



# FSC INTERIM FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD FOR IRELAND

*FSC-STD-IRL-02-2024 EN*



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**Photo credits:**

**Social Forest Walk in Raven, Co. Wexford, Ireland.© Coillte Cuideachta  
Ghníomhaíochta Ainmnithe, Wicklow, Ireland.**

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**NOTE ON THIS ENGLISH VERSION:**

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### Version control

| Version | Description  | Date       |
|---------|--|------------|
| V1.0    | Initial version, FSC-STD-IRL-01-2012 FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for Ireland, based on P&C V4.   | 08/05/2012 |
| V2.0    | Second version, FSC-STD-IRL-02-2024 FSC Interim Forest Stewardship Standard for Ireland, based on P&C V5.2, approved by the Policy and Standards Committee (PSC) on 15 January 2024. | 15/07/2024 |

<sup>1</sup> The transition period is the timeline in which there is a parallel phase-in of the new version and phase-out of the old version of the standard. Six (6) months after the end of the transition period, certificates issued against the old version are considered invalid.

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# A FOREWORD

(Informative section)

## A.1 The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

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

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

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

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

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

## A.2 The FSC Principles and Criteria

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

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

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

## B PREAMBLE

### B.1 Objective

(Informative section)

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

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

### B.2 Scope

(Normative section)

This standard shall be applied in the following scope:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Geographic region</b>   | Republic of Ireland  |
| <b>Forest types</b>  | All forest types   |
| <b>Ownership types</b>   | All types of ownerships, including public, private and others  |
| <b>Scale and intensity categories</b><br><b>(According to section 6 of FSC-STD-60-002)</b> | All categories of Management Units, including provisions for small or low intensity managed forests (SLIMFs)<br><i>(See section B.4 for the applicable SLIMF eligibility criteria)</i> |
| <b>Forest products</b><br><b>(According to FSC-STD-40-004a)</b>                            | Rough wood<br>NTFPs not included   |

### B.3 Responsibility for Conformance

(Normative section)

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

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

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

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

Responsibility for ensuring conformance 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 these persons or entities are referred to as 'The Organization'.

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

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

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

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

(Normative section)

Normative elements in the standard are:

Scope, effective date, validity period, Glossary of Terms, Principles, Criteria, indicators, tables and Annexes, unless indicated otherwise.

In order to further specify the respective requirements, 40 sub-indicators were added to the indicators in this standard. Those sub-indicators have four digits in their number (e.g. 2.5.1.1). As they connect to the respective main indicator, they are also normative in nature.

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

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

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

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

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Organizations managing Management Units qualifying as SLIMF (small or low-intensity managed forest(s)) shall conform with all indicators in the standard. Where specific SLIMF indicators exist (marked as e.g., "SLIMF 3.5.1"), these Organizations shall conform with them instead".

| SLIMF eligibility criteria            | National threshold  |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Small Management Units</b>         | Up to 200 hectares  |
| <b>Low intensity Management Units</b> | The rate of harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI) within the total production forest area of the unit,<br>AND<br>EITHER the annual harvest from the total production forest area is less than 5000 cubic meters,<br>OR the <i>average</i> annual harvest from the total production forest is less than 5000 m <sup>3</sup> / year during the period of validity of the certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits. |



## Verbal forms for the expression of provisions

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

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

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

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

**“can”** is used for statements of possibility and capability, whether mate-rial, physical or causal.

The text of the Principles and the Criteria under section E contain 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 indicators’ text, 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.

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

## B.5 Interpretations and Disputes

(Normative section)

Interpretation requests regarding Interim 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

### C.1 General description of the forestry sector

(Informative section)

As the last ice age receded from Ireland about 10,000 years ago, plants began to grow and animals arrived. The land area was gradually colonised by trees, initially with species like birch, hazel, mountain ash, whitebeam and alder. Later, forests of pine and oak with mixtures of elm and ash became dominant. Between 5,000 and 7,500 years ago, forest probably covered about 80% of the country. Humans arrived in Ireland between 9,000-10,000 years ago to find a country covered in dense forests (Heritage Ireland <https://heritageireland.ie/articles/mesolithic-iron-age-8000bc-400ad/>). With the arrival of Neolithic people came the beginning of Ireland's deforestation. Forests began to be cleared for fuel wood and agriculture, and gradually large areas of the country became treeless. Climate change coupled with human activity caused the bogs to grow and colonise areas previously covered with forests.

Irish forests used to be home to a number of mammals such as wolves, wild boar and the brown bear which now no longer survive in this country. The extinction of these mammals from Irish shores coincides with periods of forest decline.

The development of large monastic settlements during Ireland's Golden Age (9th century) accelerated forest clearance while the Vikings prized Irish timber so highly that they built their biggest long ships from Irish oak. This is thought to be because Irish trees grew to bigger dimensions than those in their native Scandinavian countries. In the 12th century the Normans came to Ireland and introduced permanent agricultural holdings that further changed the landscape. Throughout the middle-ages there was further forest exploitation with the result that by the 16th century only about 12% of the country was forested.

Following the Tudor plantations in Ireland and associated rebellions, forest cover fell again. However, by the middle of the 18th century owners of large estates, which were now occupied by descendants of government assisted settlers or "planters", began to realise the value of tree cover and forest management both as a long-term economic activity and as a means of enhancing the beauty of their surroundings. These estates developed grandiose planting schemes for forests, avenues and parkland and were assisted in doing so by the Royal Dublin Society which administered a grant scheme at the time for tree planting. However, the demise of the great estates following the land acts at the end of the 19th century left Ireland with less than 1% forest cover by the beginning of the 20th century.

Modern Irish forestry began in 1904 when the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction purchased Avondale, Co. Wicklow and used it as a forest experimental station. During the first 75 years of the 20th century, forestry in Ireland was mainly state controlled with the aims of halting Ireland's deforestation and decreasing Ireland's timber dependency. Afforestation progress was initially slow and in 1951 there was still less than 2% of Ireland under woods and plantations. In 1948 a target of 10,000 ha per annum was set and this was reached in the 1960's at a time of great activity in land acquisition and state forest planting. With the advent of the Common Agricultural Policy in the early 1970s, much of the land source for state afforestation projects dried up. However, by the 1980's the State afforestation programme had succeeded in raising the national level of tree cover to over 7%. Because State afforestation was restricted to lands considered to be unsuitable for agriculture, most of the land planted during this era was mountainous, peaty or very wet. The main commercial tree species planted during the 20th century in Irish forests came from western North America which has a similar climate to ours: Sitka spruce, Douglas fir and Lodgepole pine being the principal tree species. From the 1960s, Irish softwood production has been mostly directed toward domestic roof trusses and construction timber, and pulp and chip-based panel and particle board manufacture for export.

The mid 1980's saw a dramatic increase in privately owned afforestation projects with the introduction of a series of European Union and State funded programmes to promote private, and in particular farm, sector involvement in forestry as an alternative to traditional agricultural enterprises. These programmes, which continue today, provided capital grants to largely cover the cost of establishing new forests, combined with annual premium payments to provide landowners with a replacement income from their land while awaiting their initial timber harvest. From 1980 on, grant aided private or farm forestry grew to the extent that today it is the dominant player in afforestation. This period marked the most rapid expansion in Irish forests since the foundation of the state, with forest cover now accounting for over 10% of Ireland's land area. In 1980, private forestry consisted of a small number of privately owned estates while today there are over 15,000 farmers with forest enterprises. The recent focus on farm forestry has yielded a significant improvement in the quality of land being planted. With better quality land available and additional environmental controls in place, it has been possible to establish a more diverse range of tree species, both coniferous and broadleaved. Today, about 30% of all new planting is comprised of broadleaved species such as oak, ash, beech and sycamore. Due to deforestation and historical land tenure restrictions, community-owned or accessed forest has not been a feature of the Irish landscape. With EU assistance, community forest is being established all over Ireland.

In 1989 Coillte, the semi-state forestry company, was established and charged with the commercial and sustainable management of over 400,000 hectares of public forests. Other areas of non-commercial but ecologically important forests were put under the charge of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, which was previously in the Department of Environment and Local Government and is now part of the Heritage Division of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Also at this time, the Forest Service, now in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, continued in its role as the forest authority and regulatory body for the industry. This role also involves the administration of all forestry grant schemes and the regulation of afforestation and tree felling licences.

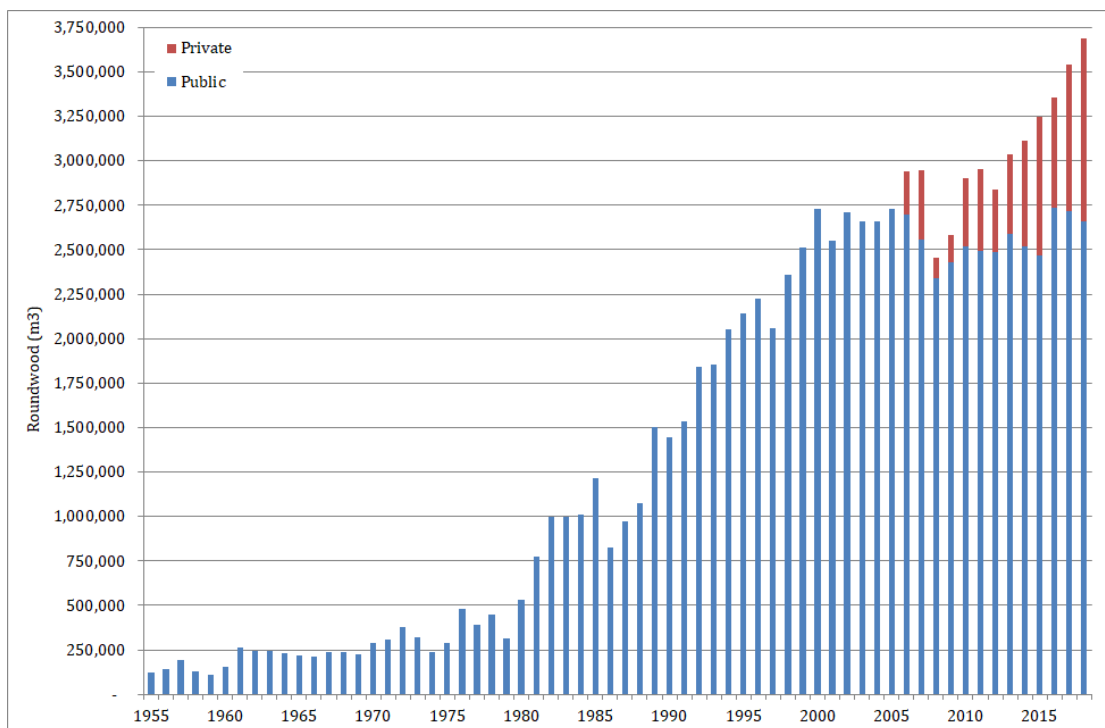


Figure 1: Roundwood harvest 1955-2018, Ireland. Source: Ireland's Forests - Statistics 2020; Teagasc (2020).

In 2017, total forest area was reported as 770,020 hectares, with a 71% conifer: 29% broadleaf species composition. Nearly three quarters of the stocked forest area is less than 30 years of age (National Forest Inventory, 2017). The total roundwood harvest in 2018 (including firewood) was 3.69 million m<sup>3</sup>, the highest level since records began; softwood available for processing in 2018 was 3.24 million m<sup>3</sup>. 80% of the roundwood available for processing came from Coillte in 2018, with the balance coming from the private sector. Annual logging volumes between 1955 & 2018 are shown in Figure 1 below. The share of private sector roundwood available for processing has increased from 7.6% in 2006 to 26.4% in 2018, reflecting the maturing private forest estate. The total forecast of net realisable volume production for Ireland over the forecast period 2016-2035 is estimated as being 107.8 million m<sup>3</sup> overbark with an additional 4.5 million m<sup>3</sup> potentially available in the tip - 7cm category.

In 2018, exports of forest products from Ireland were valued at €450 million, an 8.7% increase on 2017, and 40% of the wood fibre available for use in Ireland was used for energy generation, mainly within the forest products sector. The national forest estate is an important carbon reservoir, amounting to 311.7 million tonnes of carbon in 2017 (<https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/crops/forestry/advice/Forest-Statistics-Ireland-2020.pdf>).

Ireland still has the lowest forest cover in Europe (less than 11% compared to a European average of over 30%. Redmond, J. (2021)). Government policy is to bring the national forest cover to 17% by 2030. A programme to identify and designate Special Protected Area sites (SPAs) has been in place since 1985 and Ireland's SPA Network now encompasses over 597,000 hectares of marine and terrestrial habitats. The areas chosen as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in Ireland cover an area of approximately 13,500 sq. km. Roughly 53% is land, the remainder being marine or large lakes (<https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/sac>). There are 913 protected areas in Ireland (604 Natura 2000 sites (165 Special Protection Areas (Birds Directive) and 439 Sites of Community Importance (Habitat Directive) as well as 309 sites designated under national laws) comprising 13.83% of the land. Just over half of the protected areas in Ireland (51%) are between 1-10 km<sup>2</sup> (Biodiversity Information System for Europe: <https://biodiversity.europa.eu/countries/ireland>).

## C.2 Background information on the standard development

(Informative section)

The following key stages were completed during the development of this standard:

22 October 2021. Public Notification to Irish stakeholder list that the standard development process would be managed by Soil Association, opening with a webinar in November to explain the process and launch the first round of consultation.

11 November 2021. Webinar to introduce FSC-PRO-60-007, timeframes and process for engagement. 44 people registered, 38 attended.

8 November 2021. First round Stakeholder consultation launched for 30 days. On 15th December 2021, this was later extended for another 30 days as Stakeholders needed more time.

10 January 2022. First round of consultation closes. 24 responses received.

8 April - 6th June 2022. Second round of consultation. 12 responses received.

8 August 2022. The finalized (pre-approval) draft of the Irish IFSS submitted to PSU for review. All stakeholders who had provided comments, received feedback from Soil Association on how those comments were addressed.

**Note:** If required, further information on the process is available from PSU upon request.

## 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.

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|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>FSC-POL-01-004</b> | <i>Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC</i>  |
| <b>FSC-POL-20-003</b> | <i>FSC Policy on the Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification</i>                           |
| <b>FSC-POL-30-001</b> | <i>FSC Pesticides Policy</i>   |
| <b>FSC-POL-30-602</b> | <i>FSC Interpretation on GMOs: Genetically Modified Organisms</i>                                    |
| <b>FSC-STD-20-007</b> | <i>Forest Management Evaluations</i>   |
| <b>FSC-STD-30-005</b> | <i>FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups</i>                                   |
| <b>FSC-PRO-01-008</b> | <i>Processing Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme</i>   |
| <b>FSC-PRO-30-006</b> | <i>Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools</i>                           |
| <b>FSC-DIR-20-007</b> | <i>FSC Directive on FSC Forest Management Evaluations</i>  |
| <b>FSC-GUI-30-003</b> | <i>FSC Guidelines for the implementation of the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)</i> |
| <b>FSC-GUI-60-005</b> | <i>Promoting Gender Equality in National Forest Stewardship Standards</i>                            |

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

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

(Normative section)

### PRINCIPLE\* 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

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

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

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

**Verifiers:** Folio or title deeds, map, legal documents; records of correspondence; no evidence of challenge to the legal registration.

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

**Verifiers:** Documentation; Licences; Records of correspondence with, and written permissions received from competent authorities; Absence of records of non-compliance; Interviews with workers.

**Guidance Note:** Depending on the nature of forest operations, the competent authorities providing legal authorisation may include the relevant forestry authorities or other statutory bodies.

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

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

**Verifiers:** folio or title deeds (legal rights); Land registry records; Maps; other legal documents.

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

**Verifiers:** folio or title deeds (legal rights).

1.2.3 The boundaries of all Management Units within the scope of the certificate are clearly documented, correctly marked on maps, and made publicly available upon request.

**Verifiers:** folio, title deeds (legal rights) or other legal documents; maps; evidence of public availability.

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

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

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

**Verifiers:** Documentation (including Management Plan); site visits; interviews; No substantiated outstanding claims of non-compliance; Evidence of corrective action on any identified non-compliance; legal compliance monitoring and evaluation system; Alert system for new legislation, codes of practice and good practice guidelines; Procedure to update and disseminate policies and procedures with new requirements; Procedure to ensure full and correct implementation and new legal requirements or codes of practice.

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

**Verifiers:** Documentation; correspondence, records of compliance (tax clearance certificate, receipts, VAT return receipts).

**Guidance Note:** Legally prescribed charges connected with forest management may include fees for licences or permissions, or grant repayments where grant conditions have not been fulfilled.

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

**Verifiers:** Documentation (inc. Management Plan); site visits; interviews with workers and affected stakeholders; Forestry License Viewer <https://forestry-maps.apps.rhos.agriculture.gov.ie/>.

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

1.4.1 Measures are implemented to prevent and stop illegal or unauthorised uses of the Management Unit.

**Verifiers:** Protection and prevention measures documented, communicated, and implemented; training records; interviews with managers, staff and contractors; site visits; stakeholder consultation.

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

**Verifiers:** System documented, communicated and implemented; interviews with workers; records of communication with regulatory bodies; stakeholder consultation.

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

**Verifiers:** Unauthorised activities procedure documented, communicated and implemented; training records; interviews with workers; correspondence; records of unauthorised activities, notifications made, and steps taken to address them; stakeholder consultation.

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

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

**Verifiers:** Legally compliant procedures and policies; Documentation on goods traded and transported; Interviews with workers; Evidence of compliance.

**Guidance Note:** The Organisation shall comply with the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) where relevant, any permanent or temporary phytosanitary movement licences and other statutory plant health requirements.

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

**Verifiers:** CITES compliance procedure communicated and implemented; Training records; Interviews with workers; CITES species harvesting permits; CITES certification documentation and correspondence.

**Guidance Note:** Where the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) apply, the import, export and use for commercial gain of certain species requires a CITES permit.

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

1.6.1 A publicly available dispute resolution process is in place; developed through culturally appropriate engagement with affected stakeholders.

**Verifiers:** Publicly available dispute resolution procedure; Evidence of culturally appropriate engagement with affected stakeholders; Interviews with affected stakeholders and relevant workers.

SLIMF 1.6.1 A dispute resolution process is in place; developed through culturally appropriate engagement with affected stakeholders. The process is made available to interested or affected stakeholders upon request.

**Verifiers:** Evidence of culturally appropriate engagement with affected stakeholders; Interviews with affected stakeholders and relevant workers.

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

**Verifiers:** Records and correspondence of disputes received related to issues of applicable laws or customary law; Evidence of timely responses; accurate, up to date progress records of all disputes in the resolution process; affected stakeholder consultation.



- 1.6.3 Up to date records of disputes related to issues of applicable laws or customary law, are held including:
- 1) Steps taken to resolve disputes;
  - 2) Outcomes of all dispute resolution processes;
  - 3) Unresolved disputes, the reasons they are not resolved, and proposals for how they will be resolved; and
  - 4) How the Organization will change their practices to address any instances where a dispute emanates from the Organization's proven failure to operate lawfully.

**Verifiers:** For each dispute related to issues of applicable laws or customary law: correspondence; accurate, up to date progress records (steps taken, outcomes including stakeholder satisfaction, reasons for nonresolution, proposed resolution procedure); affected stakeholder consultation.

- 1.6.4 Operations cease in areas where disputes exist:

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

**Verifiers:** Documentation and records of any substantial and significant disputes; evidence of ceased operations where substantial disputes exists.

**Guidance Note:** Unresolved disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an entity from being certified. Examples of relevant tenure claims and use rights may include: Water supplies; Joint access routes.

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

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

**Verifiers:** Policy documented, communicated and implemented; training records; implementation records; interviews with workers.

SLIMF 1.7.1 A written or verbal declaration not to give or receive bribes (money) or to engage in other forms of corruption is communicated to neighbours and customers.

**Verifiers:** Declaration documented and implemented; records of communication to neighbours and customers; training records; interviews with Managers and staff.

- 1.7.2 The policy meets or exceeds related legislation.

**Verifiers:** Evidence of legal compliance of the policy.

- 1.7.3 The policy is publicly available at no cost.

**Verifiers:** Evidence of publication; free public availability.

SLIMF 1.7.3 The policy is disseminated to relevant staff and workers and made available to interested stakeholders upon request at no cost.

**Verifiers:** Interviews with staff and workers.

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

**Verifiers:** Interviews with workers; no evidence of bribery, coercion, or corruption.

1.7.5 Corrective measures are implemented if corruption does occur.

**Verifiers:** Records of acts of corruption identified; records of corrective measures taken; records of collaboration with the relevant authorities.

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

1.8.1 A written policy, endorsed by an individual with authority to implement the policy, includes a long-term commitment to protect and maintain the ecological integrity of the forest and apply forest management practices consistent with FSC Principles and Criteria and related Policies and Standards.

**Verifiers:** Documented, endorsed, long-term commitment to FSC Principles and Criteria, Policies and Standards; dissemination records and evidence; policy endorsed.

1.8.2 The policy is disseminated to workers, licensees, and leaseholders, and made publicly available at no cost.

SLIMF 1.8.2 The policy is disseminated to relevant staff and workers and made available to interested stakeholders upon request at no cost.

**Verifiers:** Interviews with staff and workers. Evidence of free public availability; Interviews with stakeholders; Dissemination of the requirements of this certification standard to workers, licensees, and leaseholders; Public statement of policy.

**Guidance Note:** Workers, licensees and leaseholders should be informed of the aim of the certification standard and, to the degree that is relevant, of the practical implications for them in carrying out their activities. This might be done through, for example, meetings or briefings and the provision of appropriate written material.

## 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 Organisation shall not employ workers below the minimum age of 16, as stated in the Protection of Young Persons (Employment) Act 1996, except as specified in 2.1.1.2.

**Verifiers:** Workers' register; interviews with Managers and staff; site visits.

2.1.1.2 Employment of persons between the ages of 13 to 15 years in light work:

- 1) does not exceed 8 hours a week;
- 2) is not harmful to their health or development;
- 3) only takes place during school holidays with a minimum of three weeks break from work during the summer holidays.

**Verifiers:** Workers' register; training records; interviews with Managers and staff; accessible copies of health and safety and employment legislation, codes of practice and industrial guidance notes; site visits.

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

**Verifiers:** Training records; employment records; interviews with Managers and staff.

2.1.1.4 The Organisation shall prohibit worst forms of child labour.

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

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

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

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

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

2.1.3.1 Employment and occupation practices are non-discriminatory.

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

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

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

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

2.1.4.4 *Collective bargaining*\* agreements are implemented where they exist.

**Verifiers:** Documented policies; evidence of syndicate registration; interviews with workers and forest workers' organization.

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

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

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

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

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

2.2.5 Women are paid directly (e.g. bank transfer) using mutually agreed methods to ensure they safely receive and retain their wages.

2.2.6 Maternity leave is no less than a twenty-six-week period according to the Maternity Protection Act, 1994 and the Maternity Protection (Amendment) Act, 2004, and no less than a six-week period after childbirth.

2.2.7 Paternity leave of 2 weeks is available and there is no penalty for taking it, in accordance with the Paternity Leave and Benefit Act 2016, Part 2 6. (1).

2.2.8 Meetings, management committees and decision-making forums are organized to include women and men, and to facilitate the active participation of both.

2.2.8.1 Specific training is made available to women to increase their participation and advance their careers in forestry and forest management at all levels.

2.2.9 Confidential and effective mechanisms exist for reporting and eliminating cases of sexual harassment and *discrimination*\* based on gender, marital status, parenthood or sexual orientation.

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

2.3.1 Health and safety practices are developed and implemented that meet or exceed:

- 1) the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work;
- 2) EU and National health and safety legislation;
- 3) associated health and safety guidance and codes of practice.

**Verifiers:** Documentation (health and safety policies, management plan, contract clauses etc.); interviews with Managers and workers demonstrating that they are aware of relevant requirements and codes of practice; Field observation that health and safety legislation and codes of practice are being implemented; Contracts specifying health and safety requirements; Maintained and up to date records (e.g. accident book, site risk assessments, chemical record book, tree safety reports); System to ensure that anyone working in the forest has had relevant instruction in safe working practice and that the appropriate number has had training in basic first aid and, where relevant, holds a certificate of competence; Procedure for monitoring compliance with safety requirements (written for larger organisations) and for dealing with situations where safety requirements are not met; Documented health and safety policy and consideration of issues in all procedures and work instructions; Evidence of a systematic approach to accident prevention.

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

**Verifiers:** Interviews with workers; training material and attendance records;

2.3.2 All workers have personal protective equipment appropriate to their assigned tasks.

**Verifiers:** Site visits; field inspections; training material and attendance records.

2.3.3 Use of personal protective equipment is enforced.

**Verifiers:** Site visits; field inspections; non-compliance identification and PPE enforcement records.

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

**Verifiers:** Accident book; records of accident-related employee absence; interviews with Managers.

SLIMF 2.3.4 The use of health and safety measures by workers is checked and known.

**Verifiers:** Equipment inspection records; equipment maintenance records; training material and attendance; operational performance monitoring records; interviews with Managers and workers accident book.

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

**Verifiers:** Accident records; periodic evaluation against national Health and Safety Authority accident levels ([www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)); assigned personnel.

SLIMF 2.3.5 Accident level is low compared to national forest industry averages.

**Verifiers:** Accident records; periodic evaluation against national Health and Safety Authority accident levels ([www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)).

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

**Verifiers:** Evidence of revised health and safety practices integrating post-accident learnings.

2.3.6.1 There are contingency plans for any accidents.

**Verifiers:** Accident Contingency Plans; Operational instructions; Interviews with workers.

**Guidance Note:** This requirement relates to anyone on the work site, including workers and members of the public. With respect to health and safety, The Organisation must be aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to fulfilling one or more of the relevant management roles as described in Health and Safety guidance.

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

2.4.1 Wages paid by The Organisation in all circumstances meet or exceed:

- 1) The statutory national living wages benchmark; or
- 2) Other recognized forest industry wage agreements where higher than statutory national living wages benchmark.

**Verifiers:** Documented policies; Wage slips; interviews with workers.

**Guidance Note:** The statutory national living wage benchmark is defined in national minimum wage regulations: <https://www.livingwage.ie>.

2.4.2 Wage rates are established through culturally appropriate engagement with workers and/or formal and informal workers organizations and include an assessment of the adequacy of the Irish Living Wage benchmark to workers' reality.

2.4.3 [Not applicable to Ireland] When no minimum wage levels exist, wages are established through culturally appropriate engagement with workers and/or formal and informal workers organizations.

2.4.4 Wages, salaries, and contracts are paid on time.

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

2.5.1 All Workers have appropriate qualifications, job specific training consistent with Annex B and/or experience to safely and effectively contribute to the implementation of the management plan and all management activities.

2.5.1.1 All Workers have adequate supervision to safely and effectively carry out their assigned tasks, especially those currently undergoing training.

2.5.1.2 When work requirements change, adequate training and development are provided to ensure workers continue to effectively contribute to the implementation of the management plan and all management activities.

**Verifiers:** Documented training programme for employees; Training needs assessments; Training records for all employees; training content; certificates of competence; site visits; interview with workers; System to ensure that only workers who are appropriately trained or supervised work in the Management Unit; No evidence of workers without relevant training, experience or qualifications working in the Management Unit.

2.5.2 Up to date training requirements and records of training given are kept for all relevant workers.

**Verifiers:** Documented training programme for employees; Training needs assessments; Training records; interview with workers responsible for delivering and recording training.

**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 The mechanism for resolving grievances in the workplace:

- 1) was developed through culturally appropriate engagement with workers;
- 2) -is widely disseminated to and known about by workers
- 3) -meets or exceeds the Code of Practice on Grievance and Disciplinary Procedures in accordance with Section 42 of the Industrial Relations Act 1990.

**Verifiers:** Documented dispute resolution mechanism; evidence of culturally appropriate engagement in the development of the mechanism; HR policies and procedures; interviews with staff and workers.

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

**Verifiers:** Documented policies and procedures; Records of grievances; Discussion with workers.

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

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

**Verifiers:** For each worker's grievance: correspondence; accurate, up to date progress records (steps taken, outcomes including stakeholder satisfaction, reasons for nonresolution, proposed resolution procedure); affected stakeholder consultation.

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

**Verifiers:** Records of how fair compensation levels have been identified; records of compensation allocated; records of engagement; interviews with workers and affected stakeholders.

### **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 seven 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 Ireland. Therefore, this principle is not applicable in its present form.

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

3.1.1 [Not applicable to Ireland] Indigenous Peoples that may be affected by management activities are identified.

3.1.2 [Not applicable to Ireland] Through culturally appropriate engagement with the Indigenous Peoples identified in 3.1.1, the following are documented and/or mapped:

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

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

3.2.1 [Not applicable to Ireland] Through culturally appropriate engagement Indigenous Peoples are informed when, where and how they can comment on and request modification to management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, lands and territories.

3.2.2 [Not applicable to Ireland] The legal and customary rights of Indigenous Peoples\* are not violated by The Organisation.



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

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

- 3.3.1 [Not applicable to Ireland] Where control over management activities has been granted through Free Prior and Informed Consent based on culturally appropriate engagement, the binding agreement contains the duration, provisions for renegotiation, renewal, termination, economic conditions and other terms and conditions.
- 3.3.2 [Not applicable to Ireland] Records of binding agreements are maintained.
- 3.3.3 [Not applicable to Ireland] The binding agreement contains the provision for monitoring by Indigenous Peoples of The Organisation's compliance with its terms and conditions.

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

- 3.4.1 [Not applicable to Ireland] The rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples as defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 are not violated by The Organization.
- 3.4.2 [Not applicable to Ireland] Where evidence that rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples, as defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169, have been violated by The Organisation, the situation is documented including steps to restore these rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples, to the satisfaction of the rights holders.

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

3.5.1 [Not applicable to Ireland] Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance for which Indigenous Peoples hold legal or customary rights are identified through culturally appropriate engagement.

3.5.2 [Not applicable to Ireland] Measures to protect such sites are agreed, documented and implemented through culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples. When Indigenous Peoples determine that physical identification of sites in documentation or on maps would threaten the value or protection of the sites, then other means will be used.

3.5.3 [Not applicable to Ireland] Wherever sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance are newly observed or discovered, management activities cease immediately in the vicinity until protective measures have been agreed to with the Indigenous Peoples, and as directed by local and national laws.

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

3.6.1 [Not applicable to Ireland] Traditional knowledge and intellectual property are protected and are only used when the acknowledged owners of that traditional knowledge and intellectual property have provided their Free, Prior and Informed Consent formalized through a binding agreement.

3.6.2 [Not applicable to Ireland] Indigenous Peoples are compensated according to the binding agreement reached through Free, Prior and Informed Consent for the use of traditional knowledge and intellectual property.

## PRINCIPLE\* 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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

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

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

**Verifiers:** The list of identified Local communities and their representatives.

**Guidance Note:** It is for the local community/community groups to decide if they wish to engage with The Organisation, and whether they choose to engage on a one to one or as a group basis. Given the small average forest holding in Ireland, the local community might be a single neighbour or household, who represent their own interests.

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

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

**Verifiers:** Engagement meeting notes; Points 1-8 documented and/or mapped for all local communities; Interviews with local communities demonstrating that they are aware of their traditional and customary rights and obligations; Local communities Workers demonstrating that they are aware of the aspirations and goals of the local communities.

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

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

**Verifiers:** Evidence of notification and engagement.

- 4.2.2 The legal and customary rights of local communities to maintain control over management activities and rights of way are not violated by The Organisation.
- 4.2.3 Where evidence exists that human, legal and customary rights of local communities related to management activities have been violated the situation is corrected, if necessary, through culturally appropriate engagement and/or through the dispute resolution process in Criteria 1.6 or 4.6.
- 4.2.4 Free, Prior and Informed Consent is granted by traditional peoples prior to management activities that affect their identified rights through a process that includes:
- 1) Ensuring the traditional peoples know their rights and obligations regarding the resource;
  - 2) Informing the traditional peoples of the value of the resource, in economic, social and environmental terms;
  - 3) Informing the traditional peoples of their right to withhold or modify consent to the proposed management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights and resources; and
  - 4) Informing the traditional peoples of the current and future planned forest management activities.

**Verifiers:** interviews with traditional peoples, communication and engagement records.

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

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

- 4.3.1 Reasonable opportunities are communicated and provided to local communities, local contractors and local suppliers for:
- 1) Employment,
  - 2) Training, and
  - 3) Other services.

**Verifiers:** Evaluation of local market opportunities; Interviews to identify those opportunities; Records of promoting opportunities to strengthen and diversify the local economy; Provision for local employment and suppliers.

SLIMF 4.3.1 Preference is given to local people and services.

**Verifiers:** Documentation; Interviews with contractors and suppliers

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

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

**Guidance Note:** Development opportunities need to be aimed at meeting the local community's aspirations and goals as identified in 4.1.2 (7)

SLIMF 4.4.1 Opportunities that contribute to the well-being or social and economic development of the local community are identified and implemented.

**Verifiers:** Records/evidence of implemented activities; Interviews with local people.

**SLIMF Guidance Note:** Collaborating with responsible environmental education service providers contributes to social wellbeing.

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

SLIMF 4.4.2 Local products and services are promoted and used whenever possible.

**Verifiers:** Interviews with forest manager; Receipts for goods and services purchased.

**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 Significant negative social, environmental and economic impacts, and their prevention and mitigation measures, are identified and implemented through culturally appropriate engagement with local communities, established local community groups, relevant NGOs, recreational user groups and trail development groups.

**Verifiers:** documented impact assessment procedure, results of impact assessment, evidence of engagement, interviews with local community.

4.5.1.1 Risks to public health and safety and other negative impacts of forest management operations on local people are mitigated.

**Verifiers:** No evidence of legal non-compliance; Evidence that complaints have been dealt with constructively; Documented evidence that forest owners/managers have considered actual and potential impacts of operations on local people and interest groups and have taken steps to mitigate them; Use of risk assessment and site management with safety signs and diversions around active operational sites.

**Guidance Note:** Examples of impacts include: Public safety and access implications of forest management operations; Timber traffic, particularly in and around the Management Unit; Natural hazards to workers and the public, e.g., hazardous trees; Smoke; Management of hazards caused by visitor use.

SLIMF 4.5.1 Measures are implemented to avoid and mitigate negative social, environmental and economic impacts of forest management activities on public health and safety, local communities and/or recreational forest users.

**Verifiers:** Evidence of measures implemented; Monitoring results; Discussion with workers.

**Guidance Note:** Examples of impacts include: Public safety and access implications of forest management operations; Timber traffic, particularly in and around the Management Unit; Natural hazards to workers and the public, e.g., hazardous trees; Smoke; Management of hazards caused by visitor use.

SLIMF 4.5.1 The input of interested and affected stakeholders is considered to define and implement activities to enhance positive and avoid or reduce negative social, environmental or economic impacts identified.

**Verifiers:** Evidence of activities implemented; Monitoring results; Discussion with owner/manager and/or interested stakeholders

**Guidance Note:** As a SLIMF indicator, this is an invitation to consider input from those who voluntarily present a genuine interest in the wellbeing of the Management Unit, if it is beneficial and economically possible. It is not an obligation to implement any input voluntarily offered.

SLIMF 4.5.1 Upon request, the mitigation measures are communicated to interested and affected stakeholders.

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

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

SLIMF 4.6.1 A dispute resolution process is in place; developed through culturally appropriate engagement with local communities. The dispute resolution process is made available to interested or affected stakeholders upon request.

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

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

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

4.6.4 Operations cease in areas while disputes exist of:

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

**Verifier:** Evidence or records that operations ceased in areas pending investigation by the appropriate authority.

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

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

**Verifiers:** Documented pro-active engagement procedure, Evidence of widespread pro-active engagement; Sites and their boundaries mapped (including All Townland, Parish and other boundaries of antiquity) and/or documented; Records of engagement with affected rights holders; Records of consultation with interested stakeholders; Documented plans; Maps; Interviews with workers and affected rights holders.

**Guidance Note:** Examples of sites of special significance: Prominent view points; Landscape features; Veteran and other notable trees; Historical features and archaeological sites; Forests which feature in literature or which are of artistic significance; Historic landscapes and forests which are still managed under traditional systems.

Engagement with relevant statutory historic environment agencies and other interested parties needs to demonstrate proactivity and, together with other relevant sources, can provide The Organisation with baseline information regarding sites of special significance and their condition. This needs to be done as preparation for meaningful culturally appropriate engagement to then identify and recognize the sites and agree the measures to protect and regularly monitor them, as required in 4.7.2 below.

Where relevant, a professional archaeological walkover survey may be required to inform decisions and provide baseline evidence. Sites of potential historical importance discovered during the course of forest management should be reported to the local communities and relevant statutory historic agencies.

4.7.2 Measures to protect the sites identified in 4.7.1 are agreed, documented, implemented and monitored on a regular basis through culturally appropriate engagement with local communities. When local communities determine that physical identification of sites in documentation or on maps would threaten the value or protection of the sites, then other means will be used.

**Verifiers:** Maps; Management Plan; Monitoring Plan; Monitoring records; Records of engagement with affected rights holders; Records of consultation with interested stakeholders; Interviews with workers and affected rights holders.

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

**Verifiers:** Documented policy and procedures; Work instructions; training materials.

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

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

**Guidance Note:** Examples of traditional knowledge include, amongst others, the identification and uses of particular species and varieties of flora and fauna and their products, traditional management systems, innovations.

Upholding in this context means: a) that The Organisation does not compete with the traditional peoples in relation to legally registering their traditional knowledge as intellectual property, for example in the form of patents; b) respect, preservation and maintenance of knowledge, innovations and practices of traditional peoples and promotion of their wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices; (based on Article 8 (j) of the Convention of Biological Diversity), and c) protection of customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices (based on Article 10 (c) of the Convention on Biological Diversity).

As Ireland has ratified the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, The Organisation is required to comply with its provisions under Criterion 1.3. Criterion 1.3 requires The Organisation to comply with the legal obligations associated with the right to operate in the Management Unit.

Intellectual property rights of traditional peoples apply to knowledge, which is not in the public domain, as covered in Articles 8(j) and 10(c) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

This Criterion does not apply to knowledge that is already in the public domain.

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



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

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

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

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

**Verifiers:** Resources and services identified; Economic potential for the local economy evaluated.

SLIMF 5.1.1 The Organisation is aware of the range of resources and ecosystem services that could strengthen and diversify the local economy.

**Verifiers:** Resources and services identified; Interviews with workers.

5.1.2 To strengthen and diversify the local economy, and consistent with management objectives, The Organisation makes available the benefits and products identified in 5.1.1 for others to produce, when these are not produced by the Organisation.

**Verifiers:** Evidence of projects; Interviews with workers

**Guidance Note:** The Organisation should be open to receiving expressions of interest from members of the local community or interested stakeholders to develop diverse products and services to benefit the local economy where these are outside of the scope of The Organisation's current management objectives and/or capacity to develop. This does not mean The Organisation is obliged to finance or implement the initiatives but should facilitate access and development of same. Any individual or group granted access to benefits and/or products in the Management Unit would need to agree to ensure all activities are carried out in accordance with the environmental protection and social obligations of this standard, as per Criterion 1.8.

Promotion of integration into the local economy may be achieved for example by: a) allowing local or specialist markets opportunities to purchase small scale or specialist parcels; b) promoting and encouraging enterprises which will strengthen and diversify the forest economy and the local economy; and c) making equitable provision for local employment for contractors and suppliers to provide services and supplies and making this known.

An example of how The Organisation might help to diversify the processing industry is that a proportion of timber parcels are advertised and sold by open tender or auction.

Reference to country forestry strategies and engagement with local forest and community forest initiatives may highlight opportunities to fulfil this requirement.

SLIMF 5.1.2 Opportunities to produce the benefits and products identified in 5.1.1 are provided to the local community, to strengthen and diversify the local economy.

**Verifiers:** Evidence of projects; Interviews with workers

**Guidance Note** as for 5.1.2 above.

5.1.3 When the Organisation uses FSC Ecosystem Services Claims, The Organisation shall comply with FSC-PRO-30-006.

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

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

**Verifiers:** Inventory, Management Plan

**Guidance Note:** Examples of growth and yield estimates include: Average growth rates or yield class for major species on different site types; Predictions of thinning and felling yields for different crop types; Forecasts of areas to be subject to harvesting operations in future years.

In low intensity managed forests, or in forests being restructured in areas of high windthrow risk, area rather than volume predictions are acceptable.

5.2.1.1 Accuracy of growth and yield estimates are appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operation.

5.2.1.2 The resilience of the forest and different species to climate change are considered.

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

**Verifiers:** Compartment records; Growth and yield estimates; Production records or appropriate standing sale volume assessments and reconciliation with estimates; Demonstrated control of thinning intensity; Interviews with workers; Field observation.

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

**Verifiers:** Compartment records; Growth and yield estimates; Production records or appropriate standing sale volume assessments and reconciliation with estimates; Demonstrated control of thinning intensity; Interviews with workers; Field observation.

5.2.3.1 Timber harvesting in excess of the allowable cut determined in 5.2.2 is only permitted:

- 1) During restructuring of even-aged forests;
- 2) During habitat management or restoration for biodiversity;
- 3) In response to pests, diseases or storm damage.

If calamities such as extensive insect or pest infestation or storm damage occurs, the harvest limit is, if needed, set aside and the calculated harvest level is adjusted accordingly based on the principles of sustainability outlined in Criterion 5.2.

**Verifiers:** Excess harvesting justifications documented.

5.2.3.2 Selective harvesting of high-quality stems may be allowed in stands managed to promote regeneration, providing that this is not to the long-term detriment of the quality and value of stands.

5.2.4 Harvesting of NTFPs or use of ecosystem services by The Organisation are at or below a level which can be permanently sustained by the Management Unit where they are located. Sustainable harvest levels are based on Best Available Information.

**Verifiers:** Growth rate assessments; Sustainable harvest level calculations; Interviews with workers; no evidence of adverse environmental impacts.

It is recognised that objective information on sustainable harvesting levels for NTFPs is limited. However, in all cases The Organisation should give careful thought to the annual allowable harvest and should be able to justify harvest levels on the basis of their objectives and best practice.

5.2.4.1 The timber harvesting level analysis and the resulting maximum allowable annual cut include soil health and fertility analysis as well as the limits and impacts of harvesting of shorter rotations.

**Guidance Note:** In line with the European Forest Strategy 2030, a transition towards continuous cover forestry is recommended.

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

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

**Verifiers:** Forest management planning documentation and budget; Interviews with workers.

5.3.1.1 Using the best available information any instances where management is negatively impacting on the delivery of ecosystem services within the management unit are identified e.g. carbon sequestration, flood attenuation, pollination etc. A restoration strategy is implemented where negative impacts on ecosystem services are identified.

**Verifiers:** Ecosystem services assessment, evidence of restoration activities implemented.

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

**Verifiers:** results of impact assessment, Management Plan, site visits.

**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***

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

**Verifiers:** Local or specialist market opportunities identified; Provision for local employment and suppliers; Interviews with workers and stakeholders.

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

**Verifiers:** Documented policy; Evidence of Involvement with industry bodies promoting training and development; Records of training sessions, subsidies for training courses or development activities; Records of establishment attempts, interviews with workers.

**Guidance Note:** The Organization may improve capacity through the provision of training and resources or even investing in infrastructure where local facilities are not currently of high enough performance quality.

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

**Verifiers:** records of establishment attempts, interviews with workers. Local Advertisement, open days to alert Local Communities of potential opportunities from the forest operations to include training.

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

5.5.1 Sufficient funds are allocated in order to fully implement the social and environmental requirements of this standard, the policies and objectives of the management plan ensuring long-term economic viability.

**Verifiers:** Budget forecasting, expenditure, and potential sources of funding; Interviews with workers; Budget, Forest management planning documentation; Financial records; Evidence in the Management Plan of climate adaptability forecast and resilience re: species selection and chosen management methodology.

SLIMF 5.5.1 Sufficient funds are allocated in order to meet this standard, implement the management plan and to ensure long-term economic viability consistent with the impacts of the operations.

**Verifiers:** Budget forecasting, expenditure, and potential sources of funding; Interviews with workers; Budget, Forest management planning documentation; Financial records

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

**Verifiers:** Same as for 5.5.1

**Guidance Note:** Forest management planning should show how the stated policy and objectives of forest management can be achieved and sustained economically in the long term, for example from future timber production or other sources of income. Detailed projections are not required but there should be evidence that the longer term resourcing of essential forest operations has been considered. For example, forest management planning documentation may show how silvicultural systems, species choice and tree densities and other forest management are designed to achieve long-term economic viability.

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

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

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

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

6.1.1.1 Best Available Information is proactively sought, regularly updated and complemented with the support of affected and interested stakeholders.

6.1.1.2 Deficits and gaps in Best Available Information are identified and, subject to reasonable cost, means of addressing the implications of the deficit identified and implemented.

**Verifiers:** results of environmental values assessment; up to date BAI; Documented procedure; maps; interviews with workers.

**Guidance Note:** Where The Organisation is unable to make a determination on environmental values or the impact of management activities on the environmental values based on the Best Available Information then taking into account the precautionary principle The Organisation will need to carry out research at their own expense to address any knowledge gaps.

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

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

**Guidance Note:** Refer to the requirements of Art 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and the obligations relating to the assessment of potentially damaging plans or projects. The assessment carried out under that provision may not have lacunae and must contain complete, precise, and definitive findings and conclusions capable of dispelling all reasonable scientific doubt as to the effects of the proposed works on the protected area concerned (judgment of 25 July 2018, Grace and Sweetman, C - 164/17, EU:C:2018:593, paragraph 39 and the case-law cited).

SLIMF 6.1.2 Assessments of environmental values are conducted with a level of detail and frequency to identify the impacts of management activities on these values.

**Verifiers:** Interviews with forest manager, interviews with independent ecologists.

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

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

**Verifiers:** Documented EIA qualification requirements; Documented EIA procedure; Documented EIA results; Management planning documentation and procedures; Interviews with workers, contractors and stakeholders; Field observations.

**Guidance Note:** Depending on scale and sensitivity the appraisal of environmental impacts may be: Brief environmental appraisals for planting or felling which might affect sites recognised for cultural, landscape, hydrological or ecological value, Ecological assessments of ancient and old forest sites and projections of their response to management and natural processes, Specific assessments for unusual and/or extensive operations, Checks against relevant country level plans for priority habitats and species.

SLIMF 6.2.1 Prior to implementing site-disturbing activities an assessment is conducted to identify possible adverse impacts from planned management activities on the identified environmental values.

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

**Verifiers:** documented procedures, Management Plan, results of site-specific EIAs; interview with workers. Evidence of local weather observations and conditions; evidence showing that work during heavy rainfall was avoided.

**Guidance Note:** Site-specific impacts can occur within or outside the management unit, from the stand level to the landscape level.

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

6.3.1 Management activities are planned, clearly communicated to all workers and implemented to prevent negative impacts and protect environmental values, according to the results of the environmental impact assessment.

**Verifiers:** Management planning documentation; Operational procedures; Training records; Workers' instructions; Monitoring results.

**Guidance Note:** Where management activity is due to take place during the period of breeding and rearing, a field survey of the project can be carried out by a qualified ecologist/ ornithologist immediately prior to any works and any recommendations implemented.

6.3.2 Management activities prevent negative impacts to environmental values.

**Verifiers:** Records of consultation with statutory environment protection agencies; Field observation; Operational plans; Incident response plans; Diffuse pollution risk assessment in high-risk situations; Use of biodegradable lubricants when possible.

6.3.3 Where negative impacts to environmental values occur:

- 1) they are mitigated and damage repaired to a condition that allows the recovery of the environmental value to an equal or better condition than prior to the start of site-disturbing activities; and
- 2) measures are adopted to prevent further damage.

**Verifiers:** Documented damage mitigation protocol; Documented damage remediation protocol; Reports and evidence of implemented measures; Contact with relevant external agencies; A condition that allows the recovery of the environmental values damaged.

**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 Rare and threatened species, and their habitats, including CITES species where applicable, and those listed on national, regional and local lists of rare and threatened species are identified by a combination of:

- 1) Best Available Information
- 2) Where species are present or likely to be present within and adjacent to the Management Unit
- 3) Surveys carried out prior to site-disturbing activities (6.2.2);
- 4) Direct consultation with local communities, relevant authorities, interested and affected stakeholders.

**Verifiers:** list of species identified; maps; evidence of site-specific surveys; consultation with interested and affected stakeholders, relevant authorities and bodies.

**Guidance Note:** Site specific surveys need to be based on the best available guidance on ecological and ornithological surveying. Organisations are encouraged to fund and use forestry sensitivity mapping in order to identify potential threats to rare and threatened species, and their habitats. It is always helpful for national conservation efforts when the results of site-specific surveys are made publicly available. Data of rare and threatened species, and their habitats can be shared with relevant bodies such as the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

SLIMF 6.4.1 Best Available Information is used to identify the rare and threatened species, and their habitats that are present or likely to be present within and adjacent to the Management Unit.

**Verifiers:** list of species identified; maps; evidence of site-specific surveys; consultation with relevant authorities and bodies.

**Guidance Note:** National, regional and local lists of rare and threatened species are easily available and a good source of BAI. Site specific surveys can be undertaken where the best available information is inadequate to draw definitive conclusions about the risks to rare and threatened species, and their habitats.

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

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

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

**Verifiers:** Maps, Management Plans, site visits; consultation with workers, relevant authorities, interested and affected stakeholders.

**Guidance Note:** Protection measures may also need to include eliminating aural or physical disturbance from human recreational activities.

SLIMF 6.4.3 Rare and threatened species and their habitats are protected, including through conservation zones, protection and connectivity areas.

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

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

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

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

**Verifiers:** documented procedures, BAI register, list of ecosystems identified, maps.

**Guidance Note:** "Best available information" could include on-site surveys.

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

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

**Guidance Note:** Representative Sample Areas may include native ecosystems identified in other Criteria.

**Verifiers:** Management planning documentation; maps; Field observation.

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

**Verifiers:** Site visits, management planning documentation, restoration budget.

6.5.3.1 Remnant ecologically-valuable small-scale semi-natural habitats that have been colonised, planted, or incorporated into the Management Unit, but which have retained their ecological characteristics (or have a high potential to be restored), are identified and enhanced, restored or treated in a manner that does not lead to further degradation of their potential for restoration. Where full restoration of habitats is not possible in the short to medium term (e.g. active raised bog habitat), these sites are restored to as close to their natural condition as possible, with their eventual recovery as the long term objective.

**Guidance Note:** This may require approval from the Forest Service for derogation from the current obligation to replant areas after final harvesting.

**Verifiers:** Interviews with Workers demonstrating that they are aware of such sites and of any plans for their management; For all potentially damaging operations, awareness demonstrated of how areas shall be protected and/or safeguarded; Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrate how such areas will be managed; Planning documentation



shows how areas will be managed from the current obligation to replant areas after final harvesting.

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

6.5.4.1 Representative Sample Areas and/or restoration are designed to promote the connectivity between complementary habitats at a landscape level when they exist. The size of such areas allows the long-term viability of the ecosystems represented.

**Verifiers:** Management Plan; Maps showing the RSAs.

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

- 6.5.5 Representative Sample Areas in combination with other components of the *conservation areas network*\* comprise a minimum 15% area of the Management Unit.

**Verifiers:** Management Plan, maps.

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

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

**Verifiers:** Management Plan, maps, interviews with workers, site visits.

- 6.6.2 Where past management has eliminated plant communities or habitat features including Old Woodland Sites, Long Established Woodland, Interrupted Old Forest and Parkland, management activities aimed at re-establishing such habitats are implemented in line with OWS, LEW, and Parkland categories.

**Verifiers:** Management Plan, maps, interviews with workers, site visits.

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

**Verifiers:** Management Plan, maps, interviews with workers, site visits.

- 6.6.4 Effective measures are taken to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping, and collecting activities to ensure that naturally occurring native species, their diversity within species and their natural distribution are maintained, including compliance with applicable national and/or international regulations on protection, hunting and trade in animal species or parts (trophies).

**Verifiers:** Field observation; Relevant permissions and leases; Permissions from statutory bodies; Membership of sporting organisations; Interviews with the workers demonstrates awareness of the law and good practice; Interviews with interested and affected stakeholders.

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

**Verifiers:** Management plan, procedures, Evidence that regulations are known and complied with.

6.6.5.1: Management of wild mammal populations is based on a strategy that identifies the management objectives and aims to regulate the impacts. If wild mammal populations cannot be maintained at a level that ensures they are not causing ecological damage, then sensitive areas - including regeneration sites, coppice coupes and areas with vulnerable flora- are protected from browsing and other damage.

**Verifiers:** Awareness of potential impacts; Awareness of actual damage; Description of appropriate action in the management plan; Membership of a deer management group; Evidence of cull targets and achievements.

**Guidance Note:** Significant impacts caused by wild mammal populations may require a documented plan (which may take the form of a contract or licence).

6.6.5.2 Where deer are present within the Management Unit, The Organisation actively seeks to co-operate with statutory authorities, neighbouring landowners and stakeholders in drawing up and effecting local and regional deer management plans.

**Verifiers:** Deer Management Plan; engagement records; interviews with workers and stakeholders.

6.6.6 An internal regulation is known and complied with banning and punishing the transportation of and trade in game and firearms in the facilities and vehicles of The Organisation, according to the Firearms Licensing Law 2021.

**Verifiers:** Internal Firearms Regulation; Records of compliance monitoring; Interviews with workers demonstrate knowledge of the Regulation.

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

**Verifiers:** Hunting control system documented, communicated and implemented with appropriately trained staff, control records, evidence of non-compliance treatment.

6.6.8 Effective mitigation measures are in place to ensure that workers do not increase hunting trapping or collecting of bush meat or wild fish beyond levels specified in 6.6.4-6.6.7 above.

**Verifiers:** Evidence of workers' hunting control system communicated and implemented.

**6.7 *The Organization\* shall protect\* or restore\* natural water courses, water bodies\*, riparian zones\* and their connectivity\*. The Organization\* shall avoid negative impacts on water quality and quantity and mitigate and remedy those that occur.***

6.7.1 Protection measures are implemented to protect natural watercourses, water bodies, riparian zones and their connectivity, including water quantity and water quality. This includes but is not limited to:

- 1) Existing or emerging riparian habitats are retained;
- 2) Setbacks along watercourses are allowed to develop favouring natural succession and in some instances are supplemented by the planting of suitable native riparian tree species (e.g. Birch and Rowan); and

- 3) Prohibiting use of Cypermethrin, Acetamaprid or similar insecticides on aquatic zone setbacks on soils within or adjoining freshwater habitats and the headwaters providing spawning habitat for Salmon, Sea trout and Brown trout or upstream from water catchments.

**Verifiers:** Visual inspection confirms the existence of protected areas; The width of the protection zones complies with the requirements of the law; Management plan and maps showing the location of protection areas.

**Guidance Note:** Management of riparian areas should ensure the retention of existing or emerging habitat within buffer / riparian zones. Active management of riparian zones needs to take into account the broader conservation needs of the site taking into account the conservation objectives of protected areas. Where appropriate, riparian zones may be managed to support either open habitats or natural climax habitats such as native forests or a mosaic of both.

Where a site supports important semi-natural habitat or dependent species, riparian buffers can be designed to allow for the protection and management of semi-natural habitats and the connectivity of these habitats at a landscape level. An example of this would be within Hen Harrier Special protection Areas (SPA) where afforestation is already above the threshold at which the species is not self-sustaining at a landscape level. In these SPAs riparian buffers could be managed to support semi-natural grasslands, scrub and *peatland*\* habitats.

- 6.7.1.1 The EPA Water Quality Status for the relevant River Sub Basins (RSB) and any relevant water body within the Management Unit, including those with any application for development consent, is known.

**Verifiers:** Visual inspection confirms the existence of protected areas; The width of the protection zones complies with the requirements of the law; Management plan and maps showing the location of protection areas; A Water Quality analysis exists for each waterbody within the Management.

**Guidance Note:** The precautionary principle needs to be applied to scheduled activities that may impact on a waterbody which has not been assigned a water quality status by the EPA consistent with Article 5 of the WFD. Collaborative engagement with the EPA in water quality monitoring would be very helpful to assign water quality status where lacking. This could involve students.

- 6.7.1.2 A Water Quality Restoration Management Plan exists for each waterbody within the Management Unit which has an official water quality status below 'Good' where the EPA has identified Forestry as a significant pressure on water quality in Ireland (EPA report: Ireland's Environment, An Integrated Assessment 2020).

**Verifiers:** Verifiers as 6.7.1.1

- 6.7.1.3 Any waterbody with a High Ecological Status objective under the Water Framework Directive is maintained or restored to high status.

**Verifiers:** Verifiers as 6.7.1.1

- 6.7.2 Where implemented protection measures do not protect water courses, water bodies, riparian zones and their connectivity, water quantity or water quality from impacts of forest management, restoration activities are implemented.

- 6.7.3 Where natural watercourses, water bodies, riparian zones and their connectivity, water quantity or water quality have been damaged by past activities on land and water by The Organisation, restoration activities are implemented.

**Verifiers:** Management Plan; Watercourse and resources status assessments; Evidence of restoration activities implemented; maps; Natura 2000 published Conservation Objectives.

6.7.4 Where continued degradation exists to watercourses, water bodies, water quantity and water quality caused by previous managers and the activities of third parties, measures are implemented that prevent or mitigate this degradation.

**Verifiers:** Damage Identification assessments; Management Plan showing the mitigation measures; Records of participation in local/national watershed protection initiatives, if applicable, Engagement records, Interviews with workers.

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

6.8.1 A varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales, and regeneration cycles is maintained appropriate to the landscape.

**Verifiers:** Management Plan; Maps; New Forest creation strategy; Landscape design policies and procedures, evidence of BAI used.

**Guidance Note:** Management practices that support biodiversity and resilience, are essential in this context, such as the creation or maintenance at stand and landscape level of genetically and functionally diverse, mixed species forests, especially with more broadleaves and deciduous trees and with species with different biotic and abiotic sensitivities and recovery mechanisms following disturbances, instead of monocultural plantations. Also, management practices like uneven-aged and continuous-cover forestry, sufficient quantities of deadwood, regulation of wildlife densities and the establishment of protected habitat patches or set aside areas in production forests help ensure long-term environmental and socio-economic viability of forests. Source: European Forest Strategy 2030.

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

**Verifiers:** Management planning documentation and Maps; Field observation; Discussion with workers; Adherence to the Local Authority landscape policies, landscape objectives and requirements.

**Guidance Note:** Even-aged forests should be restructured to achieve an appropriately diverse mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales, and regeneration cycles, and then maintaining and enhancing the achieved structural diversity . It is recommended to plan and implement restructuring measures in conformance with good forest design practice such as: Forest Design Planning – A Guide to Good Practice, S. Bell (1998), Design techniques for forest management planning, Forestry Commission (2014), National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025, An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta (2015). A greater degree of uniformity may be appropriate in very small forests. In larger even-aged plantations, the age structure may be improved through: Phased felling, prescribing restocking- which will provide options for further diversification and reduction in coupe size at the end of the next rotation, designing future coupes with windfirm edges. Smaller coupe sizes need to be favoured for economic, environmental and social reasons. Site factors favouring larger coupe sizes might include: Windthrow risk, infrastructure issues, landscape scale, historical plantation design, historic environment features, wildlife habitats.

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.10.1 Based on Best Available Information, accurate data is compiled on all conversions between 1 December 1994 and 31 December 2020 within the Management Unit. Verifiers: Register of BAI consulted, inventory, list of conversions, Management Plan, maps. Evidence that no conversion has occurred on Old Forest Sites, including Long Established Forest, Interrupted Old Forest and Parkland.

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:** No evidence of conversion; Field observation; Interviews with workers; Management planning documentation.

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

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

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

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

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

## PRINCIPLE\* 7: MANAGEMENT PLANNING

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

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

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

**Verifiers:** Documented Policies; Management planning documentation; Interviews with workers.

**Guidance Note:** It is important that The Organisation's activities are not addressed nor implemented in isolation. This is a fundamental principle under the Habitats and EIA Directive. In combination and cumulative effects must be considered.

7.1.2 SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound) operational management objectives that address the requirements of this standard are defined.

**Verifiers:** Documented Objectives; Management planning documentation; Interviews with workers.

**Guidance Note:** The policies should articulate the overall vision for forest management. Management objectives should set out tangible, shorter term steps towards achieving that vision.

The owner/manager needs to be aware that long-term forest resilience will underpin environmental, social and economic objectives. Economic viability need not be based on, or solely on, the sale of products from forest. Income from other sources, such as membership subscriptions, government funding or private investment, may be sufficient to achieve the policy and objectives of management.

The level of detail required in the policy and objectives should be proportionate to the scale and intensity of management. While a formal, written policy and detailed objectives may be appropriate for a large organisation, it may be appropriate for the owner of a small forest managed at a low intensity to be able to communicate their vision and some simple objectives verbally.

7.1.3 Summaries of the defined policies and management objectives are included in the management plan, proactively communicated to workers consistent with their roles and responsibilities, and publicized.

SLIMF 7.1.3 Summaries of the defined policies and management objectives are included in the management plan, proactively communicated to workers consistent with their roles and responsibilities, and shared with affected stakeholders on request.

**Verifiers:** Management planning documentation; Interviews with workers; Evidence of publication.

**Guidance Note:** Workers should be aware of the policy and objectives to the extent necessary for them to contribute to achieving the aims of management; they need to understand how their actions might have positive or negative effects on meeting those aims. Means of communicating the policy and objectives to workers always need to be proportionate to the extent of their influence on the outcomes of management, and might range from detailed notes or staff meetings to a simple verbal briefing. Where contractors are used, the emphasis need to be on ensuring that those responsible for supervising them are appropriately briefed and can instruct them accordingly.

**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:

- 1) silvicultural systems detailing planting, establishment, thinning, felling and regeneration plans;
- 2) procedures aligned with current Best Practices and sectoral guidelines
- 3) management actions, strategies and measures to achieve the management objectives.

**Verifier:** Management Plan; Appropriate maps and records

**Guidance Note:** Management planning documentation need to cover all elements of the requirement but may refer to other documents as appropriate.

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

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

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

**Verifiers:** Management planning documentation; Maps and records; Interviews with workers.

**Guidance Note:** Examples of verifiable targets for biodiversity could include conservation status and quantity and quality of habitats. The connectivity of habitats. Water Quality status etc.

Examples of verifiable targets for forest management could include species composition, age class diversity, dead wood abundance, diversity of ground flora species, percentage of continuous cover forestry.

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

7.4.1 The management plan is revised and updated periodically (at least every five years) consistent with Annex F to incorporate:

- 1) Monitoring and evaluation results, including results of certification audits;
- 2) Stakeholder engagement techniques and results;
- 3) Changes in EU and National laws and policies;
- 4) New scientific and technical information, and
- 5) Changing environmental, social, or economic circumstances.

7.4.1.1 Management planning documentation and operational records are retained for up to ten years.

**Verifiers:** Documented and implemented revision procedure; Evidence of revision and update; Interviews with workers; Management planning documentation; Appropriate maps and records.



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

7.5.1 A summary of the management plan in a format comprehensible to stakeholders including maps and excluding confidential information is proactively disseminated to affected rights holders\* and affected stakeholders and made publicly available at no cost.

**Verifiers:** Evidence of active dissemination of the Management Plan Summary to the public, Circulation to Stakeholders. Summary available on Organisation's website or other social media platforms.

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

**Guidance Note:** Confidential information includes data and content for example: related to investment decisions, about intellectual property rights, which is client confidential, by law, confidential, whose dissemination could put at risk the protection of wildlife species and habitats, and about sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance.

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

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

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

- 1) Dispute resolution processes (Criterion 1.6, Criterion 2.6, Criterion 4.6);
- 2) Definition of Living wages (Criterion 2.4);
- 3) Identification of rights (Criterion 4.1), sites (Criterion 4.7) and impacts (Criterion 4.5);
- 4) Local communities' socio-economic development activities (Criterion 4.4);
- 5) Planning and monitoring of Management Activities (Criterion 7.1, 7.4);
- 6) High Conservation Values assessment, management and monitoring (Criterion 9.1, Criterion 9.2, Criterion 9.4);
- 7) Identification of impacts of invasive alien species (Criterion 10.3); and
- 8) Maintenance of the public road network and public infrastructure (Criterion 10.10).

**Guidance Note:** Methods of engagement need to be designed to ensure that local people, relevant organizations and other interested parties have reasonable opportunities to participate equitably and without discrimination.

SLIMF 7.6.1 Affected stakeholders can provide input into:

- 1) Dispute resolution processes (Criterion 1.6, Criterion 2.6, Criterion 4.6);
- 2) Definition of living wages (Criterion 2.4);
- 3) Identification of their rights (Criterion 4.1), sites (Criterion 4.7) and impacts (Criterion 4.5);
- 4) Local communities' socio-economic development needs (Criterion 4.4); and
- 5) Planning and monitoring of Management Activities (Criterion 7.1, Criterion 7.4)

- 6) High Conservation Value assessment, management and monitoring (Criterion 9.1, Criterion 9.2, Criterion 9.4); and
- 7) Identification of impacts of invasive alien tree species (Criterion 10.3).

7.6.2 Culturally appropriate engagement is used to:

- 1) Determine appropriate representatives and contact points (including where appropriate, local institutions, organizations and authorities);
- 2) Determine mutually agreed, time bound communication channels allowing for information to flow in both directions;
- 3) Ensure all actors (women, youth, elderly, minorities) are represented and offered the opportunity to engage equitably;
- 4) Ensure all meetings, all points discussed, all points of contention and all agreements reached are recorded;
- 5) Ensure the content of meeting records is approved; and
- 6) Ensure the results of all culturally appropriate engagement activities are shared with those involved.

7.6.3 *Affected rights holders\** and affected stakeholders are provided with:

- 1) an opportunity for culturally appropriate engagement from the earliest stages of planning and monitoring of management activities that affect their interests; and
- 2) evidence that their input has been considered.

**Verifiers:** Evidence that appropriate notice was given; Assessment of consultation responses; Management Plan; Interviews with workers; Documented protocol; Interviews with stakeholders.

SLIMF 7.6.3 Concerns raised by affected stakeholders through culturally appropriate engagement, are addressed in the development and implementation of management and monitoring activities.

7.6.4 On request, interested stakeholders are provided with an opportunity for engagement in monitoring and planning processes of management activities that affect their interests.

## PRINCIPLE\* 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

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

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

8.1.1 Procedures are documented and executed periodically for monitoring the implementation of the management plan including its policies and management objectives and achievement of verifiable targets. Results of the monitoring allow comparison along time.

**Verifiers:** Documented monitoring procedure; A monitoring programme as part of management planning documentation; Evidence of a consistent approach to recording site visits; Interviews with workers; Monitoring records.

8.1.1.1 The monitoring programme is:

- 1) part of the management planning documentation;
- 2) consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change; and
- 3) kept in a form that ensures that results are of use over the long term.

**Verifiers:** As for Indicator 8.1.1.

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

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

**Verifiers:** Monitoring records; interviews with workers.

**Guidance Note:** The primary purpose of monitoring is to help The Organisation to implement and adapt the management of the Management Unit to meet the management objectives.

Monitoring needs to be linked to potential and actual positive and negative impacts of management on the condition of features and sensitivities of the Management Unit, and to the delivery of management objectives.

Monitoring may include:

- Supervision during forest operations
- Regular management visits and systematic collection of information
- Longer-term studies on changes to the forest ecosystem, particularly for special environmental features.

Examples of appropriate monitoring include:

- Implementation of forest operations (Health and Safety, Compliance with Forestry Standards and Guidelines, Worksite supervision).
- Harvesting yields (Information from sales invoices or weight tickets compared to predicted yields from production forecasts or timber inventories).
- Social impacts (Condition and accessibility of public access facilities, Impacts of timber haulage.)

- Environmental impacts (Impacts of operations on priority habitats and species, landscape or water and soils, Impacts of alien invasive species, Impacts of grazing and browsing)

Detail of information collected needs to be appropriate to the:

- Size of the enterprise
- Intensity of operations
- Objectives of management
- Sensitivity of the site.

The Organisation may consider:

- Formal written records
- A less formal site diary
- Photographic records
- Verbally communicated records.

Note that there may be different legal requirements for record keeping in some cases, for example pesticide usage.

The Organisation needs to be aware of the potential usefulness of information gathered for other purposes, for example to fulfil statutory requirements, which may meet or supplement monitoring needs. It may also be possible to make use of freely available information from sources such as statutory bodies or local interest groups.

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

**Verifiers:** Monitoring results, site visits.

**Guidance Note:** Examples of appropriate monitoring of changes in environmental condition include: tree health, forest composition and structure, areas and features of conservation value, ancient forest and old forest features and remnants, including responses to management and any threats, condition of cultural heritage features. When monitoring environmental impacts and changes in environmental condition, particular attention should be paid to the features of high conservation value identified in Criterion 9.1.

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

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

**Verifiers:** Monitoring procedure and records; Management planning documentation; Interviews with workers.

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

**Verifiers:** Monitoring procedure; Non-conformity records; Management planning revisions; Interviews with workers.

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

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

**Verifiers:** Monitoring summary publicly available

**Guidance Note:** The means of sharing monitoring findings need to be appropriate to the nature of the records and to the needs of the interested parties. The monitoring findings or summaries may exclude confidential information. See the guidance given for Indicator 7.5.1 for examples of confidential information.

SLIMF 8.4.1 A summary of the monitoring findings, excluding confidential information, is made publicly available upon request.

**Verifiers:** Written or verbal evidence of responses to requests.

**Guidance Note:** The means of sharing monitoring findings need to be appropriate to the nature of the records and to the needs of the interested parties. SLIMFs, employing informal monitoring methods and records, may communicate monitoring findings verbally. The monitoring summaries may exclude confidential information. See the guidance in Indicator 7.5.1 for examples of confidential information.

**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:** Harvesting output records; transport & storage records; Sales contracts; Sales invoices.

**Guidance Note:** The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that certified products can be traced back to the point of sale from the forest (in the case of timber, for example, standing, at roadside or delivered). The responsibility of The Organisation is to ensure that certified products removed from the forest can be traced forward along the supply chain from the first point of supply. Where certified products from other sources are being stored in the same area, appropriate records should be maintained to demonstrate the source and quantity of produce obtained from other forest areas.

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

- 1) Common and scientific species name;
- 2) Product name or description;
- 3) Volume (or quantity) of product;
- 4) Information to trace the material to the source of origin logging block;
- 5) Logging date;
- 6) If basic processing activities take place in the forest, the date and volume produced; and

7) Whether or not the material was sold as FSC certified.

**Verifiers:** as for Indicator 8.5.1.

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

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

**Verifiers:** as for Indicator 8.5.1.

## PRINCIPLE\* 9: HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES\*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SLIMF 9.1.1 Using the Best Available Information an assessment is completed that records the location of any HCV Categories 1- 6, the HCV Areas they rely upon, and their condition.

9.1.2 [Not applicable to Ireland] This assessment includes identification of Intact Forest Landscapes, as of January 1, 2017.

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

SLIMF 9.1.3 Using culturally appropriate engagement, input to the HCV assessment is sought from affected and interested stakeholders with an interest in the conservation of the High Conservation Values.

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

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

**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 Adopting a precautionary approach, the High Conservation Values identified in Indicator 9.1.1, and the High Conservation Value Areas on which they depend are maintained and/or enhanced, including by implementing the strategies developed.
- 9.3.2 The strategies and actions prevent damage and avoid risks to High Conservation Values, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of High Conservation Values are uncertain.
- SLIMF 9.3.2 The strategies and actions prevent damage and avoid risks to High Conservation Values based on a precautionary approach.
- 9.3.3 [Not applicable to Ireland] Core areas are protected consistent with Criterion 9.2.
- 9.3.4 [Not applicable to Ireland] Limited industrial activity in core areas is consistent with Indicator 9.2.7.
- 9.3.5 Activities that harm High Conservation Values cease immediately and actions are taken to restore and protect the High Conservation Values.



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

9.4.1 A program of periodic monitoring, periodically verified by independent experts, assesses:

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

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

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

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

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

## 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 Vegetation cover on harvested sites is regenerated according to the management plan in a timely manner that:

- 1) Protects affected environmental values;
- 2) Is suitable to recover overall pre-harvest or natural forest composition and structure;
- 3) Avoids *peatlands\**; and
- 4) Does not lead to increased acidification or delay surface water recovery to "Good" official EPA water quality status.

10.1.1.1 Whole-tree harvesting and stump removal are prohibited except for sanitary reasons (soil pathogens) justified by an independent expert authority. Harvesting of brush is avoided unless justified on ecological grounds.

10.1.1.2 Soil preparation measures do not extend to the mineral soil. When, in exceptional cases, in order to prepare for regeneration with site-appropriate species of the natural or semi-natural forest composition, any exposure of the mineral soil is present, this exposure is limited to planting holes or strips.

**Verifiers:** Site visits, operational instructions, monitoring records, interviews with workers, felling licence as awarded from DAFM and its associated conditions.

10.1.2 Post-harvest regeneration activities are implemented in a manner that:

- 1) For existing plantations, foster more natural conditions, using ecologically well-adapted, native species to create greater species diversity;
- 2) For natural forests, regenerate to pre-harvest or to more natural conditions; or
- 3) For harvest of degraded natural forests, regenerate to more natural conditions.

**Verifiers:** Management Plan; Area harvested and regenerated; Regeneration Plan (Species selected for regeneration).

**Guidance Note:** As a general principle, forest management should at least maintain and where possible enhance species diversity. Larger Management Units generally present more opportunities for species diversification. In semi-natural forests, regeneration should restore the pre-harvesting stand composition or should create a greater range of species and structural variation appropriate to the forest type. In old forest, regeneration should be in accordance with Criterion 9.3.

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

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

**Verifiers:** Interviews with workers; Results of ecological evaluations; No conflicting evidence regarding ecological suitability for species chosen; Forest management planning documentation; Field observation.

**Guidance Note:** The range of species selected takes into consideration: Improvement of long-term forest resilience, management objectives, requirements for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity, requirements for enhancement and restoration of habitats, landscape character.

10.2.1.1 Natural regeneration and succession is encouraged and enhanced where it is occurring unless this is damaging to environmental values.

**Verifiers:** Evidence of natural regeneration and succession; Interviews with workers; maps.

10.2.2 Species chosen for regeneration are consistent with the regeneration objectives and with the management objectives unless this is damaging to environmental values.

**Verifiers:** Interviews with workers; Results of ecological evaluations; No conflicting evidence regarding ecological suitability for species chosen; Forest management planning documentation; Field observation.

**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:

- 1) direct experience and/or the results of independent scientific research demonstrate that invasive impacts can be controlled; and
- 2) effective mitigation measures (scientifically or empirically proven) are in place to control their spread outside the area in which they are established.

**Verifiers:** Documented impact assessment of any alien species introductions made since certification; Monitoring records; Interviews with workers; Field observation.

**Guidance Note:** In the absence of scientific research to support mitigation measures the precautionary principle must apply and alien species should not be used. Alien species are non-native tree species that have been introduced to Ireland, originating from regions with a similar climate and include Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, western red cedar, western hemlock and lodgepole pine, which are native to Northwest America, while others such as European larch and Norway spruce originate from the European mainland. (Source: A Guide to Forest Tree Species Selection and Silviculture in Ireland, COFORD, 2003.)

10.3.2 Other alien plant and animal species are only introduced if they are non-invasive and bring environmental benefits.

**Verifiers:** Monitoring records; Interviews with workers; Results of ecological evaluations; No conflicting evidence regarding ecological suitability for species chosen; Forest management planning documentation; Field observation.

10.3.3 The spread of invasive species introduced by The Organisation is controlled at the expense of The Organisation.

**Verifiers:** Interviews with workers; Results of ecological evaluations; No conflicting evidence regarding ecological suitability for species chosen; Forest management planning documentation; Field observation.

**Guidance Note:** The Organisation may avail of financial assistance such as grants in order to fully control the spread of invasive species.

The requirement includes the re-introduction of once native animals not currently present within Ireland. The Organisation needs to be aware that introduced species may exhibit differing degrees of invasiveness in different habitats or parts of the country. Use of non-native biological control agents such as *Rhizophagus grandis* may be desirable to control non-native pests, where the use of this is approved. Game species may be introduced if managed in accordance with the indicators in Criterion 6.6.

10.3.4 Management of the invasive impacts of alien species is undertaken in co-operation with statutory bodies where relevant, and in co-ordination with neighbours where possible.

**Verifiers:** Management Plan; alien species Control Plan; Monitoring records; Interviews with workers; evidence of engagement.

10.3.4.1: If wild mammal populations cannot be maintained at a level that ensures they are not causing ecological damage, then sensitive areas - including regeneration sites, coppice coupes and areas with vulnerable flora - are protected from browsing and other damage.

**Verifiers:** Where there is a significant problem caused by wildlife, a documented plan (which may take the form of a contract or licence) for control.

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

10.4.1 Genetically modified organisms are not used.

**Verifiers:** Policy and procedure; Plant supply records; Interviews with workers.

**Guidance Note:** GMOs are created through gene transfer under laboratory conditions and are not the product of tree breeding, vegetative propagation, cloning or tissue culture programmes.

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

10.5.1 Appropriate silvicultural systems are adopted which are suited to species, sites, wind risk, tree health risks and forest management objectives and which stipulate soundly based planting, establishment, thinning, felling and regeneration plans.

**Verifiers:** Forest management planning documentation; Interviews with workers; Field observation.

**Guidance Note:** Managers are advised to consider the recommendations of the EU Forest Strategy (2030) and Landscape Character Areas where the MU is situated.

10.5.1.1 Where species, sites, wind risk, tree health risk and management objectives allow, a range of silvicultural approaches, and in particular lower impact silvicultural systems, are adopted with the aim of diversifying ages, species and stand structures.

**Verifiers:** As for Indicator 10.5.1.

**Guidance Note:** The choice of silvicultural system should take into account:

- Long-term forest resilience e.g. the risk posed by climate change, pests and disease.
- Silvicultural characteristics of the species
- Management objectives
- Site limitations including potential growth rates and wind firmness
- Intended stem size and quality
- Current and future markets for timber products
- Impacts on the landscape and wildlife
- Age-structure and felling plan of nearby forests
- Ecological processes and natural disturbance regime for the forest type
- Historical management practices
- Views of local people.
- Use of lower impact silvicultural systems may not be appropriate where there is evidence that clear-felling is necessary for the conservation of priority habitats or species.

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

10.6.1 The use of fertilizers is minimized in general, and not used on:

- 1) oligotrophic or ultraoligotrophic sites;
- 2) priority habitats;
- 3) around priority plant species;
- 4) around veteran trees; and
- 5) water bodies that have recorded a Q4 or Q5 status since the Water Framework Directive came into effect.

**Guidance Note:** At a minimum, priority habitats need to include Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas.

10.6.1.1 Fertilisers are only used to secure establishment of forest vegetation or to correct subsequent nutrient deficiencies, in line with 10.6.1.

**Verifiers:** Interviews with workers; Documented pesticide policy or position statement.

**SLIMF Verifiers:** Interviews with workers; Verbal communication of pesticide policy or position statement.

**Guidance Note:** Fertilizers are not commonly used in Irish forestry. Their use may be required in the establishment phase or where foliar analysis shows any deficiencies that may require fertilizer. Yet, the use would still require a decision-making strategy reflected in 10.6.2 below.

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

**Verifiers:** Technical justification for fertilizer use.

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

10.6.4 When fertilizers are used, measures are implemented to protect environmental values and prevent damage, and the use does not negatively impact on the conservation status of terrestrial or freshwater habitats.

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

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

10.7.1 An integrated pest management strategy (IPMS), including selection of silviculture systems, is used to avoid, or aims to eliminate, the frequency, extent, and amount of chemical pesticide applications, and result in non-use or overall reductions in applications.

**Verifiers:** Integrated Pest Management Strategy; Operational Instructions; Interviews with workers; Site visits.

10.7.1.1 Where integrated pest management (IPM) identifies the need to use a permitted chemical pesticide as a last resort, an environmental and social risk assessment (ESRA) is conducted according to FSC-POL-30-001 to identify the nature and degree of risk together with the measures for mitigation, and the monitoring requirements.

**Verifiers:** Pesticide application ESRA procedure; ESRA records and results; Operational Instructions; Interviews with workers; Site visits.

**Guidance Note:** FSC Pesticide Policy FSC-POL-30-001 (V3) states: "FSC requires certified Organisations to use integrated pest management (IPM) to avoid, or aim to eliminate, the use of chemical pesticides in Management Units (MU), minimize risks to human health and the environment while maintaining economically viable management.

In certain circumstances, after having identified and determined likely impacts of a pest, weed or disease and having considered all available pest management strategies, the use of chemical pesticides may be identified as the most suitable control method.

10.7.2 Outside *emergency\** situations or governmental order chemical pesticides prohibited by FSC's Pesticide Policy are not used or stored in the Management Unit.

**Verifiers:** Pesticide policy or position statement; Interviews with workers; work instructions; site visits; no evidence of prohibited pesticides.

**Guidance Note:** See Annex 3 of FSC-POL-30-001 (V3): Procedure for use of FSC prohibited HHPs in case of *emergency\** situations or governmental orders.

10.7.2.1 The use of Highly Restricted HHPs (highly hazardous pesticides) is prohibited on sites containing or adjoining aquatic habitats and wetlands.

**Verifiers:** Pesticide policy or position statement; Maps of areas with pesticide applications; Work instructions; Training requirements and records; Interviews with workers; site visits.

10.7.3 Records of pesticide usage are maintained, including trade name, active ingredient, quantity of active ingredient used, period of use (date and time), location and area of use, prior use notification to *affected rights holders*\* where necessary, and reason for use.

**Verifiers:** Records of pesticide usage.

**Guidance Note:** Under the requirements of Criteria 4.2 and 4.5, affected rights holders may request prior notification of chemical applications as part of their FPIC negotiations. In this case, the notification can form part of the evidence to show compliance with this indicator.

10.7.4 The use of pesticides complies with the ILO document “Safety in the use of chemicals at work” regarding requirements for the transport, storage, handling, application, and *emergency*\* procedures for cleanup following accidental spillages.

**Verifiers:** work instructions; Training requirements and records; Chemical storage, transport and application equipment; Interviews with workers; site visits.

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

10.7.5.1 The steps to reduce and eliminate the use of chemical pesticides, and to minimize associated risks to human health and the environment, are to:

- 1) Identify highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs) according to their short and long-term toxicity characteristics;
- 2) Prioritize these characteristics and categorize the HHPs into three hazard-based lists: Prohibited, Highly Restricted and Restricted;
- 3) Regulate the use of HHPs in each list according to the risk they pose to human health and the environment;
- 4) Repair and compensate for damage to environmental values and human health caused by inadequate development or implementation of environmental and social risk assessment;
- 5) Monitor the use of pesticides and the impact of the FSC Pesticides Policy.

**Verifiers:** Chemical pesticide reduction strategy; chemical pesticide damage repair policy; monitoring records for compliance with FSC-POL-30-001 V3.

10.7.5.2 An environmental and social risk assessment (ESRA) is undertaken, including engagement with different stakeholders at international, national and management unit levels to identify:

- 1) Lower risk alternatives,
- 2) Minimal effective application quantities,
- 3) Conditions for chemical pesticide use; and
- 4) Adequate mitigation and monitoring measures (from POL-30-001 V3).

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

10.7.7 When pesticides are used:

- 1) The selected pesticide, application method, timing and pattern of use offers the least risk to humans and non-target species;
- 2) Objective evidence demonstrates that the pesticide is the only effective, practical, and cost-effective way to control the pest; and
- 3) Damage to environmental values and human health from pesticide use is mitigated or repaired.

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

10.8.1 The use of biological control agents is minimized, monitored and controlled. Where biological control agents are used, a strategy justifies their use, demonstrating no practicable alternative in economic, social, and environmental costs.

10.8.2 Use of biological control agents strictly complies with internationally accepted scientific protocols.

**Verifiers:** Biological Control Agent policy and procedure

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

10.8.4 Damage to environmental values caused by the use of biological control agents is prevented or repaired where damage occurs. Measures to prevent recurrence are in place.

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

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

**Verifiers:** Documented identification and assessment of risks; Interviews with workers.

SLIMF 10.9.1 Potential negative impacts of natural hazards on infrastructure, forest resources and communities in the Management Unit are known based on experience and best available information.

10.9.2 Management activities mitigate these impacts.

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

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

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

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

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

**Verifiers:** Management Planning documentation.

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

**Verifiers:** Management Plan; Operational instructions; Water resource protection procedures; Maps; Site visits; Interviews with workers.



10.10.2.1 Operational plans include specific provisions to prevent erosion by identifying and marking on operational maps areas which are susceptible to erosion/slippage, and in which practices must ensure no increased erosion or reduction in soil stability (which could impact adjacent ecosystems). These maps form part of felling licence applications and are disseminated to all workers, including contractors.

10.10.2.2 Management practices are adopted that minimise diffuse pollution into soils or water resources arising from forest operations.

**Verifiers:** Records of consultation with statutory environment protection agencies; Field observation; Operational plans and instructions; Incident response plans; Diffuse pollution risk assessment in high-risk situations; Use of biodegradable lubricants when possible.

**Guidance Note:** Diffuse pollution may arise from oil spills and leaks, cutting-chain lubricants, siltation of water courses or drains that connect to watercourses, and pesticide or fertiliser run-off.

10.10.2.3 Measures to maintain and/or enhance long-term soil and hydrological functions are implemented.

**Verifiers:** Forest management planning documentation; Field observation; Interviews with workers.

**Guidance Note:** Protection of basic ecosystem functions in terms of soils and hydrology is fundamental to sustainable forest management. The forest owner/manager is advised to refer to relevant guidelines on soils and water.

Within riparian buffer zones, clear-fells need to be avoided, while selective felling could ensure a gradual transition to native plant cover over time.

Wherever possible, natural regeneration of scrub and tree species needs to be prioritised over planting. Where appropriate, aquatic buffers need to be composed of a mosaic of open habitats, scrub and native forest. The nature of the habitat within the buffer is expected to be based on the consideration of the broader conservation needs of rare or threatened habitats and species within the management unit and the broader landscape.

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

**Verifiers:** Management Plan; Water resource protection procedures; Operational instructions; Damage incident remediation reports; Maps; Site visits; Interviews with workers.

10.10.3.1 The Organisation engages and cooperates with local authorities in the event of damage to public road network or public infrastructure that results from forestry and ancillary activities, and accepts and implements the decision of the local roads authority when asked to pay reasonable repairation costs.

**Verifiers:** Evidence of written agreements; Surveys; Evidence of any monies withheld to cover costs reasonably incurred; No evidence of outstanding issues with local or National roads authority.

**Guidance Note:** Local authorities should always be given the opportunity for a commencement meeting and be informed of works commencement dates. As mentioned in Indicator 7.6.1, The Organisation should engage proactively and transparently with the local roads authority in advance of forestry operations, agreeing routes, dates, times, volumes and weight restrictions for haulage operations prior to haulage commencing, and any necessary repairation measures post-harvest.

Common arrangements involve local authority and The Organisation coming to a mutually agreeable conclusion on the apportionment of costs and/or work. This can include the local authority charging a bond or contribution of The Organisation to Community Involvement Schemes which spread the costs over multiple land owners.

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

10.11.1 Harvesting and extraction practices for timber and NTFPs are implemented in a manner that conserves environmental values as identified in Criteria 4.5 and 6.1, and High Conservation Values identified in Criteria 9.1 and 9.2.

10.11.2. The potential negative impacts of *clear cuts\** (e.g., regarding habitat connectivity, environmental and landscape values, soil and water quality, risk of wind damage for the remaining stand) are independently assessed and mitigated. If *clear cuts\** are implemented, all independent assessments are made publicly available, at no cost.

**Guidance Note:** Benzine-free fuels and biologically degradable oils/hydraulic fluids are used in machines and equipment if it is technically possible to use them. All employees and contractors working in the forest, especially machine operators, are familiar with emergency measures to bind and dispose of leakage of oil and chemicals. All machines with oil hydraulic parts are equipped with so-called 'emergency kits' (binder, collecting vessels, etc.) in case of damage.

Necessary precautions are always needed to minimise soil damage and compaction whilst harvesting, extraction or any other activity, and driving needs to be limited mainly to skidding lines.

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

**Verifiers:** Management Plan; Operational instructions; Monitoring results, site visits, Interviews with workers.

10.11.4 Standing and fallen deadwood habitats, over-mature and veteran trees are retained throughout the Management Unit where this does not compromise the safety of the public or forestry workers or the health of the forest. Where practical/feasible, deadwood is left in situ after thinning and final harvesting and a diversity of standing and fallen deadwood is accumulated over time in all wooded parts of the Management Unit, including felled areas.

**Verifiers:** Field observation; Harvesting contracts; Interviews with workers; Documented cases where conflicts with safety or forest health have been identified; Management planning documentation.

**Guidance Note:** Guidance on the retention of standing and fallen deadwood and over-mature trees can be found in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) Standards for Felling and Reforestation Standard and the Management Guidelines for Ireland's Native Forests. The Forest Biodiversity Guidelines also contain guidance on over-mature trees and deadwood. There are instances in specific areas where plant health requirements due to disease or significant pests have been identified and where the forest owner may be directed to remove all deadwood.

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

**Verifiers:** Management Plan; Operational instructions; Monitoring results; Site visits; Interviews with workers.

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

10.12.1 Collection, clean up, transportation and disposal of all waste materials is done in a timely, environmentally appropriate way that conserves environmental values as identified in Criterion 6.1 and in accordance with current waste management legislation and regulations.

**Verifiers:** No evidence of significant impacts from waste disposal; Documented policy or guidelines on waste disposal; Waste docket; Operational instructions; Interviews with workers.

10.12.1.1 A procedure, supported by training and materials for controlling and cleaning up chemicals, fuel and oil in the case of accidental spillage is documented and implemented.

10.12.1.2 A plan to manage and progressively remove redundant materials is prepared and implemented. Prioritisation and timescales for removal take into account social, environmental and economic impacts.

**Guidance Note:** Examples of redundant materials include: Tree shelters, fencing, culvert pipes, high seats, and planting bags.

## F ANNEXES

(Normative section)

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

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

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

#### 1. Legal rights to harvest

1.1 Land tenure and management rights      Legislation covering land tenure rights, including customary rights as well as management rights, that includes the use of legal methods to obtain tenure rights and management rights. It also covers legal business registration and tax registration, including relevant legally required licenses.

Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act 2009 ([www.irishstatutebook.ie](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie)).

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

Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1999.

Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2016.

Commencement (No. 3) Order, (2001) S.I. No. 599 of 2001.

Planning and Development Regulations (2001) S.I. No. 600 of 2001.

1.3 Management and harvesting planning      Any national or sub-national legal requirements for Management Planning, including conducting forest inventories, having a forest management plan and related planning and monitoring, impact assessments, consultation with other entities, as well as approval of these by legally competent authorities.

EU Forest Strategy for 2030.

Irish Forestry Acts, 1988 to 2014.

S.I. No 191 of 2017 - Forestry Regulations 2017.

S.I. No 31 of 2020 - Forestry (Amdmt) Regs 2020 re reg 19.

S.I. No 39 of 2020 – Forestry (Amdmt) No 2 Regs.

1.4 Harvesting permits      National or sub-national laws and regulations regulating procedures for issuing harvesting permits, licenses or other legal documents required for specific harvesting operations. This includes the use of legal methods to obtain the permits. Corruption is a well-known issue that is connected with the issuing of harvesting permits.

Criminal Justice (Corruption Offences) Act, 2018.

## 2. Taxes and fees

### 2.1 Payment of royalties and harvesting fees

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

No specific legislation but for guidance see:

1. Terms and Conditions for Timber sales – sales contracts for forestry management companies i.e. on what terms and price the sale is agreed.
2. Log Quality Specification.
3. Timber Permit Removal systems – varies with timber seller.

### 2.2 Value added taxes and other sales taxes

Legislation covering different types of sales taxes which apply to the material being sold, including the sale of material as growing forest (standing stock sales).

Forestry Services Value-Added Tax Consolidation Act, 2010.

### 2.3 Income and profit taxes

Legislation covering income and profit taxes related to profit derived from the sale of forest products and harvesting activities. This category is also related to income from the sale of timber and does not include other taxes generally applicable for companies and is not related to salary payments.

Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, section 232 (woodland profits).

## 3. Timber harvesting activities

### 3.1 Timber harvesting regulations

Any legal requirements for harvesting techniques and technology including selective cutting, shelter wood regenerations, clear felling, transport of timber from the felling site, seasonal limitations, etc. Typically, this includes regulations on the size of felling areas, minimum age and/or diameter for felling activities, and elements that shall be preserved during felling, etc. Establishment of skidding or hauling trails, road construction, drainage systems and bridges, etc., shall also be considered as well as the planning and monitoring of harvesting activities. Any legally binding codes for harvesting practices shall be considered.

Standards for Felling Reforestation, DAFM, 2019.

Council Directive (1999/105/EC) on the marketing of forest reproductive material.

### 3.2 Protected sites and species

International, national, and sub national treaties, laws, and regulations related to protected areas, allowable forest uses and activities, and/or rare, threatened, or endangered species, including their habitats and potential habitats.

Wildlife Acts, 1976 and 1999.

Wildlife Amendment Act (2000).

National Monuments Acts, 1930 to 2004 (Including Approval of Consent (1) Order, 1995).

National Cultural Institutions Act 1997.

Heritage Act, 1995, 2018.

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Local Government (Special Amenity and Conservation Orders) Act, 1976.  
“Flora (Protection) Order, 2015”.

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3.3 Environmental requirements

National and sub national laws and regulations related to the identification and/or protection of environmental values including but not limited to those relating to or affected by harvesting, acceptable levels for soil damage, establishment of buffer zones (e.g., along water courses, open areas and breeding sites), maintenance of retention trees on the felling site, seasonal limitations of harvesting time, environmental requirements for forest machineries, use of pesticides and other chemicals, biodiversity conservation, air quality, protection and restoration of water quality, operation of recreational equipment, development of non-forestry infrastructure, mineral exploration and extraction, etc.

Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992.

Environmental Impact Assessment – S.I. No. 100 of 1996.

European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations, 1996. S.I. No. 101 of 1996.

European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001. S.I. No. 538 of 2001.

Inland Fisheries Act, 2010 (No. 10 of 2010).

S.I. regulation for the Water Framework Directive: S.I. No. 722 of 2003.

Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts, 1977 to 1990.

Waste Management Acts, 1996 to 2011.

Litter pollution Acts, 1997 to 2009.

S.I. No. 155 of 2012 Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulations 2012.

IFI's Climate Action Framework'.

IFI's 'Climate Action Mandate', 2020.

Forest Service Code of Best Forest Practice,

Forest Service Forestry and Water Quality Guidelines .

Forest Service Biodiversity Guidelines.

S.I. No 94 of 1997.

S.I. No. 191/2020 - European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992) (Amendment) Regulations 2020.

Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

European Green Deal, 2019.

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals, 1979.

Paris Agreement, 2015.

Glasgow Climate Pact, 2021.

Council Directive (85/337/EEC) and amending directives on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment.

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Council Directive (2000/29/EC) on protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of harmful organisms of plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community.

Council Directive (92/43/EEC) and amending directives on the conservation of natural habitats of wild fauna and flora.

Council Directive (79/409/EEC) and amending directives on the conservation of wild birds.

Council Regulation (EEC3528/86) on the protection of forests against atmospheric pollution.

EU (Conservation of Wild Birds) (Amendment) Regulations 1999.

European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997

European Communities (Natural Habitats) (Amendment) Regulations, 1998.

EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC).

EU Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC).

Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC).

The Bern Convention of 1979 for the preservation of Europe's wild animals and native plants and their natural habitats;

The Convention on Biological Diversity of Rio de Janeiro of June 5, 1992, concerning biological diversity;

The Bonn Convention of June 23, 1979, for the preservation of migrating wild animal species;

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, 1971 - an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. There are 45 Ramsar sites in Ireland.

The Kyoto Protocol, negotiated by more than 160 nations in December 1997, aims to reduce net emissions of certain greenhouse gases (primarily carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)).

The Helsinki Protocols resulting from the Ministerial Conference for Protection of Forests in Europe, 1994.

The Lisbon Protocols resulting from the Ministerial Conference for Protection of Forests in Europe, 1998.

The Vienna Protocols resulting from the Ministerial Conference for Protection of Forests in Europe, 2002.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992.

Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, Paris, 1972

The Aarhus Convention

The European Landscape Convention, 2000.

The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage.

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### 3.4 Health and safety

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

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Occupiers Liability Act, 1995.  
Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.  
Safety Health and Welfare at Work - General Application. Regulations (2007) and Construction Regulations (2001).  
Firearms Licensing Law 2021.

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### 3.5 Legal employment

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

The Employment Equality Act, 1998 to 2011.

S.I. No 128 of 2021 Occupational Pension Scheme Regulations, (22 April 2021).

International Labour Organisation – Conventions.

Freedom of Organization

Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise, 1948.

Convention 98 on the Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining, 1949.

Abolition of Forced Labour

Convention 29 on Forced Labour, 1930.

Convention 105 on Abolition of Forced Labour, 1957.

Equal Rights / No Discrimination.

Convention 100 on Equal Remuneration, 1951.

Convention 111 on Discrimination (Employment and Occupation), 1958.

Child Labour

Convention 138 on Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 1973.

Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, 1988.

Young Persons (Employment) Act 1996.

Maternity Protection Act, 1994.

Maternity Protection (Amendment) Act, 2004.

Paternity Leave and Benefit Act, 2016.

Industrial Relations Act 1990.

## 4. Third parties' rights

### 4.1 Customary rights

Legislation covering customary rights relevant to forest harvesting activities, including requirements covering the sharing of benefits and indigenous rights.

the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the common standard for the protection of fundamental human rights for all.



|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 4.2 Free Prior and Informed Consent | <p>Legislation covering “free prior and informed consent” in connection with the transfer of forest management rights and customary rights to The Organisation in charge of the harvesting operation.</p> <p>No specific legislation.</p>  |
| 4.3 Indigenous Peoples’ rights      | <p>Legislation that regulates the rights of Indigenous Peoples as far as it is related to forestry activities. Possible aspects to consider are land tenure, and rights to use certain forest related resources and practice traditional activities, which may involve forest lands.</p> <p>No specific legislation.</p> |

## 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 | <p>Legislation regulating how harvested material is classified in terms of species, volumes and qualities in connection with trade and transport. Incorrect classification of harvested material is a well-known method to reduce or avoid payment of legally prescribed taxes and fees.</p> <p>No specific legislation but for guidance see:</p> <p>Terms and Conditions for Timber sales – sales contracts for forestry management companies i.e. on what terms and price the sale is agreed.</p> <p>Log Quality Specification (as determined by the timber seller)</p> <p>Timber Permit Removal systems (varies with timber seller).</p>  |
| 5.2 Trade and transport                              | <p>All required trading and transport permits shall exist as well as legally required transport documents which accompany the transport of wood from forest operations.</p> <p>Roads Acts, 1993 to 2007.</p> <p>Road Transport Acts, 1932 to 1999.</p> <p>The International Tropical Timber Agreement of 1994 which seeks to improve the international market conditions for sustainably grown tropical timber.</p> <p>The EU Action Plan on Forest Law, Governance and Trade, 2003.</p>   |
| 5.3 Offshore trading and transfer pricing            | <p>Legislation regulating offshore trading. Offshore trading with related companies placed in tax havens, combined with artificial transfer prices is a well-known way to avoid payment of legally prescribed taxes and fees to the country of harvest and is considered to be an important source of funds that can be used for payment of bribery to the forest operations and personnel involved in the harvesting operation. Many countries have established legislation covering transfer pricing and offshore trading. It should be noted that only transfer pricing and offshore trading, as far as it is legally prohibited in the country, can be included here.</p> <p>Finance Act 2021 (<a href="http://irishstatutebook.ie">irishstatutebook.ie</a>).</p> <p>Income Tax Act, 1967. (<a href="http://irishstatutebook.ie">irishstatutebook.ie</a>).</p> |

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5.4 Custom regulations

Custom legislation covering areas such as export/import licenses and product classification (codes, quantities, qualities and species).

EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) No 995/2010.

For all material being exported from the Island of Ireland. Forestry Companies are registered with the Department of Agriculture and provide export data under a registered company number.

All material moving on the Island of Ireland is in accordance with REGULATION (EU) 2016/2031 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OF THE COUNCIL of 26 October 2016 on protective measures against pests of plants is coming into effect on the 14th of December 2019.

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5.5 CITES

CITES permits (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Washington Convention).

The Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of March 3, 1973, concerning the international trade in endangered species of wild animals and plants.

## 6. Due diligence / due care

6.1 Due diligence / due care procedures

Legislation requiring due diligence/due care procedures, including, e.g., due diligence/due care systems, declaration obligations, and/or the keeping of trade related documents, etc.

S.I. No. 316/2014 (Timber and Timber Products), (Placing on the Market) EU Regulations 2014.

EU Timber Regulation - Regulation (EU) No 995/2010.

## 7. Ecosystem Services

Legislation covering ecosystem services rights, including customary rights as well as management rights that include the use of legal methods to make claims and obtain benefits and management rights related to ecosystem services. National and subnational laws and regulations related to the identification, protection and payment for ecosystem services. Also includes legal business registration and tax registration, including relevant legal required licenses for the exploitation, payment, and claims related to ecosystem services (including tourism).

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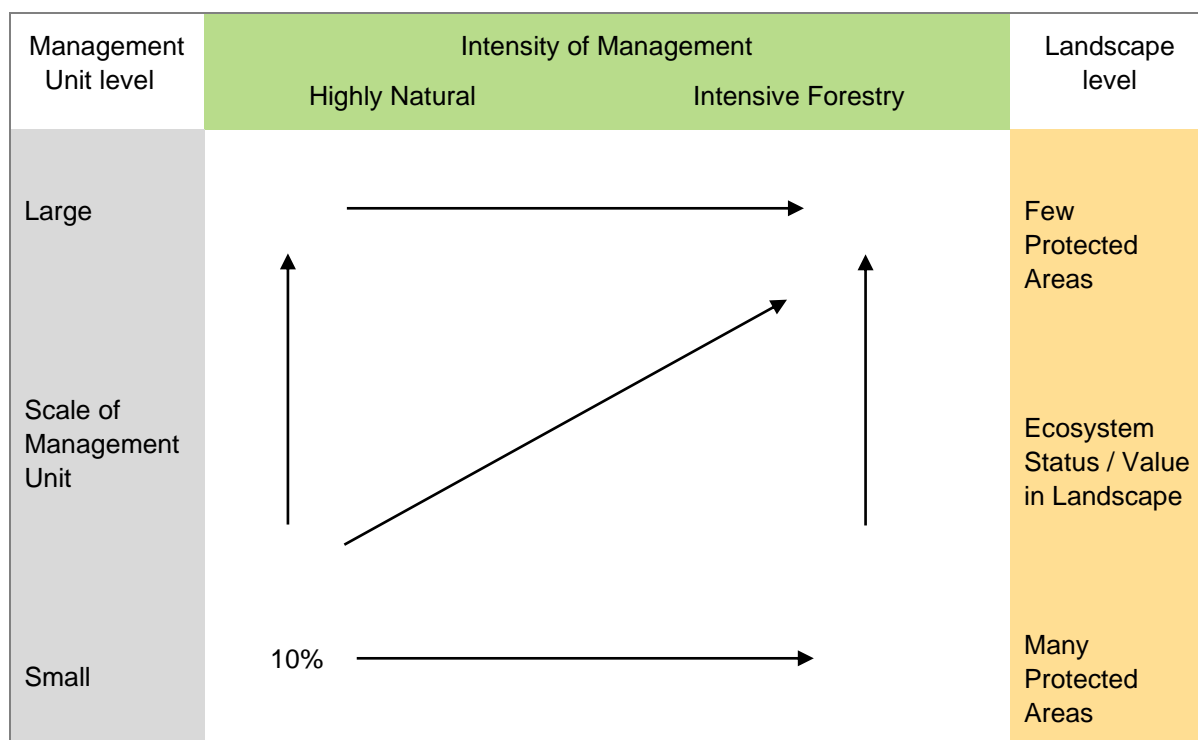
## Annex B Training requirements for workers (Principle 2)

Workers shall be able to:

- 1) Implement forest activities to comply with applicable legal requirements (Criterion 1.5);
- 2) Understand the content, meaning and applicability of the eight ILO Core Labour Conventions (Criterion 2.1);
- 3) Recognize and report on instances of sexual harassment and gender discrimination (Criterion 2.2);
- 4) Safely handle and dispose of hazardous substances to ensure that use does not pose health risks (Criterion 2.3);
- 5) Carry out their responsibilities for particularly dangerous jobs or jobs entailing a special responsibility (Criterion 2.5);
- 6) Identify sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious, archaeological or spiritual significance to local communities and implement the necessary measures to protect them before the start of forest management activities to avoid negative impacts (Criterion 4.7);
- 7) Identify where local communities have legal and customary rights related to management activities (Criterion 4.2);
- 8) Carry out social, economic and environmental impact assessments and develop appropriate mitigation measures (Criterion 4.5);
- 9) Implement activities related to the maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services, when FSC Ecosystem Services Claims are used (Criterion 5.1);
- 10) Handle, apply and store pesticides (Criterion 10.7); and
- 11) Implement procedures for cleaning up spills of waste materials (Criterion 10.12).

In accordance with Criterion 2.2, specific training should be made available to women to increase their participation and advance their careers in forestry and forest management at all levels.

## Annex C Conservation Area Network conceptual diagram (Principle 6)



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

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

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

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

The Irish National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) maintain the Red List for Ireland. The current document is accessible here: <https://www.npws.ie/publications/red-lists>

## Annex E Elements of the management plan (Principle 7)

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

- 5) A description of the monitoring program, as identified in Principle 8, including:
- i. Growth and yield, as identified in Principle 5;
  - ii. Ecosystem services when FSC ecosystem services claims are used as identified in Criterion 5.1;
  - iii. Environmental values, as identified in Principle 6;
  - iv. Operational impacts, as identified in Principle 10;
  - v. High Conservation Values, as identified in Principle 9;
  - vi. Monitoring systems based on stakeholder engagement planned or in place, as identified in Principle 2 to Principle 5 and Principle 7;
  - vii. Maps describing the natural resources and land use zoning on the Management Unit.

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

| Sample Management Plan Document | Management Plan Revision Periodicity | Element Being Monitored<br><br>(Partial List) | Monitoring Periodicity                    | Who Monitors This Element?<br><br>(Note: These will vary with SIR and jurisdiction) | FSC Principle / Criterion |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Site Plan (Harvest Plan)</b> | Annual                               | Creek crossings                               | When in the field and annually            | Operational staff   | P10                       |
|                                 |                                      | Roads   | When in the field and annually            | Operational staff   | P10                       |
|                                 |                                      | Retention patches                             | Annually sample                           | Operational staff   | P6, P10                   |
|                                 |                                      | Rare Threatened and Endangered species        | Annually                                  | Consulting Biologist  | P6                        |
|                                 |                                      | Annual harvest levels                         | Annually                                  | Forests Manager   | C5.2                      |
|                                 |                                      | Insect disease outbreaks                      | Annually, sample                          | Consulting Biologist / Ministry of Forests  |                           |
| <b>Budgeting</b>                | Annual                               | Expenditures                                  | Annually                                  | Chief Financial Officer   | P5                        |
|                                 |                                      | Contribution to local economy                 | Quarterly                                 | General Manager   | P5                        |
| <b>Engagement Plan</b>          | Annual                               | Employment statistics                         | Annually                                  | General Manager   | P3, P4                    |
|                                 |                                      | Social Agreements                             | Annually, or as agreed in Engagement Plan | Social Coordinator  | P3, P4                    |



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

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## Annex G Monitoring requirements (Principle 8)

- 1) Monitoring in 8.2.1 is sufficient to identify and describe the environmental impacts of management activities, including where applicable:
  - i. The results of regeneration activities (Criterion 10.1);
  - ii. The use of ecologically well adapted species for regeneration (Criterion 10.2);
  - iii. Invasiveness or other adverse impacts associated with any alien species within and outside the Management Unit (Criterion 10.3);
  - iv. The use of genetically modified organisms to confirm that they are not being used (Criterion 10.4);
  - v. The results of silvicultural activities (Criterion 10.5);
  - vi. Adverse impacts to environmental values from use of fertilizers (Criterion 10.6);
  - vii. Adverse impacts from the use of pesticides (Criterion 10.7);
  - viii. Adverse impacts from the use of biological control agents (Criterion 10.8);
  - ix. The impacts from natural hazards (Criterion 10.9);
  - x. The impacts of infrastructural development, transport activities and silviculture to rare and threatened species, habitats, ecosystems, landscape values, water and soils, metrics for soil health (Criterion 10.10);
  - xi. The impacts of harvesting and extraction of timber on NTFPs, environmental values, merchantable wood waste and other products and services (Criterion 10.11); and
  - xii. Environmentally appropriate disposal of waste materials (Criterion 10.12).
  
- 2) Monitoring in 8.2.1 is sufficient to identify and describe social impacts of management activities, including where applicable:
  - i. Evidence of illegal or unauthorized activities (Criterion 1.4);
  - ii. Compliance with applicable laws, local laws, ratified international conventions and obligatory codes of practice (Criterion 1.5);
  - iii. Resolution of disputes and grievances (Criterion 1.6, Criterion 2.6, Criterion 4.6);
  - iv. Programs and activities regarding workers' rights (Criterion 2.1);
  - v. Gender equality, sexual harassment and gender discrimination (Criterion 2.2);
  - vi. Programs and activities regarding occupational health and safety (Criterion 2.3);
  - vii. Payment of wages (Criterion 2.4);
  - viii. Workers' training (Criterion 2.5);
  - ix. Where pesticides are used, the health of workers exposed to pesticides (Criterion 2.5 and Criterion 10.7);
  - x. The identification of local communities and their legal and customary rights (Criterion 4.1);
  - xi. Full implementation of the terms in binding agreements (Criterion 4.2);
  - xii. Community relations (Criterion 4.2);
  - xiii. Protection of sites of special archaeological, cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to local communities (Criterion 4.7);
  - xiv. The use of traditional knowledge and intellectual property (Criterion 4.8);

- xv. Local economic and social development (Criterion 4.2, Criterion 4.3, Criterion 4.4, Criterion 4.5);
- xvi. The production of diversified benefits and/or products (Criterion 5.1);
- xvii. The maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services (Criterion 5.1);
- xviii. Activities to maintain or enhance ecosystem services (Criterion 5.1);
- xix. Actual compared to projected annual harvests of timber and NTFPs (Criterion 5.2);
- xx. The use of local processing, local services and local value added manufacturing (Criterion 5.4);
- xxi. Long term economic viability (Criterion 5.5);
- xxii. Timeliness and Effectiveness of public consultation processes;
- xxiii. Impacts on local infrastructure; and
- xxiv. High Conservation Values 5 and 6 identified in Criterion 9.1.

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

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

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

### A Threshold for vast majority

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

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

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

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

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

### B Developing Indicators for Assessing and Protecting Intact Forest Landscapes

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

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

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

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

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

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

HCV 1 – Protection zones, harvest prescriptions, and/or other strategies to protect threatened, endangered, endemic species, or other concentrations of biological diversity and the ecological communities and habitats upon which they depend, sufficient to prevent reductions in the extent, integrity, quality, and viability of the habitats and species occurrences. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to develop, expand, and/or restore habitats for such species are in place.

HCV 2 – Strategies that fully maintain the extent and intactness of the forest ecosystems and the viability of their biodiversity concentrations, including plant and animal indicator species, keystone species, and/or guilds associated with large intact natural forest ecosystems. Examples include protection zones and set-aside areas, with any commercial activity in areas that are not set-aside being limited to low-intensity operations that fully maintain forest structure, composition, regeneration, and disturbance patterns at all times. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and reconnect forest ecosystems, their intactness, and habitats that support natural biological diversity are in place.

HCV 3 – Strategies that fully maintain the extent and integrity of rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and/or develop rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia are in place.

HCV 4 – Strategies to protect any water catchments of importance to local communities located within or downstream of the Management Unit, and areas within the unit that are particularly unstable or susceptible to erosion. Examples may include protection zones, harvest prescriptions, chemical use restrictions, and/or prescriptions for road construction and maintenance, to protect water catchments and upstream and upslope areas. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore water quality and quantity are in place. Where identified HCV 4 ecosystem services include climate regulation, strategies to maintain or enhance carbon sequestration and storage are in place.

HCV 5 – Strategies to protect the community's and/or Indigenous Peoples' needs in relation to the Management Unit are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

HCV 6 – Strategies to protect the cultural values are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

## Annex J High Conservation Values framework (Principle 9)

The objective of this High Conservation Value (HCV) Framework is to provide nationally specific interpretations of HCVs and Best Available Information for addressing HCVs.

This National HCV Framework is to be used by accredited Certification bodies and certificate holders.

The National HCV Interpretations and Best Available Information provided in this Framework are not necessarily exhaustive; additional examples of HCV occurrences may exist and shall be identified at the forest management unit scale.

The National or Regional Interpretations of the HCV categories and elements apply to all certificate holders, wherever occurrences of those HCVs may exist. Conversely, the Best Available Information for addressing those National/Regional HCV Interpretations may vary, depending on whether the certificate holder is a SLIMF or non-SLIMF, as indicated in the Framework.

### Overarching Best Available Information

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

| Best Available Information for Identifying and Assessing National or Regional HCV Interpretations |  | SLIMF |
|---|--|-------|
| <b>All HCV Categories, All Elements</b>   | Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and results of field surveys or consultations with stakeholders that are most credible, accurate, complete, and/or pertinent and that can be obtained through reasonable effort and cost, subject to the scale and intensity of the management activities and the Precautionary Approach. High Conservation Value surveys of the Management Unit; relevant databases and maps; culturally appropriate engagement with affected rights holders, affected and interested stakeholders, and relevant local and regional experts; FSC Guidelines for the Implementation of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (2021); review of the results by knowledgeable expert(s) independent of The Organization. | X     |
| <b>HCV 2, Element 1, IFLs</b>   | Not Applicable.  |       |
| <b>HCV 5, Element 1, and HCV 6, Element 2, Values fundamental to local communities</b>            | Culturally appropriate engagement with local communities is the primary BAI for these elements.  | X     |
| <b>HCV 5, Element 2, and HCV 6</b>  | N/A  |       |

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

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

**Best Available Information for Monitoring National or Regional HCV Interpretations** **SLIMF**

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



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

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

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

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 1:  | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:   | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|--|------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Element 1: Concentrations of biological diversity that are significant at global, regional, or national levels:</b>  |  |            |                            |
| <p><b>Protected areas, including: Species Protection Areas (SPAs), National Heritage Areas (NHAs), Special Areas for Conservation (SACs), National Parks (NPs), Nature Reserves (NRs), and all protected flora and fauna sites identified pursuant to the Wildlife Act of 1976 as amended. (Per: FSC, 2012; SA, 2010; others)</b></p> | <p>National Parks &amp; Wildlife Service (NPWS) staff. NPWS map of SPAs, NHAs, and SACs: <a href="https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba">https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba</a>. Map of NPs: <a href="https://www.npws.ie/national-parks">https://www.npws.ie/national-parks</a>. Map for NRs: <a href="https://www.npws.ie/nature-reserves">https://www.npws.ie/nature-reserves</a>.</p> | X          | X                          |
| <p><b>Proposed protected areas, e.g.: Proposed NHAs. (Per: FSC, 2012; SA, 2012)</b></p>   | <p>NPWS staff. NPWS map: <a href="https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba">https://dahg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8f7060450de3485fa1c1085536d477ba</a>.</p>  | X          | X                          |
| <p><b>Wildfowl Sanctuaries, RAMSAR sites, and other critical temporal, seasonal, or ephemeral habitats/resources such as sites for roosting, breeding, hibernation, shelter and migration, where not covered by protected areas. (Per: FSC, 2017)</b></p>   | <p>For RAMSAR sites: Map of sites: <a href="https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris-search/?ff0=regionCountry_en_ss%3Aireland">https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris-search/?ff0=regionCountry_en_ss%3Aireland</a>. List of sites with information on each: <a href="https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris-search/?ff0=regionCountry_en_ss%3Aireland&amp;pagetab=1">https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris-search/?ff0=regionCountry_en_ss%3Aireland&amp;pagetab=1</a>.</p>   | X          | X                          |
| <p><b>Ephemeral water bodies, including where important to Common Frog, Smooth Newt, and other native amphibians.</b></p>   |  |            |                            |
| <p><b>Surface waters that support populations of Annex II species designated under the Habitats</b></p>   |  |            |                            |

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 1:   | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:   | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|--|------------|----------------------------|
| Directive, including waters that are not formally designated.  |  |            |                            |
| Per the precautionary principle, consider as possible HCV Areas: Areas adjacent to protected areas including: buffer zones, forests that provide habitats for the same biodiversity; and forests that provide habitat connectivity or other supporting values.   |  |            |                            |
| Per the precautionary principle, consider as possible HCV: Important Bird Areas (IBAs), where not covered by protected areas.  | Map of IBAs: <a href="http://datazone.birdlife.org/country/ireland/ibas">http://datazone.birdlife.org/country/ireland/ibas</a> . List of IBAs: <a href="http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/results?cty=103&amp;fam=0&amp;gen=0">http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/results?cty=103&amp;fam=0&amp;gen=0</a> . | X          |                            |
| All semi-natural grasslands covered by the Irish Semi-Natural Grassland Survey 2013.   |  |            |                            |
| Element 2: Concentrations of endemic species that are significant at global, regional, or national levels:   |  |            |                            |
| Significant concentrations of endemic plant or animal species, e.g., populations of an endemic species that is Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, or Near Threatened, and/or populations of multiple endemic species.  | See the BAI for rare, threatened, or endangered (RTE) species below.   | X          | X                          |
| The Irish Pollan ( <i>Coregonus pollan</i> ). The Pollan is unique to the Island of Ireland. Current known distribution is limited to five lakes, Lough Allen, Lough Ree, Lough Derg, Lough Neagh, and Lower Lough Erne. (Note the Pollan is also an RTE species protected under Annex 5 of the Habitats Directive.) |  |            |                            |
| The Arctic char ( <i>Salvelinus alpinus</i> ), including where present in upland waters. (Note the char  |  |            |                            |

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 1:   | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:   | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|--|------------|----------------------------|
| is also protected under national legislation.)   |  |            |                            |
| <b>Element 3: Concentrations of rare, threatened, or endangered species that are significant at global, regional, or national levels:</b>  |  |            |                            |
| <b>European Eel.</b>   |  |            |                            |
| Areas with significant populations of lesser horseshoe bat or freshwater pearl mussel. Consider also red squirrel, in areas where it is still recovering. (Per: FSC, 2012; SA, 2010; SA, 2012)   | See the BAI below.   | X          | X                          |
| Other significant occurrences of terrestrial and freshwater plant or animal species listed by the IUCN Red List or national species lists as Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, or Near Threatened. Including occurrences of: any Critically Endangered species, more than 1% of a listed species' population, several or more listed species, and/or listed species in special ecological niches, e.g., wide-ranging carnivores, keystone species, umbrella species, species with very small populations or ranges, and other conservation priority species. (Per: FSC, 2012; SA, 2020; others) | For the IUCN Red List, see <a href="http://www.iucnredlist.org">http://www.iucnredlist.org</a> . For national lists, see: <a href="https://www.npws.ie/publications/red-lists">https://www.npws.ie/publications/red-lists</a> and <a href="https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/resources/irish-red-lists/">https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/resources/irish-red-lists/</a> . For maps for some species, see: <a href="https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/">https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/</a> . For maps by location: <a href="https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map">https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map</a> . Additional data on some species: <a href="https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/habitat-and-species-data">https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/habitat-and-species-data</a> . | X          | X                          |

## B. Assessments for HCV 1

| National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 1 Interpretations:  | Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences:  | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|--|------------|----------------------------|
| <p>For protected areas: Confirm whether policies and practices effectively protect the area and its HCVs, including from both forestry and non-forestry activities (e.g., development, grazing, invasive species, etc.). (Per: SA, 2011; others)</p>                  |  |            |                            |
| <p>For IBAs: See the BAI at right.</p>  | <p>For summary descriptions of their values, see the IBA factsheets at: <a href="http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/results?cty=103&amp;fam=0&amp;gen=0">http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/results?cty=103&amp;fam=0&amp;gen=0</a>.</p> | X          | X                          |
| <p>For guidance in identifying and assessing other examples of HCV 1 that may exist in the management unit, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.1, Identification of HCV 1).</p> |  |            |                            |

### C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 1

| National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 1 Interpretations:   | Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies:  | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|--|------------|----------------------------|
| <p>For all HCV 1 Interpretations: Protection zones, harvest prescriptions, and/or other strategies to protect threatened, endangered, endemic species, or other concentrations of biological diversity and the ecological communities and habitats upon which they depend, sufficient to prevent reductions in the extent, integrity, quality, and viability of the habitats and species occurrences.</p> |  |            |                            |
| <p>For all HCV 1 Interpretations: Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to develop, expand, and/or restore habitats for such species.</p>  |  |            |                            |
| <p>For SACs: See the BAI at right.</p>  | <p>Consider the NPWS Conservation Management Plans at <a href="https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-planning/available-plans">https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/conservation-planning/available-plans</a>.</p>   | X          | X                          |
| <p>For ephemeral water bodies: Maintenance of the water bodies' integrity and habitats for amphibians, including by prevention of arterial drainage.</p>  |  |            |                            |
| <p>For RTE and endemic species: See the BAI at right.</p>   | <p>Consider the management manuals and threat response plans for select species at: <a href="https://www.npws.ie/publications/irish-wildlife-manuals">https://www.npws.ie/publications/irish-wildlife-manuals</a> and <a href="https://www.npws.ie/publications/species-action-plans">https://www.npws.ie/publications/species-action-plans</a>.</p> | X          | X                          |

## D. Monitoring for HCV 1

| National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 1 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences:  | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|---|------------|----------------------------|
| <p>For guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 3).</p>                 | <p>NPWS Article 17 reports in relation to status of EU protected species and habitats</p> <p><a href="https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports/article-17-reports-2019">https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports/article-17-reports-2019</a></p> <p>NPWS Article 12 reports in relation to status and trends of Ireland's bird species</p> <p><a href="https://www.npws.ie/status-and-trends-ireland%E2%80%99s-bird-species-%E2%80%93-article-12-reporting">https://www.npws.ie/status-and-trends-ireland%E2%80%99s-bird-species-%E2%80%93-article-12-reporting</a></p> <p>Birds of conservation concern 2020-2026</p> <p><a href="https://birdwatchireland.ie/publications/birds-of-conservation-concern-in-ireland-bocci-2020-2026/">https://birdwatchireland.ie/publications/birds-of-conservation-concern-in-ireland-bocci-2020-2026/</a></p> | X          | X                          |

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

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

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

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 2:  | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:  | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|---|------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Element 1: Intact forest landscapes:</b>   |   |            |                            |
| Not applicable. Intact Forest Landscapes as defined in the FSC International Generic Indicators and by Global Forest Watch are not present in Ireland.  |   |            |                            |
| <b>Element 2: Large landscape-level ecosystems that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance:</b> |   |            |                            |
| Important wetlands, e.g., RAMSAR sites. (See also protected areas at HCV 1.)  | Map of sites: <a href="https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris-search/?f[0]=regionCountry_en_ss%3Aireland">https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris-search/?f[0]=regionCountry_en_ss%3Aireland</a> . List of sites with information on each: <a href="https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris-search/?f[0]=regionCountry_en_ss%3Aireland&amp;pagetab=1">https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris-search/?f[0]=regionCountry_en_ss%3Aireland&amp;pagetab=1</a> . | X          | X                          |
| <b>Peatlands.</b>   |   |            |                            |
| Woodland areas identified by the Ancient & Long-Established Woodland Inventory 2010, and any woodlands subsequently added to the Inventory.   | <a href="https://www.geohive.ie/maps/09b1c7f2cd794c51aa59f21c4df16bcc/about">https://www.geohive.ie/maps/09b1c7f2cd794c51aa59f21c4df16bcc/about</a> (Accessed: 07/01/2022)  | X          | X                          |
| <b>Element 3: Ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance:</b>                |   |            |                            |
| Forest ecosystems forming a significant landscape-level (e.g., 1,000 ha) mosaic with other vegetation types used by a diversity of most native species.   | CORINE 2018 (or any subsequent versions): <a href="https://data.gov.ie/dataset/corine-landcover-2018?package_type=dataset">https://data.gov.ie/dataset/corine-landcover-2018?package_type=dataset</a>   | X          |                            |

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 2: | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|--|------------|----------------------------|
|--|--|------------|----------------------------|

Per the precautionary principle, consider as possible HCV Areas: Hedgerows and other connectivity corridors between protected areas and/or other HCV 1 occurrences, including corridors in degraded or converted landscapes. (Per: Bullock et al, 2013; others.)

### B. Assessments for HCV 2

| National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 2 Interpretations: | <i>Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences:</i> | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|--|------------|----------------------------|
|--|--|------------|----------------------------|

For RAMSAR sites:

For highlights of each site's key features, see: [https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris-search/?ff0\]=regionCountry\\_en\\_ss%3Aireland&pagetab=1](https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris-search/?ff0]=regionCountry_en_ss%3Aireland&pagetab=1)

X

X

For guidance in identifying and assessing examples of HCV 2 that may exist in the management unit, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.2, Identification of HCV 2).

### C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 2

| National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 2 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|---|------------|----------------------------|
|---|---|------------|----------------------------|

For all HCV 2 Interpretations: Strategies that fully maintain the extent and intactness of the forest ecosystems and the viability of their biodiversity concentrations, including plant and animal indicator species, keystone species, and/or guilds associated with large intact natural forest ecosystems. Examples include protection zones and set-aside areas, with



| National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 2 Interpretations:   | Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|---|------------|----------------------------|
| <p>any commercial activity in areas that are not set-aside being limited to low-intensity operations that fully maintain forest structure, composition, regeneration, and disturbance patterns at all times.</p>                    |   |            |                            |
| <p>For all HCV 2 Interpretations: Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and reconnect forest ecosystems, their intactness, and habitats that support natural biological diversity are in place.</p> |   |            |                            |
| <p>For additional guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 2).</p>  |   |            |                            |
| <p>For woodland areas in the Ancient &amp; Long-Established Woodland Inventory: No development for commercial forestry, whatsoever.</p>   |   |            |                            |

**D. Monitoring for HCV 2**

| National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 2 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|--|------------|----------------------------|
| <p>For guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 3).</p>                 |  |            |                            |

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

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

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

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 3:  | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:  | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|---|------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Element 1: Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems:</b>   |   |            |                            |
| <p><b>Ancient woodlands, old woodland sites (OWS), and other long-established woodlands, including those not located in protected areas. (Per: CU, 2012; CU, 2020; SA, 2010; FSC UK, 2019; SIF, 2021; Bullock et al, 2013; Cross et al, 2017)</b></p> | <p>For descriptions of woodland categories, see Cross et al (2017). For maps showing some ancient and long-established woodlands, see: <a href="https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM46.pdf">https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM46.pdf</a>, <a href="https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/habitat-and-species-data">https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/habitat-and-species-data</a> and <a href="https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map">https://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/Map</a>. Also consider any other woodlands appearing on 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 6 Inch Ordnance Survey (OS) maps from the 1830s and 1840s. (See also Perrin et al (2008) and Perrin et al (2010), if their results are not fully included in the NPWS maps.)</p> | X          | X                          |
| <p><b>Consider as possible HCV, other established woodlands, including broadleaf, Scots pine, and other woodlands continually present since the 1st or 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS maps. (Per: SA, 2018; Cross et al, 2017.)</b></p>                    |   |            |                            |
| <p><b>Consider as possible HCV, new native woodlands established for conservation and ecosystem restoration purposes. (Per: SA, 2010)</b></p>   |   |            |                            |
| <p><b>Note: UNESCO Biosphere Reserves are covered by Protected Areas at HCV 1. (Per: FSC, 2017)</b></p>   |   |            |                            |

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 3:   | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:  | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|---|------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Element 2: Rare, threatened, or endangered habitats:</b>  |   |            |                            |
| <p><b>Critically rare habitats per the EU Habitats Directive, including Annex 1 habitats, proposed NHAs, and habitats outside of protected areas. (Per: FSC, 2012; SA, 2018)</b></p>   | <p>For information on Annex 1 habitats, see: <a href="https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/biodiversity-inventory/habitats/">https://www.biodiversityireland.ie/projects/biodiversity-inventory/habitats/</a>.</p> | X          | X                          |
| <p><b>Relevant Annex 1 habitats listed under Directive 92/43/EEC and semi-natural habitat of known importance for nationally important populations of species protected within the annexes of Directives 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC.</b></p>  |   |            |                            |
| <p><b>Habitats rated in “bad” condition by NPWS, including: old oak woodlands, residual alluvial forest, yew woodland, some grasslands, mires, some fens, swamps, bogs (raised, blanket), heaths (wet, dry, alpine, subalpine), oligotrophic soft water lakes (including as affected by peatland management), coastal lagoons. (Per: NPWS, 2019; FSC, 2012).</b></p> | <p>For NPWS’ rating of EU protected habitats and species, see: NPWS Article 17 report (2019).</p>   | X          | X                          |
| <p><b>All semi-natural grasslands covered by the Irish Semi-Natural Grassland Survey 2013.</b></p>   |   |            |                            |
| <p><b>(Note that RTE ecosystems listed above may also be RTE habitats.)</b></p>  |   |            |                            |
| <p><b>Semi-natural grasslands and semi-natural habitat that is of known importance for nationally important populations of species protected within the annexes of Directives 92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC.</b></p>   | <p>Irish Semi-Natural Grassland Survey 2013, Wildlife Act, 1976 as amended, including relevant Annex 1 habitats under Directive 92/43/EEC</p>   | X          | X                          |
| <p><b>All High Conservation Value habitats falling within the definition of High Nature Value Farmland as defined by DG Agri: “the highest grade of HNV farmland is that which supports</b></p>  |   |            |                            |

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 3:   | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|--|------------|----------------------------|
| the presence of species of European conservation concern .”  |  |            |                            |
| <b>Element 3: Refugia:</b>   |  |            |                            |
| Old stone walls that provide refugia for animals such as amphibians and lizards. Also consider fallen trees and deadwood as potential refugia.   |  |            |                            |
| Other isolated areas 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. |  |            |                            |
| (Note that protected areas listed at HCV 1 may also be refugia.)   |  |            |                            |

## B. Assessments for HCV 3

| National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 3 Interpretations:                                     | Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences:  | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|--|------------|----------------------------|
| For ancient and old woodlands: See the BAI at right. (Per: Cross et al, 2017)  | For identification and assessment methods, consider: <a href="https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM46.pdf">https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM46.pdf</a> , and Byrnes (2007a), and Byrnes (2007b). | X          |                            |
| Where habitat types are not known: Conduct habitat mapping to at least level 3 per Fossitt (2000). (Per: FSC, 2012; FSC, 2017) |  |            |                            |
| For best practices in habitat mapping, generally:  | Smith, G.F., O’Donoghue, P, O’Hora, K and Delaney, E (2011) Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey  | X          | X                          |

| National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 3 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|---|------------|----------------------------|
|--|---|------------|----------------------------|

and Mapping. Heritage Council. Kilkenny.

For guidance in identifying and assessing other examples of HCV 3 that may exist in the management unit, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.3, Identification of HCV 3).

### C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 3

| National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 3 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|---|------------|----------------------------|
|---|---|------------|----------------------------|

For all HCV 3 Interpretations: Strategies that fully maintain the extent and integrity of rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia.

For all HCV 3 Interpretations: Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and/or develop rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia are in place.

For ancient, old, or long-established woodlands: Avoid harm to old native trees, coppice stools, soils, and historical artifacts. Where relevant, also consider: Gradual removal of non-native conifers while maintaining native species and canopy cover; and measures to address threats such as excessive grazing, excessive deer browse, rhododendron and other invasive species, etc. See the BAI at right. (Per: Cross *et al*, 2017; Bullock *et al*, 2013; others)

See Cross *et al* (2017), Sections B and C. See also Pryor *et al* (2002).

X

X

| National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 3 Interpretations:  | Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies:   | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|---|------------|----------------------------|
| For other existing native woodlands: See the BAI at right.   | See Cross et al (2017), Sections B3 through B8, and Section C.  | X          | X                          |
| Where restoration and expansion (i.e., “enhancement”) of native woodlands is identified as an objective: Consider participating in the Native Woodland Scheme (NWS). (Per: SIF, 2021; others.) | <p>For information on the NWS, see:<br/> <a href="https://www.gov.ie/en/service/803ef3-native-woodland-conservation-scheme/">https://www.gov.ie/en/service/803ef3-native-woodland-conservation-scheme/</a><br/>           (New government strategy),<br/> <a href="https://www.forestryfocus.ie/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/NeighbourWoodScheme120712.pdf">https://www.forestryfocus.ie/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/NeighbourWoodScheme120712.pdf</a> or<br/> <a href="https://www.teagasc.ie/crops/forestry/grants/management-grants/native-woodland-conservation/">https://www.teagasc.ie/crops/forestry/grants/management-grants/native-woodland-conservation/</a><br/> <a href="http://www.gov.ie">www.gov.ie</a> - Forestry (<a href="http://www.gov.ie">www.gov.ie</a>) and <a href="http://www.gov.ie">www.gov.ie</a> - Native Woodland Conservation Scheme (<a href="http://www.gov.ie">www.gov.ie</a>) and DAFM (2015). Native Woodland Establishment GPC9 &amp; GPC10 Silvicultural Standards. September, 2015. Department of Agriculture, Food &amp; the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford.</p> | X          | X                          |

#### D. Monitoring for HCV 3

| National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 3 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|--|------------|----------------------------|
| For monitoring guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 3).             |  |            |                            |

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

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

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

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 4:   | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:  | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|---|------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Element 1: Water catchments in critical situations:</b>   |   |            |                            |
| <b>Water bodies and water sources relied upon by communities for drinking water, irrigation, or other daily uses, or that support rare, threatened, or endangered species or other HCVs. (Per: Orsi <i>et al</i>, 2020; FSC, 2017; SA, 2020)</b> | Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff and databases. (See also HCV 5, re. potential community water sources.)   | X          | X                          |
| <b>RAMSAR sites. (See also HCV 1).</b>   | Map of sites: <a href="https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris-search/?ff0=regionCountry_en_ss%3Aireland">https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris-search/?ff0=regionCountry_en_ss%3Aireland</a> . List of sites with information on each: <a href="https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris-search/?ff0=regionCountry_en_ss%3Aireland&amp;pagetab=1">https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris-search/?ff0=regionCountry_en_ss%3Aireland&amp;pagetab=1</a> . | X          | X                          |
| <b>Raised bogs, blanket bogs, marshes, fens, peatlands, and other wetlands.</b>  |   |            |                            |
| <b>Element 2: Control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes in critical situations:</b>  |   |            |                            |
| <b>Areas at high risk for landslides, flooding, or erosion, especially where other HCVs, settlements, or communities may be affected. (Per: Orsi <i>et al</i>, 2020; SA, 2010)</b>   | Maps of steep or, unstable soils, flood risk maps.  | X          | X                          |
| <b>Element 3: Other ecosystem services in critical situations:</b>   |   |            |                            |
| <b>Recreational opportunities in Parks and other public forests near urban centers.</b>  | Bullock <i>et al</i> , 2016   | X          | X                          |

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 4:                              | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|--|------------|----------------------------|
| Peatlands that naturally sequester and store significant amounts of carbon. | Bullock et al, 2016  | X          | X                          |

## B. Assessments for HCV 4

| National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 4 Interpretations:   | Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|---|------------|----------------------------|
| <p>For guidance in identifying and assessing examples of HCV 4 that may exist in the management unit, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.4, Identification of HCV 4). The FSC Ecosystem Services Procedure (FSC, 2017b) may also be helpful.</p> |   |            |                            |

## C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 4

| National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 4 Interpretations:  | Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|---|------------|----------------------------|
| <p>For water catchments of importance to local communities located within or downstream of the Management Unit, and areas within the unit that are particularly unstable or susceptible to erosion: Protection zones, harvest prescriptions, chemical use restrictions, and/or prescriptions for road construction and maintenance, to protect water catchments and upstream and upslope areas. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore water quality and quantity are in place.</p> |   |            |                            |
| <p>For climate regulation: Strategies to maintain or enhance carbon</p>  |   |            |                            |



| National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 4 Interpretations:  | Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|---|------------|----------------------------|
| sequestration and storage are in place.  |   |            |                            |
| For raised bogs, blanket bogs, marshes, fens, peatlands, and other wetlands: Protect the sites from draining, commercial forestry, and other development, and maintain any water supply and flood management functions. Where degraded, rewet the sites and allow ecosystem restoration.   |   |            |                            |
| For afforested peatlands, including upstream of water bodies and water sources important to communities or other HCVs: Assess the effects of ditching, water uptake by trees, etc., and where relevant, implement measures to restore natural hydrological patterns. Where rewetting is feasible, fell the trees and conduct rewetting. Where not feasible, replace any non-native trees with native trees of local provenance. (Per: Bullock et al, 2016) |   |            |                            |
| For additional guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 2).  |   |            |                            |

**D. Monitoring for HCV 4**

| National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 4 Interpretations:  | Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|--|------------|----------------------------|
| For guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 3). Consider also the FSC Ecosystem Services Procedure (FSC, 2017b), including Annex D. |  |            |                            |

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

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

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

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 5:   | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|--|------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Element 1: Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.):</b> |  |            |                            |
| Water bodies and water sources relied upon by communities for drinking water, irrigation, or other daily uses. (Per: Orsi <i>et al</i> , 2020; FSC, 2017)      | Culturally appropriate engagement with the local communities.                        | X          | X                          |
| Other sites and resources from which local communities satisfy basic needs.  | Culturally appropriate engagement with the local communities.                        | X          | X                          |

**B. Assessments for HCV 5**

| National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 5 Interpretations:  | Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|---|------------|----------------------------|
| For all HCV 5 Interpretations: Use culturally appropriate engagement, per the Overarching BAI.  | The local communities.                                      | X          | X                          |
| For additional guidance on assessing HCV 5, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.5, Identification of HCV 5). |   |            |                            |

### C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 5

| National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 5 Interpretations:  | Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|---|------------|----------------------------|
| <p>For all HCV 5 Interpretations: Strategies to protect the community's needs in relation to the Management Unit are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of local communities.</p> | <p>The local communities per the Overarching BAI.</p>       | <p>X</p>   | <p>X</p>                   |
| <p>Strategies do not include maintaining specific levels or practices of grazing or other forest utilization that do not sustain the resource or that harm biodiversity or other HCVs.</p>               |   |            |                            |
| <p>For additional guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 2).</p>   |   |            |                            |

### D. Monitoring for HCV 5

| National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 5 Interpretations:                         | Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|--|------------|----------------------------|
| <p>Monitoring conducted by the local communities or using methods developed cooperatively with the communities.</p> |  |            |                            |
| <p>For additional guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 3)</p>                               |  |            |                            |

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

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

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

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 6:  | Best Available Information for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations:   | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|--|------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Element 1: Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance:</b>  |  |            |                            |
| Internationally or nationally important cultural, archaeological, or historical sites, resources, habitats, or landscapes, including but not limited to early settlements, mass rocks, old stone works, early industrial sites. (Per: FSC, 2017.) | Local Historical Societies and National Monuments Service (NMS) staff and databases, e.g., <a href="https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/">https://maps.archaeology.ie/HistoricEnvironment/</a> | X          | X                          |
| Per the precautionary approach, existing and proposed World Heritage sites, e.g., in cases where they might be indirectly affected by management elsewhere (unlikely in most cases).  | UNESCO, e.g., <a href="http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/ie">whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/ie</a> .   | X          | X                          |
| <b>Element 2: Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities:</b>  |  |            |                            |
| Other sites, resources, habitats, or landscapes of cultural, ecological, economic, or religious/sacred importance to local communities.   | Culturally appropriate engagement with the local communities, including but not limited to information from Local Historical Societies.  | X          | X                          |

## B. Assessments for HCV 6

| National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 6 Interpretations:           | Best Available Information for assessing occurrences: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|---|------------|----------------------------|
| For HCVs important to local communities: Culturally appropriate engagement, per the Overarching BAI. | The local communities.                                | X          | X                          |

## C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 6

| National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 6 Interpretations:   | Best Available Information for management strategies: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|---|------------|----------------------------|
| For HCVs related to local communities: Strategies to protect the cultural values are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of the local communities.  | The local communities, per the Overarching BAI.       | X          | X                          |
| For other HCV occurrences (i.e., those identified primarily due to global or national significance): Strategies are based on Best Available Information, and considered effective for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV. |   |            |                            |
| For additional guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 2).   |   |            |                            |

## D. Monitoring for HCV 6

| National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 6 Interpretations:   | Best Available Information for monitoring occurrences: | BAI >SLIMF | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|--|------------|----------------------------|
| For HCV occurrences related to local communities: Monitoring conducted by the local communities, or using methods developed cooperatively with the communities. |  |            |                            |
| For additional guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 3)  |  |            |                            |

## Examples of Relevant Stakeholders and Experts

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

### Environmental Stakeholders:

- An Taisce.
- Birdwatch Ireland.
- Irish Peatland Conservation Council.
- Local wildlife societies, groups, and trusts.
- Native Woodland Trust.
- Regional and local councils, e.g., Wicklow Uplands Council.

### Social Stakeholders and Community Development Organizations:

- An Taisce.
- Heritage Council.
- Local water boards.
- Regional and local councils, e.g., Wicklow Uplands Council.
- Regional and local hiking and mountaineering clubs.
- Regional and local rural development organizations.

### Other Expert Organizations – Environmental and Social:

- Irish Raptor Study Group.
- Regional and local archaeology societies.
- Regional fisheries boards.
- Rural Studies Group, National University of Ireland, Galway.
- Trinity College Dublin
- University College Cork.
- Woodlands of Ireland.

### Government Agencies:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS), Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.
- National Monuments Service (NMS), Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage.
- Teagasc

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

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## Annex K Glossary of terms

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

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

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

**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.

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

- Local communities
- Workers
- Forest dwellers
- Neighbours
- Downstream landowners
- Schools
- Local processors
- Local businesses
- Tenure and use rights holders, including landowners
- Organizations authorized or known to act on behalf of affected stakeholders, for example social and environmental NGOs, labour unions, etc.

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

**Affected Rights Holder:** Persons and groups and local communities with legal or customary rights whose Free, Prior and Informed Consent is required to determine management decisions (Source: based on FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

**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).

**Ancient Woodland Site:** Sites where there is documentary evidence of woodland present in the 1600s.

**Applicable law:** Means applicable to The Organisation 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).

**Best Available Information:** Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and results of field surveys and consultations with interested and affected stakeholders that are the most credible, accurate, complete, and/or pertinent and that can be obtained through reasonable yet proactive effort and cost, relative to the scale and intensity of the management activities and the Precautionary Approach (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

**Best practice:** A working method or technique that is officially accepted as being the best to use in a particular business or industry. (Source: Cambridge Dictionary)

**Binding Agreement:** A deal or pact, written or not, which is compulsory to its signatories and enforceable by law. Parties involved in the agreement do so freely and accept it voluntarily (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

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

**Buffer zone:** An area with trees and vegetation that is retained along a watercourse, a wetland, a water body, or another environmental or social value. (Source: FSC Sweden)

**Certification Body:** The body that performs conformity assessment services, that makes certification decisions and that can be the object of accreditation. In this standard, "Certification Body" refers to organizations accredited to make decisions about FSC certification and to perform audits of FSC certified forest management. (Source: FSC-STD-20-001 V4-0).

**Child:** any person under the age of 18 (Source: International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182, Article 2).

**Clear Cut:** Cutting the totality of the forest stand – exception made of trees maintained for landscape or biodiversity objectives – in one single operation, with no natural regeneration already established.' (Source: FSC-STD-FRA-01-2016)

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

**Complaint:** In this standard, a complaint is an expression of dissatisfaction by any person or organization presented as a complaint to The Organisation, relating to its management activities and its conformity with

this standard, where a response is expected. (Source: Based on FSC-PRO-01-005 V3-0 Processing Appeals).

**Confidential information:** Private facts, data and content that, if made publicly available, might reasonably put at risk The Organisation, its business interests or its relationships with stakeholders, clients and competitors (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

**Connectivity:** A measure of how connected or spatially continuous a corridor, network, or matrix is. The fewer gaps, the higher the connectivity. Related to the structural connectivity concept; functional or behavioral connectivity refers to how connected an area is for a process, such as an animal moving through different types of landscape elements (Source: based on R.T.T. Forman. 1995. Land Mosaics. The Ecology of Landscapes and Regions. Cambridge University Press, 632pp). 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: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

**Conservation Areas Network:** Those portions of the Management Unit for which conservation is the primary and, in some circumstances, exclusive objective; such areas include Representative Sample Areas, conservation zones, Protection Areas, connectivity areas and High Conservation Value Areas (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

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

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

- **Induced by human activity:** In contrast to drastic changes caused by natural calamities like hurricanes or volcanic eruptions. It also applies in cases of naturally ignited fires where human activities (e.g. draining of peatlands) have significantly increased the risk of fire.
- **Lasting change of natural forest cover:** Permanent or long-term change of natural forest cover. Temporary changes of forest cover or structure (e.g. harvesting followed by regeneration in accordance with the FSC normative framework) is not considered conversion.
- **Lasting change of High Conservation Value (HCV) areas:** Permanent or long term change of any of the High Conservation Values. Temporary changes of HCV areas that do not negatively and

permanently impact the values (e.g. harvesting followed by regeneration in accordance with Principle 9) is not considered a lasting change.

- **Significant loss of species diversity:** Loss of species is considered significant where rare species and threatened species or other locally important, keystone and/or flagship species are lost, whether in terms of numbers of individuals or in terms of number of species. This refers to both displacement and extinction.

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

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

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

**Core area:** The portion of each Intact Forest Landscape designated to contain the most important cultural and ecological values. Core areas are managed to exclude industrial activity. Core Areas meet or exceed the definition of Intact Forest Landscape (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

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

**Culturally appropriate** [mechanisms]: Means/approaches for outreach to target groups that are in harmony with the customs, values, sensitivities, and ways of life of the target audience (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Affects the legal or customary rights of local communities;

Where the negative impact of management activities is of such a scale that it cannot be reversed or mitigated;

Physical violence;

Destruction of property;

Presence of military bodies;

Acts of intimidation against forest workers and stakeholders;

Proven breaches of License conditions (Source: based on FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

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

**Eco-regional:** Large unit of land or water containing a geographically distinct assemblage of species, natural communities, and environmental conditions (Source: WWF Global 200. [http://wwf.panda.org/about\\_our\\_earth/ecoregions/about/what\\_is\\_an\\_ecoregion/](http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/ecoregions/about/what_is_an_ecoregion/)).

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

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

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

- provisioning services such as food, forest products and water;

- regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, air quality, climate and disease;
- supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and
- cultural services and cultural values such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other non-material benefits. (Source: based on R. Hassan, R. Scholes and N. Ash. 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Series. Island Press, Washington DC).

**Emergency:** A situation that requires immediate action to control the sudden invasion or infestation of a pest, which threatens either long-term stability of the ecosystem, human well-being or economic viability. Events that happen cyclically and scenarios which are predicted through planning, monitoring or the application of an integrated pest management system cannot be considered an emergency. For the purpose of the FSC Pesticides Policy, emergency situations require immediate action and cannot feasibly be controlled by a less hazardous alternative. (Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3 EN).

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

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

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

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

**Environmental and Social Risk Assessment (ESRA):** A process to predict, assess and review the likely or actual environmental and social effects of a well-defined action, evaluate alternatives, and design appropriate mitigation, management and monitoring measures. In the context of the FSC Pesticides Policy, it relates to chemical pesticide use. (Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3 FSC Pesticides Policy).

**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;  
 hedgerows;  
 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).

**Equivalent:** For ecological equivalence, the same specific type of natural forest or High Conservation Value is restored or conserved as was destroyed. For social remedy, equivalence shall be based on an independent assessment and agreement on remedy through Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC) with the affected rights holders of the nature, quality, and quantity of all social harms as well as the ongoing

future benefits these would have provided. Equivalence shall entail provision of the best means possible to ensure future community wellbeing. (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0)

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

**Fair compensation:** Remuneration that is proportionate to the magnitude and type of services rendered by another party or of the harm that is attributable to the first party (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

**Fertilizer:** Mineral or organic substances, most commonly N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O, which are applied to soil for the purpose of enhancing plant growth (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

**Fibre Testing:** a suite of wood identification technologies used to identify the family, genus, species and origin of solid wood and fibre based products (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

**Forest:** land under trees with (a) a minimum area of 0.1 hectare, and (b) tree crown cover of more than 20% of the total area, or the potential to achieve this cover at maturity (to include all species of trees). (Source: Section 2, Forestry Act of Ireland, 2014).

**Formal and informal workers organization:** association or union of workers, whether recognized by law or by The Organisation or neither, which have the aim of promoting workers rights and to represent workers in dealings with The Organisation particularly regarding working conditions and compensation (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

**Fragmentation:** The process of dividing habitats into smaller patches, which results in the loss of original habitat, loss in connectivity, reduction in patch size, and increasing isolation of patches. Fragmentation is considered to be one of the single most important factors leading to loss of native species, especially in forested landscapes, and one of the primary causes of the present extinction crisis. In reference to Intact Forest Landscapes, the fragmentation of concern is understood to be that caused by human industrial activities. (Source: adapted from Gerald E. Heilman, Jr. James R. Strittholt Nicholas C. Slosser Dominick A. Dellasala, *BioScience* (2002) 52 (5): 411-422.)

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

- Old commercial and non-commercial trees whose age noticeably exceeds the average age of the main canopy;
- Trees with special ecological value;
- Vertical and horizontal complexity;
- Standing dead trees;
- Dead fallen wood;
- Forest openings attributable to natural disturbances;
- Hedgerows;
- 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 (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

**Hazardous work (in the context of child labour):** any work which is likely to jeopardize children's physical, mental or moral health, should not be undertaken by anyone under the age of 18 years. Hazardous child labour is work in dangerous, or unhealthy conditions that could result in a child being killed or injured/maimed (often permanently) and/or made ill (often permanently) as a consequence of poor safety and health standards and working arrangements. In determining the type of hazard child labour referred to under (Article 3(d) of the Convention No 182, and in identifying where they exist, consideration should be given, inter alia, to

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

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

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

- HCV1: Species Diversity. Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.
- HCV 2: Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics. Intact Forest Landscapes, large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- HCV 3: Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.
- HCV 4: Critical ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.
- HCV 5: Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or Indigenous Peoples (for example for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water), identified through engagement with these communities or Indigenous Peoples.
- HCV 6: Cultural values. Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or Indigenous Peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or Indigenous Peoples. (Source: based on FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

**High Conservation Value Areas:** Zones and physical spaces which possess and/or are needed for the existence and maintenance of identified High Conservation Values (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

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

- Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)
- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)
- Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) (Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on International Labour Organization (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 Organisation, 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 International Labour Organization (ILO) Core Conventions principles, 2017).

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

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

- The key characteristic or Criterion is self-identification as Indigenous Peoples at the individual level and acceptance by the community as their member;
- Historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies;
- Strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources;
- Distinct social, economic or political systems;
- Distinct language, culture and beliefs;
- Form non-dominant groups of society;
- Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities.

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

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

**Industrial activity:** Industrial forest and resource management activities such as road building, mining, dams, urban development and timber harvesting (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 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 (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

**Intact Forest Landscape:** a territory within today's global extent of forest cover which contains forest and non-forest ecosystems minimally influenced by human economic activity, with an area of at least 500 km<sup>2</sup> (50,000 ha) and a minimal width of 10 km (measured as the diameter of a circle that is entirely inscribed within the boundaries of the territory) (Source: Intact Forests / Global Forest Watch. Glossary definition as provided on Intact Forest website. 2006-2014).

**Integrated Pest Management:** Careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations, encourage beneficial populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimize risks to human and animal health and/or the environment. IPM emphasizes the growth of a healthy forest with the least possible disruption to ecosystems and encourages natural pest control mechanisms (Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3 EN, Based on FAO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management).

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

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

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

- Conservation organizations, for example environmental NGOs;
- Labour (rights) organizations, for example labour unions;
- Human rights organizations, for example social NGOs;
- Historians and built or natural heritage conservation organizations;
- Outdoor recreational organisations;
- Researchers on particular issues;
- Local development projects;
- Local governments;
- National government departments functioning in the region;
- FSC National Offices;
- Experts on particular issues, for example High Conservation Values.

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

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

**Invasive species:** species that negatively affect native biodiversity, ecosystem services and public health, through predation, competition or by transmitting disease (Source: House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee, 2019).

**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/Landscape Character Area:** an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. (Source: Florence Convention, EU Treaty on Landscape).

**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: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on website of the Landscape Value Institute).

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

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

**Legal registration:** National or local legal license or set of permissions to operate as an enterprise, with rights to buy and sell products and/or services commercially. The license or permissions can apply to an individual, a privately-owned enterprise or a publicly-owned corporate entity. The rights to buy and sell products and/or services do not carry the obligation to do so, so legal registration applies also to

Organizations operating a Management Unit without sales of products or services; for example, for unpriced recreation or for conservation of biodiversity or habitat (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

**Living wage:** The level of wages sufficient to meet the basic living needs of an average-sized family in a particular economy (Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). Bureau of Library and Information Services. ILO Thesaurus as provided on ILO website).

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

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

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

**Management objective:** Specific management goals, practices, outcomes, and approaches established to achieve the requirements of this standard (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

**Management 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 Organisation, 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 Organisation, solely for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives. (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

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

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

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

'Natural forest' includes the following categories:

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

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

'Natural forest' does not include land which is not dominated by trees, was previously not forest, and which does not yet contain many of the characteristics and elements of native ecosystems. Young regeneration may be considered as natural forest after some years of ecological progression. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may indicate when such areas may be excised from the Management Unit, should be restored towards more natural conditions, or may be converted to other land uses.

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

Thresholds and guidelines may cover areas such as:

- Other vegetation types and non-forest communities and ecosystems included in the Management Unit, including grassland, bushland, wetlands, and open forests;
- Very young pioneer or colonizing regeneration in a primary succession on new open sites or abandoned farmland, which does not yet contain many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems. This may be considered as natural forest through ecological progression after the passage of years;
- Young natural regeneration growing in natural forest areas may be considered as natural forest, even after logging, clear-felling or other disturbances, since many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems remain, above-ground and below-ground;
- Areas where deforestation and forest degradation have been so severe that they are no longer 'dominated by trees' may be considered as non-forest, when they have very few of the principal

above-ground and below-ground characteristics and key elements of natural forests. Such extreme degradation is typically the result of combinations of repeated and excessively heavy logging, grazing, farming, fuelwood collection, hunting, fire, erosion, mining, settlements, infrastructure, etc. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may help to decide when such areas should be excised from the Management Unit, should be restored towards more natural conditions, or may be converted to other land uses.

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

**Natural Hazards:** disturbances that can present risks to social and environmental values in the Management Unit but that may also comprise important ecosystem functions; examples include drought, flood, fire, landslide, storm, avalanche, etc. (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

**Non-timber forest products (NTFP):** All products other than timber derived from the Management Unit (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2). Typical NTFPs in Ireland include foliage, moss, fungi, berries, seeds, venison and other animal products, although these are not eligible for labelling as certified.

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

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

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

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

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

**The Organisation:** 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).

Peat:

Sedentarily accumulated material consisting of at least 30% (dry mass) of dead organic material. (Source: Irish National Peatland Strategy 2015).

**Peatland:** wetland ecosystems that are characterised by the accumulation of organic matter called peat, which derives from dead and slowly decaying plant material under wet conditions. A geographical area (with or without vegetation) where peat soil occurs naturally. For mapping purposes, a peatland should cover a minimum spatial extent of 1 ha. (Source: Irish National Peatland Strategy 2015).

- **Active peatlands or mires:**

Peatlands on which peat is currently forming and accumulating. All active peatlands (mires) are peatlands but peatlands that are no longer accumulating peat would no longer be considered mires. (Source: Irish National Peatland Strategy 2015).

- **Intact, pristine and virgin peatlands:**

The terms 'virgin', 'pristine' and 'intact' have been used in several studies in relation to sites that look unmodified, uncut (as visible to the eye) and where no obvious factor is currently degrading the peatland. These terms are best avoided for use of habitat description such as peatlands in an Irish context. Most Irish peatlands are 'humanised' landscapes that have evolved, indeed sometimes originated, in close association with land-use systems. It would be impossible to find an Irish peatland that has never been grazed or used in some way by humans (e.g. burning). (Source: Irish National Peatland Strategy 2015).

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

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

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

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

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

**Pre-harvest [condition]:** The diversity, composition, and structure of the forest or plantation prior to felling timber and appurtenant activities such as road building (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

**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-POL-01-007 V1-0).

**Protection:** See definition of Conservation.

**Protection Area:** See definition of Conservation Zone.

**Publicly available:** Full and updated information easily accessible to or observable by people generally. In most cases, a charge may not be made for making material publicly available. However, a charge to



cover costs of reproduction and handling may be made if any additional material is requested. (Source: Ann Walshe).

**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 with a higher risk of extinction since a small population is less likely to recover from stochastic events (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).

**Representative Sample Areas:** Portions of the Management Unit delineated for the purpose of conserving or restoring viable examples of an ecosystem that would naturally occur in that geographical region (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

**Restitution:** Measures agreed with affected stakeholders to restore lands, properties or damaged natural resources to their original owners in their original condition.

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

**Restore / Restoration:** These words are used in different senses according to the context and in everyday speech. In some cases 'restore' means to repair the damage done to environmental values that resulted from management activities or other causes. In other cases 'restore' means the formation of more natural conditions in sites which have been heavily degraded or converted to other land uses. In the Principles and Criteria, the word 'restore' is not used to imply the recreation of any particular previous, pre-historic, pre-industrial or other pre-existing ecosystem (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

The Organisation is not necessarily obliged to restore those environmental values that have been affected by factors beyond the control of The Organisation, 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 Organisation 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 Organisation 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 (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

**Riparian zone:** Interface between land and a water body, and the vegetation associated with it (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

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

**Scale, intensity and risk:** See individual definitions of the terms 'scale', 'intensity', and 'risk' (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

**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 The Organisation, on the basis of available information, or of the known or suspected presence of a significant biodiversity concentration, even when not officially designated by other agencies.

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

**Silviculture:** The art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health and quality of forests and forests 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).

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

**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 (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

**Timely manner:** as soon as possible, with a general time limit of one month, with a possible extension to two months if the issue is voluminous and complex; not intentionally postponed by The Organisation; in compliance with applicable laws, contracts, licenses or invoices. (Source: Article 4 Paragraph 2 of the Aarhus Convention).

**Traditional Knowledge:** Information, know-how, skills and practices that are developed, sustained and passed on from generation to generation within a community, often forming part of its cultural or spiritual identity (Source: based on the definition by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Glossary definition as provided under Policy / Traditional Knowledge on the WIPO website).

**Traditional peoples:** Traditional peoples are social groups or peoples who do not self-identify as indigenous and who affirm rights to their lands, forests and other resources based on long established custom or traditional occupation and use (Source: Forest Peoples Programme (Marcus Colchester, 7 October 2009)).

**Transaction verification:** Verification by certification bodies and/or Accreditation Services International (ASI) that FSC output claims made by certificate holders are accurate and match with the FSC input claims of their trading partners (Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V3-0).

**Uphold:** To acknowledge, respect, sustain and support (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

**Use rights:** Rights for the use of resources of the Management Unit that can be defined by local custom, mutual agreements, or prescribed by other entities holding access rights. These rights may restrict the use of particular resources to specific levels of consumption or particular harvesting techniques (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

**Vast majority:** 80% of the total area of Intact Forest Landscapes within the Management Unit as of January 1, 2017. The vast majority also meets or exceeds the minimum definition of Intact Forest Landscape (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

**Verifiable targets:** Specific goals, such as desired future forest conditions, established to measure progress towards the achievement of each of the management objectives. These goals are expressed as clear outcomes, such that their attainment can be verified and it is possible to determine whether they have been accomplished or not (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

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

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

- Hazardous waste, including chemical waste and batteries;
- Containers;
- Motor and other fuels and oils;
- Rubbish including metals, plastics and paper; and
- Abandoned buildings, machinery and equipment (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

**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 (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

**Wetlands:** Transitional areas between terrestrial and aquatic systems in which the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water (Source: Cowardin, L.M., Carter, V., Golet, F.C., Laroe, E.T. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. DC US Department: Washington).

Under the Ramsar Convention, wetlands can include tidal mudflats, natural ponds, marshes, potholes, wet meadows, bogs, peatlands, freshwater swamps, mangroves, lakes, rivers and even some coral reefs (Source: IUCN, No Date, IUCN Definitions – English).

**Workers:** All employed persons including public employees as well as 'self-employed' persons. This includes part-time and seasonal employees, of all ranks and categories, including laborers, administrators, supervisors, executives, contractor employees as well as self-employed contractors and sub-contractors (Source: ILO Convention 155, Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981).

**Workers' organization:** any organization of workers \_for furthering and defending the interest of workers (adapted from ILO Convention 87, Article 10). It is important to note that rules and guidance on

composition of workers' organization vary from country to country, especially in relation to those who are considered as rank and file members, as well those who are deemed to have power to "hire and fire". Workers' organizations tend to separate association between those who can "hire and fire" and those who cannot (Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on International Labour Organization (ILO) Core Conventions principles, 2017).

**Worst forms of child labour:** comprises a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performance; c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties; d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children (Source: International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182, Article 3).

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