, for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives; and
- all facilities and area(s) outside, and not adjacent to this spatial area or areas and operated by or on behalf of The Organization, solely for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives.

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

Managerial control: Responsibility of the kind defined for corporate directors of commercial enterprises in national commercial law, and treated by FSC as applicable also to public sector organizations (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Medical Biomonitoring: Analysis of a chemical pesticide or one of its metabolites in the human body, using samples of substances such as blood, urine or breastmilk (Source: Based on FAO and WHO (2016). International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management: Guidelines on Highly Hazardous Pesticides. FAO & WHO, Rome).

Minimum age (of employment): is not less than the age of finishing compulsory education, and which in any case, should not be less than 15 years. However, a country, whose economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed, may initially specify a minimum age of 14 years. National laws may also permit the employment of 13-15 year olds in light work which is neither prejudicial to school attendance, nor harmful to a child's health or development. The ages 12-13 can apply for light work in countries that specify a minimum age of 14 (ILO Convention 138, Article 2).

National laws: The whole suite of primary and secondary laws (acts, ordinances, statutes, decrees), which is applicable to a national territory, as well as secondary regulations, and tertiary administrative procedures (rules / requirements) that derive their authority directly and explicitly from these primary and secondary laws (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Native species: Species, subspecies, or lower taxon, occurring within its natural range (past or present) and dispersal potential (that is, within the range it occupies naturally or could occupy without direct or indirect introduction or care by humans) (Source: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Invasive Alien Species Programme. Glossary of Terms as provided on CBD website).

Natural conditions/native ecosystem: For the purposes of the Principles and Criteria and any applications of restoration techniques, terms such as 'more natural conditions', 'native ecosystem' provide for managing sites to favor or restore native species and associations of native species that are typical of the locality, and for managing these associations and other environmental values so that they form ecosystems typical of the locality. Further guidelines may be provided in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Natural forest: A forest area with many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems, such as complexity, structure and biological diversity, including soil characteristics, flora and fauna, in which all or almost all the trees are native species, not classified as plantations.

'Natural forest' includes the following categories:

- Forest affected by harvesting or other disturbances, in which trees are being or have been regenerated by a combination of natural and artificial regeneration with species typical of natural forests in that site, and where many of the above-ground and below-ground characteristics of the natural forest are still present. In boreal and north temperate forests which are naturally composed of only one or few tree species, a combination of natural and artificial regeneration to regenerate forest of the same native species, with most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems of that site, is not by itself considered as conversion to plantations;
- Natural forests which are maintained by traditional silvicultural practices including natural or assisted natural regeneration;
- Well-developed secondary or colonizing forest of native species which has regenerated in non-forest areas;
- The definition of 'natural forest' may include areas described as wooded ecosystems, woodland and savannah.

The description of natural forests and their principal characteristics and key elements may be further defined in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards, with appropriate descriptions or examples.

'Natural forest' does not include land which is not dominated by trees, was previously not forest, and which does not yet contain many of the characteristics and elements of native ecosystems. Young regeneration may be considered as natural forest after some years of ecological progression. FSC Forest Stewardship

Standards may indicate when such areas may be excised from the Management Unit, should be restored towards more natural conditions, or may be converted to other land uses.

FSC has not developed quantitative thresholds between different categories of forests in terms of area, density, height, etc. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may provide such thresholds and other guidelines, with appropriate descriptions or examples. Pending such guidance, areas dominated by trees, mainly of native species, may be considered as natural forest.

Thresholds and guidelines may cover areas such as:

- Other vegetation types and non-forest communities and ecosystems included in the Management Unit, including grassland, bushland, wetlands, and open woodlands;
- Very young pioneer or colonizing regeneration in a primary succession on new open sites or abandoned farmland, which does not yet contain many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems. This may be considered as natural forest through ecological progression after the passage of years;
- Young natural regeneration growing in natural forest areas may be considered as natural forest, even after logging, clear-felling or other disturbances, since many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems remain, above-ground and below-ground;
- Areas where deforestation and forest degradation have been so severe that they are no longer 'dominated by trees' may be considered as non-forest, when they have very few of the principal above-ground and below-ground characteristics and key elements of natural forests. Such extreme degradation is typically the result of combinations of repeated and excessively heavy logging, grazing, farming, fuelwood collection, hunting, fire, erosion, mining, settlements, infrastructure, etc. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may help to decide when such areas should be excised from the Management Unit, should be restored towards more natural conditions, or may be converted to other land uses.

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

Natural Hazards: disturbances that can present risks to social and environmental values in the Management Unit but that may also comprise important ecosystem functions; examples include drought, flood, fire, landslide, storm, avalanche, etc.

Non-forest land-use: Land-use system, where the land is not dominated by trees.

Non-timber forest products (NTFP): All products other than timber derived from the Management Unit (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Objective: The basic purpose laid down by The Organization for the forest enterprise, including the decision of policy and the choice of means for attaining the purpose (Source: Based on F.C. Osmaston. 1968. The Management of Forests. Hafner, New York; and D.R. Johnston, A.J. Grayson and R.T. Bradley. 1967. Forest Planning. Faber & Faber, London).

Obligatory code of practice: A manual or handbook or other source of technical instruction which The Organization must implement by law (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Occupational accident: An occurrence arising out of, or in the course of, work which results in fatal or non-fatal injury (Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). Bureau of Library and Information Services. ILO Thesaurus as provided on ILO website).

Occupational disease: Any disease contracted as a result of an exposure to risk factors arising from work activity (Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). Bureau of Library and Information Services. ILO Thesaurus as provided on ILO website).

Occupational injuries: Any personal injury, disease or death resulting from an occupational accident (Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). Bureau of Library and Information Services. ILO Thesaurus as provided on ILO website).

Organism: Any biological entity capable of replication or of transferring genetic material (Source: Council Directive 90/220/EEC).

Peatland: Is constituted by flooded and soggy areas, with large accumulations of organic material, covered by a layer of poor vegetation associated with a certain degree of acidity, and which presents a characteristic amber color (Source: Aguilar, L. 2001. About Fishermen, Fisherwomen, Oceans and tides. IUCN. San Jose (Costa Rica)).

Pest: Any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants and plant products, materials or environments and includes vectors of parasites or pathogens of human and animal disease and animals causing public health nuisance (Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0).

Pesticide: Any substance or mixture of substances of chemical or biological ingredients intended for repelling, destroying or controlling any pest, or regulating plant growth. This definition includes insecticides, rodenticides, acaricides, molluscicides, larvaecides, nematocides, fungicides and herbicides (Source: FSC-POL-30-001).

Pesticide Buffer zone: Area established around environmental and/or social values to protect them from damage, within which pesticides are not used or are used only with additional risk mitigation measures.

Plantation: A forest area established by planting or sowing with using either alien or native species, often with one or few species, regular spacing and even ages, and which lacks most of the principal characteristics and key elements of natural forests. The description of plantations may be further defined in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards, with appropriate descriptions or examples, such as:

- Areas which would initially have complied with this definition of 'plantation' but which, after the passage of years, contain many or most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems, may be classified as natural forests.
- Plantations managed to restore and enhance biological and habitat diversity, structural complexity and ecosystem functionality may, after the passage of years, be classified as natural forests.
- Boreal and north temperate forests which are naturally composed of only one or few tree species, in which a combination of natural and artificial regeneration is used to regenerate forest of the same native species, with most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems of that site, may be considered as natural forest, and this regeneration is not by itself considered as conversion to plantations.
- (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Precautionary approach: An approach requiring that when the available information indicates that management activities pose a threat of severe or irreversible damage to the environment or a threat to human welfare, The Organization will take explicit and effective measures to prevent the damage and avoid the risks to welfare, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of environmental values are uncertain (Source: Based on Principle 15 of Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992, and Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle of the Wingspread Conference, 23–25 January 1998).

Pre-harvest [condition]: The diversity, composition, and structure of the forest or plantation prior to felling timber and appurtenant activities such as road building.

Principle: An essential rule or element; in FSC's case, of forest stewardship (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

Protection: See definition of Conservation.

Protection Area: See definition of Conservation Zone.

Proportionate: A 1:1 ratio: The area to be restored or conserved is the same as the area of natural forest and/or High Conservation Value destroyed (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

Publicly available: In a manner accessible to or observable by people generally (Source: Collins English Dictionary, 2003 Edition).

Rare species: Species that are uncommon or scarce, but not classified as threatened. These species are located in geographically restricted areas or specific habitats, or are scantily scattered on a large scale. They are approximately equivalent to the IUCN (2001) category of Near Threatened (NT), including species that are close to qualifying for, or are likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future. They are also approximately equivalent to imperiled species (Source: Based on IUCN. (2001). IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK).

Ratified: The process by which an international law, convention or agreement (including multilateral environmental agreement) is legally approved by a national legislature or equivalent legal mechanism, such that the international law, convention or agreement becomes automatically part of national law or sets in motion the development of national law to give the same legal effect (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Reasonable: Judged to be fair or appropriate to the circumstances or purposes, based on general experience (Source: Shorter Oxford English Dictionary).

Reduced impact harvesting: Harvesting (or logging) using techniques to reduce the impact on the residual stand (Source: Based on Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests, IUCN 2006).

Refugia: An isolated area where extensive changes, typically due to changing climate or by disturbances such as those caused by humans, have not occurred and where plants and animals typical of a region may survive (Source: Glen Canyon Dam, Adaptive Management Program Glossary as provided on website of Glen Canyon Dam website).

Remedy: To correct or return something as near as possible to its original state or condition (Source: Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. UN. 2011).

- For environmental harms this includes actions taken to remedy deforestation, conversion degradation, or other harms to natural forest and High Conservation Value areas. Environmental remedy actions may include but are not limited to: conservation of standing forests, habitats, ecosystems and species; restoration and protection of degraded ecosystems.
- For social harms this includes providing redress for identified social harms through agreements made during an FPIC-based process with the affected rights holders, and facilitating a transition to the position before such harms occurred; or developing alternative measures to ameliorate harms by providing gains recognized by the affected stakeholders as equivalent to the harms, through consultation and agreement. Remedy may be achieved through a combination of apologies, restitution, rehabilitation, financial or non-financial compensation, satisfaction, punitive sanctions, injunctions, and guarantees of non-repetition (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

Remuneration: includes the ordinary, basic or minimum wage or salary and any additional emoluments whatsoever payable directly or indirectly, whether in cash or in kind, by the employer to the worker and arising out of the workers employment (ILO Convention 100, Article1a).

Repair: Process of assisting the recovery of environmental values and human health (Source: FSC-POL-30-001).

Representative Sample Areas: Portions of the Management Unit delineated for the purpose of conserving or restoring viable examples of an ecosystem that would naturally occur in that geographical region.

Resilience: The ability of a system to maintain key functions and processes in the face of stresses or pressures by either resisting or adapting to change. Resilience can be applied to both ecological systems and social systems (Source: IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA). 2008. Establishing Marine Protected Area Networks – Making it Happen. Washington D.C.: IUCN-WCPA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and The Nature Conservancy.).

Restitution: Measures agreed with affected stakeholders to restore lands, properties or damaged natural resources to their original owners in their original condition. Where such lands, properties or natural resources cannot be returned or restored, measures are agreed on to provide alternatives of equivalent quality and extent. Restitution to affected rights holders is agreed on through an FPIC-based process (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

Restoration /Ecological Restoration: Process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem, and its associated conservation values, that have been degraded, damaged, or destroyed (Source: adapted from 'International principles and standards for the practice of ecological restoration'. Gann et al 2019. Second edition. Society for Ecological Restoration) (shortened version – refer to the FSC Remedy Framework for full definition).

Note: The Organization is not necessarily obliged to restore those environmental values that have been affected by factors beyond the control of The Organization, for example by natural disasters, by climate change, or by the legally authorized activities of third parties, such as public infrastructure, mining, hunting or settlement. FSC-POL-20-003 The Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification describes the processes by which such areas may be excised from the area certified, when appropriate.

The Organization is also not obliged to restore environmental values that may have existed at some time in the historic or pre-historic past, or that have been negatively affected by previous owners or organizations – with the exception of those values negatively affected through instances of conversion and whose restoration form part of a Remedy Plan which The Organization is required to follow. In all instances, however, The Organization is expected to take reasonable measures to mitigate, control and prevent environmental degradation which is continuing in the Management Unit as a result of such previous impacts.

Riparian zone: Interface between land and a water body, and the vegetation associated with it.

Risk: The probability of an unacceptable negative impact arising from any activity in the Management Unit combined with its seriousness in terms of consequences (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Scale: A measure of the extent to which a management activity or event affects an environmental value or a Management Unit, in time or space. An activity with a small or low spatial scale affects only a small proportion of the forest each year, an activity with a small or low temporal scale occurs only at long intervals (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Scale, intensity and risk: See individual definitions of the terms 'scale', 'intensity', and 'risk'.

Significant: For the purposes of Principle 9, HCVs 1, 2 and 6 there are three main forms of recognizing significance.

- A designation, classification or recognized conservation status, assigned by an international agency such as IUCN or Birdlife International;
- A designation by national or regional authorities, or by a responsible national conservation organization, on the basis of its concentration of biodiversity;

- A voluntary recognition by the manager, owner or Organization, on the basis of available information, or of the known or suspected presence of a significant biodiversity concentration, even when not officially designated by other agencies.

Any one of these forms will justify designation as HCVs 1, 2 and 6. Many regions of the world have received recognition for their biodiversity importance, measured in many different ways. Existing maps and classifications of priority areas for biodiversity conservation play an essential role in identifying the potential presence of HCVs 1, 2 and 6 (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Silviculture: The art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health and quality of forests and woodlands to meet the targeted diverse needs and values of landowners and society on a sustainable basis (Source: Nieuwenhuis, M. 2000. Terminology of Forest Management. IUFRO World Series Vol. 9. IUFRO 4.04.07 SilvaPlan and SilvaVoc).

Small-scale smallholder: Any person that is depending on the land for most of their livelihood; and/or employs labor mostly from family or neighboring communities and has land-use rights on a Management Unit of less than 50 hectares. Standard developers may define this to less than 50 hectares (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

Social harms: Negative impacts on persons or communities, perpetrated by individuals, corporations or states, which include, but may go beyond, criminal acts by legal persons. Such harms include negative impacts on persons' or groups' rights, livelihoods and well-being, such as property (including forests, lands, waters), health, food security, healthy environment, cultural repertoire and happiness, as well as physical injury, detention, dispossession and expulsion (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

- **Ongoing social harms:** social harms which have not been remedied.
- **Priority social harms:** social harms prioritized by an FPIC-based process with affected rights-holders or identified in consultation with affected stakeholders (Source: FSC-PRO-01-007 V1-0. Shortened version - refer to the FSC Remedy Framework for full definition).

Stakeholder: See definitions for 'affected stakeholder' and 'interested stakeholder'.

Statutory law or statute law: The body of law contained in Acts of Parliament (national legislature) (Source: Oxford Dictionary of Law).

Tenure: Socially defined agreements held by individuals or groups, recognized by legal statutes or customary practice, regarding the 'bundle of rights and duties' of ownership, holding, access and/or usage of a particular land unit or the associated resources there within (such as individual trees, plant species, water, minerals, etc.) (Source: World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions provided on IUCN website).

The Organization: The person or entity holding or applying for certification and therefore responsible for demonstrating compliance with the requirements upon which FSC certification is based (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Threat: An indication or warning of impending or likely damage or negative impacts (Source: Based on Oxford English Dictionary).

Threatened species: Species that meet the IUCN (2001) criteria for Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR), and are facing a high, very high or extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. These categories may be re-interpreted for FSC purposes according to official national classifications (which have legal significance) and to local conditions and population densities (which should affect decisions about appropriate conservation measures) (Source: Based on IUCN. (2001). IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.).

Timber harvesting level: The actual harvest quantity executed on the Management Unit, tracked by either volume (e.g. cubic meters or board feet) or area (e.g. hectares or acres) metrics for the purpose of comparison with calculated (maximum) allowable harvest levels.

Timely manner: As promptly as circumstances reasonably allow; not intentionally postponed by The Organization; in compliance with applicable laws, contracts, licenses or invoices.

Traditional Knowledge: Information, know-how, skills and practices that are developed, sustained and passed on from generation to generation within a community, often forming part of its cultural or spiritual identity (Source: based on the definition by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Glossary definition as provided under Policy / Traditional Knowledge on the WIPO website).

Traditional peoples: Traditional peoples are social groups or peoples who do not self-identify as indigenous and who affirm rights to their lands, forests and other resources based on long established custom or traditional occupation and use (Source: Forest Peoples Programme (Marcus Colchester, 7 October 2009)).

Transaction verification: Verification by certification bodies and/or Accreditation Services International (ASI) that FSC output claims made by certificate holders are accurate and match with the FSC input claims of their trading partners (Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V3-0).

Trigger Value: Trigger values are expressed as the value of toxicity exposure ratio (TER) above which exposure is considered to be an unacceptable risk. The TER is calculated based on the acute toxicity value and exposure for each pesticide. Its value will be local and will be based on exposure parameters.

Uphold: To acknowledge, respect, sustain and support (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Use rights: Rights for the use of resources of the Management Unit that can be defined by local custom, mutual agreements, or prescribed by other entities holding access rights. These rights may restrict the use of particular resources to specific levels of consumption or particular harvesting techniques (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Vast majority: 80% of the total area of Intact Forest Landscapes within the Management Unit as of January 1, 2017. The vast majority also meets or exceeds the minimum definition of Intact Forest Landscape.

Verifiable targets: Specific goals, such as desired future forest conditions, established to measure progress towards the achievement of each of the management objectives. These goals are expressed as clear outcomes, such that their attainment can be verified and it is possible to determine whether they have been accomplished or not.

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

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

Waste materials: unusable or unwanted substances or by-products, such as:

- Hazardous waste, including chemical waste and batteries;
- Containers;
- Motor and other fuels and oils;
- Rubbish including metals, plastics and paper; and
- Abandoned buildings, machinery and equipment.

Water bodies (including water courses): Seasonal, temporary, and permanent brooks, creeks, streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Water bodies include riparian or wetland systems, lakes, swamps, bogs and springs.

Water scarcity: A water supply that limits food production, human health, and economic development. Severe scarcity is taken to be equivalent to 1,000 cubic meters per year per person or greater than 40% use relative to supply (Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: Policy Responses. Findings of the Responses Working Group. Washington DC: Island Press, Pages 599-605).

Water stress: Occurs when the demand for water exceeds the available amount during a certain period or when poor quality restricts its use. Water stress causes deterioration of freshwater resources in terms of quantity (aquifer over-exploitation, dry rivers, etc.) and quality (eutrophication, organic matter pollution, saline intrusion, etc.) (Source: UNEP, 2003, cited in Gold Standard Foundation. 2014. Water Benefits Standard).

Wetlands: Transitional areas between terrestrial and aquatic systems in which the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water (Source: Cowardin, L.M., Carter, V., Golet, F.C., Laroe, E.T. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. DC US Department: Washington). Under the Ramsar Convention, wetlands can include tidal mudflats, natural ponds, marshes, potholes, wet meadows, bogs, peatlands, freshwater swamps, mangroves, lakes, rivers and even some coral reefs (Source: IUCN, No Date, IUCN Definitions – English).

Workers: All employed persons including public employees as well as ‘self-employed’ persons. This includes part-time and seasonal employees, of all ranks and categories, including laborers, administrators, supervisors, executives, contractor employees as well as self-employed contractors and sub-contractors (Source: ILO Convention 155, Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981).

Workers’ organization: any organization of workers for furthering and defending the interest of workers (adapted from ILO Convention 87, Article 10). It is important to note that rules and guidance on composition of workers’ organization vary from country to country, especially in relation to those who are considered as rank and file members, as well those who are deemed to have power to “hire and fire”. Workers’ organizations tend to separate association between those who can “hire and fire” and those who cannot (Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017).

Worst forms of child labour: comprises a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performance; c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties; d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children (ILO Convention 182, Article 3)



FSC International – Performance and Standards Unit

Adenauerallee 134

53113 Bonn

Germany

Phone: +49 -(0)228 -36766 -0

Fax: +49 -(0)228 -36766 -65

Email : psu@fsc.org