



Forest Stewardship Standard

FSC FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD FOR ITALY

FSC-STD-ITA-02-2024 EN



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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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This standard is subject to the review and revision requirements as described in [<FSC-STD-60-006 \(V1-2\) EN Process Requirements for the Development and Maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards>](#)

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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 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 conformity.
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	Italy
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 and low intensity managed forests (SLIMFs)
Forest products (according to FSC-STD-40-004a)	Rough wood NTFPs: N1Barks; N2 Soil conditioner and substrates for plants; N3.1 Natural cork; N6.1 Flowers; N6.2 Grasses, ferns, mosses and lichens; N6.3 Whole trees or plants; N6.4 Pine cones; N7.3 Resin; N7.4 Tannin; N8.2 Medicinal plants and products; N9.1 Nuts; N9.4 Mushrooms, truffles; N9.5 Fruits; N9.6 Sap-based foods; N9.7 Game; N9.8 Honey.

B.3 Responsibility for conformity

(Normative section)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Organization is required to take corrective actions in the event of such persons or entities not being in conformity 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, and annexes.

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

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

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

Verifiers, notes and Guidance notes.

Scale and Intensity Risk threshold applies at the indicator level and are marked with the following labels:-

"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 1.6.1"), The Organizations above shall conform with them instead. Regarding the indicators where "SLIMF" applies, the risk of negative impacts is comparatively reduced due to the small scale of Management Units (< 100 ha) and the intensity of management activities (see table below).

"Plantation" refers to The Organizations which manage a plantation as defined in Annex K – Glossary of terms. The application of SIR is defined in accordance with the level of risk that negative impacts will result from management activities, as well as additional consideration for results of scale, risk and other factors that pertain to the local context. To guarantee a high level of sustainability in management practices on plantations, in line with FSC P&C, Annex G provides additional indicators with which The Organization shall conform. The Organization shall conform with indicators associated with plantations in all instances where Management Units comprise plantations (whether in part or in full).

SLIMF eligibility criteria

Thresholds

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 (m³),

OR the *average* 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.

The Organizations including NTFPs in their certification scope shall conform with specific NTFP indicators included in Annex C for all NTFPs, excluding cork, which is included in Annex D, in addition, with all other applicable indicators in the standard.

Verbal forms for the expression of provisions

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

“shall”: indicates requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform with the standard; ‘shall not’ indicates a prohibition.

“should”: indicates that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required. The Organization can meet these requirements in an equivalent way provided this can be demonstrated and justified.

“may”: indicates a course of action permissible within the limits of the standard; ‘need not’ indicates that a specified course of action is not a requirement.

“can”: is used for statements of possibility and capability, whether material, physical or causal.

The text of the Principles and the Criteria under section F contains terms that are formatted in italics and marked with an asterisk*. These terms are defined in the annex of Glossary of terms. The terms that have been marked with an asterisk* and formatted in italics in the text of the indicators, are local terms which have been added to apply to the local circumstances for this standard only. These local terms are defined in the annex of Glossary of terms.

B.5 Interpretations and disputes

(Normative section)

Interpretation requests regarding the FSC Forest 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).

C Context

(Informative section)

C.1 General description of the forestry sector

Italian forests hold significant value for their biodiversity, timber resources, and the rich human history and local traditions they encompass. Historically, they have played a crucial role in supporting the survival and prosperity of local economies and communities in mountainous and rural areas by providing essential goods and services

In recent decades, Italian forests area has experienced continuous growth covering more than 11 million hectares, equivalent to about one-third of Italy's total national area (30% of forest cover). More than 98% of these forested areas considered to be "naturally regenerated forests" and about 1,4% are constituted by plantations (mostly poplar plantations)². Italian forests are spread throughout the country, especially following the natural shape of mountains and hills that cross the Italian peninsula (in the north, the Alps run in an east-west direction, and the Apennines run from north to south), and in the two main Islands (Sardinia and Sicily). Indeed, most of the Italy's forest area (65%) is located over 500m in altitude, and the relative forest typologies varies according to the local conditions and climate (from the alpine climate in the north, to the more temperate Mediterranean climate in central and southern Italy).

The different geographic localization and the different climatic conditions of Italy's forests consequently, affect the typology of forests present. In addition to geographical considerations, local needs and traditions relating to forest use are important elements affecting the ways forests have been and continue to be managed. About 42% of forests are managed as coppices, which predominate the Apennine landscape especially in central and southern Italy. Here, due to the Mediterranean climate conditions, broadleaves species like beech, oaks, poplars and chestnut are the most common, comprising up to two two-thirds of the total growing stock in the country. Productive, high forest stands cover 36% of the total area, and are located in the northern part of the Country, with pines, spruce and larch representing the most important and common species. The remaining forest area consists of riparian or rupicolous forests and shrubs. With regards to types of ownership, most forests are privately owned (66,4%), while only 33,2% is owned by public entities².

There is a growing awareness of the multifunctional role that Italian forests play in producing goods (e.g.: timber and non-timber forest products) as well as provision of ecosystem services such as protection of biodiversity, water cycle regulation, erosion prevention, fixation of carbon dioxide, landscape quality, and opportunities for recreational activities. At the same time, the Italian forest sector is facing many challenges: land abandonment with consequent decreases in timber harvest volumes, increasing imports of timber and a general de-specialization of the forest sector and supply chain are the main problems that have led to a marginalization of the Italian forests.

In recent years, in response to the problems described and with the aim of reorganizing and relaunching the Italian forestry sector, important new legislation has been created.

In 2018, the new Legislative Decree no. 34 of 3 April 2018] "Law on forests and forest supply chains" and subsequent implementing decrees were approved. This legislative decree regulates the forestry sector and updates the national guideline provisions for the regions, after 17 years of profound economic, social,

² Source of information: INFC 2015, NATIONAL INVENTORY of FORESTS and FOREST CARBON POOLS: RAF ITALIA 2017 2018 Rapporto sullo stato delle foreste e del settore forestale in Italia

regulatory and institutional changes, thus defining a single, set of guidelines and coordination between forestry and forest supply chains for both the conservation, protection and active management of forests and as well as local socio-economic development.

Consistent with the European Forestry Strategy, the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and the Conservation of Biodiversity, in the Legislative Decree pays particular attention to the "active and rational management" of forest heritage, using sustainable forest management in its implementation and promoting the assumption of responsibility order to combat the abandonment of land and growing cultural disinterest by both owners (public and private).

By normalizing the obligation to define a National Forest Strategy and to commit to of active management planning, the Decree enhances the concept of public and private responsibility in the protection, conservation, and valorization of forests. More attention is also given to the skills of forest workers, to product and process certification, to the valorization of wood and non-wood forest products, and to the provision of ecosystem services generated by forests and sustainable management interventions³.

The National Forestry Strategy (NFS) for the forestry sector and its supply chains has been developed in response to the "Law on forests and forest supply chains". The document represents the strategic national policy document provided for by Legislative Decree No 34 of 3 April 2018 and aims to promote, with a long-term vision and in the service of implementation of Italy's international and European commitments, the sustainable management of the national forest heritage, and thus the overall development of the sector and its environmental and socio-cultural resources. In particular, the NFS aims to contribute effectively, in line with the European Green Deal, to the pursuit of the priorities and commitments undertaken at the international level on climate, environment and biodiversity, energy and sustainable socio-economic development. The NFS is founded on two main pillars: firstly, Sustainable Forest Management (SFM), as outlined by the pan-European Forest Europe Process and the European Agreement signed in Helsinki in 1993 (and implemented by Italy through the "Law on Forests and Forest Supply chains"), serving as a crucial means to balance societal interests with ecosystem protection and the duties of sector owners and operators. Secondly, the NFS is based on the advancement of a sustainable and circular wood economy, operationalized through the principles of "cascading use" and "recycling"⁴

In line with the normative framework presented and its goals, the main aim of this National Standard is to promote, disseminate and support forms of responsible forest management at the national level, enhancing the multifunctional role of forests and their role in society.

The variety of local ecological conditions, property regimes, and different management objectives are related to the fact that the national standards can be updated and modified over time through periodic reviews. The indicators presented below are part of a dynamic process aimed at improving and strengthening the responsible management of forest resources.

³ Source of information: adapted and translated from <http://www.pianetapsr.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/1985>

C.2 Members of the Standards Development Group

The members of the Standard Development Group are listed in the table below. They represent the interests of the environmental, social and economic chamber they belong to.

Chamber	Name	Organization
Social	Marco Bonavia Resume: forestry consultant and member of the National Foresters' Association Council	CONAF (national entity representing all forestry and agricultural technicians)
	Domenico Mandarano Resume: representative of the National Trade Union and experience within the forestry sector at the national level.	FLAI-CGIL
	Andrea de Sio Resume: forestry student with a background in FSC requirements	AUSF (national association representing forestry students at the national level)
	Stefano Faccini Resume: lawyer specialized in forestry-related issues and instances of smallholders	CIA Belluno (the association representing all agricultural and forestry owners of the Province of Belluno)
Environmental	Edoardo Nevola Resume: expert in the forestry sector.	WWF Italia
	Alessandro Soresina Resume: naturalist without specific experience in forestry	Legambiente ONLUS (national environmental organization)
	Fabio Scarfò Resume: naturalist without specific experience in forestry	LIPU ONLUS (national environmental organization)
	Paolo Camerano Resume: Forester specialized in FSC certification, biodiversity assessment	IPLA Spa (company of Piedmont Region specialized in forestry consultancy)

Chamber	Name	Organization
Economic	Miriam Tenca Resume: Poplar plantations manager, plywood producers	Azienda Agricola Rosa Anna e Rosa Luigia (poplar plantations manager)
	Liviu Amariei Resume: Long time experience in forest certification, and training within FSC certification processes.	Astracademy
	Andrea Perissinotto Resume: forestry expert with experience in the wood transformation and manufacturing sector	IKEA Purchasing Services Italy
	Ilario Cavada Resume: Forester with long experience within the forestry sector and working within the oldest FM CH in Italy	Magnifica Comunità di Fiemme

C.3 Expert advising the Standard Development Group

A team of specialists was organized to provide expertise in specific aspects of the standard. This group included certification bodies (CBs), auditors, and experts specializing in forest plantation and cork management. They actively contributed to the revision process of the Italian Forest Stewardship Standard (FSS). The list of experts can be found in the table below.

Name of Expert	Members
Dott. Mauro Masiero	Forest scientist and former FSC Italy gen. secretary
Dott. For. Luigi Bovolenta	Representative of Control Union Italia Srl: Certification Body in charge of FM/CoC audit
Ing. Marco Clementi	Representative of CSI S.p.A: Certification Body in charge of FM/CoC audit
Dott. For. Alberto Marin	Representative of ICEA Srl (Soil Association): Certification Body in charge of FM/CoC audit

Name of Expert	Members
Dott. For. Maria Rita Gallozzi	FM and CoC Auditor
Dott. For. Pino Ruiu	Agris Sardegna: Research institute of Sardinia Region. Forestry technician expert in cork production
Dott. Pierfranco Zanone	Az. Agricola Torviscosa – agronomist expert in poplar management
Dott. Agr. Fabio Fracchia	Consultant for forest plantation
Dott. Massimo Gennaro	CREA - Reserach institute
Dott. Piermario Chiarabaglio	CREA - Reserach institute
Dott. Achille Giorcelli	CREA - Reserach institute

C.4 Background information on the standard development

This standard was developed according to the rules and regulations laid out in FSC-STD-60-002 (V1-0) in the period from 09/2021 to 04/2023.

The Italian standard revision process started in September 2021. The preliminary phase of the revision process involved analyzing all the challenges and opportunities related to the current Forest Stewardship Standard which was approved in 2017. This analysis was conducted with an interested group of stakeholders (such as CHs, experts, NGOs, researchers and foresters). The first phase was conducted to define members for the Standard Development Group (based on the membership and the interests demonstrated), and the Consultative Forum member. All interested or affected stakeholders were asked to be part of a forum of consultation. A group of experts was also created to provide technical support during the development process. Those experts were identified based on their experiences and output of the first phase.

The standard revision process was based on monthly meetings on which twenty-three (23) SDG meetings, as well as eight (8) expert group meetings, were conducted. All SDG members were given an equal chance to contribute to the discussion on the specific topic and contribute to the development of the revised standard. Different issues were discussed including Principles, Criteria, Indicators, Verifiers, SLIMF indicators, NTFP, High Conservation Values (HCV) National Guidance, and coppice and timber management. All decisions were taken with the consensus of all SDG members. Several ad hoc sessions were organized during the revision of the standard. Two stakeholder consultation(s) were conducted, the first round was held from March 10 to May 10, 2022, and the second round from November 10, 2022, to January 10, 2023, followed by two field tests. The two field tests were carried out from September 14-15 and October 6-8, 2022 on seven principles (P4, P5, P6, P7, P8, P9, and P10) to evaluate the auditability of the revised standard where significant adjustments or adaptations were done to the current indicators. The adapted indicators were tested on issues such as forest management, HCV and customary rights of local communities.

D REFERENCES

(Informative section)

The following referenced documents are relevant 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 *FSC Policy on the Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification*

FSC-POL-30-001 *FSC Pesticides Policy*

FSC-POL-30-602 *FSC Interpretation on GMOs: Genetically Modified Organisms*

FSC-STD-20-007 *Forest Management Evaluations*

FSC-STD-30-005 *FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management* Groups

FSC-PRO-01-008 *Processing Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme*

FSC-PRO-30-006 *Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools*

FSC-DIR-20-007 *FSC Directive on FSC Forest Management Evaluations*

FSC-GUI-30-003 *FSC Guidelines for the implementation of the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)*

FSC-GUI-60-005 *Promoting Gender Equality in National Forest Stewardship Standards*

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 ABBREVIATIONS

(Informative section)

ATECO	Attività Economiche
AUSF	Associazione Universitaria Studenti Forestali
BAI	Best Available Information
CAN	Conservation Areas Network
CCNL	Contratto Collettivo Nazionale di Lavoro
CIA	Confederazione Italiana Agricoltori
CITES	Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species
CNEL	Consiglio Nazionale dell'Economia e del Lavoro
CONAF	Consiglio dell'Ordine Nazionale dei Dottori Agronomi e dei Dottori Forestali
CREA	Consiglio per la Ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria
D. lgs	Decreto legislativo
D.P.R.	Decreto del Presidente della Repubblica
DURC	Documento Unico di Regolarità Contributiva
EC	European Community
EEC	European Economic Community
ES	Ecosystem Services
ESCD	Ecosystem Services Certification Document
ESRA	Environmental and Social Risk Assessment
EU	European Union
FLAI-	Federazione Lavoratori Agro Industria
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, governance and trade
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
HCV	High Conservation Values
ILO	International Labour Organisation

IPLA	Istituto per le Piante da Legno e l'Ambiente
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
L.	Law
LIPU	Lega Italiana Protezione Uccelli
MU	Management Unit
NAP	National Action Plan for the sustainable use of pesticides
NFS	National Forestry Strategy
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
ONLUS	Organizzazione Non Lucrativa di Utilità Sociale
P&C	Principle & Criteria
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
RTE	Rare, Threatened and Endangered
RDP	Rural Development Plan
S.p.A	Società per Azioni
SAC	Special Areas of Conservations
SPA	Special Protection Areas
Srl	Società a Responsabilità Limitata
VAT	Value-Added Tax
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

F 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. There is a correspondence between legal registration, documented authorization and activities exercised by The Organization for the achievement of all the activities included in the certificate scope. The necessary documents are issued by the competent authorities, according to current legislation.

Verifiers: Tax code; Chamber of Commerce registration; enterprise classification; ATECO code; registration in the Official Register of Enterprises; certificate of attribution of the VAT code or other public databases; enrollment in the Register of forest enterprises; registration in the "RIL" (Italian Register of Wood Companies), verification of any penalties for forestry companies.

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. The Organization shall demonstrate the existence of property and/or use rights of the funds it intends to manage in compliance with the FSC Principles; legal tenure are issued by competent authority

Verifiers: Deed of ownership or equivalent; cadastral certificate certifying ownership (title, date), for example: recent certificate from the Revenue Agency; contracts certifying the personal right to use the forest fund (e.g.: rental, usufruct or free loan contracts) signed and dated; holding file.

1.2.2. If the management of a certain area depends on factors beyond the control of The Organization, this area can be excised from the scope of certification according to the requirements of the FSC Policy (FSC-POL-20-003).

Verifiers: Management Plan; maps; valid justification for the exclusion.

1.2.3. The boundaries of the Management Units included (or excluded) from the scope of certification are physically marked or clearly indicated in specific maps.

Verifiers: Management Plan (e.g.: attachments to notarial deeds); cadastral maps; maps; observations in the field; holding file.

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 management activities foreseen within the Management Units are planned and implemented in compliance with:

- 1) Supranational, national, regional and provincial/municipal legislation;
- 2) Civic uses, consolidated practices and customary rights (see provincial collection of Uses published by the Chamber of Commerce) and
- 3) The forest management plan in force or in derogation.

Verifiers: List of applicable laws (see Annex A for legislative references at national and international level), forest management plan; consultation of local stakeholders.

1.3.2. Payment of all the applicable legally prescribed charges connected with forest management is made in a timely manner – unless there is a documented justification for any delay, issued by the legally competent authority(ies).

Verifiers: List of taxes levied on the MU; tax payment receipts; payments regularity documents (e.g.: Italian “DURC”); or: declaration of regularity of tax payments issued and signed by a chartered accountant (or similar professional) authorized to issue the declaration.

1.3.3. One year before the expiry of the forest management plan, The Organization implements the necessary initiatives for its renewal, including the determination of the expenditure commitment (or the extent of any financing) and the identification of the competent technician or the request for estimates for the assignment of the relevant tasks.

Verifiers: Expenditure commitment (budget), identification of the competent technician, estimate drawn up by the identified professional, public funding.

1.3.4. In situations of ordinary management, within 5 (five) years from the expiry of the forest management plan, The Organization submits a new planning document to the competent regional bodies appointed to approve it, except as required by current legislation at regional and provincial level.

Verifiers: Level of progress of the drafting of the new forest management plan, evidence of deposit of the forest management plan to the competent territorial bodies.

1.3.5. In situations of extraordinary management, the activities are approved and implemented based on the recommendations of the competent authorities (e.g.: extraordinary phytosanitary felling, harvest following extreme natural events, such as, for example, the Vaia cyclone).

Verifiers: Competent authorities communications, measures adopted following the occurrence of extraordinary natural events.

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. Through dialogue and collaboration with the competent bodies, prevention and protection measures are implemented against settlements and other illegal activities such as (but not limited to): wood harvesting, grazing, hunting, fishing, setting traps, collection of NTFPs, abandonment of waste.

Verifiers: Evidence of communication with the competent bodies; formalized complaints; register of illegal activities found in the MU accompanied by any evidence in the field (photographic documentation, etc.); fences, gates and weirs; signs bearing prohibitions on collection, lighting fires, etc.; video surveillance systems (e.g.: cameras).

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. Forest products (wood and non-wood), deriving from activities included in the scope of the certificate, are correctly classified (according to the provisions of indicator 8.5.2) in all legally valid transport and sales documents, required by current national and supranational legislation and other international conventions.

Verifiers: Cutting permissions; transport documents; customs declarations; sales invoices.

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. The Organization has a publicly accessible dispute resolution system, developed through stakeholders and local communities engagement, that allows them to forward any observations and/or reports regarding the practical application of the FSC Principles and Criteria within the Management Unit.

SLIMF 1.6.1 The Organization has a dispute resolution system, that allows stakeholders (including local communities) to forward any observations and/or reports regarding the practical application of the FSC Principles and Criteria within the Management Unit, and it is available upon request (at no cost).

Verifiers: The Organization website; email address; telephone number; other ways to send any observations and/or reports.

1.6.2. The Organization holds and maintains an updated register of complaints related to applicable or customary laws, in which the initiatives put in place to facilitate the resolution of disputes out of court, through a specific internal procedure (see Annex B) or through appointed external bodies (see list of Conciliation Bodies) and in a timely manner are recorded.

Verifiers: Complaints register; internal dispute resolution procedure; dialogue with the complainant (e.g.: e-mail); choice of the most effective way to resolve the complaint.

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 written corporate policy aimed at preventing all forms of corruption (e.g.: bribes) is implemented, made publicly available and contains:

- 1) Organizational strategies and measures to prevent all forms of corruption;
- 2) Corrective measures to be taken in the event of cases of corruption.

SLIMF 1.7.1 A written corporate policy aimed at preventing all forms of corruption (e.g.: bribes) is implemented - and available upon request at no cost - and contains measures to prevent all forms of corruption.

Verifiers: Document of the anti-corruption policy drawn up by The Organization.

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

Verifiers: Evidence in relation to bribery, coercion or other acts of corruption; verification of permits and authorizations released, of harvest plans or other concessions obtained.

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. There is a written policy, available to the public free of charge, signed by the legal representative of The Organization, which declares the long-term commitment to forest management practices that implement the FSC Principles and Criteria, as well as the related Standards and Policies.

Verifiers: Verification of written policy and multi-year commitment declared by The Organization; evidence of the publication (website, other); comparison with the more general policy (vision and values) and with the objectives of The Organization (see Indicator 7.1.1).

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 under the age of 16.

Verifiers: Consultation with workers; list of employed personnel, with relative date of birth; Unique Book of Workers (Italian “Libro Unico del Lavoro – LUL”).

2.1.1.2. The employment of minors over the age of 16 should not jeopardize their school attendance or negatively affect their state of health and the conditions of their development.

Verifiers: Consultation with workers; list of employed personnel, with date of birth.

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 the framework of approved national laws and regulations.

Verifiers: Job description; training courses (name and age of participants).

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

Verifiers: Consultation with workers; list of employed personnel, with date of birth.

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.

Verifiers: Consultation with trade unions representative and workers; any formal complaints.

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.

Verifiers: Consultation with trade unions representative and workers; any formal complaints.

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.

Verifiers: Consultation with trade unions representative and workers; formal complaints.

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.

Verifiers: Possible membership of workers in trade union organizations; consultation with trade unions representative and workers.

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.

Verifiers: Consultation with trade unions representative and workers.

2.1.4.3. In contractual agreements, the collective contractual agreements negotiated at national and territorial level are respected.

Verifiers: Comparison between the national and territorial collective agreement and the existing contractual agreements; consultation with workers.

2.1.4.4. The employment practices and contractual agreements demonstrate compliance or meet the requirements of the applicable National and Territorial Collective Agreement (recognized by CNEL, the Italian "National Council of Economy and Labour").

Verifiers: Type of collective agreement applied; recruitment and hiring procedures; consultation with trade unions representative and workers; Unique Book of Workers.

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. In recruitment processes, all the systems (processes and procedures) aimed at non-discrimination, equal treatment and opportunities between men and women are implemented and respected.

Verifiers: Consultation with trade unions representative and workers; type of collective agreement applied.

2.2.2. Training sessions are planned for both men and women, concerning health and safety for all the activities carried out by The Organization.

Verifiers: Collection of evidence in the field; consultation with workers, staff and stakeholders; trainings records; injuries or accidents records.

2.2.3. In presence of the same level of contractual framework, men and women receive the same remuneration and are paid in accordance with the provisions of the applicable National and Territorial Collective Agreements, laws and regulations (see Annex A).

Verifiers: Consultation with trade unions representative and workers; type of collective agreement applied.

2.2.4. Permits and benefits, including parental benefits (maternity and paternity leaves), do not result in penalties and are granted to workers in accordance with the provisions of the relevant legislative provisions.

Verifiers: Consultation with trade unions representative and workers; permits and concessions; maternity and paternity leave records.

2.2.5. Male and female workers are equally informed about organizational and forest management developments, in order to guarantee them the opportunity to represent and protect their interests within The Organization and to actively participate in the decision-making processes that affect them.

Verifiers: Workers interview; ways of informing workers (notice boards, official communications, etc.), minutes of meetings with collaborators.

2.2.6 Confidential and effective mechanisms are in place to prevent and solve cases of sexual harassment and discrimination based on gender, marital status, parenthood, sexual orientation, geographic origin, ethnic group or religion.

Verifiers: Consultation with workers and trade unions' representatives; formal complaints register; national or local collective bargaining agreement (see Annex A).

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 in accordance with the relevant national legislation.

Verifiers: Register of training activities; interview with the Workers' Safety Representative (Italian "Rappresentante dei Lavoratori per la Sicurezza – RLS"), Head of the Prevention and Protection Service (Italian "Responsabile del Servizio di Prevenzione e Protezione – RSPP"); workers' awareness tools (e.g.: billboards, warning signs, etc.); Risk Assessment Document (Italian "Documento di Valutazione dei Rischi – DVR"); Worksite Safety Operational Plan (Italian "Piano Operativo sulla Sicurezza dei cantieri – POS"); Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

2.3.2. The Organization provides workers with the most appropriate personal protective equipment for their job and enforces its effective use.

Verifiers: PPE delivery report; verification of the adequacy and conditions of the PPE (maintenance, integrity, etc.); Risk Assessment Document with description of the anti-hardship material provided; interview with workers and Workers' Safety Representative; evidence in the field.

2.3.3. Records relating to health and safety practices are maintained and regularly updated, including the number of accidents and near misses at work and occupational injuries.

Verifiers: Register of training activities; register of accidents; near misses; accidents at work.

2.3.4. Following accidents, near misses and occupational injuries that have occurred, health and safety practices are reviewed and, if necessary, updated.

Verifiers: Register of training activities; register of accidents, near misses and accidents at work; any revision or update of the Risk Assessment Document.

2.3.5. It is ensured that forest operators and all personnel working in the Management Unit enjoy adequate conditions in the working environment to prevent physical, mental and social discomforts associated with forestry activities.

Verifiers: Interview with workers; collection of evidence in the workplace.

2.3.6. The Organization provides facilities and logistical-administrative support for those forest operators who have suffered accidents at work and that need to participate in rehabilitation programs.

Verifiers: Consultation with workers and with the Workers' Safety Representative; register of accidents at work; rehabilitation programs.

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 exists, The Organization* shall through engagement* with workers* develop mechanisms for determining living wages*.*

2.4.1. The salary levels paid by The Organization are equivalent to or higher than:

- 1) The classification in the applicable National (and territorial) Collective Agreement;
- 2) Other wage levels specific to the forestry sector or other reference sector, as agreed with the trade union organizations and recognized by the applicable national and territorial collective bargaining.

Verifiers: Type of collective agreement applied; consultation with trade unions representative and workers; Unique Book of Workers.

2.4.2. Salaries, wages and contractual fees are paid on time and regularly, in accordance with the provisions of the National Collective Labor Agreement (Italian "Contratto Collettivo Nazionale di Lavoro – CCNL").

Verifiers: Type of collective agreement applied; evidence of payments made; workers' pay slips; consultation with trade unions representative and workers.

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 participate in specific training sessions and are supervised in order to verify their effective contribution to the implementation of the Management Plan and planned management activities. The training activities provided to workers are noted in a specific, periodically updated register.

Verifiers: Interview with workers; health and safety training record; certificates of professional qualification showing the name of the participant and the topics covered by the training session.

2.5.2. The professionally qualified personnel and the forest operators who work in The Organization demonstrate specific competence and preparation such as to ensure the correct implementation of the Management Plan.

Verifiers: Consultation with trade unions representative and with Workers' Safety Representative; verification of the professional qualifications and technical skills acquired (certificates, specific training performed).

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, developed through the engagement with workers, is implemented for employees, contractors and freelancers either in accordance with the provisions of the National Collective Labor Agreement, or through the appointed external bodies (see list of Conciliation Bodies), or through an internal procedure (see Annex B).

Verifiers: Consultation with trade unions representative and workers; internal dispute resolution procedure; choice of the most effective method for dispute resolution.

2.6.2. The Organization takes steps to resolve complaints from employees, contractors and freelancers, keeping track of the initiatives and measures taken by compiling a regularly updated register.

Verifiers: Evidence of staff strikes; registers reporting workers' complaints and a summary of the complaints management carried out; trade unions communications.

2.6.3. Fair compensation is provided to workers for work-related occupational disease or injuries through the negotiation of workers organization (Trade Unions), according to the definition given in the applicable national or local collective bargaining agreement(s).

Verifiers: Records of workers' grievances; communications from Trade Unions.

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.

NOTE: According to the 7 criteria for identification of Indigenous Peoples (adapted by FSC 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), there are no Indigenous Peoples in Italy.

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. The local communities existing within the Management Units are identified, as well as those potentially influenced by the management activities.

Verifiers: List of identified local communities (names of person of contact and respective contact details); consultation of the representatives of the local communities and of the forest manager (minutes or other evidence of the meetings that took place, face-to-face or online, with the representatives of the local communities and with the forest manager).

4.1.2. Through the engagement of the identified local communities, the following have been mapped and documented with appropriate evidence:

- 1) The legal and customary rights and duties associated with ownership, access and use of forest resources and ecosystem services;
- 2) Any area in which one or more rights are disputed between local communities, owners and/or other parties;
- 3) The ways in which The Organization relates to these legal and customary rights and to any disputed rights.

Verifiers: Identified legal and customary rights; areas over which there are disputed rights; consultation of the representatives of the local communities and of the forest manager (minutes or other evidence of the meetings that took place, face-to-face or online, with the representatives of the local communities and with the forest manager).

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 peoples* of control over management activities to third parties requires Free, Prior and Informed Consent*.

4.2.1. Local communities are informed about the ways in which they can express their observations and where relevant request that management activities are reviewed to the extent necessary to protect their legal and customary rights.

Verifiers: Procedures adopted to inform local communities and to establish and maintain a constructive dialogue with them; records of communications with local communities; consultation of local communities and stakeholders (e.g.: minutes or other evidence of meetings that took place, face-to-face or online, with local communities and stakeholders).

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

Verifiers: Procedures adopted to inform local communities and to establish and maintain a constructive dialogue with them; records of communications with local communities; consultation of local communities and stakeholders (e.g.: minutes or other evidence of meetings that took place, face-to-face or online, with local communities and stakeholders).

- 4.2.3. Corrective measures are implemented if there is objective evidence that the rights of local communities related to the access and use of forest resources and ecosystem services (e.g.: civic uses, customary rights) have been violated.

Verifiers: Procedures for implementing corrective measures; registers with corrective measures defined/ to be implemented; records of complaints resolved or in the process of being resolved (present and past); consultation of local communities and stakeholders (minutes or other evidence of the consultations that took place).

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. Opportunities are communicated and offered to local communities, in proportion to the scale and intensity of management activities, for:

- 1) Employment;
- 2) Training (e.g.: training courses on health and safety; courses for the acquisition of specific professional qualifications);
- 3) Other services (e.g.: use of particular equipment and mechanical means, internal skills of The Organization, sponsorship activities).

SLIMF 4.3.1 Opportunities are offered to local communities, in proportion to the scale and intensity of management activities, for extra-services connected to the use of particular equipment and/or mechanical means, internal skills of The Organization, or sponsorship activities.

Verifiers: Evidence of the communication and offer activities, carried out or at least planned on the provisions of the previous points a), b) and c); justification of any declared impossibility to provide the aforementioned communication/offer (e.g.: objective insufficiency of available human, technical and organizational resources).

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 of the local context in which the Management Unit is located are identified, implemented, promoted and/or supported through the engagement of local communities and other relevant organizations.

SLIMF 4.4.1 Opportunities for local, social and economic development of the local context in which the Management Unit is located are supported through the engagement of local communities and other relevant organizations.

Verifiers: Description of the local socio-economic development opportunities promoted and/or supported (e.g.: enhancement of ecosystem services, recruitment of external suppliers and contractors; training of nature guides, collaboration with recurring or occasional sporting events; visits organized with schools, etc.).

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 the engagement of the interested local communities, measures are implemented to identify, prevent and mitigate negative social, environmental and economic impacts of management activities.

SLIMF 4.5.1. Measures are implemented to identify, prevent and mitigate negative social, environmental and economic impacts of management activities on affected local communities.

Verifiers: Consultation of local communities (e.g.: minutes or other evidence of consultations that took place face-to-face or online); evidence of the negative impacts identified (environmental pollution, externalities due to trade and transport activities; accidents/injuries); description of the prevention and mitigation measures defined and undertaken; registers of monitoring activities performed in the Management Unit.

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. The Organization holds and keeps an updated register of complaints in which the initiatives undertaken and the measures adopted by the Organization itself are noted, in order to facilitate the out-of-court settlement of disputes, through a specific internal procedure (see Annex B) or through appointed external bodies (see list of Conciliation Body). The outcomes of the management of all relevant grievance cases are appropriately recorded in the register and the possible need for fair compensation to communities and individuals is determined.

Verifiers: Updated complaint register (in paper or electronic format); internal dispute resolution procedure; choice of the most effective method of resolving each dispute.

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. With the engagement of local communities, sites of particular cultural, historical, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance, including important tourist-recreational activities, for which local communities hold legal or customary rights, are identified. These sites, suitably included in the maps of the Management Unit, are actively protected with the engagement of local communities.

Verifiers: Best Available Information; list of sites of particular importance, suitably mapped; measures for the protection of significant sites agreed with local communities concerned and/or experts; consultation of local communities (minutes or other evidence of the consultations that took place).

4.7.2. If sites/objects of particular historical or archaeological significance are found, management activities are suspended and the competent authorities are contacted, in order to verify the possible impacts caused by the management activities and any preventive and protective measures to be adopted.

Verifiers: Evidence of discovery of sites of particular historical or archaeological significance; evidence of communication to the competent authorities.

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. With a multifunctional approach to the management of the forest area, The Organization identifies and enhances the range of resources and ecosystem services that allow for the strengthening and diversification of the local economy, also making them available for utilization by third parties.

SLIMF 5.1.1 With a multifunctional approach to the management of the forest area, The Organization identifies the range of resources and ecosystem services that allow for the strengthening and diversification of the local economy and makes them available for utilization by third parties.

Verifiers: Stand description including harvestable products, ecosystem functions and services; thematic maps; list of ecosystem services (ES) and methods adopted for their utilization; ESCD.

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

Verifiers: List of validated ecosystem services.

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. Harvesting rates of woody products are based on a periodic analysis that includes:

- 1) Information on the average growth yield (expressed in cubic meters per hectare: m³/ha), and on mortality rates;
- 2) The information obtained from the forest inventory, from the last approved forest management plan or from other sources considered relevant to the purpose;
- 3) The analysis of the correspondence existing between the silvicultural interventions carried out and the declared management objectives and forest functions (productive, conservation, tourist-recreational, etc.);
- 4) Compliance with the limits deriving from obligations and recommendations introduced by current legislation, including at a local level (e.g.: maximum admissible uses on a periodic basis).
- 5) Verification of the maintenance of ecosystem functions and compliance with long-term management objectives (ensuring the mixing of species).

Verifiers: Forest management plan; harvest plan; dendro-auxometric surveys; permanent plots; monitoring plots.

5.2.2. The wood harvests made during the period of validity of the forest management plan are duly recorded and do not exceed, except for justified silvicultural indications and/or damage from exceptional natural events, the current increment referring to the same period.

Verifiers: Forest management plan; harvest plan; average value (average of the last ten years) of the current annual increment in wood mass (Average Annual Increment); average annual quantity (over the last ten years) of wood removed; average annual recovery envisaged by the management plan; average level of stock (m³/ha) for the various forest categories/typologies; relationship between utilization rate and forest growth rate.

5.2.3. For commercial harvesting of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP), under the control of The Organization, the provisions contained, respectively, in Annex “C” (additional requirements for Non-Timber Forest Products) and “D” (additional requirements for cork) are observed.

Verifiers: Forest management plan; Annex C; Annex D.

5.2.4. Forest management is oriented towards the production of timber of the best assortment among those potentially producible, in line with the principle of the cascading use of wood.

Verifiers: Assortment price; evidence of contracting/agreements with customers (e.g.: sawmills, timber trade intermediaries); wood stumpage value estimates; evidence on the quality of the assortments available.

Guidance note: The principle of cascading use of wood is applicable whenever the productive characteristics of the forest, the qualitative characteristics of the assortments and market conditions allow it.

5.2.5 Control and monitoring actions over harvesting activities of both timber and non-timber forest products are promoted by The Organization, according with the competent authority.

Verifiers: Management plan; monitoring results; communications with competent authorities.

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

5.3.1. The Organization, in proportion to the scale and intensity of management activities, identifies, quantifies and documents in the Management Plan the positive and negative social, environmental and economic externalities caused by the management activities, taking into consideration:

- 1) The costs related to the prevention, mitigation or compensation of the negative impacts caused by the management activities;
- 2) The direct or indirect benefits deriving from the implementation of the same management activities.

SLIMF 5.3.1 Where the management activity has a negative social or environmental impact, measures are taken to prevent, mitigate or compensate it.

Verifiers: Management Plan; monitoring plan; analysis of positive and negative externalities; estimation of costs related to the prevention and mitigation of potential negative impacts.

Guidance note:

Examples of negative externalities:

- 1) Environmental impacts: erosion, loss of species and habitats, variation of the specific composition of the topsoil, landscape aspects (areas affected by fire, damage from the use of biological control agents, etc.).
- 2) Social impacts: damage to hiking trails or existing roads; degradation of ecosystem services, inconvenience deriving from the cutting, harvesting and transport of forest products, injuries or accidents.

Examples of positive externalities:

- 1) Environmental impacts: valorization of the territory, improvement of the characteristics of habitats and species, maintenance and/or improvement of ecosystem services.
- 2) Social impacts: creation of employment and professional growth opportunities, restoration of important areas from a social and/or cultural point of view, increase of the participation of local communities in forest management activities.

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. In order to develop and enhance the locally available skills – where their cost, quality and actual availability allow it – opportunities are communicated and offered to contractors and local suppliers for:

- 1) Employment;
- 2) Training and professional qualification;
- 3) The supply of goods and services that bring added value to the activities that The Organization expects to implement on site.

SLIMF 5.4.1 In order to develop and enhance the locally available skills, opportunities are offered to contractors and local suppliers for the supply of goods and services that bring added value to the activities that The Organization expects to implement on site.

Verifiers: Evidence of the communication and offering of opportunities, carried out or at least planned, on the provisions of the previous points a), b) and c); justification of any declared impossibility to provide the aforementioned communication/offer (e.g.: objective insufficiency of available human, technical and organizational resources).

5.4.2. The Organization, in proportion to the scale and intensity of management activities, promotes the development of markets for the sustainable use of lesser-known species and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP).

SLIMF 5.4.2 The Organization, in proportion to the scale and intensity of management activities, support the development of markets for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP).

Verifiers: Analysis of commercialized species; analysis of any NTFP promoted; potential market development plan for a less known species and for NTFP.

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 resources (expenses and investments) are allocated for the implementation of the management activities described in the Management Plan, in order to comply with this Standard and ensure the economic sustainability of the activities in the long term.

Verifiers: Personnel employed; Management Plan; estimate (budget) and final balance of expenses and investments incurred for forest management; Income statement of forest management (Costs and Revenues of the Management Unit); expected economic result (estimate) on a multi-year basis.

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 threatened by management activities, outside of the Management Unit.

Verifiers: Best Available Information (e.g.: thematic maps; available literature on the forest area concerned; landowner direct knowledge; inspections in the field); analysis of the Environmental Values identified and evaluated.

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. The assessment of potential environmental impacts identifies, from the intervention site to the landscape scale, and before the start of each management activity:

- 1) The impacts of management activities on Environmental Values (in the short and long term);
- 2) Existing risks for Environmental Values;
- 3) Prevention and conservation measures necessary to protect the identified Environmental Values;
- 4) The frequency and monitoring elements of any negative environmental impacts.

Verifiers: Assessment performed on potential environmental impacts, including the analysis referred to in points 1), 2), 3) and 4) above.

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 prevent negative impacts to environmental values.

Verifiers: Environmental Values list and management activities to prevent negative impacts.

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

Verifiers: Prevention and mitigation measures of the negative impacts deriving from the planned and implemented management activities.

Guidance note: Prevention measures are defined, to be applied during specific forest operations in order to prevent/mitigate any negative impacts.

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 and IUCN listed species and species on national, regional and local lists – present or suspected to occur in or near the Management Unit.

Verifiers: Best Available Information used by The Organization to identify rare, threatened species and their habitats; analysis of the environmental values identified in and around the Management Unit.

6.4.2. The Organization identifies the potential negative impacts of management activities on rare and threatened species, their conservation status and their habitats; these management activities are reviewed and adapted in order to avoid negative impacts, including the possible observance of the reproductive periods of the fauna that populates the site.

Verifiers: Assessment performed on potential environmental impacts; Management Plan.

6.4.3. Best Available Information is used to define the most appropriate management activities and the most effective protection measures, in order to protect rare and endangered species and their habitats.

Verifiers: Defined and concretely implemented protection measures; Management Plan.

6.4.4. Hunting, fishing, trapping and collection of rare or threatened species is prevented in collaboration with appointed authorities.

Verifiers: Prevention measures, agreements with appointed authorities.

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. The Organization uses the Best Available Information to identify native ecosystems and to protect those already present through the establishment of Representative Areas.

Verifiers: Best Available Information; Conservation Areas Network (CAN) defined; environmental values and any HCV identified.

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

Verifiers: List of identified Representative Areas, management plan, restoration activities towards more natural conditions.

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

Verifiers: Representative Areas list and position, management plan.

6.5.4 Representative Areas, in combination with other components of the Conservation Area Network, is equal to at least 10% of the total extent of the Management Unit.

Verifiers: Area and detailed composition of the CAN.

Guidance note:

- 1) Within the CAN (10%) conservation is the only admitted management objective; the “active” management of these areas should therefore be oriented exclusively to conservation measures, to the natural evolution of the ecosystem, to the mandatory phytosanitary control, to safety and should be implemented in compliance with any specific legal provisions.
- 2) The management activities allowed in this area can vary from none/minimum to specific measures defined for the purpose of maintaining or restoring the identified environmental values.
- 3) Normally, the management of such areas for commercial purposes (i.e.: the extraction of timber and NTFP for commercial purposes) is prohibited and any exceptions will have to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, in agreement with the Certification Body and FSC Italy.
- 4) Riparian zones can be included only if they fulfil conservation functions, areas of protection, ecological connectivity (ecological corridors) and can represent at most a portion of the total area of the CAN.

A non-exhaustive list of eligible activities includes:

- 1) Ecosystem restoring activities (e.g.: increase in the specific mix of species; mandatory phytosanitary control; as a consequence of damage of natural or anthropic origin; etc.);
- 2) Research activities (e.g.: studies carried out by university institutes);
- 3) Environmental monitoring (e.g.: entities specialized in monitoring flora or fauna);

In Management Units with an area of less than 50 (fifty) hectares, the requirement can be fulfilled (also) outside the Management Unit (see: Interpretation of the regulatory framework, Forest Management, INT-STD-01-001_09 and INT-STD-20-007_45).

For Groups: This indicator may be fulfilled at a group level for SLIMF Management Units (See FSC-STD-30-005).

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, the characteristics of the habitats and the ecosystems present in the Management Unit, supporting their diversity, distribution and ability to provide ecosystem services.

Verifiers: Management Plan; description of the measures taken to ensure the continuity and diversity of species, genotypes and their respective habitats.

6.6.2. Where past management has simplified plant communities or habitat features, management activities to restore these habitats are implemented, recovering the features associated with the original ecosystems, in order to support the continuity of the provision of ecosystem services.

Verifiers: Potential vegetation; potential conditions of plant communities and habitats; Management Plan; description of the planned and implemented restoration activities.

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. The Organization implements measures aimed at protecting natural and artificial (with a high degree of naturalness) watercourses, water bodies, riparian bodies and their connectivity, including the quantity and quality of water and associated biodiversity. Where these measures are not sufficient, restoration measures are implemented.

Verifiers: Performed assessment of environmental impacts; Management Plan; protection and recovery measures planned and implemented.

6.7.2. If a state of degradation of the aquatic and riparian environments persists in qualitative-quantitative, biodiversity and ecological terms, caused by past management or by activities implemented by third parties, countermeasures are applied (based on Best Available Information) sufficient to prevent or mitigate the degradation.

Verifiers: Assessment of environmental impacts performed; Management Plan; prevention and mitigation measures planned and implemented.

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

6.8.1. The mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial distribution and regenerative cycles that characterizes the landscape of the Management Unit is preserved and restored where it has not been adequately preserved.

Verifiers: Management Plan; regional landscape plans and/or other spatial plans; description of planned and implemented landscape restoration activities.

Guidance note: In the absence of landscape plans or equivalent or similar tools that establish the value of a landscape system and its components, forest management interventions will enhance the diversity of structures and processes at different spatio-temporal scales (from the stand to the landscape level). At the same time, these practices will preserve landscape diversity, providing in particular for the implementation of any measure that allows the safeguarding of particularly vulnerable landscape with respect to:

- 1) Degradation phenomena due to the natural evolution of the vegetation or to anthropogenic influence;
- 2) Localized socio-economic dynamics that can have negative impact on the landscape (e.g.: evolution of the existing infrastructure system);
- 3) Territorial and forest planning guidelines.
- 4) For high forest stands:

- 5) Depending on the forest type, the aim is to maintain and restore landscape diversity, also linked to the chromatic value, the spatial and age distribution of the different populations;
- 6) Selection cutting (by group) is preferred;
- 7) To maintain particular forest landscapes, different types of treatment (e.g.: “group, strip, wedge, etc.”) are possible, with dimensions to be established in relation to the forest typology and local conditions,

For coppice stands:

- 1) The aim is to create a cultural mosaic, through an appropriate evaluation of the shape, extent, regularity and contiguity of the cuts;
- 2) The variability of the natural context is promoted through the creation and maintenance of strips, small groups of tall trees, maintenance of stretches with natural aging, etc.

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

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

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

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

Verifiers: Collection of land use changes evidence or any land use change plan; regional regulations for conversion; studies, researches, specific assessment in case of land use change; consultation with experts, environmental NGOs, competent authorities.

6.10. **Management Units*** containing **plantations*** that were established on areas converted from **natural forests*** between 1 December 1994 and 31 December 2020 shall not qualify for certification, except where:

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

Verifiers: Collection of land use changes evidence or any land use change plan; regional regulations for conversion; studies, researches, specific assessment in case of land use change; consultation with experts, environmental NGOs, competent authorities.

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

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

Verifiers: Collection of conversion evidence/conversion plans; regional regulations for the conversion of natural forests; aerial photos.

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.

Verifiers: Collection of land use changes evidence or any land use change plan; regional regulations for conversion; studies, researches, specific assessment in case of land use change; consultation with experts, environmental NGOs, competent authorities.

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.

Verifiers: Collection of conversion evidence/conversion plans; regional regulations for the conversion of natural forests; aerial photos.

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. The policies of The Organization (vision and values) and the related specific and operational management objectives that contribute to compliance with the requirements of this Standard are incorporated into the Management Plan, summarized and publicly available.

SLIMF 7.1.1 Management objectives that contribute to compliance with the requirements of this Standard are incorporated into the Management Plan, summarized and publicly available.

Verifiers: Policy of The Organization publicly available (description of the vision and values that distinguish the same Organization); Management Plan: clearly defined management objectives.

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

7.2.1. The Management Plan includes and describes the actions, procedures and strategies planned by The Organization in order to achieve the defined management objectives – in line with the provisions of Annex “E”.

Verifiers: Management Plan structured in accordance with Annex “E”.

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. In order to monitor the progress and degree of achievement of each management objective reported in the Management Plan, appropriate key indicators are defined, as well as the relative frequency with which these are measured and evaluated.

Verifiers: Key indicators of forest management (e.g.: vegetation growth rate; rate of harvesting of forest products; percentage of invasive species eliminated; quality of water resources present on the site; etc.); 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 periodically reviewed and updated, in order to incorporate:

- 1) the results of the monitoring carried out by The Organization or by other parties specifically delegated by it and the corrective and improvement measures resulting from the periodic audits carried out by the Certification Body;
- 2) the results of the consultations that took place with the various categories of stakeholders;
- 3) the technical-scientific updates and the significant changes concerning the environmental, social and economic system which have (or which could have) repercussions on the Certificate scope.

Verifiers: Management Plan; monitoring plan; reports of the Audits performed by the Certification Body and related Corrective Actions.

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 containing the most important parts of the Management Plan, excluding confidential information, as defined in Annex "E" is publicly available, free of charge.

SLIMF 7.5.1 A summary containing the most important parts of the Management Plan, excluding confidential information, as defined in Annex "E" is made available upon request. free of charge.

Verifiers: Management Plan; publicly available summary of the Management Plan (e.g.: publication of the summary on The Organization's website).

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. Appropriate methods and tools are used to ensure that stakeholders are engaged in a proactive and transparent manner in the following processes implemented by The Organization:

- 1) Dispute resolution procedures;
- 2) Identification of rights, sites of local interest and any impacts on local communities;
- 3) Assessment, management and monitoring of HCVs.

Verifiers: Stakeholder consultation (proof of engagement in planning and monitoring processes).

7.6.2. The Organization defines and implements procedures and activities aimed at ensuring an "active" and "transparent" engagement of stakeholders, in relation to:

- 1) Definition of the most appropriate contact channels with stakeholders, in order to ensure rapid and effective communication with them;
- 2) Ensuring a fair representation with equal opportunities of the various categories of stakeholders (women, young people, the elderly, ethnic and linguistic minorities);

- 3) Documentation of the meetings held with the stakeholders and their representatives, of the topics discussed and of any agreements established;
- 4) Sharing of the results obtained from the implemented management activities and detailed program of the planned management activities.

Verifiers: Management Plan; defined procedures for stakeholder consultation; minutes of the meetings held (in face-to-face or online) with the stakeholders and their representatives.

7.6.3. Stakeholders and the local community are allowed to participate in the process of planning and monitoring management activities that affect their interests.

Verifiers: Management Plan; defined procedures for stakeholder consultation; minutes of the meetings held (face-to-face or online) with the stakeholders and their representatives.

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. To ensure the implementation of the Management Plan, a monitoring plan is established for periodical monitoring of management objectives, the various activities connected to them and the corresponding key indicators through documented procedures.

Verifiers: Management Plan; monitoring plan (measurement and evaluation of key management indicators).

8.1.2. All forest workers (included external contractors) are monitored by The Organization to ensure that all forest operations are carried out efficiently, in a safely way and with high quality level.

Verifiers: Records and procedures; consultation with external workers (included contractors) and Organization's workers; existing health and safety program(s).

8.1.3. The Organization appoints the person(s) responsible for implementing the monitoring programs and procedures.

Verifiers: Monitoring plan; designated monitoring officer (duties and responsibilities).

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 monitoring plan includes the social and environmental impacts deriving from the management activities (in accordance with the Management Plan) and any changes of a social and environmental nature that occur in the Management Unit.

Verifiers: Monitoring plan; periodic reports of monitoring activities; Annex "E".

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. The concept of "adaptive management" is applied, including the results of monitoring activities in the updating of the Management Plan. If the results of the monitoring show non-compliance with the requirements of the FSC Standards, the management objectives, the key indicators and the management activities are revised.

Verifiers: Management Plan; results of monitoring activities; evidence of the application of the adaptive management concept (e.g.: revision of procedures and strategies; modification of key indicators or the frequency of their detection).

8.3.2. The comparison with the pre-existing planning documents, the current inventory data collected through forest measurement samplings and the wood samples taken, allow The Organization to evaluate the correctness of the planning and management choices adopted over time.

Verifiers: Subsequent inventory data; forest management plan; trend of measured values of key indicators.

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 results of the monitoring activities performed in the Management Unit, including maps, excluding confidential information and in accordance with the provisions of Annex “E”, is available to the public free of charge.

Verifiers: Publicly available summary of the monitoring plan.

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.

Verifiers: Collection of evidence in the field (sales invoices, registers of products marketed as “FSC certified”); request for transactions verification; fiber tests.

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

- 1) Common and scientific species name;
- 2) Type of forest product (woody/non-woody);
- 3) Volume (or weight or quantity) of product;
- 4) Location/locations of the harvest, at forest district level (e.g.: the municipality);
- 5) Cutting date (month and year of the forest season);
- 6) Any declaration of sale of the material as “FSC certified”.

Verifiers: Transport documents; sales invoices; “FSC Claim”; harvest authorization; harvest plan; Management Plan.

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;
- 7) The FSC Claim “FSC 100%” identifying products sold as FSC certified.

Verifiers: Sales invoices; transport documents.

8.5.4. The Certification Body is provided with all the information regarding:

- 1) The area subject to certification;
- 2) The municipalities in which the certified area falls;
- 3) The product categories deriving from forest management (FSC product classification: FSC-STD-40-004a);
- 4) The verified impacts of forest management on Ecosystem Services (FSC Procedure: FSC-PRO-30-002)

Verifiers: Scope of the Certificate, sales invoices, ESCD (Ecosystem Services Certification Document).

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. Using Best Available Information, the HCV (including the respective subcategories) and the HCV areas are identified according to Annex “F”, reported in the mapping of the Management Unit and evaluated.

Verifiers: Management Plan; HCV identified according to Annex “F”; detailed mapping of the Management Unit.

9.1.2. The assessment of HCV is carried out with the engagement of experts and the local community interested in the conservation of HCV.

Verifiers: Interview with experts and local community leaders who took part in the assessment of HCV status.

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. Using Best Available Information, the threats to the integrity and continuity of the HCVs present in the Management Unit are identified according to Annex “F”.

Verifiers: Identification of threats, even potential ones, to which the HCVs identified in the Management Unit are subject.

9.2.2. In the planning phase of each management activity which is potentially harmful for the HCVs, with the engagement of the stakeholders and the local community, concrete strategies and actions are developed, aimed at maintaining and, where possible, improving the condition of the HCVs identified according to Annex “F” and the areas to which they are closely related.

Verifiers: Management Plan; consultation of stakeholders and the local community; description of the strategies and concrete actions defined in order to maintain and where possible improve the status of the HCVs.

9.2.3. The conservation and improvement strategies for HCVs are implemented in a time frame consistent with the duration of the Management Plan, in order to maximize the probability that the consequent actions will be effective.

Verifiers: Management Plan; verification of the concrete implementation and effectiveness of the strategies aimed at maintaining and improving the conditions of the HCVs.

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 Organization implements the management activities aimed at maintaining and, where possible, improving the condition of the HCV identified and the areas to which they are closely linked.

Verifiers: Management Plan; description of the management activities actually implemented to maintain and improve the conditions of the HCVs.

9.3.2. If scientific information is incomplete and the vulnerability of the HCVs is uncertain, a precautionary approach is adopted in implementing the management activities referred to in Indicator 9.3.1 above.

Verifiers: Management Plan; precautionary approach adopted in presence of inaccurate or incomplete information (this approach may involve specific actions aimed at preventing damage to the HCVs or, at least, greatly reducing the risk and may lead to the interruption of management activities. See, in this regard, also the FSC Glossary, part of this Standard.

9.3.3. If objective evidence demonstrates that management activities damage the HCV, the activities are immediately halted, and HCV restoration interventions are promptly carried out.

Verifiers: Management Plan; monitoring plan (control of construction site activities); description of any activities to restore the HCV conditions that may be necessary.

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. The periodic monitoring program implemented by The Organization evaluates:

- 1) The effective implementation of conservation strategies and improvement of the conditions of the HCVs.
- 2) The existing status of HCVs, including HCV areas;
- 3) The effectiveness of the management strategies applied and the actions actually implemented, in order to protect and improve the HCVs.

Verifiers: Management Plan; monitoring plan; results obtained from the implementation of HCV protection and improvement strategies.

9.4.2. The monitoring program periodically implemented by The Organization includes the engagement of stakeholders and the local community.

Verifiers: Consultation of the stakeholders and the local community (minutes or other evidence of the meetings that took place, face to face or online, with the stakeholders and with representatives of the local community).

9.4.3. The monitoring program periodically implemented by The Organization provides for a level of detail and frequency of controls suitable for detecting any changes that have occurred in the condition of the HCV compared to the initial reference assessment.

Verifiers: Monitoring plan; outcome of monitoring activities on the conditions of the HCVs.

9.4.4. Strategies and actions are appropriately reviewed and modified if periodic monitoring or new available information demonstrate that the activities already implemented have not been sufficient to ensure the conservation and improvement of the HCV.

Verifiers: Monitoring plan; modification of the strategies and actions concretely implemented by The Organization, to recover effectiveness in the conservation and improvement activities of the HCV.

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 promptly regenerated, in order to:

- 1) Protect the Environmental Values and the HCV identified therein;
- 2) Recover and, where possible, improve the composition and structure of the stand prior to felling, applying naturalistic silvicultural criteria;
- 3) In cases of degraded forests due to adverse natural events (e.g.: extreme climatic and meteorological phenomena, widespread diffusion of invasive species, etc.), restore the composition and structure of the stand in favor of populations that are better adapted to climate change.

Verifiers: Management Plan; monitoring of the status of the seedlings and methods implemented to favor its survival; identification of Environmental Values (FSC Principle nr. 6) and the documented concrete solutions implemented to ensure their protection.

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. The species selected for regeneration/planting are:

- 1) Ecologically well adapted to the site;
- 2) Consistent with management objectives (e.g. wood production, biodiversity protection, etc.);
- 3) Consistent with climate change adaptation objectives;
- 4) Native and locally sourced species, except in cases where there is a clear and convincing justification for the selection of non-local genotypes and/or non-native species.

Verifiers: List of planted species; certificate of origin of the plant material used for the regeneration; seedling purchase documentation (e.g.: vendor invoices, transport document); nurseries owned by the Organization; see database/list of invasive species at national and international level.

10.2.2. The silvicultural treatment promotes the natural regeneration of the forest, sustaining the natural evolution dynamics of the ecosystem and favoring the formation of populations with characteristics consistent with the forest type.

Verifiers: Management Plan; monitoring activity register; evidence in the field.

10.2.3. Artificial regeneration practices are permitted only in cases where there is a documented urgent need to reconstitute the stand (e.g.: phytosanitary requirements, restoration resulting from damage caused by exceptional natural events, etc.), or where activities aimed at improving the existing ecosystem need to be implemented.

Verifiers: Management Plan; monitoring activity register; expert reports; evidence collected in the field indicates the need to intervene urgently for improving the existing ecosystem.

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 clearly demonstrate that the invasive impacts can be controlled, and mitigation measures have also been taken to keep their spread under control.

Verifiers: Management Plan; list of non-native species used; scientific assessments based Best Available Information; inspections in the field, aimed at verifying the effective absence of invasive impacts.

10.3.2. Management activities are implemented – also in cooperation with the competent authorities and bodies – to monitor, contain and where possible eradicate the invasive alien species identified at regional and EU level and present in the Management Unit, in order to control any negative impacts arising from them.

Verifiers: Lists of invasive alien species of community concern; black list of invasive alien species at regional level; description of the management activities aimed at containing the spread and, if necessary, at eliminating the presence of invasive species; list of measures defined and implemented in cooperation with the competent authorities and bodies.

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

10.4.1. Genetically Modified Organisms are not used.

Verifiers: Technical records/descriptive records of the forest reproduction material; purchase invoices.

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

10.5.1. Ecologically appropriate silvicultural practices are implemented with respect to the vegetation and species present in the sites managed by The Organization and consistent with the respective planned and pursued management objectives.

Verifiers: Management Plan; evaluation of silvicultural practices actually implemented, in relation to the vegetation characteristics found in the Management Unit/s and the respective management objectives.

10.5.2. In high forest stands, the type of treatment follows the silvicultural needs connected to the specific ecological-forest context, also in relation to the shape and orientation of the cuts.

Verifiers: Management Plan; forest management plan; evidence in the field.

10.5.3. In coppice stands, the decision to maintain coppice or mixed stands is justified by the individual and joint analysis of biological, ecological, phytosanitary, hydrogeological stability factors and in relation to technological, economic-financial and social needs, in compliance with the legislative context in force.

Verifiers: Management Plan; reports of the analyses carried out on the individual factors conditioning the choice of maintaining coppice or mixed stands.

10.5.4. On the basis of the assessment of the potential of the stand and the characteristics of the site, the management can provide for the continuation of the coppice treatment or can be oriented towards the creation of “islands of tall trees”, practices for the conversion to high forests, etc.

Verifiers: Management Plan.

10.5.5. The management of coppice stands undergoing transition to high forest is oriented towards the transition to populations that are ecologically suitable for the local context. The transition period is appropriate to the species, the fertility of the station and the original conditions of the coppice.

Verifiers: Management Plan.

10.5.6. The coppice stands are to be managed with standards, according to the legislative provisions in force, with a proportion of the standards in groups (no less than 30% for chestnut and locust and no less than 50% depending on the species, for others), preferably choosing species different from the ones coppiced and preferably sporadic.

Verifiers: Forest management plan; harvest plan.

10.5.7. As an alternative to grouping standards, management can be oriented towards “mixed stands” (guaranteeing a variable percentage between 30% and 70% of high forest together with coppice forest), or towards other cultivation practices aimed at enhancing the harvestable material or aimed at recovering abandoned or degraded stands.

Verifiers: Forest management plan; harvest plan.

10.5.8. The use of coppice does not take place on adjoining areas collectively exceeding 5 hectares (extendable up to 10 hectares on the basis of proven technical-economic reasons). In the case of contiguous stands managed by coppicing, at least 3 years elapses between one intervention and the next.

Verifiers: Forest management plan; harvest plan.

10.5.9. Coppice management does not continue in the following cases:

- 1) “Aged coppice” (with reference to the values established by the legislation or, failing this, in coppices that are older than 40-45 years);
- 2) In forests with a prevalence of oak and beech that are older than 40 years (both coppices and the coppice fraction in mixed stands).

Verifiers: Forest management plan; harvest plan.

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

10.6.1. The use of fertilizers by The Organization is minimized, avoided or permitted in accordance with the following requirements:

- 1) The ecological and economic benefits are equal or higher than those of silvicultural systems that do not require fertilizers;
- 2) In the presence of an improvement program for the progressive replacement of synthetic fertilizers with organic ones or those permitted in organic farming, taking into account any alternative techniques and products that will become available at reasonable costs, over a period of 5 years;

- 3) If the use of digestates is envisaged, these come from an agro-zootechnical origin;
- 4) On the basis of specific chemical and pedoclimatic analyses or, alternatively, of the available bibliographic analysis (e.g.: thematic mapping);

Verifiers: Integrated strategy for the management and progressive replacement of fertilizers; scientific evaluations; purchase invoices and/or material stored in the warehouse; collection of evidence in the field; interview of workers and local stakeholders. If digestates of agro-zootechnical origin are used, the Organization is required to show the relative supply contract and the extract of the authorization indicating the digester's feeding diet.

10.6.2. When using fertilizers, the type, the amount used, the frequency of use and the site of application are documented.

Verifiers: fertilizer register (type of fertilizer used, quantity, site and frequency of application); logbook; technical data sheets of the fertilizing products used.

10.6.3. If fertilizers are used, the Environmental Values identified in the Management Unit are protected by measures for the prevention of damage. If damage occurs, it is promptly mitigated or remedied.

Verifiers: Collection of evidence in the field; list of identified and protected Environmental Values; technical sheets of the fertilizing products used, creation of a buffer strip (grassing or hedgerows) extended for at least 5 meters.

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 methods, including the selection of management systems, are used to reduce, or even completely avoid, the frequency, extent and overall quantity of pesticide applications in the Management Unit.

Verifiers: Evidence of plans for integrated management (e.g.: planting distance, selected species, good management practices); register of pesticides used; regularly updated logbook.

10.7.2. A decision-making process aimed at identifying the management option whose application results in less damage and greater social and environmental benefits, in accordance with the provisions of the FSC Policy for the use of Pesticides (FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0 FSC Pesticides Policy clause 4.12), is in place and documented.

Verifiers: Documentation proving the process of defining an integrated management system; register of pesticides used (specific name, active ingredient, site and frequency of application, etc.); Environmental and Social Risk Assessment (ESRA) specifically prepared by a qualified expert; updated logbook; consultation of experts and stakeholders.

10.7.3. Records of each pesticide used are kept, including the trade name and quantity of the active ingredient used, the period of use, the number and frequency of applications, the precise place where it was used, as well as the reasons that justify its use.

Verifiers: Updated register of pesticides used (trade name, active ingredient, site and frequency of application, etc.); logbook.

10.7.4. The use of pesticides by The Organization complies with the "National Action Plan (NAP) for the sustainable use of plant protection products" which governs the requirements for transport, storage, handling, application and the emergency procedures for cleanup following accidental spills.

Verifiers: Pesticide Registry; logbook; NAP (National Action Plan for the sustainable use of pesticides) (art.6 Legislative Decree n.150 of 14 August 2012).

10.7.5. The application methods adopted in the use of pesticides correspond to the recommendation on the product label and are adequately described in the ESRA specifically drawn up by the professional in charge.

Verifiers: Product labels of each pesticide used; ESRA prepared by a qualified expert.

10.7.6. Any damage to Environmental Values and human health deriving from pesticides use is suitably prevented; where such damage occurs, it is mitigated or repaired.

Verifiers: Reporting of any accidents and accidental spills; monitoring; evaluation of The Organization's commitment in detecting the damage and activation procedure of the competent body; description of prevention, mitigation and recovery measures in case of damage caused to Environmental Values and human health.

10.7.7. When using pesticides:

- 1) The selected product, the method of application, times and methods of use present the least risk to humans and non-target species;
- 2) Objective evidence demonstrates that the treatment adopted is the only effective, practical and economical way to control the pest.

Verifiers: ESRA drawn up by a qualified expert.

10.7.8. The Environmental and Social Risk Assessment (ESRA) is suitably reviewed and, if necessary, revised and updated during the five-year period of validity of the Certificate.

Verifiers: Updated ESRA.

10.7.9. Stakeholders potentially affected by the application of pesticides by The Organization are kept informed of the Environmental and Social Risk Assessment (ESRA) drafting process and are offered an opportunity for engagement.

Verifiers: ESRA; consultation of experts and stakeholders; evidence of stakeholder engagement.

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, controlled and appropriately recorded, including the type, quantity, period, place of use and reason for use.

Verifiers: Biological Control Agent Registry; Management Plan; monitoring plan; product label.

10.8.2. The use of biological control agents takes place in accordance with internationally recognized scientific protocols.

Verifiers: List of national and international scientific protocols.

10.8.3. The occurrence of damage to Environmental Values caused by the use of biological control agents is avoided; where damage occurs, it is mitigated or repaired.

Verifiers: Analysis of identified and protected Environmental Values; registry of biological control agents; mitigation and recovery procedures.

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. The Organization evaluates the potential negative impacts caused by adverse natural events (e.g.: extreme climatic and meteorological phenomena, spread of invasive species, etc.) on existing infrastructure, forest resources and local communities in the Management Unit. Through the implementation of management activities, it prevents their effects and, where this is not possible, mitigates them.

Verifiers: Management Plan; evidence that the risks deriving from natural hazards have been assessed; fire plan; collection of evidence in the field.

10.9.2. The Organization assesses the possibility and the risk that the implementation of management activities could cause an increase in the frequency and extent of adverse natural events; consequently, it adapts the management activities in order to reduce the risk of negative impacts.

Verifiers: Best Available Information (e.g.: historical series and statistical data, land morphology, climatic conditions, etc.); collection of evidence in the field; Management Plan; stakeholder consultation.

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. The development, maintenance and use of infrastructure, as well as transport activities, are managed in such a way as to protect the Environmental Values and the HCV identified in the Management Unit and to prevent possible damage.

Verifiers: Environmental Values and HCV to protect; Management Plan; maps of the road network; conditions and ongoing development of existing infrastructure; collection of evidence in the field.

10.10.2. Disturbances or damage to watercourses, water bodies, soil, rare and endangered species, habitats, ecosystems and landscape values are prevented, mitigated and promptly repaired; management activities are modified to avoid further damage.

Verifiers: Management Plan; monitoring of the impacts deriving from management activities; description of the measures aimed at mitigating or avoiding the negative impacts.

10.10.3. The development of infrastructure and transport activities is planned according to the main use of the forest (productive, conservation, tourist-recreational, etc.), the type of forest products, the logging systems adopted and the condition of forest roads. The density of the existing road network and the density necessary to guarantee the access to the forest and its use, are identified. A system is in place to guarantee its correct maintenance (also in agreement with other subjects and bodies) and to regulate its use by other users.

Verifiers: Management Plan; maps of the existing road network; evidence of infrastructure development planning; collection of evidence in the field.

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. The harvest of timber and the collection of NTFPs are implemented in such a way as to preserve the identified Environmental Values and HCVs.

Verifiers: Management Plan; Environmental Values and HCV; collection of evidence in the field.

10.11.2. The harvesting practices adopted optimize the use of harvestable products and marketable materials.

Verifiers: Retractable assortments; Management Plan.

10.11.3. Adequate quantities of dead wood and decomposing biomass are left in the forest, and the forest structure is preserved in order to promote the conservation of Environmental Values.

Verifiers: Collection of evidence of conservation of dead wood and biomass in the field; monitoring reports on the condition of the Environmental Values to be conserved.

10.11.4. Adequate quantities of biomass and other materials deriving from utilization activities which are not reusable as biomass for energy use are chipped in the forest and left on site in order to favor the recycling of nutrients.

Verifiers: Management Plan; correct management of waste and resulting materials; collection of evidence in the field.

Guidance note: These operations are carried out taking care not to compromise the regular flow of water and not to cause potential “traps” for microfauna (small mammals, lagomorphs, etc.). In case of phytosanitary, hydrogeological or fire hazards, the “waste” are removed from the forest.

10.11.5. The harvesting practices minimize the damage caused to standing trees, to wood residues on the ground, to Environmental Values and to HCV.

Verifiers: Management Plan; analysis and collection of evidence in the field.

10.11.6. In cases where there are known to be animal species present in the Management Unit which would be disturbed, or potentially disturbed, by the implementation of forest management activities, the Management Plan necessarily establishes a period of suspension of management activities in the forest, during the reproduction period of the fauna present (spring-summer).

Verifiers: Management Plan: explicit provision of a suspension period of management activities for the protection of fauna, based on the specific forest context, the surveys carried out in the field and Best Available Information.

Guidance note: This provision in the Management Plan is not mandatory in simplified environments such as poplar plantations – as well as in the case of the collection of cork and other secondary products – which do not involve significant modifications of the forest habitat; on the other hand, it becomes of crucial importance in cutting interventions which require the harvest of more than 25% of the total woody mass (referring to the single stand).

10.11.7. Forest management is oriented towards the protection of species that represent a source of sustenance for biodiversity (e.g.: berries) and provides for the release of trees for long-term retention (at least 4 trees/hectare) and dead mass standing or on the ground; as well as the conservation of the so-called “dendromicrohabitats”.

Verifiers: Analysis and collection of evidence in the field.

10.11.8. On the basis of the legislation in force and the existing provisions on water management, The Organization provides for the creation of appropriate "buffer strips" near the banks of watercourses and wetlands present in the Management Unit.

Verifiers: Management Plan: list of Environmental Values protection measures; analysis and collection of evidence in the field.

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

10.12.1. The treatment and disposal of waste (e.g.: spent oils and fuels, jerry cans and other containers, worn tyres, etc.), including those deriving from the activities carried out by contractors, produced within the Management Unit, are carried out favoring recovery and recycling operations that preserve Environmental Values and HCV.

Verifiers: Waste collection and disposal methods adopted; contracts/agreements stipulated with subcontractors: specific procedures regarding the treatment of waste and processing slags; collection of evidence in the field; interview with workers.

10.12.2. Accidental events or other incidents resulting in the spillage of chemicals, oils and fuels are avoided. If such incidents occur, specific intervention procedures are immediately applied for appropriate clean up.

Verifiers: Methods of treatment of oils, fuels, other processing waste and pesticides; contracts/agreements with contractors; written emergency management procedures; collection of evidence in the field; interview with workers.

G ANNEXES

(Normative section)

Annex A List of applicable laws, regulations and nationally ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements

The regulatory sources listed below refer to the existing national and international regulatory framework. This list should be reviewed on a regular basis and, if necessary, updated. Sub-national regulations have not been included in this Standard, as they are subject to constant revisions and updates. Certification Bodies should ensure that these regulations are correctly respected by the certified Organizations.

Cross-cutting normative

[Legislative Decree no. 34 of 3 April 2018] "Law on forests and forest supply chains" and subsequent implementing decrees.

National forestry strategy (Official Gazette of 09/02/2022 n.33).

New European Forest Strategy for 2030 (COM (2021) 572 Final of 16 July 2021).

EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 (COM (2020) 380 Final of 20 May 2020).

[Decree of 28 October 2021] "Provisions for the definition of the minimum national criteria for the preparation of forest plans of territorial address and forest management plans".

1. Legal rights to harvest

1.1. Land tenure and management rights

[Italian Constitution, art. 42] Costituzione della Repubblica Italiana, art. 42 (G.U. n. 298 del 27 dicembre 1947)

[Civil Code, Book III art. 810 and following articles, defining legal requirements for ownership and tenure] R.D. n. 262 del 16 marzo 1942 "Approvazione del testo del Codice civile" (G.U. n. 79 del 04 aprile 1942), artt. 80 e seguenti.

Plantation:

R.D. no. 262 of 16 March 1942] "Approval of the text of the Civil Code" (Official Gazette no. 79 of 04 April 1942), art. 892 (distance for trees, art. 893 (trees near roads, canals and border of woods).

[Legislative Decree n.285 of 30 April 1992] and subsequent amendments. "New highway code".

[Presidential Decree n. 1062 of 21 June 1968] "Execution regulation of the law of 13 December 1964, n. 1341, laying down technical standards for the regulation of the construction and operation of external overhead power lines".

[Law n.339 of 28 June 1986] "New rules for the regulation of the construction and operation of external overhead power lines".

1.2. Concession licenses

Regional Administrations have been entrusted with responsibilities over concessions and licenses, through the following Decrees:

[Transfer to ordinary regions of the State administrative functions in the field of agriculture and forestry, hunting and fishing in inland waters and their personnel and offices] D.P.R. n. 11 del 15 gennaio 1972 "Trasferimento alle Regioni a statuto ordinario delle funzioni amministrative statali in materia di agricoltura e foreste, di caccia e di pesca nelle acque interne e dei relativi personali ed uffici"

[Implementation of art. 1 of Law 382/1975] D.P.R. n. 616 del 24 luglio 1977 "Attuazione della delega di cui all'art. 1 della legge 22 luglio 1975, n. 382" (Capo VIII)

1.3. Management and harvesting planning

Management Planning obligations for public forests:

Reorganization and reform of legislation on forests and mountainous terrains]

RDL 3267/1923, Riordinamento e riforma della legislazione in materia di boschi e di terreni montani.

Regional Administrations have been entrusted with responsibilities over forest management and harvesting permits through the following Decrees:

[Transfer to ordinary regions of the State administrative functions in the field of agriculture and forestry, hunting and fishing in inland waters and their personnel and offices] D.P.R. n. 11 del 15 gennaio 1972 "Trasferimento alle Regioni a statuto ordinario delle funzioni amministrative statali in materia di agricoltura e foreste, di caccia e di pesca nelle acque interne e dei relativi personali ed uffici"

[Presidential Decree no. 616/1977 "Implementation of art. 1 of Law no. 382/1975" (Chapter VIII)] D.P.R. n. 616 del 24 luglio 1977 "Attuazione della delega di cui all'art. 1 della legge 22 luglio 1975, n. 382", (Capo VIII)

[Presidential Decree no. 31 of 13 February 2017] "Regulation containing the identification of the interventions excluded from the landscape authorization or subjected to a simplified authorization procedure".

[Law n.353 of 21 November 2000] "Framework law on forest fires".

[D.gls n.42 of 22 January 2004] "Code of cultural heritage and landscape (Urbani code) and subsequent amendments and additions".

[Law n.431 of 8 August 1985] "Protection of areas of particular environmental interest (Galasso Law)".

Plantation:

[R. D. n.523 of 25 July 1904] and subsequent amendments. "Which approves and contains the consolidated text of the legal provisions regarding the hydraulic works of the various categories" Art. 96 (distance from watercourses).

[R. D. n.368 of 8 May 1904] and subsequent amendments. "Which approves the regulation for the execution of the consolidated text of the

laws of 22 March 1900 and 7 July 1902, nos. 195 and 333, on the reclamation of marshes and marshy land". Articles 133, 96 (working near watercourses).

[Ministerial Decree. no. 75568 of 06/11/2015] Ministerial Decree of registration of poplar clones and attached list (n. 75568 of 06/11/2015).

1.4. Harvesting permits

Regional Administrations have been entrusted with responsibilities over issuance of harvesting permits through the following Decrees:

[Transfer to ordinary regions of the State administrative functions in the field of agriculture and forestry, hunting and fishing in inland waters and their personnel and offices] D.P.R. n. 11 del 15 gennaio 1972 "Trasferimento alle Regioni a statuto ordinario delle funzioni amministrative statali in materia di agricoltura e foreste, di caccia e di pesca nelle acque interne e dei relativi personali ed uffici"

[Presidential Decree no. 616/1977 "Implementation of art. 1 of Law no. 382/1975" (Chapter VIII)] D.P.R. n. 616 del 24 luglio 1977 "Attuazione della delega di cui all'art. 1 della legge 22 luglio 1975, n. 382", (Capo VIII)

2. Taxes and fees

2.1. Payment of royalties and harvesting fees

Transfer to ordinary regions of the State administrative functions in the field of agriculture and forestry, hunting and fishing in inland waters and their personnel and offices]

D.P.R. n. 11 del 15 gennaio 1972 "Trasferimento alle Regioni a statuto ordinario delle funzioni amministrative statali in materia di agricoltura e foreste, di caccia e di pesca nelle acque interne e dei relativi personali ed uffici"

[Presidential Decree no. 616/1977 "Implementation of art. 1 of Law no. 382/1975" (Chapter VIII)] D.P.R. n. 616 del 24 luglio 1977 "Attuazione della delega di cui all'art. 1 della legge 22 luglio 1975, n. 382", (Capo VIII)

[Procedures to prevent corruption and illegal activities in public administration] L. n. 109 del 6 novembre 2012 "Disposizioni per la prevenzione e la repressione della corruzione e dell'illegalità nella pubblica amministrazione".

Plantation: Not applicable

2.2. Value added taxes and other sales taxes

[Introduction and regulation of value added tax] D.P.R. n. 633 del 26 ottobre 1972. "Istituzione e disciplina dell'imposta sul valore aggiunto" (Tabella A)

2.3. Income and profit taxes

[Legislative Decree no. 344 of 12 December 2003] and subsequent amendments. "Corporate income tax reform, in accordance with article 4 of law no. 80 of 7 April 2003".

3. Timber harvesting activities

3.1. Timber harvesting regulations

[Transfer to ordinary regions of the State administrative functions in the field of agriculture and forestry, hunting and fishing in inland waters and their personnel and offices]

D.P.R. n. 11 del 15 gennaio 1972 “Trasferimento alle Regioni a statuto ordinario delle funzioni amministrative statali in materia di agricoltura e foreste, di caccia e di pesca nelle acque interne e dei relativi personali ed uffici”

[Presidential Decree no. 616/1977 “Implementation of art. 1 of Law no. 382/1975” (Chapter VIII)] D.P.R. n. 616 del 24 luglio 1977 “Attuazione della delega di cui all’art. 1 della legge 22 luglio 1975, n. 382”, (Capo VIII)

Plantation

[R.D. n.368 of 8 May 1904] and subsequent amendments. “Which approves the regulation for the execution of the consolidated text of the laws of 22 March 1900 and 7 July 1902, nos. 195 and 333, on the reclamation of marshes and marshy land”. Article 133 (working near waterways).

3.2. Protected sites and species

[National legislation related to the classification and governance of protected area] L. n. 394 del 6 dicembre 1991 “Legge Quadro sulle aree protette”

[Decree establishing the official list of national protected areas] D.M. del 27 aprile 2010 “Approvazione dello schema aggiornato relativo al VI elenco ufficiale delle aree protette”

[Law for the protection of endangered animal species] L. n. 157 del 11 febbraio 1992 “Norme per la protezione della fauna selvatica omeoterma e per prelievo venatorio”

[Decree for the implementation of EU Directive n. 92/43/CEE] D.P.R. n. 357 dell’8 settembre 1997 “Regolamento recante attuazione della direttiva 92/43/CEE relativa alla conservazione degli habitat naturali e seminaturali, nonché della flora e della fauna selvatiche”

[Decree setting the criteria for the identification of Special Conservation Areas and Special Protection Areas (in the context of EU Directive no. 92/43/CEE)] D.M. del 17 ottobre 2007 “Criteri minimi uniformi per la definizione di misure di conservazione relative a zone speciali di conservazione (ZSC) e a zone di protezione speciale (ZPS)”

[Regulation with the modifications to decree no. 357/1997] DPR n. 120 - 12.3.03 (G.U. n. 124 - 30.5.03): “Regolamento recante modifiche ed integrazioni al DPR 357/97 del 8.9.97 concernente attuazione della direttiva 92/43/CEE relativa alla conservazione degli habitat naturali e seminaturali, nonché della flora e della fauna selvatiche”

[IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, national Red List]; le Liste Rosse italiane

3.3. Environmental requirements

[Transfer to ordinary regions of the State administrative functions in the field of agriculture and forestry, hunting and fishing in inland waters and their personnel and offices]

D.P.R. n. 11 del 15 gennaio 1972 “Trasferimento alle Regioni a statuto ordinario delle funzioni amministrative statali in materia di agricoltura e foreste, di caccia e di pesca nelle acque interne e dei relativi personali ed uffici”

[Presidential Decree no. 616/1977 “Presidential Decree no. 616 of 24 July 1977 “Implementation of art. 1 of Law no. 382/1975” (Chapter VIII)] D.P.R. n. 616 del 24 luglio 1977 “Attuazione della delega di cui all’art. 1 della legge 22 luglio 1975, n. 382”, (Capo VIII)

[Environmental rules]

D.lgs. n. 152 del 3 aprile 2006. Norme in materia ambientale

D.lgs. n. 4 del 16 gennaio 2008 Ulteriori disposizioni correttive ed integrative del decreto legislativo 3 aprile 2006, n. 152, recante norme in materia ambientale.

[Council Directive 91/676/EEC of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/1991/676/2008-12-11>] Direttiva del Consiglio Europeo del 12 dicembre 1991 relativa alla protezione delle acque dall'inquinamento provocato dai nitrati provenienti da fonti agricole (91/676/CEE) (GU L 375 del 31.12.1991, pag. 1)

[Ratification of Convention on Biological Diversity] L. n. 124 del 14 febbraio 1994 Ratifica Convenzione Internazionale sulla Biodiversità.

[IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, national Red List]; le Liste Rosse italiane

Plantation

[Legislative Decree no. 150 of 14 August 2012] “Implementation of Directive 2009/128/EC which establishes a framework for Community action for the sustainable use of pesticides (GU n.202 of 30-8-2012 - Ordinary Supplement n. 177)”.

[Ministerial Decree of 22 January 2014] “Adoption of the National Action Plan for the sustainable use of plant protection products, pursuant to article 6 of the legislative decree 14 August 2012, n. 150”.

[Legislative Decree n.217 of 29 April 2006] “Revision of the regulations on fertilizers. (GU n.141 of 20-6-2006 - Ordinary Supplement n. 152)”.

[Ministerial Decree n.5046 of 25 February 2016] “Criteria and general technical standards for the regional regulation of the agronomic use of livestock effluents and wastewater pursuant to art. 113 of Legislative Decree 3 April 2006 n. 152, as well as for the production and agronomic use of the digestate pursuant to art. 52, paragraph 2-bis of the decree law of 22 June 2012, n. 83, converted into law 7 August 2012 n. 134”.

[Legislative Decree no. 152 of 3 April 2006] "Regulations on environmental matters".

[Ministerial Decree December 17, 2009] “Establishment of the waste traceability control system, pursuant to art. 189 of Legislative Decree 152/2006 and art. 14-bis of Legislative Decree 78/2009, converted, with amendments, by Law 102/2009”.

3.4. Health and safety

[National legislation on occupational health and safety] D.lgs. n. 81 del 9 aprile 2008 Attuazione dell'articolo 1 della legge 3 agosto 2007, n. 123, in materia di tutela della salute e della sicurezza nei luoghi di lavoro

In particular:

- Normative requirements regarding health and safety management system [D.lgs. n. 81 del 9 aprile 2008 (Titolo I)];
- Normative requirements regarding personal safety equipment [D.lgs. n. 81 del 9 aprile 2008 (Titolo III)];
- Normative requirements regarding the establishment of protection zones around harvesting sites [D.lgs. n. 81 del 9 aprile 2008 (Titolo IV), (art.96)];
- Normative requirements regarding safety in relation to the use of chemicals [D.lgs. n. 81 del 9 aprile 2008 (Titolo IV)].

[Labour Organisation (ILO) numbers 148, 149, 150, 151 and 152 ratification and implementation adopted during the 63rd, 64th, 65th session of the General Conference] L.n.862/1984 Ratifica ed esecuzione delle convenzioni dell'Organizzazione internazionale del lavoro (OIL) numeri 148, 149, 150, 151 e 152 adottate nel corso della 63^a, della 64^a e della 65^a sessione della Conferenza generale.

3.5. Legal employment

[Ratification and implementation of the Eight Core Labour Organization Conventions]:

- 29 Forced Labour Convention, 1930; ratified on 18/06/1934 with L. 29/01/1934, n. 274 (G.U. 03/03/1934, n. 53);
- 87 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Conventions, 1948; ratified with L. 23/03/1958, n. 367 (Suppl. ord. G.U. 17/10/1952, n. 242);
- 98 Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949; ratified on 13/05/1958 with L. 23/03/1958, n. 367 (G.U. 22 04/1958, n. 97);
- 100 Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951; ratified on 08/06/1956 with L. 22/05/1956, n. 741 (Suppl. ord.n. 1 G.U. 27/07/1956, n. 186);
- 105 Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957; ratified on 15/03/1968 with L. 24/04/1967, n. 447 (G.U. 26/06/1967, n. 158);
- 111 Discrimination (Occupation and Employment) Convention, 1958; ratified on 12/08/1963 with L. 06/02/1963, n. 405 (G.U. 06/04/1963, n. 93);
- 138 Minimum Age Convention, 1973; ratified on 28/07/1981 with L. 10/04/1981, n. 157 (Suppl. G.U. 29/04/1981, n. 116);
- 182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999; ratified on 07/06/2000 with L. 25/05/2000, n. 148 (G.U. 12/06/2000, n. 135).

[National legislation on compulsory occupational insurances] D.P.R. n. 1124 del 30 giugno 1965 “Testo unico delle disposizioni per l'assicurazione

obbligatoria contro gli infortuni sul lavoro e le malattie professionali”

D.lgs. n. 38 del 23 febbraio 2000 “Disposizioni in materia di assicurazione contro gli infortuni sul lavoro e le malattie professionali”

[National legislation on the minimum working age and minimum age for personal involved in hazardous work] - L. n. 777 del 17 ottobre 1967 “Tutela del lavoro dei bambini e degli adolescenti” - D.lgs. n. 345 del 4 agosto 1999 “Attuazione della direttiva 94/33/CE relativa alla protezione dei giovani sul lavoro”.

[National legislation on forced and compulsory labour, and freedom of association] - Law n. 300 del 20 maggio 1970 (Parte III) “Statuto dei lavoratori”

[Code of Equal Opportunities between men and women, according to the Art.6 of L.no.246/2005]. D.lgs.n.198 dell' 11 aprile 2006. Codice delle pari opportunità tra uomo e donna, a norma dell'articolo 6 della legge 28 novembre 2005, n. 246.

[Law on the protection and support of maternity and paternity, pursuant to Article 15 of Law no. 53]. D.lgs.n.151 del 26 marzo 2001. Testo unico delle disposizioni legislative in materia di tutela e sostegno della maternita' e della paternita', a norma dell'articolo 15 della legge 8 marzo 2000, n. 53.

[Law on the National Council of Economics and Labor and the establishment of a National Collective Bargaining Agreement Register] L.n. 30 dicembre 1986, n. 936 Norme sul Consiglio nazionale dell'economia e del lavoro; National Collective Bargaining Agreement Register .

[Urgent measures for financial stabilization and development] D.lgs. n. 138 del 13 agosto 2011 (Art.12) “ Ulteriori misure urgenti per la stabilizzazione finanziaria e per lo sviluppo”

4. Third parties' rights

4.1. Customary rights

Customary rights are covered by the following national legislation:

[Law n. 1766/1927 Conversion into law of R.D. no. 751/1924, concerning the reorganization of the civic uses in the country, the R.D. no. 1484/1924, amending Article. 26 of R.D. no. 751/1924, and R.D. no. 895/1926, extending the time allowed by art. 2 of R.D.L. no. 751/1924]

Law 16 giugno 1927, n. 1766 Conversione in legge del R.D. 22 maggio 1924, n. 751, riguardante il riordinamento degli usi civici nel Regno, del R.D. 28 agosto 1924, n. 1484, che modifica l'art. 26 del R.D. 22 maggio 1924, n. 751, e del R.D. 16 maggio 1926, n. 895, che proroga i termini assegnati dall'art. 2 del R.D.L. 22 maggio 1924, n. 751

[R.D. no. 332/1928 Approval of the regulations for implementing the Law no. 1766/1927, on the reorganization of the civic uses of the Kingdom]

R.D. 26 febbraio 1928, n. 332 Approvazione del regolamento per la esecuzione della legge 16 giugno 1927, n. 1766, sul riordinamento degli usi civici del Regno.

[Law n. 168 of 20 November 2017] "Rules on collective domains".

[Presidential Decree 11/1972 “Transfer to ordinary regions of the State administrative functions in the field of agriculture and forestry, hunting and fishing in inland waters and their personal and offices”] D.P.R. n. 11 del 15 gennaio 1972 “Trasferimento alle Regioni a statuto ordinario delle funzioni amministrative statali in materia di agricoltura e foreste, di caccia e di pesca nelle acque interne e dei relativi personali ed uffici”

[Presidential Decree no. 616/1977 “Implementation of art. 1 of Law n. 382/1975” (Chapter VIII)] D.P.R. n. 616 del 24 luglio 1977 “Attuazione della delega di cui all’art. 1 della legge 22 luglio 1975, n. 382”, (Capo VIII)

[L. n. 31/1994 New provisions for mountain areas] L. 31 n. 97 del gennaio 1994, Nuove disposizioni per le zone montane.

As of 1972, normative requirements regarding customary rights on forest resources have been transferred to Regional Administrations. Requisiti specifici che riguardano i diritti consuetudinari sono stati delegati alle Regioni mediante il D.P.R. n. 11/1972 e ss.mm.ii.

4.2. Free Prior and Informed Consent

[Civil Code, art. 1341 “General Contract Conditions”] Codice Civile, art. 1341 “Condizioni generali di contratto”

[Consumer Code, in particular artt. 33-38 and artt. 139-141] D.lgs. n. 206 del 6 settembre 2005 “Codice del consumo, a norma dell’articolo 7 della legge 29 luglio 2003, n. 229” (G.U. n. 235 del 08 ottobre 2005) *In particolare: artt. 33-38 e 139-141

4.3. Indigenous Peoples’ rights Not applicable

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

National legislation on classification and description of traded goods:

[Presidential Decree no. 627/1978 (article 3) “Additional and corrective regulations on the Presidential Decree no. 633/1972, concerning the introduction and regulation of value added tax, pursuant to the delegation provided dall.art.7 law 249/1975 on the introduction of the obligation to issue the accompanying document for goods in transit”]

D.P.R. n. 627 del 6 ottobre 1978 (art.3) “Norme integrative e correttive del decreto della Presidente della Repubblica 26 ottobre 1972, n. 633, concernente istituzione e disciplina dell’imposta sul valore aggiunto, in attuazione della delega prevista dall.art.7 delle legge 10 maggio 1975 (n.249) riguardante l’introduzione dell’obbligo di emissione del documento di accompagnamento dei beni viaggianti”.

[Presidential Decree 472/1996 “Implementation of the provisions contained nell’aert.3, paragraph 147, letter d) of Law no. 549/1995, regarding the abolition of the packing slip of goods traveling”. D.P.R. n. 472 del 14 agosto 1996 “Regolamento di attuazione delle disposizioni contenute nell’aert.3, comma 147, lettera d), della legge 28 dicembre 1995, n. 549, relativamente

alla soppressione dell'obbligo della bolla di accompagnamento delle merci viaggianti".

5.2. Trade and transport

National legislation on transport documentation:

[Law 249/1976 (Article 7) "Conversion into law, with amendments, of Law Decree no. 46/1976, concerning urgent measures on tax matters"] L. n. 249 del 10 maggio 1976 (art.7) "Conversione in legge, con modificazioni, del decreto legge 18 marzo 1976, n. 46, concernente misure urgenti in materia tributaria".

[Presidential Decree no. 627/1978 (article 3) "Additional and corrective regulations on the Presidential Decree no. 633/1972, concerning the introduction and regulation of value added tax, pursuant to the delegation provided dall.art.7 law 249/1975 on the introduction of the obligation to issue the accompanying document for goods in transit"]

D.P.R. n. 627 del 6 ottobre 1978 "Norme integrative e correttive del decreto della presidente della repubblica 26 ottobre 1972, n. 633, concernente istituzione e disciplina dell'imposta sul valore aggiunto, in attuazione della delega prevista dall.art.7 delle legge 10 maggio 1975 (n.249) riguardante l'introduzione dell'obbligo di emissione del documento di accompagnamento dei beni viaggianti".

[Presidential Decree 472/1996 "Implementation of the provisions contained nell'aert.3, paragraph 147, letter d) of Law no. 549/1995, regarding the abolition of the packing slip of goods traveling"] D.P.R. n. 472 del 14 agosto 1996 "Regolamento di attuazione delle disposizioni contenute nell'art.3, comma 147, lettera d), della legge 28 dicembre 1995, n. 549, relativamente alla soppressione dell'obbligo della bolla di accompagnamento delle merci viaggianti".

5.3. Offshore trading and transfer pricing

National legislation on offshore trading and transfer pricing:

[Law 78/2009 (Title II) "Anti-crisis measures and extension of time/anti-avoidance measures and international and domestic anti-circumvention"] D.lgs. n. 78 del 1 luglio 2009 (Titolo II) "Provvedimenti anticrisi, nonché proroga dei termini/interventi antievasione e antielusione internazionale e nazionale"

[D. L. no. 78/2010 "Urgent measures for financial stabilization and competitiveness", art. 26] D.L. n. 78 del 31 maggio 2010 "Misure urgenti in materia di stabilizzazione finanziaria e competitività", art. 26

[Law 122/2010, Conversion into law, with amendments, of Decree-Law no. 78/2010, on urgent measures for financial stabilization and economic competitiveness] L. n. 122 del 30 luglio 2010, Conversione in legge, con modificazioni, del decreto-legge 31 maggio 2010, n. 78, recante misure urgenti in materia di stabilizzazione finanziaria e di competitività economica.

[Financial State Agency, ruling 2010/137654 of 29th September 2010] Agenzia delle Entrate, Provvedimento 2010/137654 del 29 settembre 2010

[Presidential Decree 917/1986 (art.32 and 55). "Approval of the consolidated law on income tax"] D.P.R. n. 917 del 22 dicembre 1986 (art.32 and 55). "Approvazione del testo unico delle imposte sui redditi"

5.4. Custom regulations

European Regulation on product classification:

[Presidential Decree no. 43 of 23 January 1973] and subsequent amendments. "Approval of the consolidated text of legislative provisions on customs matters"

Council Regulation (EEC) no. 2913/92 of 12 October 1992 "Community customs code"

[National legislation on phytosanitary requirements related to trade] D.lgs. n. 214 del 19 agosto 2005 "Attuazione della direttiva 2002/89/CE concernente le misure di protezione contro l'introduzione e la diffusione nella comunità di organismi nocivi ai vegetali o ai prodotti vegetali"

5.5. CITES

[Regulation (EC) no. 338/97 of the Council of 9 December 1996 concerning the protection of species of wild flora and fauna by controlling their trade] and subsequent amendments.

[Implementing Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006 of the Commission, dated 4 May 2006 - Containing methods of application of regulation (EC) no. 338/97 of the Council concerning the protection of species of wild flora and fauna by controlling their trade] and subsequent amendments.

[Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 792/2012 of the Commission, of 23 August 2012 - which establishes rules on the structure of the licences, certificates and other documents required by Council Regulation (EC) 338/97 on the protection of species of wild flora and fauna through the control of their trade and amending Regulation (EC) No. 865/2006 of the Commission].

[Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1587 of 24 September 2019 - which prohibits the introduction into the Union of specimens of certain species of wild flora and fauna in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 of the Council concerning the protection of species of wild flora and fauna by controlling their trade].

6. Due diligence / due care

6.1. Due diligence / due care procedures

[National legislation on the designation of the Italian Competent Authority for Regulation (EU) 995/2010] D.M. n. 18799 del 27 dicembre 2012

[National legislation on the management, controls and sanctions for Regulation (EU) 995/2010] D.lgs. n. 178 del 30 ottobre 2014 "Attuazione del regolamento (CE) n. 2173/2005 relativo all'istituzione di un sistema di licenza FLEGT per le importazioni di legname nella comunità Europea e del reg. (UE) n. 995/2010 che stabilisce gli obblighi degli operatori che commercializzano legno e prodotti da esso derivati"

[Ministerial Decree 9 February 2021] "Establishment of the national register of operators who market wood and products derived from it"; RIL – Wood Companies Register

7. Ecosystem Services

Not applicable

Annex B Procedure for dispute management and resolution

The Organization formalizes and implements a documented procedure aimed at managing, out of court, complaints from stakeholders, in relation to its management activities. This document should be interpreted as a set of minimum requirements.

The procedure contains specific written provisions, in order to:

- 1) Acknowledge the receipt of complaints (e.g.: complete a register of complaints received, feedback provided via e-mail to the complainant);
- 2) Inform the complainants that a complaint handling procedure is in place and provide them with an initial response within a maximum of two (2) weeks (such initial response is intended to reassure the complainants that their report will be considered);
- 3) Evaluate the legitimacy of the complaint, verifying whether the evidence accompanying the complaint is reliable (through, for example, special inspections carried out in the field and any subsequent investigations);
- 4) Maintain a dialogue with the complainant gathering further information useful for the management of the case before any measure is defined and any consequent action taken;
- 5) Take a precautionary approach in implementing management activities in the area affected by the complaint;
- 6) Suspend management activities where the complaint concerns the legal or customary rights of local communities, or when negative impact of management activities is of such magnitude that it can no longer be mitigated; in cases of physical violence, destruction of property, presence of military bodies, intimidation actions against workers and stakeholders; if a significant number of interests are involved and in case of substantial duration;

Note: Certification Bodies are informed within two (2) weeks if management activities are suspended. This communication includes information on the initiatives and measures that the Organization intends to undertake in order to resolve the complaint, as well as the description of the methods with which the precautionary approach will be adopted.

- 7) Define the most appropriate corrective actions that The Organization shall implement in order to settle the dispute;
- 8) Inform the complainant in writing (e.g.: via e-mail) of the corrective actions taken in order to eliminate the conditions that had led to the occurrence of the complaint;
- 9) Ensure the satisfaction of the complainant with respect to the activities undertaken for the solution of the case and the related implementation timeframe;
- 10) "Close" the dispute within a reasonable time;
- 11) Monitor the impact of corrective actions implemented;
- 12) Track all cases of complaints received and managed in a specific register kept up to date; including description of actions defined and implemented, including:
 - i. The details of the measures taken to resolve each dispute;
 - ii. The final outcome of each case of complaint addressed (resolved / not resolved / in progress), including the possible disbursement of financial compensation;
 - iii. Any unresolved disputes, or disputes whose management is still ongoing, and the forecast of the actions to be taken to conclude the dispute;

- iv. Any "structural" measures (i.e.: medium-long term) deliberated and aimed at avoiding the recurrence of the dispute.

Annex C Additional requirements for Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP)

Reference Criteria in the Standard	Text
1.3	<p>The management and use of NTFPs complies with all applicable laws and regulations.</p> <p>A list of applicable regulatory sources and any permits or licenses required for the management and collection of NTFPs is kept up to date.</p>
1.5	<p>Compliance with applicable national and local laws, ratified international conventions and mandatory codes of conduct relating to the transportation and trade of NTFPs up to the point of first sale.</p>
2.3	<p>The management and collection of NTFPs, is undertaken in compliance with provisions of current legislation on safety, adequate personal protective equipment is adopted, and health and safety practices are respected.</p>
5.1	<p>In cases of established customary rights/civic uses - a written agreement is drawn up between The Organization and the local community to establish the methods of collection/use of the NTFPs.</p>
5.2	<p>Based on the Best Available Information and on the preliminary analysis of the conditions existing in the Management Unit, the sustainable use rate of the NTFPs is calculated and respected.</p>
6.1/6.2	<p>The assessment of the potential impacts of NTFPs management activities on the Environmental Values is performed before the start of each activity.</p>
6.3	<p>In case of negative impacts deriving from the management activities of NTFPs on Environmental Values, The Organization mitigates or repairs these effects.</p>
7.1	<p>As part of the Management Plan, management objectives related to NTFPs are clearly defined.</p>
7.2	<p>The Management Plan includes a “NTFPs management and use plan”, including at least:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ a description of how the management of NTFPs fits into ordinary forest management activities;○ a qualitative and quantitative description of NTFPs;○ a map of the distribution and use of NTFPs;○ estimates and records of collection/use rate of NTFPs;○ methods of management, use and regeneration of NTFPs which guarantee sustainability of harvest;○ any necessary preventive measures to protect NTFPs.

Reference Criteria in the Standard	Text
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| 8.2 | Forest management monitoring assesses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ the extent of the impacts on the NTFPs (volume harvested, rate of regeneration/growth, health of populations/individuals, etc.);○ the direct and indirect environmental impacts of forest management on NTFPs;○ the negative impacts on NTFPs deriving from natural sources of disturbance (for example: fires, specific pathologies, etc.);○ changes in environmental conditions resulting from NTFPs management activities. |
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| 8.5 | A traceability system is implemented for NTFPs marketed as "FSC certified" (see indicators 8.5.1 and 8.5.2) |
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| 10.7 | In case of pesticide use, the FSC Pesticide Policy is applied (FSC-POL-30-001).
Methods of pesticide application that minimize the quantities used, ensure production and preserve the quality of NTFPs should be adopted. |
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| 10.11 | The management/collection activities of NTFPs are implemented in such a way as to conserve the Environmental Values and the HCVs. |
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| 10.11 | The collection of NTFPs which involves the partial extraction of elements (e.g.: bark, vegetative structures, fruits, exudates, etc.) is carried out in such a way as not to compromise the survival of individuals, applying the best practices to reduce the impact of collection activities on their vitality. |
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| 10.11 | In case of temporary storage, following the collection of NTFPs in the forest, the storage is carried out in such a way as to minimize the risk of loss of product quality and the risk of spreading diseases.

The techniques for the temporary storage of NTFPs, where relevant, are included in the " NTFPs management and use plan". |
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Annex D Additional requirements for cork

No.	Text	Verifiers
1	The Organization operates in accordance with national and local laws and/or management plan for cork oak forests.	Verifiers: Laws and other regional regulatory sources, general forestry prescriptions, other guidelines
2	The Organization demonstrates knowledge of the national and regional regulations concerning the management of cork oak forests.	Verifiers: List of specific regulations; interview with the forest manager
3	The Organization evaluates the risks and adopts all reasonable measures to eliminate them, providing the workers with the information and equipment necessary for the management of the cork oak forest, eventually justifying their adaptation.	Verifiers: PPE used, risk assessment, safety plan of The Organization or contractor
4	The silvicultural systems for the management of the cork oak forest are known and clearly defined and consider structural and compositional diversification. Silvicultural systems are managed in such a way as to minimize the phenomenon of "cork oak decay" and to guarantee good plant health conditions.	Verifiers: Management Plan
5	Cork extraction can only take place in the season legally established by law.	Verifiers: interviews with workers, evidence on the field, cork extraction communications
6	Different Cork extraction shifts are allowed within the same stand.	Verifiers: cork extraction shift, Management Plan; interview with workers
7	Cork extraction may occur in areas affected by fire after a minimum period of one (1) year.	Verifiers: Management Plan, cork extraction shift, evidence on the field
8	The extraction of cork cannot take place - as a rule - in areas seriously affected by entomological infestations (defoliator lepidoptera).	Verifiers: evidence on the field, order issued by the competent authority
9	In Italy the cork extraction cycle is equal to or greater than nine (9) years. In Sardinia the cycle is equal to or greater than ten (10) years.	Verifiers: cork extraction communication, management plan, evidence on the field

No.	Text	Verifiers
10	The height of the first cork extraction do not exceed twice the circumference at 1.30 metres, starting from the ground.	Verifiers: communication of cork extraction, evidence on the field
11	The height of the second and following cork extractions do not exceed three times the circumference at 1.30 metres, starting from the ground.	Verifiers: cork extraction communication, evidence on the field
12	During cork extraction operations, no damage is done to the phellogen (cork cambium).	Verifiers: evidence on the field
13	During cork extraction operations, any remains of cork at the base of the plant is removed, in order to preserve it from any diseases.	Verifiers: evidence on the field
14	Form pruning of young cork oak plants is recommended.	Verifiers: evidence on the field
15	Maintenance pruning of adult cork oak plants is prohibited, unless there are specific existing phytosanitary problems.	Verifiers: evidence on the field
16	The sales and transport documents correctly report the quantities of cork sold and the "FSC claims". Verifiers: harvest records, sales invoices and transport documents	Verifiers: harvest records, sales invoices and transport documents
17	Where possible, fire barriers are created and subject to periodic maintenance.	Verifiers: evidence on the field
18	The Organization uses phytosanitary products (fungicides) only for the sterilization of post-extraction trunks, in the presence of attacks by Diplodia and Biscognauxial to avoid the spread of infections. Dead or perishing plants are cut down and possibly burned.	Verifiers: evidence of fungal presence

Annex E Elements of the Management Plan

The Management Plan is a system that allows the collection of evidence that describes, justifies and regulates the management activities carried out by The Organization and included in the scope of the certificate. In particular, the documentary evidence, records, procedures and policies that The Organization develops and makes available during the inspection visit are explained, as well as the minimum elements that constitute the monitoring plan to meet the requirements of the Standard. The consultations of stakeholders, local communities, interviews with experts and with workers implemented by The Organization are also listed. This list is not exhaustive, and during the inspection the auditor will evaluate the need to check other documentary evidence. It is of fundamental importance that The Organization has established a system in order to easily find all the documentation listed.

Principle, Criteria	Documentary evidence	Monitoring	Summary items
Elements cross-cutting standard	Applicable legislation at national, regional and local level (e.g.: regions/provinces with special statute)	Continuous	
	<i>Forest management plan*</i> (if required by law) or similar, or list of minimum information on the Management Unit:	At least every 5-10 years (depending on the period of validity of the FSC Certificate or the <i>forest management plan*</i>)	Yes
	a) Historical information (use of the forest area and its evolution, previous planning documents, past forms of silvicultural management and treatment, any changes made to the management plan and their justification);		
	b) Description of the MU (location, geographical and topographic position; morphology of the territory; hydrography; annual, seasonal and monthly rainfall; soil and humus typology; lithotypes, their characteristics and distribution in the territory);		
	c) Identification of the presumable original plant communities, belonging to the belts of vegetation or to the phytoclimatic zones, in order to highlight the current and <i>potential vegetation*</i> typologies;		
	d) Zoning of the planned surface on the basis of the main functions. Description of tree stands, their composition, state of health (extent and type of damage); physical stability, consistency (volumes, biomass) and their growth rate;		
Inventory data			
Existing harvesting plan and road network in the Management Unit			
Harvesting communication		Continuous	
Planning of silvicultural activities		At least every 5-10 years (depending on the period of validity of the FSC	Yes

Principle, Criteria	Documentary evidence	Monitoring	Summary items
		Certificate or the <i>forest management plan</i> *	
1.1	Tax code; Chamber of Commerce registration (e.g.: ATECO code)	No	
1.1	Registration in the Official Register of Enterprises	No	
1.1	Certificate of attribution of the VAT code; registration in the "RIL" (Italian Register of Wood Companies), enrollment in the Register of forest enterprises or other public databases	No	
1.2	Deed of purchase or transfer of ownership (e.g. cadastral document)	No	
1.2	Lease, usufruct, concession contracts (mountain cottage, pastures)	Annual (update)	
1.2	Conservatory of real estate registers (mortgage certificate)	At least every 5 years	
1.2	Revenue Agency cadastral survey	At least every 5 years	
1.2	Cartographies and thematic maps available in paper or digital format	Annual (update)	Yes
1.2	Forest roads (in the format and level of detail available)	Annual (update)	Yes
1.3	Applicable legislation at national, regional and local level (e.g. regions/provinces with special statute)	Annual (update)	
1.3	Applicable taxes (VAT, income tax)	Annual	
1.3	Tax payment receipts	Annual	
1.3	Payments regularity documents (e.g.: Italian "DURC"); declaration of regularity of tax payments issued and signed by a chartered accountant (or similar professional) authorized to issue the declaration; declaration of absence of unpaid debts to the Treasury signed by the tax professional in charge	Annual	

Principle, Criteria	Documentary evidence	Monitoring	Summary items
1.5	Harvest permissions	Annual	
1.5	Certificates for the commercialization of CITES species	Annual	
1.5	Transport documents	Continuous	
1.6	Website, e-mail address, telephone, mobile	Annual	
2.1	Organization chart, job description	Annual	
2.4	List of employed personnel with date of birth	Annual	
2.1	Type of collective agreement applied	At least every 5 years	
2.1	Unique Book of Workers	Annual	
2.2	Salary payment evidence	Annual	
2.2	Leave and facilitations (maternity and/or paternity)	Annual	
2.2	Workers' paycheck	Annual	
2.3	PPE delivery report	Annual	
2.3	Risk Assessment Document with description of the accident prevention material	Annual	
2.3	Worksite Safety Operational Plan	Annual	
2.4	Certificates of professional qualification of workers (name, role, deadline for the necessary update)	Annual	
2.4	Technical skills acquired by workers (licenses, training courses attended)	Annual	
4.1	Legal and customary rights	At least every 5 years	

Principle, Criteria	Documentary evidence	Monitoring	Summary items
4.3	Communication and offer of employment, training, and other services to the local community	Annual	
4.4	Opportunities for socio-economic development offered to companies and workers at the local level	At least every 5 years	
4.7	List of sites/assets of particular cultural, ecological, economic and spiritual significance	At least every 5 years	Yes
4.7	Areas subject to dispute on the existence of legal and/or customary rights of local communities	Annual	
4.6	Communications sent to the competent authorities for the suspension of works in case of the presence of sites/properties of particular historical or archaeological significance	Continuous	
5.1	Description of forest stand	At least every 5 years	Yes
5.2	Estimated and actual annual harvest of wood and non-wood forest products	Annual	Yes
5.2	Permanent plots	At least every 5 years	
5.2	Monitoring plots	At least every 5 years	Yes
5.2	Price and quality of the assortments obtained from the Management Unit	Annual	
5.2	Wood stumpage value estimates	Annual	
5.2	Analysis of commercialized species	Annual	
5.2	Analysis of NTFPs marketed	At least every 5 years	Yes
5.3	Analysis of positive and negative externalities produced by management activities	At least every 5 years	
5.3	Product development plan and related potential market	At least every 5 years	

Principle, Criteria	Documentary evidence	Monitoring	Summary items
5.4	Communication and offer of employment, training, and other services to local contractors and suppliers	At least every 5 years	
5.5	Budget, annual and/or multi-year final balance	Annual/every 5 years	
6.1	Best Available Information (81 recognized scientific sources, professional reports, data deriving from direct experience)	Annual	
6.2	<i>Potential vegetation*</i>	At least every 5 years	
6.3	Regional landscape plans, other territorial plans	At least every 5 years	
6.5	List and position of the areas included in the Criterion 6.5 (Conservation Areas Network)	Annual	
6.9	Plans to convert natural forests into plantations or other types of land use	At least every 5 years	
6.9	Aerial photos	At least every 5 years	

Principle, Criteria	Registers	Monitoring	Summary items
Elements cross-cutting standard	List of stakeholders, list of local communities and their representatives (names of contact persons and their contact details: mobile phone, email address)	Annual	
	Updated complaints register (received and handled), including countermeasures taken to resolve disputes	Annual	
	Formalized complaints received from stakeholders, representatives of local communities or workers	Annual	
	Minutes of meetings (in person or online) held with stakeholders, local communities and workers	Continuous	

Principle, Criteria	Registers	Monitoring	Summary items
	Main results of silvicultural activities (management objectives achieved, direct and indirect benefits produced by forest management)	At least every 5 years	Yes
	Description of the impacts of cutting and logging activities on non-timber forest products and tradable wood residues	Annual	Yes
	Description of negative impacts generated by management activities on Environmental Values (EV) and HCVs (including effects deriving from infrastructure development)	Annual	Yes
	Measures to prevent and mitigate the negative impacts caused on Evs and HCVs	Annual	Yes
	Annual harvest of timber and non-wood forest products, compared with the estimated ones.	Annual	Yes
1.4	Registration of any illegal activities (intrusions, illegal withdrawals, arson, waste abandonment)	Annual	
2.3	Registers of accidents, near misses and injuries that occurred in the workplace	Infra-annual	
2.5	Training attendance register (participant names, date, training content)	Annual	
4.5	Negative impacts on local communities generated by management activities; prevention and mitigation measures defined following consultation with local communities	Annual	
5.1	List of Ecosystem Services	At least every 5 years	Yes
6.1	Analysis of Environmental Values identified inside or near the Management Unit	At least every 5 years	Yes
7.3	Key indicators of forest management, functional with respect to the defined and pursued management objectives	At least every 5 years (Recommended: every 2-3 years)	

Principle, Criteria	Registers	Monitoring	Summary items
9.1	Analysis of the HCVs present in the Management Unit and their conservation conditions	At least every 5 years (Recommended: every 2-3 years)	Yes
10.1	Results obtained from the renewal activities (percentage of rooting, growth rate, etc.)	Annual	
10.2	Detailed list of species planted with artificial regeneration	At least every 5 years (and at each planting)	
10.3	Detailed list of alien/invasive species present in the Management Unit	At least every 5 years	Yes
10.3	Description of the negative impacts deriving from the spread of invasive/alien species and countermeasures implemented	At least every 5 years	
10.6	Register of fertilizers used (trade name, active ingredient used, place and date of application)	At each fertilizers application	Yes
10.6	Description of the negative impacts (environmental and social) deriving from the use of fertilizers	Annual	
10.7	List of approved ESRA and respective range (territorial, temporal) of validity	Annual	Yes
10.7	List of pesticides used	Annual (at each pesticide application)	Yes
10.7	Description of the negative impacts on the environment and on human health, deriving from the use of pesticides	Annual	
10.8	List of biological control agents used in accordance with recognized scientific protocols	Annual	Yes
10.8	Description of the adverse impacts resulting from the use of biological control agents	Annual	
10.9	Description of impacts resulting from biotic/abiotic damage	Annual	Yes

Principle, Criteria	Registers	Monitoring	Summary items
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10.11	Evaluation of necro mass/biomass conserved in the forest	At least every 5 years	Yes
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Principle, Criteria	Policies and Procedures	Monitoring	Summary items
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Elements cross-cutting standard	Procedure for the out-of-court settlement of disputes (past/ongoing), including those with workers, managed with the engagement of trade union organizations	At least every 5 years	Yes
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1.7	Anti-Bribery Policy (Statement of Commitment Not to Give or Receive Bribes)	At least every 5 years	
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1.8	Policy of long-term commitment to compliance with FSC P&C	At least every 5 years	
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2.1	Worker recruitment procedures	At least every 5 years	
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2.1	Worker layoff procedures	At least every 5 years	
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2.3	Procedures aimed at guaranteeing compliance with current legislation on health and safety in the workplace	Annual	
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7.1	Organization policy (vision and values)	At least every 5 years	
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7.2	Procedures for the practical implementation of the concept of “adaptive management”	At least every 5 years	Yes
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8.1	Procedures for implementing monitoring activities (type and frequency of periodic checks)	At least every 5 years (Recommended: every 2-3 years)	Yes
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10.8	Procedure for the definition and practical application of an “integrated management” system of pathogens	At least every 5 years	
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Principle, Criteria	Consultation and Interview activities	Monitoring	Summary items
P1, P5, P10	Consultation with competent authorities (forest services, municipalities, regional and municipal officials)	At least every 5 years	
P2	Consultation with trade unions representative and workers, trade union organizations	At least every 5 years	
P4	Consultation with local community	At least every 5 years (Recommended: annual)	
P6, P9	Consultation of experts (environmental associations, researchers, universities)	At least every 5 years	
P7, P8	Stakeholder consultation	At least every 5 years (Recommended: annual)	

Annex F National guide to the definition of High Conservation Values (HCV)

Introduction

The concept of High Conservation Value (HCV) characterizes Principle 9 of the FSC Forest Management Standard and refers only to specific areas that play an important role from an ecological, social and cultural point of view as well as for biodiversity. In the context of FSC forest management certification, the identification and consequent correct management of HCV is a fundamental requirement for obtaining and maintaining the FSC certification.

Environmental issues (biodiversity, ecosystem protection, impact assessment, etc.) are also dealt with in Principle 6 (Environmental values and impacts), where specific reference is made, for example, to management practices on biodiversity and environmental values, or the protection of rare or threatened species and their habitats (Criterion 6.4).

In reality, the two principles differ in that Principle 6 refers to general presence and management of Environmental Values, while Principle 9 refers specifically to those areas that play a fundamental, “critical” role, providing for a “detailed” management that includes specific consultations, management strategies and specific monitoring. The two Principles (6 and 9) are therefore complementary to each other, and should be carefully considered in the management of FSC forest management certification.

The National Working Group for the development of the FSC Forest Management Standard for Italy has developed this document for the definition of High Conservation Values on a national scale. It builds on the work carried out in recent years by FSC Italy in collaboration with experts and stakeholders, and on the basis of practical guides for the evaluation of HCVs and the HCV Network.

This document is part of the FSC national forest management standard and aims to provide useful tools for the identification of HCV at national level. The HCV defined by FSC should be identified within the Management Unit (MU) subject to certification and in the areas of influence outside the MU.

What are High Conservation Values?

An HCV is a biological, ecological, social or cultural value of outstanding significance or critical importance.

Internationally, the six categories of High Conservation Values are:

- **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 refuge.
- **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.

National Interpretation of High Conservation Values

HCV-1 - Areas containing significant concentrations of biodiversity, including endemic species and rare, threatened and endangered species (RTE) at global, regional and national level.

Definition: all areas with significant concentration of RTE species, endemic and/or containing critical habitats for the survival of these species are considered HCV 1.

In cases where the state of “critical” and “significant concentration” does not exist, classification as HCV 1 will not be possible; however, the forest manager will still have to ensure appropriate forest management, in line with the provisions of Principle 6 of the Forest Management Standard.

Given the large variety of cases that can be classified as HCV 1, it has been divided into three subcategories, in order to facilitate their identification:

HCV 1.1: Protected areas

Protected areas play a key role in the conservation of biodiversity. The national network of protected areas and the Natura 2000 network ensure the basis for implementing biodiversity conservation policies, both nationally and globally.

Threshold:

- Presence of protected areas and Natura 2000 sites, and
- presence of endemic and RTE species in significant concentration at regional level.

Identification:

- List of protected areas, Natura 2000 Network
- Management plans of protected areas, Natura 2000, Special Areas of Conservations (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) conservation measures
- *Forest management plan**
- Presence of conservation areas of forest genetic resources
- Consultation of stakeholders, researchers, experts, NGOs, and other relevant figures.

The presence of protected areas is an important prerequisite for identifying an HCV. However, MUs falling within zones C and D of protected areas can be excluded, as well as MUs in Natura 2000 sites where the presence of the majority of species listed in the Natura 2000 files does not occur (this interpretation can be supported by the analysis of HCV 1.2 and HCV 1.3) and for all MUs that do not host significant concentrations of species.

In Italy, protected areas cover 10.5% of the territory and the Natura 2000 network covers 19.4%. However, there has been a great variability of approaches between regions in identifying protected areas and Natura 2000 sites, resulting in some regions with a significant percentage of protected territory and others with almost no protected areas. The most explanatory comparison is that between two neighboring regions, which are at opposite ends of the ranking: Abruzzo has over 28% of its territory in protected areas, while Molise has only 1.7%.

It can be assumed that the Regions that have protected a higher percentage of territory have, in general, adopted broader criteria, while those with low percentages have more restrictive criteria. In identifying the HVC, therefore, the possible exclusion of a MU that falls within a protected area located in Molise region should be evaluated very carefully and, conversely, the case of exclusion in the case of Abruzzo region may occur more easily.

To support the choice, the percentage of territory included in a protected area was analyzed on the basis of ISPRA data (https://annuario.isprambiente.it/sys_ind/report/html/5) of the Regions and Autonomous Provinces, classifying them in ascending order.

The following regions fall in the first quartile where protected areas are least represented: Molise, Sardinia, Emilia-Romagna, Liguria and Veneto, while into the fourth quartile fall the following regions Calabria, Basilicata, Autonomous Province of Bolzano, Campania and Abruzzo.

Similarly for the Natura 2000 network, where values range from 12% in Emilia-Romagna to over 35% in Abruzzo (<https://www.mite.gov.it/pagina/sic-zsc-e-zps-italia>). The Regions of the first quartile where the Network is least represented are: Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany, Marche, Umbria and Lombardy, while in the fourth quartile there are: Molise, Campania, Province of Trento, Valle d'Aosta and Abruzzo.

HCV 1.2: endemic and RTE species

One of the most important aspects of biodiversity is the presence of rare, threatened and endangered species (RTE). Areas containing populations of these species play a fundamental role in maintaining biodiversity values, as they are very sensitive to changes in the environment in which they live (e.g. habitat alteration, access to resources, change in relationships with the ecosystem, etc.), silvicultural operations, pathologies, etc.

Endemic species are those species confined to a particular geographical area; in case these areas are limited (as often happens), the species assume an important role in the conservation objectives, as a decrease in the area increases their vulnerability. Further major changes to the environment in which they live could lead to the extinction of the species. From this derives the importance that forest management has in maintaining or enhancing the conditions of the habitat, where conditions are unfavorable for the conservation of the relevant species.

Threshold:

- presence of populations of endemic or RTE species, and
- presence of populations of endemic or RTE species in proportion to the area species are found (threshold value of 40 species in 2000 ha), that is:
 - a minimum of 10 endemic or RTE species up to 500 ha; or
 - value of species in proportion to the area (from 10 species/ 500 ha to 40 species/ 2000 ha); or
 - over 40 species, regardless the area.

In order to help with the evaluation of the “significant concentration”, we provide reference values deduced from the analysis of the Natura 2000 database available at (<https://www.mite.gov.it/pagina/schede-e-cartografie>).

It can be assumed that the average concentration of species of conservation interest reported in Natura 2000 sites is higher than the average value of the Italian territory; therefore, this value can be considered as a reference threshold for the number of endemic and RTE species in the MU in order to consider the concentration as “significant”.

The Natura 2000 database has the advantage of being on a national scale, while the main weak point is the different approaches taken by the 21 Regions and Autonomous Provinces in identifying the Network and compiling the forms of the individual sites. Furthermore, it currently appears to be the only available database of this type.

The database is generated from the implementation of the files relating to 2,637 Natura 2000 sites, for a total of 106,705 reports of species, with an average of around 40 species per site. Each sheet shows the species of flora and fauna (including invertebrates and fish) of Community interest present on the site. Unfortunately, the criteria used for data collection was not uniform throughout the national territory, with files that are limited to a few species that led the site to be identified as SCI or SPAs, and others that report complete faunal lists, including common and not threaten species. In any case, it is assumed that the average value can be taken as a good reference value (note that the inclusion of common species has the effect of raising the threshold value, therefore making it more restrictive for the purpose of this assessment).

It should also be kept in mind that the number of species is a value which also depends on the area taken into consideration. Natura 2000 sites in Italy have an average extension of about 2,000 hectares.

In conclusion, the threshold value can be considered as 40 endemic and RTE species over an area of 2,000 hectares. Although the relationship between area and number of species is not linear, as a first approximation we consider a minimum of 10 endemic and RTE species up to 500 hectares and subsequently a value in proportion to the area up to 40 species (beyond this value the concentration can be considered significant, regardless of the area).

Identification:

- Presence, distribution/location of endemic and RTE species;
- Presence of conservation areas of forest genetic resources;
- Protected areas management plans;
- Scientific publications;

- Consultation of stakeholders, researchers, experts, NGOs, protected area managers, etc.

For species identification, refer to the three IUCN threat categories: CR (Critically Endangered), EN (Endangered) and VU (Vulnerable) and priority species of Community interest. For non-priority species of Community interest in Annex II, a specific site assessment can be carried out, and also regional lists or specific cases can also be taken into consideration (relict populations or populations separated from their original range, etc.). Subspecies considered particularly at risk should also be included, such as the case of the Marsican brown bear.

With regard to endemic species, since in Italy and especially in Sicily and Sardinia there are many endemic species that are not threatened, those with a “restricted range” (e.g.: limited to small islands) should be evaluated carefully, also making reference to the IUCN categories, further evaluating species considered NT (Near Threatened).

Examples/suggestions:

In order to identify the presence of RTE species, it is possible to proceed by analyzing the data available in naturalistic publications and databases, such as management plans for protected areas and Natura 2000 sites, Natura 2000 files, fauna and flora atlases.

Subsequently, the potential presence should be analyzed based on the habitat of the species and it will be possible to make exclusions (e.g.: birds reported as present only during movement and not linked to the forest environments under management). Instead, species linked to forest environments for reproduction or food will be included.

HCV 1.3: Critical habitats

Many species use particular habitats at different times of the year or at different stages of their lives. These habitats can be geographically distinct (e.g.: for migratory species) or they can originate from the same area and be characterized by having different structure and composition (different types of ecosystems). These habitats may play a key role in the life cycle of species, or may only be used seasonally or in particular years. These conditions mean that these habitats become critical for the survival of certain populations and therefore can be cataloged as HCV 1.

“Critical” ecological corridors:*

It is known that the habitats fragmentation represents one of the greatest threats to the survival of species; in this context, forests and other natural formations can play an important and active role as *ecological corridors**. In this document, only those formations which are recognized as *ecological corridors** (by scientific studies, legislation, etc.) and which simultaneously satisfy the following criteria, can be considered “critical *ecological corridors**”, and therefore fall under the HCV 1.3:

- ensure connectivity for populations of protected species (e.g. large carnivores) between areas recognized as having significant regional/national concentrations (e.g. protected areas);
- the existing network of protected areas is not sufficient to guarantee connectivity of *ecological corridors** (in terms of area or objectives);
- area of highly developed infrastructures (e.g.: roads and settlements) where the structure of the ecosystem is fundamental/unique for maintaining connectivity for the identified populations.

Threshold:

- Presence of individuals/species that are in significant concentration in a critical period of their life cycle; and
- Presence of habitats that represent ecological/seasonal shelters and that provide ideal conditions, even temporary, for the survival of endemic and RTE species.

Identification:

- Presence of protected areas/Natura 2000 sites: in these areas the possible presence of critical habitats should be carefully evaluated (also with reference to “species habitats” sensu Dir. Habitat);
- Protected areas management plans;
- Scientific publications;

- Presence of habitats that represent ecological/seasonal shelters and that provide ideal conditions, even temporary, for the survival of endemic and RTE species (for example: breeding sites, perches, shelters/hibernation places, migration sites/corridors, etc.);
- IBA network (Important Bird Areas);
- Consultation of researchers, specialists, protected area managers, etc.

Examples/suggestions:

Critical habitats are strictly dependent on the ecology/ethology of the single species, consequently particular attention should be paid to species that exhibit high fidelity to the reproductive site.

Among birds, an example is the golden eagle, which can reuse the nest even for decades; other species nest in dense colonies, such as the herons which form the “heronries”, or more distributed in a single forest such as the black kite; others gather with hundreds of individuals on perches, reused daily and annually, as in the case of cormorant roosts.

For mammals, critical habitats are dens where bears hibernate, or wolf rendezvous sites.

The case of bats is also typical, which gather in hundreds or thousands of individuals in underground cavities (e.g.: abandoned mines, karst caves, but also small burrows) for reproduction, wintering or mating.

For the identification of these habitats, a good knowledge of the territory is necessary, which can be direct or through the consultation of local researchers.

In general, the importance of a critical habitat depends on two factors: rarity/threat level of the species and number of affected individuals.

Possible sources of information for HCV 1:

- International, national or regional Red Lists (Natura 2000, RAMSAR, IUCN)
- Lists of habitats of interest, rare, threatened as defined by Directive 92/43/EEC “Habitats” and 2009/147/EC “Birds”
- Species in absolute protection by Community, national or regional laws
- Regional naturalistic databases
- Local lists of presence and consistency of species, available from the Management of Protected Areas and SAC
- Maps, studies on *potential vegetation**
- Bibliographic floristic lists
- Specific evaluation in the field
- Stakeholder consultation

Keywords for the identification of HCV 1:

- High overall species richness, diversity or uniqueness within a defined area when compared to the regional average;
- Populations of multiple endemic or RTE species.
- Large populations or good abundances of individual RTE species, representing a substantial percentage of the regional, national or global population, that are required to maintain viable populations, both:
 - during the year (e.g.: key habitat for a specific specie), or
 - seasonally, including migratory corridors, mating, nesting or hibernation sites, or refuges from disturbance.
 - small populations of individual endemic or RTE species, where survival of these species at a regional, national, or global level is dependent on the identified area (such species are probably limited to a few remaining areas of habitat and are classified as EN or CR in the IUCN Red List).

Examples/suggestions:

Identification of HCV 1: the case of "Partecipanza dei Boschi - Trino (VC)"

Bosco delle Sorti della Partecipanza di Trino is located in the Municipality of Trino (VC) (Lat – 45°22'38" Lon – 8°25'45") and has been FSC FM/CoC certified since 2006. The Partecipanza forest is included in the Po Natural Park and is part of the Natura 2000 network, registered with the code IT112002.

The composition and the shape of the "Bosco della Partecipanza" are the result of the community management, which has its origins since the Middle Ages, and for 20 years has been regulated by *forest management plans** based on the principles of naturalistic silviculture. The "Bosco della Partecipanza", in the regional context, is the expression of a unique ecosystem both for its extension, about 600 hectares, and for the ecological isolation in which it is located. As proof of this, we note the presence of relict populations of some species, completely isolated with respect to their regional range, such as the viper (*Vipera aspis*), the Aesculapian snake (*Zamenis longissimus*, inserted in Annex IV of Habitat Directive) and the grasshopper *Nadigella formosanta*. The forest is made up almost entirely of Habitats of Community interest, one of which is a priority habitat:

- 9160 - Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the Carpinion betuli
- 91F0 - Riparian mixed forests of *Quercus robur*, *Ulmus laevis* and *Ulmus minor*, *Fraxinus excelsior* or *Fraxinus angustifolia*, along the great rivers (*Ulmenion minoris*)
- 91E0* - Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)
- 4030 - European dry heaths
- 6410 - *Molinia meadows** on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)

There are 64 species (birds, mammals, invertebrates) included in the annexes of the II DIR 92/43/CE of these 45 are included in the National Red List (IUCN), of which 2 "in danger" (*Barbastella barbastellus* e *Emys orbicularis*) and with "lesser concern" but rare in Italy (*Ophiogomphus cecilia*).

The flora is rich and interesting: at the beginning of the century the botanist Negri reported over 400 species in the area, many of which are now locally extinct; recent studies have counted over 250 species, including some that are rare in lowland environments, such as *Hemerocallis lilio-asphodelus*, *Iris graminea* e *Thymus serpyllum*.

Furthermore, the contact between the forest and the rice field has favored the development of a heronry, currently located in the protected area, whose elements need trees for the construction of the nest and use the rice fields for trophic purposes. The population is made up of a very significant group of herons, belonging to 5 species, some of which are included in Annex I of Bird Directive: night herons prevail (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and egrets (*Egretta garzetta*) about 1,500 pairs on average, and a smaller number of squacco herons (*Ardeola ralloides*), gray herons (*Ardea cinerea*), and, last to arrive, the cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*). In 1975, two pairs of the only European ibis nested, the rare ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*). In addition, two other herons, the red heron (*Ardea purpurea*) and the little bittern (*Ixobrychus minutus*), frequent the rice fields and wetlands of the site for trophic purposes. Overall about 90 species of avifauna have been reported, 54 of which are known to nest and 6 are probable. Due to the isolated location, the avifauna in the forest is of particular interest, as is the high concentration of shorebirds that frequent the rice fields during the spring migration.

Mammals are represented by at least 16 terrestrial species, including an isolated population of squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*), to which should be added some species of bats, for which no data are available.

In addition to the viper and snake mentioned, the wood is home to numerous species belonging to the herpetofauna, 13 certain, for which the Habitats Directive provides for rigorous protection; they are: the crested newt (*Triturus cristatus*), the Italian tree frog (*Hyla intermedia*), the frog of Lessona (*Rana lessonae*), the rat snake (*Hierophis viridiflavus*) and the green lizard (*Lacerta bilineata*). Furthermore, within the forest community and in the surrounding agricultural environment, the now very rare European pond turtle is observed (*Emys orbicularis*, Habitat Directive, Annexes II and IV).

HCV 1 Glossary of terms

The term **rare** is scale-dependent and includes species that are:

- Naturally rare, existing only in very low densities in undisturbed habitats, or
- Rare due to human activities, e.g.: habitat destruction, overhunting (whether or not already classified as threatened or critically endangered)
- At the limit of their natural distribution (even if they are common elsewhere).

Critical temporal use: Many species use a variety of habitats at different times of the year or at different stages in their life cycles. These areas may be geographically distinct or in the same region, and include seasonal breeding sites, migratory corridors (latitudinal as well as altitudinal), or areas containing significant seasonal concentrations of species.

Endemic species are those found only within a specific geographic region, which can range from a single site to a geographic feature (such as an island, mountain range or river basin), to a political boundary such as a province, region or country. Species that have a very limited distribution are also included. Endemic and limited range species are particularly vulnerable to threats, having a more limited distribution than populations of species with a wide range. The range of present species is a contributing parameter to the IUCN Red List criteria for threatened species.

Protected areas: using the precautionary approach, a protected area or a Natura 2000 site could be an HCV 1 because it is assumed to host a significant concentration of biodiversity values. In practice, a lot depends on the effectiveness of protected area management, but in the initial data collection operation the presence of a protected area can warn of the presence of potential HCV.

Refuges: Seasonal and ecological refuges, which temporarily provide breeding, rest, hibernation, migration sites or habitat essential for RTE species qualification according to HCV 1.

Significant concentration means a significant concentration compared to other areas within the same country (or on a smaller scale, such as regions/provinces) or based on data/maps, field assessments, expert consultation.

Threatened and endangered species are species so classified in recognized national or international systems because they are more vulnerable to continued habitat loss, hunting, disturbance, etc. These categories include species classified as Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) and Critically Endangered (CR) at global or regional level and Natura 2000 species.

HCV 2 - Areas that enclose or combine to create mosaics of ecosystems at landscape-level that are regionally significant and that contain viable populations of most naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and density.

HCV 2 includes, in its original definition, those ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are large enough and relatively undisturbed to host most of the typical ecosystem species (flora, fauna, fungi), according to natural distribution patterns and abundance. Much attention is therefore placed on the existence of extensive ecosystems (with reference, for example, to "*Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL)*" with a minimum surface of 50000 ha) in which ecological processes and functions (e.g.: natural disturbance regimes, distribution and abundance of species) that have been totally or largely unaffected by human activities, highlighting their importance and uniqueness.

In the Italian context, historically characterized by an active and diversified use of forest and more in general of natural and territorial resources, it is not possible to find ecosystems such as those described in the previous paragraph, especially in relation to the characteristics of extension and integrity.

However, it is important to mention the fundamental aspect that forest resources play in the formation and characterization of the landscape, especially in relation to the formation of natural mosaics between different forest ecosystems, and between them and other types of ecosystems (such as marshes, peat bogs, clearings, *meadows** and pastures, etc.), as well as in relation to the topographic and orographic characteristics of the place.

For this reason the Working Group decided to focus the HCV 2 definition to areas that constitute or contribute to create mosaics of unique ecosystems of recognized high landscape value, with objectives of protection and enhancement. The characteristics of uniqueness and high value are intrinsically linked to the level of naturalness of

these areas, and therefore linked to the presence of most of the typical species according to natural patterns of distribution and abundance.

In practice, it will not be necessary to accurately measure or estimate the distribution and abundance of species or populations; however, an ecosystem will not qualify as HCV 2 if it has lost many of its typical species, or if it has been so severely disturbed that there is reason to believe that the spatial distribution of typical species or their relative abundance and regeneration have been seriously and permanently altered. For these reasons, the HCV category 2 does not include artificial ecosystems, highly degraded and fragmented ecosystems or those extensively modified by human activity.

Threshold:

- Area (with a minimum surface area of 1000 ha) containing mosaics of landscape-level ecosystems that are significant at the biogeographical region level; or
- Smaller area, inserted in a larger area (with a minimum surface area of 1000 ha) and which within it contributes to create mosaics of ecosystems at landscape level that are significant at the level of biogeographical region, and
- Which contains viable populations of most naturally occurring species according to natural patterns of distribution and density.

Identification:

- Landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at the biogeographical region level and where there is an abundance of typical ecosystem species;
- Presence of protected areas;
- Presence of natural representative habitats in good evolutionary conditions;
- Presence of areas important for biodiversity;

Possible sources of information for HCV 2:

- Regional Landscape Plan;
- UNESCO natural sites;
- International, national or regional Red Lists (Natura 2000, RAMSAR, IUCN);
- Scientific publications;
- Consultation of stakeholders, researchers, experts, NGOs, managers of protected areas, etc.

Examples/suggestions:

HCV 2 may include, for example, large continuous and relatively unfragmented ecosystems, or mosaics of ecosystems distributed on a large-scale with relatively undisturbed land cover (e.g. forests with species continuity) alongside other natural ecosystems (e.g. lakes, wetlands, some types of grasslands, peat bogs, etc.).

HCV 3 - Areas that include or are included in rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems and habitats.

HCV 3 concerns ecosystems, habitats and refuges of particular importance due to their rarity, the level of threat they are subjected to, the characteristics of rarity or uniqueness of their specific composition or due to particular ecological characteristics (e.g.: extension, age, specific composition, etc.).

At the national level, this definition also includes habitats of Community interest (Habitat Dir.), especially if they are priority habitats.

Threshold:

- Presence of priority habitat included in the Habitat Dir.
- Presence of non-priority habitat included in the Habitat Dir., inside Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and SAC areas and listed in the related Natura 2000 file.
- Presence of particularly rare habitats (also in terms of structure such as ancient woods) of local/regional interest.
-

Identification:

In general the following areas can be qualified as HCV 3:

- Ecosystems that are:
 - Naturally rare because they depend on soil type, location, hydrology or other very localized climatic or physical characteristics (e.g. some types of karst forest on calcareous soils, mountain tops, cliffs (crag), or riparian forests in arid areas);
 - Rare due to anthropogenic causes, as their extension has been considerably reduced, compared to their historical size, as a result of human activities (e.g. grasslands on rich soils flooded seasonally, fragments of primary forests in regions where they have almost all been eliminated);
 - Threatened or endangered due to phenomena of degradation or conversion to other current or future land uses (whether anthropogenic or natural).
- The following habitats:
 - habitats of community interest and in particular the priority ones;
 - declining forest habitats;
 - rare or threatened non-wooded habitats that are functional to the forest ecosystem;
 - residual woods (e.g.: relict lowland woods, ancient woods, etc.);
 - unique habitats of interest for the local, regional context (e.g. peat bogs, etc.).

Possible sources of information for HCV 3

- Lists of habitats of interest, rare, threatened as defined by the Directive 92/43/CEE "Habitat";
- Management Plans of Special Areas of Conservation;
- *Forest management plan**;
- Scientific publications;
- Consultation of stakeholders, researchers, experts, NGOs, managers of protected areas, etc.

Examples/suggestions:

The case of overlapping between HCV 1 and HCV 3 can often occur: it is in fact probable that a particularly rare habitat (HCV 3) is also strongly protected, therefore in a protected area and/or Natura 2000 (HCV 1.1) and also, thanks to the rigorous protection regime, hosting a large variety of species (HCV 1.2), including reproductive sites of particularly rare species, therefore “critical habitats” (HCV 1.3). A practical example is the “Sasso Fratino Reserve”.

In reality it is perhaps more difficult to find the opposite example, i.e. a rare habitat (HCV 3) which is not at least protected as a protected area (HCV 1.1); however a small patch of relict forest can represent a HCV 3, but be low in faunal species due to its reduced extension and isolation, therefore not representing an HCV 1.

HCV 3 Glossary of terms

Ecosystems are “A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit” (source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2 EN), defined at a scale relevant to land use management decisions. A common and practical approach is to use vegetation classifications that are easily recognizable in the field as well as from satellite images, aerial photographs and other images obtained by remote sensing methods. It is important to note that the classifications available tend to focus on terrestrial ecosystems and there are no global maps of freshwater ecosystems..

Habitat is “The place or type of site where an organism or population occurs” (source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2 EN) (and therefore is essential for management at the species level). Habitat can be a synonym of ecosystem, as defined above, or be understood at a smaller scale (e.g., rock outcrops can be a key habitat for rare or localized plants within a forest ecosystem).

Refuges: there are two types that may have a high conservation value (in addition to the seasonal shelters considered in HCV 1):

- Ecological refuges: areas isolated from ongoing changes (e.g. human threats or climatic events), and where animals and plants typical of a region can survive;
- Evolutionary refuges: areas where certain types or suites of organisms have persisted during a period in which climatic events (e.g. glaciations) have greatly reduced the habitable areas present elsewhere. These refugia often support a high overall species richness and a significant number of endemic species.

HCV 4 – Critical Ecosystem Services. Basic Ecosystem Services in critical situations, including protection of watersheds and erosion control of vulnerable soils and slopes.

Ecosystem Services are the benefits people obtain from ecosystems, and includes: 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: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2 EN).

Supporting and regulating Ecosystem Services may fall into the HCV category 4 as “critical”, i.e. where a disruption of such service poses a threat of severe, catastrophic or cumulative adverse impacts over time on well-being, health or survival of local communities, on the functionality of important infrastructures (roads, dams, hydroelectric plants, buildings, etc.) or on other HCVs.

The concept of “critical situation” refers in particular to those cases in which:

- the loss or damage to one or more Ecosystem Services would cause serious damage or suffering to those who use this service, both immediately and periodically (e.g.: regulation of the water supply during critical periods of drought);
- there are no viable, readily available and convenient alternatives (e.g. pumps, wells, springs, etc.) that can be relied upon in case of an Ecosystem Service disruption.

HCV 4 is subdivided into sub-categories, in order to facilitate their identification:

HCV 4.1: Hydrogeological and water quality protection

All forests and natural formations in general (such as grasslands and other formations) play a role of primary importance in the regulation of hydrological dynamics in the water basins where they are present.

In particular, in some of these basins they play a “critical” role in the hydrogeological regulation of water (quantity and quality) and sediment transport, providing the following “critical services”:

- a) protective function of springs and other water sources critical to the local community;
- b) protective and regulatory function in basins characterized by high sediment transport;
- c) protective function of banks and embankments, useful for guaranteeing hydraulic functionality.

Threshold:

- Formations located near sources of drinking water and which play a “critical” protection role for the local community;
- Formations that rely on basins characterized by high sediment transport and “critical” for the safety of settlements and infrastructures;
- Formations located along banks and embankments or in floodplain areas where they play a “critical” role in preventing and controlling the impacts of water currents.

Identification:

- Presence of sources of drinking water;
- Presence of groundwater recharge areas;
- Presence of areas for safeguarding surface water and groundwater intended for human consumption;
- Presence of water bodies (lakes, rivers, streams, etc.);
- Presence of water basins with high sediment transport;
- Presence of riparian zones;

Possible sources of information for HCV 4.1

- Forest maps
- Map of water bodies and river basins;
- Map of water erosion on a regional scale;
- Water protection plan;
- Basin plan;
- Municipal master plan;
- Scientific publications (hydraulics, hydrology, etc.);
- Hydrological, sediment transport, and other statistical series.

HCV 4.2: Prevention and control of erosion and slope stability

In some cases, forest and natural formations in general play an essential (“critical”) role in ensuring soil stability and protection, as well as in preventing and mitigating erosion, landslides, rock falls, avalanches, etc. which can have a serious negative impact on local communities, existing infrastructure and other HCV.

Threshold:

- Presence of wood formations in areas or slopes characterized by phenomena of erosion, landslides, falling rocks, avalanches, etc. and which play a key role in preventing and mitigating these phenomena; and
- Presence of a serious threat of severe effects on: local community, soil, infrastructure and other HCV.

Identification:

- Slopes with steep slopes and with the presence of unstable material characterized by high rainfall rates;
- Presence of land instability phenomena;
- Presence of high-risk infrastructure and local communities;
- Presence of protection forest.

Possible sources of information for HCV 4.2

- *Forest management plan**
- Forest maps;
- Hazard map;
- Geological map;
- Map of protection forests;
- Hydrogeological plan;
- Basin plan;
- Municipal master plan;
- Scientific publications and studies on the presence of erosion, landslides, falling rocks, avalanches, etc.;

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.

Originally, this HCV refers to those ecosystem services essential for the survival of individuals/communities. As for other HCVs, the basic concept of "essentiality" applies, which presupposes the absence of valid alternatives to replace the good/service "provided" by the ecosystem service. Reference is made, for example, to hunting, fishing and the collection of NTFPs for survival, as well as water for food and sanitary uses, or the obtaining of building materials.

While playing an important role in the supply of these goods and services, it was considered, in our context, that the characteristic of "essentiality" for human survival provided by Ecosystem Services is missing, as there are valid alternatives to satisfy the demand for survival. For this reason, the Working Group considered the definition and characterization of the HCV 5 not applicable in the Italian context.

HCV 6 - Cultural values. Globally, nationally or regionally areas significant for their cultural, archaeological, historical, religious/sacred value.

Forests can play an important role for local communities and society in general also in terms of cultural identity, i.e. by hosting sites, resources, habitats, landscapes, traditions, etc. within them that have significant global, national or regional value, or that are central to the cultural identity of local communities.

Threshold:

- Presence of sites, resources, habitats, etc. of great cultural, religious, historical or archaeological value within the area;
- Presence of cultural landscapes of significant importance (e.g.: included in the UNESCO list);
- Presence of historical traditions and celebrations that take place in the forest and which are fundamental to the cultural identity of the local community.

Identification:

- Presence of sites of historical, cultural, archaeological or religious significance at a global, national or regional level;
- Presence of civic uses of particular local historical-cultural significance;
- UNESCO sites;
- Presence of local traditions fundamental to the identity of the local community.

Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes that are globally, nationally or regionally significant, and which have a widely recognized importance, will in many cases have an official designation from national governments or international agencies such as UNESCO. Occasionally, new sites or resources of outstanding cultural significance may be discovered (e.g. major archaeological or historic sites): these may qualify as HVC 6 based on expert and stakeholder opinion, even in the absence of an official designation.

Possible sources of information for HCV 6

- UNESCO World Heritage Sites;
- Consultation of stakeholders, researchers, experts, etc.
- Superintendencies activities

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Annex G Additional requirements for plantations

Reference indicator in the Standard	No.	Text	Verifiers
5.2.1	1	<p>For harvesting, the following requirements are met:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) in all cases, a minimum 8-year harvesting cycle; 2) with a main purpose other than solely the production of woody biomass for energy production; 3) minimum 8-year cutting shift respected even in the case of the sale of an immature plantation; 4) failure to comply with a minimum shift of 8 years has a robust justification, other than the will of the manager (e.g.: force majeure, extraordinary climatic events); <p>See Advice Note ADVICE-20-007-01 included in Directive FSC FSC-DIR-20-007.</p>	<p>Management plan, sales document (invoice, transport document), reasoned justification for non-compliance with a minimum 8-year cutting shift</p>
6.5.3	2	<p>The following Indicators apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) In addition to the eligible areas already identified by the Standard, further areas eligible for the 10% count are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ riparian areas; ○ buffer strips established along natural or artificial water bodies; ○ permanent natural spaces (e.g.: wetlands, river bed meadows*, etc.) 2) The minimum area of the CAR (10% of the Management Unit) is reached within 5 years from the first inspection visit, guaranteeing the achievement of 50% of the initially formalized CAR in the 2nd year. 	<p>Conservation Area Network (CAN) detailed composition; management plan</p>
10.1.1	3	<p>In cases of new planting cycles, the planning is defined and implemented according to the following prescriptions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) By selecting land suitable for planting; 	<p>Analysis of environmental impacts and measures taken to avoid or mitigate them, soil and climate analysis.</p>

Reference No. indicator in the Standard	No.	Text	Verifiers
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Protecting Environmental Values and HCV; 3) Maintaining soil fertility and avoiding erosion phenomena; 4) Protecting natural environments (e.g. wetlands, natural formations of native species in river floodplains, permanent meadows*). <p>Guidance note: In the case of new plants financed by the RDP (Rural Development Plan) it is possible to proceed with certification; however, the new planting cycle will have to be carried out at the first available campaign.</p>	
10.1.1	4	<p>After the felling at the end of the cycle, the planning of the new cycle is managed in order to regenerate the composition and structure of the stand prior to felling, favouring an uneven structure.</p>	<p>Management plan, collection of evidence in the field.</p>
10.2.3	5	<p>For certified poplar plantations exceeding 30 hectares, a clonal differentiation shall be carried out on the entire surface, with reference to the new planting cycles and according to the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The main clone affects a maximum of 90% of the total cultivated area; 2) The secondary clones affect at least 10% of the surface and have the characteristics of Greater Environmental Sustainability (MSA clones) as defined by the 1st-bis Appendix of the Ministerial Decree n.9404688 of 12.31.2020; 3) The use of secondary clones in whole blocks is recommended to enhance the raw material for the market, or as cores of phytosanitary defence resistance, to maximize the savings of phytosanitary products. 	<p>Certificate of clonal identity/provenance of the reproduction/propagation material; scientific assessments; expert consultation; collection of field evidence; verification of Indicator 5.2.6; valorisation of the MSA clone in the market.</p>

Reference No. indicator in the Standard	No.	Text	Verifiers
10.5.1	6	<p>For arboriculture: Weed control is mechanical or physical, unless there is a proven need for the use of chemical products, according to the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the duration of the mechanical/physical control is consistent with the species present and the type of weeds; 2) it is advisable to favour the spontaneous development of the autochthonous herbaceous flora, so as to lead to the complete grassing cover of the plantation area; 3) in case of exceptional events (e.g.: silt deposit following an alluvial event, particular droughts) soil descaling operations beyond the fourth year are allowed. 4) Mowing and shredding are always permitted. 5) The use of chemical products is made in accordance with the provisions of the FSC Policy for the use of Pesticides (FSC-POL-30-003 V3-0 clause 4.12) (see Indicators 10.7.1 and 10.7.2). 	Management plan, collection of evidence in the field.
10.5.1	7	<p>For Poplar: Weed control is mechanical or physical, unless there is a proven need for the use of chemical products, according to the following requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) mechanical/physical checks are recommended no later than the end of the fourth year after planting; 2) it is advisable to favour the spontaneous development of the autochthonous herbaceous flora, so as to lead to the complete grassing cover of the plantation surface; 3) in case of exceptional events (e.g.: silt deposit following an alluvial event, particular droughts) soil descaling operations beyond the fourth year are allowed. 	Management plan, collection of evidence in the field.

Reference No. indicator in the Standard	Text	Verifiers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Mowing and shredding are always permitted. 5) The use of chemical products is made in accordance with the provisions of the FSC Policy for the use of Pesticides (FSC-POL-30-003 V3-0 clause 4.12) (see Indicators 10.7.1 and 10.7.2). 	
10.5.1	8 Irrigation is provided with techniques that optimize the use of water resources.	Management plan, monitoring plan, collection of evidence in the field.

Annex H Glossary of Terms

Normative definitions for terms are given in *FSC-STD-01-002 FSC Glossary of Terms*. This glossary includes internationally accepted definitions whenever possible. These sources include, for instance, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) as well as definitions from online glossaries as provided on the websites of the 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.

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

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.

Aged coppice: Coppice whose age (often expressed as the number of years elapsed since last use) is greater than the rotation length usually applied for that formation, i.e., as defined by specific regulatory provisions.

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).

Applicable National and Territorial Collective Agreement: The Contract stipulated by the trade union organizations applicable on the basis of the work sector, the skills and the tasks assigned.

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)).

Arboriculture: Temporary and reversible occupation of land with the planting of tree species for the production of timber primarily for industrial use. Compared to poplar plantations, the management is less intensive and closer to a natural forest. (Source: Ferraris P., Terzuolo, P.G., Amprimo G., Sindaco R., Della Beffa G., Piazzì M., Boni I., Brenta P.P., Camoriano L., Arboricoltura da Legno. Guida alla realizzazione e alla gestione degli impianti. Regione Piemonte, Blu Edizioni, Torino 2001, pp. 111.)

Artificial regeneration: Reconstitution of the forest stand following harvesting, achieved through postponed artificial regeneration using nursery-reared reproductive material (seedlings or cuttings).

Best Available Information: Data, facts, documents, expert opinions and results of field investigations or stakeholder consultations which are the most credible, accurate, complete and/or relevant and which can be obtained with reasonable effort and cost, in relation to the scale and intensity of management activities and the precautionary approach.

Best Available Information include:

- Scientific publications written by national or international research institutions, universities, scientific journals;
- Public administration documents (e.g.: planning documents) drawn up by the Regional/Provincial Forest Services, municipal technical offices, government agencies;
- Publications by relevant organizations drafted by local and national Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and experts in the forestry sector (with at least 5 years of proven experience);
- National, regional and local directories / international databases prepared by the Ministry of Ecological Transition, and by the World Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN);
- Consultation of local and regional experts and stakeholders;
- Inspections and collection of evidence in the Management Unit.

Biological control agents: Organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other organisms (Source: Based on FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2 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).

Buffer strips: Buffer strips are linear bands of permanent natural or semi-natural vegetation adjacent to streams, rivers, wetlands and other ecosystems.

Cascade use of wood: This principle implies the priority use of wood material based on the higher added value that can be potentially generated along the wood value chain (Source: Ciccarese et. al, 2014 - A new principle of the European Union forest policy: the cascading use of wood products). 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).

Collective Bargaining Agreement: Collective bargaining agreement extends to all negotiations which take place between an employer, a group of employers or one or more employers' organisations, on the one hand, and one or more workers' organisations, on the other, for: (a) determining working conditions and terms of employment; and/or (b) regulating relations between employers and workers; and/or (c) regulating relations between employers or their organisations and a workers' organization or workers' organizations (Source: C154, ILO Collective Bargaining Convention, 1981).

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 behavioral connectivity refers to how connected an area is for a process, such as an animal moving through different types of landscape elements. Aquatic connectivity deals with the accessibility and transport of materials and organisms, through groundwater and surface water, between different patches of aquatic ecosystems of all kinds. (Source: Based on R.T.T. Forman. 1995. Land Mosaics. The Ecology of Landscapes and Regions. Cambridge University Press, 632pp).

Conservation Areas Network: Those portions of the Management Unit* for which conservation is the primary and, in some circumstances, exclusive objective. These areas include: the native ecosystems present, the areas dedicated to the restoration of degraded / insufficient / absent native ecosystems, areas of protection and connection and other Environmental Values, the High Conservation Values (HCV).

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).

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.

Coppice stand: Forest consisting of plants of agamic origin (coppice sprouts).

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

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).

Dendromicrohabitat: A dendromicrohabitat (in English: tree-related microhabitat, abbreviation TreM) is a morphological feature present on a tree, which highly specialized species can use for at least part of their life cycle. They can develop into refuges, nesting places, hibernation or food essential for thousands of species. Only the morphological peculiarities to which a direct and ascertained link with associated species can be attributed are considered dendromicrohabitats (Source: Larrieu et al. 2018).

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:

- 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;
- 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

(Source: adapted from ILO Convention 111, Article 1).

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 local communities; Affects a big number of stakeholders; 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.

Dispute: For the purpose of the IGIs, 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).

Diversified products: The set of timber forest products, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and Ecosystem Services that can be obtained by the Management Unit.

Ecological corridor: Linear environment of different shape, size and vegetation cover that maintains, establishes or enhances ecosystem connectivity. An ecological corridor connects otherwise isolated environments, facilitating the movement of fauna. Some examples: hedge, row of trees, road or railway embankment, river, stream, canal.

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).

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).

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).

Employment and Occupation: Includes access to vocational training, access to employment and to particular occupations, and terms and conditions of employment (ILO Convention 111, Article 1.3).

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

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

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

Equal remuneration: Refers to rates of remuneration established without discrimination* based on sex (ILO Convention 100, Article 1b).

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).

Extraordinary management: Forest management practices carried out in derogation of the provisions of the forest management instrument under national and/or regional legislation (e.g. forest management plan, etc.) in force because of extraordinary events (e.g. phytosanitary issues, extreme natural events, spoilage due to abiotic causes, etc.).

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 management plan: The forest management plan, hereinafter referred to as FMP [...] with reference to a single company or several companies joined together even if only for planning purposes, represents a fundamental tool for guaranteeing the protection, enhancement and sustainable management of forest and silvo-pastoral resources. The FMP is drawn up on the basis of the principles, criteria and methods of forest management by public and private subjects [...] for public, private and collective properties in implementation of the regional forest programs and in coordination with "Territorial Forest Management Plans" where existing. The duration of the FMP can indicatively be set at a minimum of ten years and a maximum of twenty years. The regions define the times and procedures for any intermediate verification of its application and for revision, as well as the minimum surface area for their drafting. (Source: Decree of 28 October 2021 "Provisions for the definition of the minimum national criteria for the preparation of forest plans of territorial address and forest management plans").

Forest: Forests are defined as areas covered by trees vegetation, associated or not with shrub vegetation, of natural or artificial origin in any stage of development and evolution, with an extension of no less than 2,000 square meters, an average width of no less than 20 meters and with forest trees greater than 20 percent. (Source: Legislative Decree no. 34 of 3 April 2018] "Law on forests and forest supply chains" and subsequent implementing decrees).

Forest type: Forest area classification model that aims to define floristic-ecological-silvicultural units to be used as a basis for territorial or individual forested area planning.

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. Stritholt 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 (GMO): 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).

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.

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

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.

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

High Conservation Value: Any of the following values:

- **HCV 1** - Areas containing significant concentrations of biodiversity, including endemic species and rare, threatened and endangered species (RTE) at global, regional and national level.
- **HCV 2** - Areas that enclose or combine to create mosaics of ecosystems at landscape-level that are regionally significant and that contain viable populations of most naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and density.
- **HCV 3** - Areas that include or are included in rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems and habitats.
- **HCV 4** – Critical Ecosystem Services. Basic Ecosystem Services in critical situations, including protection of watersheds and erosion control 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. Globally, nationally or regionally areas significant for their cultural, archaeological, historical, religious/sacred value.

High forest stand: Forest consisting of seed-born plants.

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

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

- Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)
- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) ○ Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)

- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) ○ Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)
- Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)

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

ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Followup, adopted by the International Labour conference at its Eighty-sixth Session, Geneva, 18th June 1998 (Annex revised 15 June 2010): Is a resolute reaffirmation of ILO principles (art 2) which declares that all Members, even if they have not ratified the Conventions in question, have an obligation, arising from the very fact of membership in The organization, to respect, to promote and to realize, in good faith* and in accordance with the Constitution, the principles concerning the fundamental rights which are the subject of those Conventions, namely: ○ Freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining*; ○ The elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour*; ○ The effective abolition of child* labour; and ○ The elimination of discrimination* in respect of employment and occupation*. Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017.

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

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).

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.

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).

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

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

Key indicators: 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.

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 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).

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).

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).

Legal: In accordance with the provisions of current legislation (e.g.: laws, decrees, regulations, ordinances).

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

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).

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).

Please refer to the term "forest management plan" for the forest planning tool under national legislation.

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).

Matrix: In landscape ecology: the habitat or type of land use predominant in the environmental mosaic, characterized by extensive coverage and high connectivity. In the Italian territory the main matrices are: agricultural, forestry, urban.

Meadow or wooded pasture: Surfaces currently under cultivation with a forest tree cover of less than 20 per cent, mainly used for grazing livestock (Source: Legislative Decree no. 34 of 3 April 2018 "Law on forests and forest supply chains" and subsequent implementing decrees).

Mixed stand: Coexistence of two different types of forest governance, coppice in the dominated plane and high forest stand - in horizontal and vertical mixture - in the dominant one; it does not refer to a coexistence of multiple species.

Multifunctional approach: Approach of taking into consideration the multiple functions that the forest system (ecosystem services) is capable of generating when planning activities.

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: Original and characteristic organism of a given place and which contributes to forming the typical ecosystem of the place (native ecosystem) See also "Potential vegetation".

Native species/potential vegetation: These words are used interchangeably when referring to 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) or, in a biogeographic context, the spontaneous vegetation that would exist in the absence of anthropic disturbance and depending on the ecological factors of the place (climate, pedology, geomorphology, water availability, etc.).

Natural conditions: 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. Restoration activities may include the following: a) set aside areas; b) management practices oriented towards recreation of potential site vegetation (in terms of species and structure diversity). E.g.: natural silvicultural systems or bio-engineering operations. (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 tree

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).

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).

Ordinary management: Forest management practices carried out in accordance with the provisions of the forest management instrument under national and/or regional legislation (e.g. forest management plan, etc.) in force with the aim of pursuing the objectives defined in the plan.

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

Organization: The person or entity holding or applying for certification and therefore responsible for demonstrating compliance with the requirements upon which FSC certification is based (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

Pesticide: Any substance or preparation prepared or used in protecting plants or wood or other plant products from pests; in controlling pests; or in rendering such pests harmless. This definition includes insecticides, rodenticides, acaricides, molluscicides, larvicides, fungicides and herbicides (Source: FSC-POL-30-001 FSC Pesticides Policy (2005)).

Plantation: A forest area established by planting or sowing with using either alien or native species, often with one or few species, regular spacing and even ages, and which lacks most of the principal characteristics and key elements of natural forests.

Within the Standard, specific indicators have been defined for the management of plantations, explained in the appropriate annex G. This annex presents, with some specificities related to the type of plantation (e.g. poplar and arboriculture), the technical indications that it is necessary to follow in addition to the provisions of the standard indicators (Modified Plantation definition to reflect the Italian context).

Policies (vision and values): The Organization's policies are defined as the set of the 'vision', i.e. what the Organization intends to become, through the definition of specific 'values' which represent the fundamental reference elements that guide The Organization and all personnel (including employees and contractors). This information must be reported in The Organization's Management Plan.

Potential vegetation: In a biogeographic context, the spontaneous vegetation that would exist in the absence of anthropic disturbance and depending on the ecological factors of the place (climate, pedology, geomorphology, water availability, etc.).

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

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).

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

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-POL01-007 V1-0).

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. Such areas may, for example, include forest parcels single or in groups and do not necessarily include protective forests (due to hydrogeological constraints). Protected areas are not included in this definition, as their establishment and management are governed by national legislation (Law 394/91). In the context of the Principles and Criteria, the management of these areas should involve active conservation, not passive protection (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2). Protected area Area established and managed in accordance with national legislation (Law 394/91) and regional legislation. The cases in which a certified Management Unit (or part of it) falls within a protected area or a site of the Natura 2000 network, represent the prerequisite for including them in the conservation measures envisaged by Criteria 6.4 and 6.5. This possibility is not automatic and requires justified justification during the audit phase.

Protection: See definition of Conservation.

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).

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).

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

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).

Selection cutting: Treatment which consists in carrying out at the same time both the final and the thinning cuts in uneven, multi-stratified forests. The treatment is frequently carried out by groups, sometimes by single tree.

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).

Silvicultural treatment: Methods of cutting the forest stand in order to ensure its regeneration.

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

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

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

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

Species mosaic: Set of plant communities present in the same station in the form of elements closely connected to each other and therefore difficult to separate both in cartographic and management terms (Source: ISPRA, 2010).

Sporadic species: Native species encountered in forest ecosystems of a given area with individual specimens or in small groups in stands dominated by other species and unable to form climactic vegetation belts.

Standards: Plant released after coppice cutting for one or more successive rotation length for the purpose of disseminating or replacing exhausted stumps at the time of its cutting, producing timber of greater size and value than that provided by suckers, conserving less frequent species or those that are disadvantaged by coppicing, and encouraging the presence of certain animal species.

Stakeholders (directly or indirectly influenced by the management activity): 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 persons, groups of persons or entities located in the neighbourhood of the Management Unit (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2). The following are examples of directly or indirectly involved /affected stakeholders:

- Local communities;
- Workers;
- Forest dwellers;
- Neighbours;
- Downstream landowners;
- Local processors;
- Local businesses;
- Tenure and use rights holders, including landowners;
- Conservation organizations, for example environmental NGOs;
- Labour (rights) organizations, for example labour unions;
- Human rights organizations, for example social NGOs;
- Local governments;
- National government departments functioning in the region;
- FSC National Offices;
- Experts on particular issues, for example High Conservation Values.

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).

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 people: "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)).

Examples of traditional peoples are collective properties and civic uses entitled to use on the Management Unit.

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).

Transition: Set of silvicultural operations designed to change the form of government (from coppice to high forest stand).

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).

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).

Waste materials: Unusable or unwanted substances or by-products, such as:

- Hazardous waste, including chemical waste and batteries;
- Containers;
- Engines and other fuels and oils;
- Waste, including metals, plastics and paper; And
- Abandoned buildings, machinery and equipment.
- They can also include waste deriving from wood processing used in the production of wood chips, pellets, other.

Water bodies [including water courses]: Seasonal, temporary, and permanent brooks, creeks, streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Water bodies include riparian or wetland systems, lakes, swamps, bogs and springs.

Water scarcity: A water supply that limits food production, human health, and economic development. Severe scarcity is taken to be equivalent to 1,000 cubic meters per year per person or greater than 40% use relative to supply (Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-

Being: Policy Responses. Findings of the Responses Working Group. Washington DC: Island Press, Pages 599-605).

Water stress: Occurs when the demand for water exceeds the available amount during a certain period or when poor quality restricts its use. Water stress causes deterioration of freshwater resources in terms of quantity (aquifer over-exploitation, dry rivers, etc.) and quality (eutrophication, organic matter pollution, saline intrusion, etc.) (Source: UNEP, 2003, cited in Gold Standard Foundation. 2014. Water Benefits Standard).

Wetlands: Transitional areas between terrestrial and aquatic systems in which the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water (Source: Cowardin, L.M., Carter, V., Golet, F.C., Laroe, E.T. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. DC US Department: Washington). Under the Ramsar Convention, wetlands can include tidal mudflats, natural ponds, marshes, potholes, wet meadows, bogs, peatlands, freshwater swamps, mangroves, lakes, rivers and even some coral reefs (Source: IUCN, No Date, IUCN Definitions – English).

Workers: All employed persons including public employees as well as 'self-employed' persons. This includes part-time and seasonal employees, of all ranks and categories, including laborers, administrators, supervisors, executives, contractor employees as well as self-employed contractors and sub-contractors (Source: ILO Convention C155 Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981).

Workers' organization: Association or union of workers whose purpose is to promote the rights of workers and to represent them in relations with The Organization in matters concerning workers' rights and compensation.



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