

Forest Stewardship Standard

FSC FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD FOR METROPOLITAN FRANCE

FSC-STD-FRA-02-2025 EN



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NOTE ON THIS ENGLISH VERSION:

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

Version control

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

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

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

A.2 The FSC Principles and Criteria

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

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

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

B. PREAMBLE

B.1 Objective

(Informative section)

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

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

B.2 Scope

(Normative section)

This standard shall be applied in the following scope:

Geographic region	Metropolitan France
Forest types	All forest types
Ownership types	All types of ownership, including public, private and others
Scale and intensity categories (According to section 6 of FSC-STD-60-002)	All categories of Management Units, including provisions for small or low intensity managed forests (SLIMF), Management Units under 4 ha, and Management Units over 4 ha
Forest products (According to FSC-STD-40-004a)	Rough wood NTFPs not included

B.3 Responsibility for Conformity

(Normative section)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

B.4 Note on the use of indicators, annexes and notes

(Normative section)

Normative elements in the standard are:

Scope, effective date, validity period, Glossary of Terms, Principles, Criteria, Indicators, tables and annexes.

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

Verifiers, the conformance verification elements listed for certain indicators are given for informational purposes only. They are not all compulsory and others may be added;

Guidance notes, which are attached to some of the indicators give further clarification to the objective of the requirements in the context of Metropolitan France or relate to the concrete implementation of the requirements on the ground.

a) Adaptation of requirements according to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities

Version 5-2 of the FSC Principles and Criteria introduced the elements of scale, intensity and risk of management activities. These elements can play a role in the likelihood of negative economic, social and environmental impacts that may lead to non-conformity with the requirements of this standard. They are therefore also important in determining the actual level of effort made by The Organization to conform with the standard.

These elements are dealt with in two different ways in this standard:

- **Specific references to thresholds for Management Units:** Certain requirements are set out directly for different surface area thresholds for Management Units:
 - Requirements specific for Management Units of **4 ha and above** are marked with the code "**M**";
 - Requirements specific for Management Units of **less than 4 ha** are marked with the code "**VS**";
 - Requirements specific for Management Units **subject** to a simple management plan (PSG) or a public forest management plan are marked with the code "**PSG**";
 - Requirements specific for Management Units **not subject** to a simple management plan (PSG) or a public forest management plan are marked with the code "**non-PSG**".
- **Specific requirements for Management Units certified prior to the revised standard effective date:** Certain requirements have been adapted for Management Units already certified prior to the effective date of this revised version of the standard. These adaptations supplement the main indicator to enable these Management Units to make the transition to the revised requirements. These indicators are marked with the code "**A**", and apply to Management Units which are already certified regardless of their size or type of management plan.

These adaptations replace or supplement the main indicator, as appropriate. Requirements that do not explicitly mention these thresholds apply to all Management Units, regardless of their size.

b) National interpretation of the SLIMF (Small and Low Intensity Managed Forest) threshold

SLIMF eligibility Criteria	Thresholds for Metropolitan France
Small Management Units	Up to 500 ha
Low Intensity Management Units	<p>The rate of harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI) within the total production forest area of the unit, AND</p> <p>EITHER the annual harvest from the total production forest area is less than 5000 cubic meters,</p> <p>OR the average annual harvest from the total production forest is less than 5000 m³ / year during the period of validity of the certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits.</p>

c) Verbal forms and terminology

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

There are specific terms used in the writing of Principles, Criteria and indicators which have designated definitions for the purpose of this standard. Such terms are written in italic format followed with (*) symbol whereas the definition, the meaning and its context of interpretation for the purpose of this standard, are available in the annex of Glossary of Terms.

B.5 Interpretations and disputes

(Normative section)

Interpretation requests regarding the FSC Forest Stewardship Standards are submitted through the National Offices and in case there is no National Office, directly to FSC for processing and approval.. Approved interpretations are published in the international FSC website (see: INT-STD-60-006_01).

Disputes between stakeholders concerning certification requirements are managed by FSC dispute resolution procedure (see: FSC-PRO-01-008).

C. CONTEXT

(Informative section)

C.1 General description of the forestry sector

Forests in Metropolitan France cover 17.1 million hectares, representing one-third of the country (IGN, 2022). Since 1985, the rate of reforestation has accelerated (+20%) and the volume of standing timber continues to grow, making France the 4th most forested country in the European Union. France's forests are relatively young, with 50% less than 60 years old, and only 21% over a hundred years old.

In mainland France, 75% of forests are privately owned. The remaining 25% are public forests, owned by the State, or forests belonging to communes, local authorities or public establishments (IGN, 2022). Private forests are owned by over 3,3 million owners, with 11% of them owning 76% of the area, and with 50,000 owners owning more than 25 ha and 2.2 million owners owning less than 1 ha (CNPFP, 2021).

a) The biodiversity of French forests

Forests in mainland France are home to rich biodiversity. However, 17% of forest birds, 7% of mammals, 8% of reptiles and amphibians, 12% of butterflies and freshwater crustaceans are threatened with extinction (IGN, 2016). The diversity of French forests, the microhabitats they contain (broken branches, cavities, etc.), and the habitats with which they intermingle (open environments such as moorland, aquatic or rocky environments) are key for fauna, flora and wildlife. The mature stages of the forest, which contain a concentration of old, large-diameter and dead trees that are ideal for the development of microhabitats, are essential for 25% of forest species (in particular cavity nesting birds, saproxylic beetles, mosses and lichens). Managing a forest to harvest timber inevitably reorganizes biodiversity. However, with enlightened choices, forest managers can reduce this impact, and even make it invisible or positive more often than we think.

b) Forests heavily impacted by the effects of climate change

The effects of the global rise in temperatures and the frequency and severity of droughts are having an increasingly strong impact on forest ecosystems. The cumulative effect of frequent droughts is leading to the decline of entire stands. Weakened, the trees are also more susceptible to diseases (ash chalarosis, chestnut blight, etc.) and pests (box tree borer, spruce bark beetle, oak chafer, etc.) and are no longer able to regenerate. The risk of fire is no longer limited to the south of France, but is increasing dramatically in forests that were previously spared. This situation is accelerating - with almost 220,000 ha affected by forest dieback in 2020, which is a major concern for the maintenance of the services provided by forest ecosystems, including wood production - and therefore for the entire industry that depends on them. Forest managers are therefore faced with the problem of choosing which trees to encourage or replant, and which management methods will enable them to maintain healthy and productive ecosystems in this changing and uncertain context. The impact of these die-offs and changes in tree species on forest biodiversity is also a key issue. Ensuring the conservation of habitats and species, some of which are protected, is challenging when they depend on trees affected by climate change.

c) Society pays more attention to forests

Over the last few years, France has seen an increase in the demands made by society to preserve its forests. This enthusiasm can be seen in the countryside as well as in the cities, as demonstrated by the success of the book "La vie secrète des arbres" (The secret life of trees) and the proliferation of films and television reports dedicated to forests. Forests are the quintessential symbol of 'nature', and citizens, anxious about environmental degradation, are calling for their preservation. Responsible forest management is therefore at the heart of public and consumer expectations. In response to these expectations, brands and distributors are developing increasingly ambitious CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) and sourcing policies. FSC certification is a tool favoured by many distributors and major

brands, which have announced their desire to orient all their paper, wood and cardboard supplies towards FSC products. This is also reflected in legislation, with increasing attention being paid to forest management and protection, and the use of wood products in various sectors to replace less virtuous materials. This fundamental trend will have an impact on forests and forestry methods, which will have to be supported and combined with economic issues, as the French forestry and wood industry provides work for 425,000 people (CNPFF, 2020) across the area of Metropolitan France. Faced with these economic, social and environmental challenges, and with the uncertainties of the actions to be taken to adapt forestry to climate change, dialogue and consultation are fundamental tools at the heart of the development of this FSC standard to ensure that the multifunctionality of French forests can be sustained.

C.2 Members of the Standards Development Group

Chamber	Organization
Environmental Chamber	France Nature Environnement (FNE)
	Humanité et Biodiversité
	Réserves naturelles de France (RNF)/Conservatoires des espaces naturels (CEN)
	WWF France (facilitator)
Social Chamber	Île-de-France Nature (IdFN)
	Institut national de recherche pour l'agriculture, l'alimentation et l'environnement (INRAE)
	Fédération nationale des Parcs naturels régionaux (FNPNR)
	Forêt Citoyenne
	SNUPFEN-Solidaires (facilitator)
Economic Chamber	Experts Forestiers de France (EFF),
	Fédération nationale des Communes forestières (FNCOFOR)
	Office National des Forêts (ONF)
	Société Forestière (SFCDC)
	Sylvamo (facilitator)
	Syndicat des sylviculteurs du Sud-Ouest (SSySO),
	Union de la Coopération Forestière Française (UCFF)
	Union Française des Industries des Cartons, Papiers et Celluloses (COPACEL).

C.3 Background information on the standard development and revision

The deployment of the first FSC responsible forest management standard adapted to Metropolitan France in 2017 marked an important step in the development of certified areas in France. After 4 years of implementation, a partial revision of the standard was launched in February 2021, with the aim of:

1. Reflecting the changes in climate and society that are redefining forestry today and in the future;
2. Improving the cost-benefit ratio of FSC and facilitate access for managers and owners to stimulate the development of areas and the marketing of FSC-certified wood in France;
3. Taking into account changes in the international FSC framework.

FSC France has summarised scientific knowledge and initiated consultation activities with forest and industry stakeholders in 2021 around the following themes:

- Adapting silviculture: How can the impacts of climate change on forest stands and biodiversity conservation be better taken into account in the context of FSC rules in France?
- Improving indicators for 'intensive' management practices (clear-cutting, limiting the use of pesticides, soil protection, slash extraction): These issues are increasingly sensitive in society, and some are also growing challenges for foresters. It is appropriate to reinforce and/or clarify the way in which they are taken into account.
- Accessibility to FSC certification: What adaptations to the standard and what implementation mechanisms can be proposed to improve the cost-benefit ratio of FSC certification and facilitate access to certification for owners of small forests?

5 regional meetings and 1 national consultation meeting were organised between April and June 2021. The national meeting took place on the afternoon of 22 June, face-to-face in Paris, with all the stakeholders interested in responsible forest management, and a summary of these discussions was drawn up. The conclusions were then made available to the Working Group.

Following the Working Group's discussions, an initial public consultation was held from 17 May to 29 July 2022, and the second from 23 January to 24 March 2023. Summaries of the feedback received from stakeholders during these consultations and their processing by the Working Group were made public.

A forest test was organised at the same time as the second public consultation with various auditors in the field, with the main aim of verifying the applicability of the proposed new indicators.

D. REFERENCES

(Informative section)

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

FSC-POL-20-003	<i>FSC Policy on the Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification</i>
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FSC-POL-30-001	<i>FSC Pesticides Policy</i>
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FSC-POL-30-602	<i>FSC Interpretation on GMOs: Genetically Modified Organisms</i>
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FSC-STD-20-007	<i>Forest Management Evaluations</i>
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FSC-STD-30-005	<i>FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups</i>
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FSC-PRO-01-008	<i>Processing Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme</i>
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FSC-PRO-30-006	<i>Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools</i>
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FSC-DIR-20-007	<i>FSC Directive on FSC Forest Management Evaluations</i>
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FSC-GUI-30-003	<i>FSC Guidelines for the implementation of the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)</i>
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FSC-GUI-60-005	<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 Official articles of association and a valid registration number prove entry in a register or membership of an official structure covering all activities falling within the scope of the certification.

Guidance note: The following documents delivered by competent authorities serve to prove compliance with this indicator:

- In the case of private property, the document used as proof is the individual title deed;
- In the case of public ownership, the document used as proof is the management order;
- In the case of a group certificate, the group entity has official articles of association, as well as a valid registration number and its relationship with the group members is covered by a contract.

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.

Guidance note: The usages and customs relating to forests are established in written (statutory) law. The rights of use mentioned in this Criterion therefore relate either to legal rights or agreements under private law. The few exceptions relating to rights of customary use that may continue to exist in Metropolitan France will be treated on a case by case basis by the certificate holder and the certification body through engagement* with the stakeholders.

1.2.1 Documents demonstrate the legal status of the Management Unit and describe the land rights and use rights.

1.2.2 The land registry documents describe the limits of all Management Units, rights of way and current leases and rental agreements.

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

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 legislation governing the field of activities are known and complied with (listed for informational purposes in Appendix A).

1.3.2 The Organization holds documents demonstrating that it has the legal right to operate in the Management Unit and that this is in keeping with its legal status and the legal status of the Management Unit.

1.3.3 The payment of taxes, fees and other charges that are legally due are paid on time. The receipts certifying such payments are available.

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 The authorities competent for policing forests are informed of forest-related offences and the reports drafted for this purpose are retained.

1.4.2 In the event of offences being detected, measures are taken in conjunction with the legally competent authorities, commensurate with the issues and resources available, to prevent, restrict and stop them.

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

1.5.1 Compliance with applicable national laws and international conventions, including CITES provisions and existing codes of practice relating to the transportation and trade of forest products up to the point of first sale, is demonstrated.

Guidance note: In Metropolitan France there are no tree species harvested for commercial purposes that are listed in the appendix of the CITES.

1.5.2 Any complaint received concerning the requirements relating to the transportation and trade of forest products within and from the Management Unit and/or up to the first point of sale is recorded, as well as the solutions adopted.

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 procedure for dealing with complaints and resolving disputes is developed and validated through engagement with the affected stakeholders.

1.6.2 The procedure for dealing with complaints and resolving disputes is publicly available at no cost.

1.6.3 With the aim of facilitating communication, the prevention of complaints and the resolution of disputes, this procedure in all cases comprises identification of The Organization and a contact person in all the Management Units covered by the certificate.

1.6.4 Conflicts relating to the use of forest resources and complaints relating to the impact of management activities are dealt with out of court promptly and are either settled or in the process of being resolved.

1.6.5 Up-to-date records of all disputes and complaints relating to the impact of management activities are kept, including:

- 1) steps taken to address and resolve disputes;
- 2) outcomes of all dispute and complaint resolution processes, including fair compensation measures, if applicable; and
- 3) unresolved disputes and complaints, and the reasons why they have not been resolved.

- 1.6.6 Operations cease in areas where a dispute or complaints involving significant interests, in terms of number and dimension, have not been resolved after 6 months.

Guidance note: This indicator is intended to focus on disputes that acquire a national importance due to the number or dimension of the stakeholders involved.

- 1.6.7 If a dispute cannot be resolved out of court, the corresponding court decision prevails.

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 statement showing a commitment to comply with anti-corruption legislation is publicly available at no cost.

- 1.7.2 Within the framework of all legal procedures for the award of contracts, the legal principles relating to the disclosure requirement, competition and transparency in the award of contracts are complied with.

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

- 1.7.4 If corruption is detected, all possible means are adopted to bring it to an end.

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 statement, endorsed by the forest owner and/or manager, and if applicable the group entity, includes a long-term commitment to responsible forest management practices consistent with FSC Principles and Criteria and related Policies and Standards.

- 1.8.2 The statement is publicly available at no cost.

PRINCIPLE* 2: WORKERS* RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

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

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

Guidance note: The eight fundamental ILO Conventions have been ratified by France and incorporated into the Labour Code. The indicators in this criterion describe the specific points covered by these conventions.

- 2.1.1 The employment of workers aged under 18 is strictly limited to the following conditions:
 - 1) They are not employed in hazardous or heavy work, except for the purpose of training as specifically authorized by the Labour Code.
 - 2) The employment of persons aged 14 or 15 years is permissible only during the school holidays and for light work which does not jeopardize their safety, health or development.
 - 3) No person aged less than 14 years is employed.
- 2.1.2 Employment relationships are voluntary and based on mutual consent, without threat of a penalty.
- 2.1.3 There is no evidence of any practices indicating forced or compulsory labour.

Guidance note: The main practices indicative of forced or compulsory labor are listed in the glossary of terms.

- 2.1.4 Employment and occupation practices are non-discriminatory.
- 2.1.5 The freedom of association for the workers and their right to collective bargaining is respected:
 - 1) Workers are able to set up or join the workers' organizations of their choice;
 - 2) The right of workers to undertake lawful activities related to forming, joining or supporting a workers' organization, or to refrain from doing so, is respected;
 - 3) Workers are not subject to discrimination, nor are they penalized for exercising these rights.
- 2.1.6 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.
- 2.1.7 Collective bargaining agreements are implemented, where they exist.
- 2.1.8 Contracts signed by The Organization with *professional contractors** working in a Management Unit include clauses covering compliance with the Labour Code and in particular the elements in indicators 2.1.1 to 2.1.7.
- 2.1.9 In the case of European *contractors** or the use of workers seconded by *professional contractors**, the clause in 2.1.8 concerns compliance with the legislation of the country of origin, as well as compliance with the legislation and regulations relating to postings and the elements from indicators 2.1.1 to 2.1.7.

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 There is a gender equality plan promoting the equal opportunity measures set forth in the Labour Code.
- 2.2.2 The gender equality plan is applied and regularly monitored.
- 2.2.3 There is no direct or indirect discrimination on the grounds of gender or family circumstances in connection with:
 - 1) recruitment and training,
 - 2) level of employment,
 - 3) amount of wages for an equivalent work,
 - 4) working conditions,
 - 5) engagement with stakeholders.
- 2.2.4 Maternity and paternity leaves taken by workers fulfill the legal minimum duration, and taking such leave does not lead to any kind of discrimination.

Guidance note: The legal duration of maternity leave is at minimum 16 weeks, and a minimum of 25 calendar days for paternity leave, in addition to 3 days of birth leave.

- 2.2.5 As per the Labour Code, all necessary steps are taken, including legal mediation procedures, to identify, prevent and deal with cases of sexual or moral harassment and discrimination.
- 2.2.6 If the monitoring results show evidence of gender inequalities, active measures are taken to level them out, such as:
 - 1) measure to encourage women to participate in all levels of employments,
 - 2) measures to align wages,
 - 3) other relevant measures addressing gender inequalities.

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 The risks run by the staff members of The Organization, as well as all preventive measures implemented, are recorded in a written document and accessible to all staff members of The Organization, as provided for by the Labour Code (Single Occupational Risk Assessment Document, French acronym: DUERP).
- 2.3.2 Staff members of the Organization use *appropriate** and regularly-checked safety equipment and implement good practices as regards safety, in accordance with the Single Occupational Risk Assessment Document (DUERP).
- 2.3.3 Contracts and/or worksite sheets signed by The Organization with *professional contractors** working in a Management Unit include clauses covering:
 - 1) compliance with employment rights as regards safety;
 - 2) the use of *appropriate** and regularly-checked safety equipment;
 - 3) the implementation of appropriate practices as regards safety;
 - 4) knowledge of first-aid techniques.

Means of verification: Contracts, worksite sheets.

2.3.4 Contracts signed by The Organization with *non-professional contractors** working in a Management Unit on activities involving risks include information about and a commitment to comply with:

- 1) the use of *appropriate** and regularly-checked safety equipment;
- 2) the implementation of good practices as regards safety;
- 3) knowledge of first-aid techniques.

Means of verification: Contracts.

2.3.5 The application of the commitments listed in indicators 2.3.2, 2.3.3 and 2.3.4 is checked in the field using monitoring mechanisms adapted to the different types of workers (staff, *professional contractors**, *non-professional contractors**) working in the Management Unit.

Means of verification: Implementation of good practices observed during site inspections, procedures, worksite inspection reports, internal audit reports, etc.

2.3.6 If applicable, The Organization takes steps to strengthen implementation of these commitments by the parties. These steps are adapted to the type of party and may, for example, include (non-exhaustive list):

- 1) reporting to the competent authorities any breaches of employment rights; and/or
- 2) dereferencing of *professional contractors**; and/or
- 3) setting up an awareness-raising programme about good practices as regards safety; and/or
- 4) setting up an awareness-raising programme about first aid.

Means of verification: The compliance checking items may include one or more of the following points, but they are not all mandatory and may be supplemented by others: proof of reporting to competent authorities, sanctions applied, good practice guide provided by The Organization, etc.

2.3.7 An up-to-date record of workplace accidents within The Organization is kept, including their frequency and seriousness.

2.3.8 The Single Risk Assessment Document (French acronym: DUERP) is updated as required by the French Labour Code, based on analysis of the accident register referred to in 2.3.7.

2.3.9 If employees are housed, even temporarily, in the Management Unit, their working conditions and the condition of their accommodation and food complies with International Labour Organization and employment rights directives, as a minimum requirement.

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 Staff members are registered for the functions which are performed in the service of The Organization administrative body responsible for recording workers' activities.

2.4.2 Legislation and collective agreements relating to wages or, otherwise, the minimum wage in France (SMIC) are complied with.

2.4.3 Contracts signed by The Organization with *professional contractors** working in a Management Unit include clauses covering the elements in indicator 2.4.1.

Means of verification: Contracts.

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 When The Organization employs staff:

- 1) the list of such staff and their job descriptions are kept up to date;
- 2) the person responsible for taking decisions regarding training is identified;
- 3) the awareness-raising requirements and/or training necessary for the effective and safe implementation of the management plan are identified.

2.5.2 The staff members have the skills, information and training necessary for effective and safe implementation of the management plan, especially where their work involves the following topics:

- 1) detection of and dealing with cases of psychological or sexual harassment and discrimination (C2.1 and C2.2);
- 2) workplace safety (C2.3);
- 3) first aid (C2.3);
- 4) performance of work that is dangerous or involves a particular responsibility (C2.5);
- 5) the handling, use, storage and/or elimination of waste, dangerous substances and/or fertilizers (C2.3; C10.6; C10.12);
- 6) knowledge of the areas affected by the rights of use identified in C1.2;
- 7) identification of the ecological and social impact of logging operations (C4.5; C6.2);
- 8) identification of High Conservation Values and environmental values (C6.1 and C9.1).
- 9) implementation of management activities in accordance with the requirements of this standard (especially C6.4, C6.5, C6.6, C6.7, C10.2, C10.3, C10.5, C10.10 and C10.11).

Means of verification: Proven experience, application of appropriate practices, valid qualifications, certificates or attestations of awareness-raising and/or training.

2.5.3 Contracts signed by The Organization's *professional contractors** include the relevant topics listed in indicator 2.5.2.

Means of verification: Signed contracts or specifications, application of good practices observed during worksite inspections.

2.5.4 Adapted measures are defined and implemented to raise awareness among non-*professional contractors**, where they are concerned, of the relevant issues covered by indicator 2.5.2.

Guidance note: In the case of group certification, awareness-raising measures for forest owners who are members of the group may focus on issues not addressed in the management document for their property, in particular points 2, 3 and 4 of indicator 2.5.2.

Means of verification: good practice guide provided by The Organization, evidence of awareness raising events, etc.

2.5.5 Application of the commitments listed in indicator 2.5.2 is checked in the field using the *appropriate** monitoring mechanisms.

Means of verification: Application of good practices observed during worksite inspections, procedures, worksite inspection reports, internal audit reports, etc.

2.5.6 If applicable, The Organization takes steps to strengthen the implementation by the workers of the commitments listed in indicator 2.5.2. These steps are adapted to the type of worker (staff, *professional contractor**, *non-professional contractor**) and may, for example, include (non-exhaustive list):

- 1) application of sanctions; and/or
- 2) dereferencing of *professional contractors**; and/or
- 3) setting up an awareness-raising program about relevant topics of 2.5.2.

Means of verification: The compliance checking items may include one or more of the following points, but they are not all mandatory and may be supplemented by others: sanctions applied, good practice guide provided by The Organization, etc.

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 Organization, on behalf of its staff members:

- 1) is registered with the social security regime as per French law or that of the country of origin in the case of workers on secondment, and
- 2) has civil liability insurance enabling it to compensate employees in the event of the loss of their property or damage caused to their property, and;
- 3) has insurance to cover material damage in the event of accidents or work-related illnesses.

2.6.2 The Organization is compliant in establishing and running social dialogue bodies, particularly the mechanisms for gathering worker complaints and managing disputes, as provided for by the Labour Code and, if applicable, by collective procedures for the representation of staff members.

2.6.3 Steps taken within the framework of social dialogue are recorded.

2.6.4 Contracts signed by The Organization with *professional contractors** working in a Management Unit include clauses covering compliance with requirements of indicators 2.6.1, 2.6.2 and 2.6.3.

Means of verification: Contracts/harvesting specifications.

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.

Guidance note: According to the United Nations definition, there are no Indigenous Peoples in Metropolitan France. This Principle therefore does not apply.

PRINCIPLE* 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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

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

4.1.1 Local communities that may be affected by management activities are identified.

4.1.2 Customary use rights are identified through engagement with the local communities affected.

Guidance note: The usages and customs relating to forests are established in written (statutory) law. The few exceptions relating to rights of customary use that still exist in Metropolitan France will be treated on a case-by-case basis by the certificate holder and the certification body through engagement with the stakeholders.

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

4.2.1 When management activities have an impact on the rights identified (4.1.2), the local communities grant their free, prior and informed consent before the start of management operations.

4.2.2 The legal and customary rights of local communities are not violated by The Organization.

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 Offers of employment, services and traineeships are published locally and, in particular, in training centres.

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.

Guidance note: Relevant actions for local/regional economic development are considered under indicator 5.4.3.

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 When drafting or revising its management plan, The Organization identifies, through engagement with the local communities identified in 4.1.1:

- 1) the significant impacts of its management activities on the uses, and where applicable, the expectations of local communities, taking into account the severity, extent and duration of these impacts;

- 2) the significant impacts of local community uses on its management activities, environmental values and High Conservation Values, including disputes regarding use (1.6).

MU not subject to PSG (simple management plan) 4.5.1 The significant impacts may be identified without engagement with the local communities.

Guidance note: The challenges related to hunting are dealt with in indicators 6.6.4 to 6.6.7.

- 4.5.2 Measures are defined and implemented through local community engagement to avoid or mitigate each significant negative impact identified.

MU not subject to PSG (simple management plan) 4.5.2 Measures to avoid or mitigate the significant negative impact may be defined and implemented without engagement with local communities.

- 4.5.3 Local communities are informed of their rights and responsibilities, in particular regarding safety and the impacts of their use of the forest.

- 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**.**

Guidance note: The requirements of this Criterion have been combined with those of Criterion 1.6.

- 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**.**

Guidance note: For this criterion, the notion of heritage applies to cultural and social sites (archaeological areas, places of remembrance or worship, small-scale built heritage, tourist and recreational sites, etc.), to key woodland features (linear hedgerows, hedged areas taken over by the forest, noteworthy old shrubs or trees, wilderness areas with cultural or spiritual value) and areas and stands supporting heritage economic activity.

- 4.7.1 Sites of heritage significance are identified and conserved, if applicable, through engagement with the local communities.

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

Guidance note: In Metropolitan France, there is no traditional knowledge specific to local communities in the forest domain that could be considered intellectual property. This criterion has no application.

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 Resources and ecosystem services that could strengthen and diversify the local economy are identified.
- 5.1.2 Consistent with management objectives, the benefits and products identified are supplied and/or made available in order to enable others to produce them and to strengthen and diversify the local economy.
- 5.1.3 When FSC Ecosystem Services Claims are used, applicable requirements in <FSC-PRO-30-006> are complied with.

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 Silvicultural systems (in particular, rates, methods and frequency of harvesting) are based on preliminary diagnostics, adjusting the accuracy of the data to the level and intensity of management, of:
 - 1) the types of stands identified as at risk in light of the impacts of climate change at Management Unit, massif or territory level by 2050;
 - 2) the current features of the stands, the site features and the timber production potential of the Management Unit;
 - 3) the vulnerability of the stands identified in point 1 as at risk in light of climate change.

Guidance note: Stand features refer in particular to composition, structure, maturity and management history. Site features refer in particular to mesoclimate, topography, floristic composition and structure of spontaneous vegetation, and soil. Wood production potential refers in particular to growing stock, increment and natural regeneration potential.

- 5.2.2 The choice of silvicultural systems takes into account:
 - 1) the diagnostics carried out in 5.2.1;
 - 2) the long-term durability of harvesting and regeneration, including harvest levels that do not exceed growth over a rotation period;
 - 3) the territory-level reference documents (Regional Silvicultural Management Scheme (SRGS), Regional Forest Management Scheme (SRA)/Regional Forest Management Directives (DRA));
 - 4) the analysis of the impact of these systems in mitigating climate change;
 - 5) a precautionary approach that reflects the quality of the information used;

Guidance note: The territory-level reference documents in item 5.2.2.3 define the harvest levels that don't exceed growth over a rotation period mentioned in 5.2.2.2. This does not exclude the possibility of a temporary increase in harvesting with the objective to punctually decapitalize the stand to reach the adequate standing volume in relation with the management objective pursued. This decapitalization therefore relates to a specific period of life of the stand and is not intended to become the harvesting standard.

Analyzing the impact of the choice of silvicultural systems in mitigating climate change in 5.2.2.4 does not necessarily entail any obligation to conduct a costed calculation: the accuracy of the available inventory data should be taken into account, as well as the added value of a precise estimate of carbon stocks. A precise estimate may however enable The Organization, for stands where there are issues around the mitigation of the impacts of climate change, to undertake voluntary additional steps to use ecosystem services through the procedure <FSC-PRO-30-006>.

5.2.3 A schedule of harvesting and forest management operations is established in line with the silvicultural systems of the Management Unit.

5.2.4 When the management plan is revised:

- 1) the diagnostics carried out in 5.2.1 are updated and compared with the information gathered previously and the forecasts made when making decisions about silvicultural systems;
- 2) completion of the schedule of harvesting and forest management operations is assessed and any discrepancies explained;
- 3) the silvicultural activities are adjusted if necessary, in accordance with 5.2.2;
- 4) a new schedule of harvesting and management operations is established.

Non-PSG 5.2.4 When the management plan is revised:

- 1) the diagnostics carried out in 5.2.1 are updated and compared with the information gathered previously and the forecasts made when making decisions about silvicultural systems;
- 2) the silvicultural activities are adjusted if necessary, in accordance with 5.2.2;
- 3) a new schedule of harvesting and management operations is established.

5.2.5 For the extraction of non-timber forest products managed by The Organization, a sustainable harvesting level is estimated based on Best Available Information, and respected.

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

Guidance note: The purpose of this Criterion is to help The Organization to consider and view in perspective all of the types of benefits that it may be able to draw from its FSC certification, along with the costs it allows for their implementation. This analysis is connected with Criterion 5.5.

These considerations are undertaken globally for the entire certified area (Management Unit, group or *multi-site certificate**) and the activities implemented within the framework of FSC certification.

The costs mentioned in 5.3.1 may be approached by the identification of costs related to the implementation of the requirements of this standard.

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

5.3.2 Benefits related to the implementation of the requirements of this standard are identified.

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

Guidance note: For this criterion, the notions of “local” or “locally” take into account the administrative region in which The Organization operates.

- 5.4.1 Where cost and quality are equivalent, local products, services and supply chains are given priority.
- 5.4.2 The procedures, in terms of their size or scale, for invitations to tender and other mechanisms for marketing products or requests for services do not exclude local service providers.
- 5.4.3 In keeping with its management objectives, The Organization takes part in local social and economic development initiatives (e.g. sector-based contracts, local forest charters, massif development plans, etc.).

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

Guidance note: The purpose of this Criterion is to help The Organization to consider and view in perspective all of the types of benefits that it may be able to draw from its FSC certification, along with the costs it allows for their implementation. This analysis is connected with Criterion 5.3.

These considerations are undertaken globally for the entire certified area (Management Unit, group or *multi-site certificate**) and the activities implemented within the framework of FSC certification process.

- 5.5.1 The Organization-level development strategy demonstrates a commitment to ensuring the long-term economic viability of its forest management.
- 5.5.2 This strategy includes the cost-benefit analysis conducted as per Criterion 5.3.

PRINCIPLE* 6: ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES* AND IMPACTS

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

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.

Guidance note: The sources of best available information for this Criterion are the following:

- Description of the stands in the Management Unit using photo-interpretation;
 - Description of the stands in the Management Unit using field surveys, including dendrometric indicators to assess the state of conservation of the characteristics of the habitats and their capacity to support biodiversity (surveys may be based on the catalogue of monitoring indicators provided in the HCV toolkit).
 - Information from High Conservation Value areas:
 - Document of objectives for Natura 2000 sites (DOCOB) or interview with the site coordinator; Management plan for the protected areas concerned or interview with the site manager;
 - Information taken from the HCV toolbox (in particular the mapping module and the relevant species sheets).
 - Regional ecological coherence schemes (SRCE) and local versions (territorial coherence schemes, local town planning schemes);
 - Existing naturalist databases for the area under consideration;
 - Studies relevant to the scale under consideration;
 - Soil information : Age (Cartoforma site);
 - Engagement with stakeholders;
 - Consultation with other experts.
- 6.1.1 An initial assessment of the state of the forest habitats and associated environments, based on the expertise of the forest owner and/or manager and best available information, enables the identification of environmental values presenting challenges in the MU.
- 6.1.2 When these environmental values are likely to be affected by management activities, a second level of assessment examines in more detail and documents the identified challenges and their vulnerability, including the potential impacts of climate change within the Management Unit, based on the best available information.

Non-PSG 6.1.2 The management activities implemented in the field demonstrate the identification and consideration of the challenges posed to environmental values.

Guidance note: The analysis does not have to be documented, for Management Units which are not subject to PSG.

PSG 6.1.3 When the Management Unit is located in an ecological corridor, the connectivity between the forest habitats and associated habitats of the Management Unit and the neighbouring habitats is assessed.

Guidance note: The meaning of ecological corridor is understood as it is defined in the Regional Ecological Coherence Schemes (SRCE) and their local adaptations (Local Planning Consistency Programmes (SCOT) and Local Urban Development Programmes (PLUi)).

6.1.4 Environmental value assessments are conducted at levels at which it is possible to identify the impacts of management activities (Criterion 6.2) and the risks incurred by the environmental values (Criterion 6.2), and to implement the conservation measures required to protect the values (Criterion 6.3) and monitor the environmental impacts or changes (Principle 8).

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

6.2.1 The risk of impacts deriving from silvicultural decisions and management activities on environmental values is assessed, including outside of the management unit, before operations begin.

SLIMF 6.2.1 The risk of impacts deriving from silvicultural decisions and management activities on environmental values is assessed before operations begin.

Guidance note: The impact risk assessment takes into account the scale and intensity of the management activities. The risk of impacts can be assessed at different levels (group, Management Unit or plot) when pertinent. This assessment makes it possible to adapt the measures and procedures that need to be put in place to fulfill the requirements of the Standard.

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

6.3.1 Management activities are planned and implemented to protect environmental values, including soil fertility, and prevent and mitigate negative impacts, including climate change and soil erosion.

6.3.2 Negative impacts on environmental values caused by management activities are avoided.

M 6.3.2 Management activities include the following measures:

- 1) diversification of the structure of forest timber stands within the Management Unit;
- 2) diversification of the target species and/or support species, encouraging mixing with native species insofar as this is possible at the site.

6.3.3 If the prevention of impacts fails, measures are adopted to prevent further damage, and negative impacts on environmental values are mitigated and/or repaired.

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

6.4.1 The best available information is used to create a list of heritage species and habitats potentially present in the Management Unit. Prioritization may be carried out through engagement with the stakeholders.

Guidance note: In order to identify the heritage species and habitats potentially present in the Management Unit, the Organization will take into account their geographical distribution beyond the Management Unit boundaries.

6.4.2 The potential impact of management activities and appropriate protection measures are defined, justified and implemented for the heritage species and habitats actually present within the Management Unit. These measures may include the following:

- 1) integral conservation areas,
- 2) zones and/or periods of temporary exclusion of certain activities,
- 3) areas providing habitat connectivity, and/or
- 4) extensive silvicultural methods and other management measures to ensure the survival and sustainability of the species and habitats identified.

Non-PSG 6.4.2 *Appropriate** protection measures are identified and implemented. If the size of the Management Unit does not allow for conservation or protected areas to be established, other measures are implemented relating to the heritage species and habitats known to be or potentially present, for example but not limited to:

- 1) designation of a corridor of tree-habitats,
- 2) provision of dead wood, etc.

6.4.3 When heritage species and habitats are identified, *appropriate** clauses are defined in the specifications for forestry operations, including specifications for contractors.

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.**

Guidance note: The *representative sample areas** mentioned in the Criterion are meant to participate in the preservation and restoration of the ecological dynamics of naturally-occurring ecosystems in the Management Unit. In the French context, they can correspond to the different elements of the conservation area network.

- 6.5.1 The Organization establishes a conservation area network covering a minimum of 10% of the area of the Management Unit. This network includes:
- 1) *set-aside areas**; and
 - 2) types 1, 2 and 3 High Conservation Value areas (as defined in the HCV framework in annex E and in Principle 9); and/or
 - 3) other habitats defined in indicators 6.6.7 (natural habitats associated with the forest), 6.7.1 and 6.7.2 (buffer zones for watercourses and wetlands); and/or
 - 4) other stands, representative of the ecosystems that would naturally occur in that geographical region managed, in such a way as to preserve or restore habitat features to more natural conditions, which may include diversified forest edges (vertical structure and composition).
- 6.5.2 Silvicultural systems in the conservation area network and, where applicable, the procedures for harvesting and management operations, maintain habitat features or restore them to more natural conditions.

Guidance note: It is possible to produce wood in these areas, provided the main purpose of the silvicultural activities is to maintain or restore habitat features to more natural conditions as per indicators 6.2.1, 9.2.1 and 9.3.2, and more specifically:

- The native status of the forest cover, e.g. by gradual elimination of alien species, encouraging the natural regeneration of native species, active restoration by planting when natural regeneration is not possible;
 - The diversity of native species (especially maintaining pioneer species);
 - The structural complexity of the stand (multi-storied stand, stratified stand);
 - The maturity of the stand, especially the presence of large and/or old trees and dead wood, either standing or on the ground. The “Management Tools” sheets from the HCV Toolbox may be used to facilitate the implementation of these requirements.
- 6.5.3 The components of the conservation area network are mapped and their surface areas are estimated. The boundaries of the *set-aside areas** are able to be identified in the field before a harvest is carried out nearby, and where the area is subject to recreational uses.
- 6.5.4 The components of the conservation area network are recorded in the management plan. They are included in the sustainable management plan at least when it is next revised.

Guidance note: When the Management Unit has a sustainable management plan, updating the plan to include set-aside areas gives substance to the commitment of the forest owner as regards their long-term maintenance. In the same manner, when the MU is part of a group certificate, including in the group membership contract the objective of maintaining set aside areas for a period that may exceed that of the management plan reinforce the long-term commitment of the forest owner.

- 6.5.5 *Set-aside areas** are identified on the basis of the best available information and engagement with the stakeholders in order to maximize their environmental value. The following challenges are also taken into account:
- 1) economic (i.e. minimization of the economic loss for the forest owner/manager with regards to the accessibility of the stand and the value of the standing timber); and
 - 2) social (i.e. relating to recreational uses and the safety of the general public).

- 6.5.6 The environmental value of the *set-aside areas** is maximized through:
- 1) the balance struck between the various types of stands present in the MU and their representativeness at landscape level; and/or
 - 2) the designation of *set-aside areas** in priority in ageing stands, and/or
 - 3) the designation of *set-aside areas** in priority in stands composed of indigenous species, and/or
 - 4) the prioritization of areas with High conservation values or specific environmental values.

Guidance note: The proportion of different habitats within the network of *set-aside areas** is not necessarily exactly identical to that of the MU or certified areas.

6.5.7 The minimum size of a *set-aside area** is set at 0.5 ha.

6.5.8 The surface areas designated as *set-aside areas** cover at least 2% of the wooded surface area of the Management Unit.

Non-PSG 6.5.8 *Set-aside areas** are designated whenever possible, but the surface areas are not subject to a minimum threshold of the Management Unit's wooded surface area.

Guidance note: For Management Units not subject to PSG (simple management plan): When it is not possible to designate set-aside areas, the old trees network may be preserved or improved by other means, such as increased designation of habitat-trees, for example.

The basic area for calculating the surface area that must be covered by set-aside areas may exclude the Management Units not subject to PSG (simple management plan).

A 6.5.8 An action plan is drawn up and implemented to reach the minimum threshold of 2% of *set-aside areas** with a maximum period of five years from the effective date of this version of the standard.

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 measures maintain the various native species and their genetic diversity consistent with the features of the sites. This involves the following as a minimum requirement:

- 1) the promotion of stands adapted to the site;
- 2) in semi-natural forest stands, the promotion of a composition, dynamic and structure that is close to that of natural forest associations.

6.6.2 In semi-natural forest stands, increasing the proportion of alien species by natural regeneration or enrichment does not under any circumstances lead to the de facto conversion of a semi-natural forest into a cultivated forest.

M 6.6.3 In Management Units comprising mostly (>75%) cultivated forests, silvicultural activities maintain or restore, over a period of time defined in the management plan, the proportion of native species within the MU to a minimum of 20% of its surface area, the forest cover or the basal area. The proportion of native species is monitored and assessed each time the management is renewed.

Non-PSG 6.6.3 The proportion of native species is assessed each time the management plan is renewed and demonstrated in the field.

M 6.6.4 An action plan to designate, maintain and/or restore an area containing living *habitat-trees** is drawn up, implemented and monitored. It is used to achieve, over the lifetime of the management plan, a minimum of 5 living *habitat-trees** per ha, taking into account:

- 1) biodiversity challenges identified in the Management Unit, including type 1, 2 and 3 High Conservation Values;
- 2) the age of stands and the potential of living habitat-trees in the Management Unit;
- 3) the risk of the disappearance of living *habitat-trees** related to the activities planned in the schedule of harvesting and forest management operations, particularly the final phases of harvesting in regular stands and harvests in irregular stands;
- 4) risks related to the safety of property and people, any health risks identified, collective dieback and natural disasters.

Guidance note: The action plan provides a spatial view of the MU and a temporal view of the activities planned in the management plan. Depending on the challenges, the age of the stands and the scheduled management activities, it can be used to define the actions required to maintain or gradually restore a network of living habitat-trees in the Management Unit.

A 6.6.4 The average of living habitat-trees is achieved over the lifetime of the next management plan.

6.6.5 Living habitat-trees are:

- 1) designated according to the action plan defined in 6.6.4;
- 2) designated outside of the *set-aside areas**;
- 3) identifiable in the field by parties via a method adapted to their risk of disappearance, no later than before the final phases of harvesting in the regular stands and before harvesting in the irregular stands.

Guidance note: Living habitat-trees may be designated in dispersed fashion in the stands of the Management Unit or grouped together in the form of corridors or clusters. Designation as a habitat-tree may be performed over a series of interventions (inventory, marking of trees for felling, any harvest, etc.), for example by recording living habitat-trees in a document (tree marking sheets, stand description sheets, management plans, etc.) or in a geographical information system. The methods used to identify living habitat-trees may, for example, involve the marking of trees, noting down GPS data or providing a description on the worksite sheet or the signed specifications. Training and/or awareness-raising sessions for employees of The Organization and parties (2.5.2) are an efficient way of reducing the risk of the disappearance of living habitat-trees during cutting operations.

6.6.6 At the latest during the final phases of harvesting in the regular stands and during harvesting operations in the irregular stands planned as part of the schedule of harvesting and forest management operations, an average of at least five living habitat-trees per ha are maintained. If the number of living trees with the features of a habitat-trees in these stands is insufficient:

- 1) trees are designated in this stand to be kept in order to develop these features; and/or
- 2) living habitat-trees are designated in other stands of the Management Unit.

Guidance note: The average of living habitat-trees per ha is calculated at the MU level. This average therefore changes over time according to the implementation of activities and the schedule of harvesting and forest management operations and is achieved no later than the date on which the management plan is revised as per 6.6.4.

VS 6.6.6 The living habitat-trees found are maintained with a minimum target of five per ha.

6.6.7 All dead trees standing or on the ground are kept (other than the exceptions mentioned in indicator 10.11.2.).

6.6.8 Management measures enable the maintenance of habitats associated with the forest (ponds and pools, moorland and grassland, wet meadows, peatlands, margins, etc.) or the improvement of their condition when they have been significantly degraded.

6.6.9 The balance between the populations of large game species (fallow, red and roe deer, and wild boars) and stands (especially as regards forest regeneration), habitats and habitats associated with the forest is assessed.

Non-PSG 6.6.9 Damage caused by populations of large game species to forest stands is assessed.

PSG 6.6.10 In the event of an imbalance, measures are identified, within the framework of management objectives and the situation of the forest owner as regards hunting rights, to reduce the impact of large game species on stands, habitats and associated environments.

6.6.11 When the forest owner holds hunting rights:

- 1) a hunting plan request is drawn up or checked, taking into account any damage or imbalance identified;
- 2) clear rules are drawn up in leases and contracts at renewal should the hunting plan not be complied with (penalties, conditions for termination, etc.);
- 3) a ban on the use of baits/lures (scattering of grain, tar resin, salt blocks, etc.) is included in leases and contracts at renewal or within a three-year period, unless regulatory or legal provisions require the occasional use of dissuasive scattering of grain.

Guidance note: Forest owners with hunting rights have several tools available to them to monitor the efficiency of the hunting plan and support, where applicable, a request to increase the scope of the plan. The procedures for declaring damage caused by game species are useful in this context.

6.6.12 When the forest owner does not have hunting rights, the procedures for declaring damage caused by game species are implemented and:

- 1) a notice concerning the hunting plan is sent to the Departmental Commission on Hunting and Wild Animal Life (CDCFS) and/or;
- 2) engagement is conducted with the individual or legal entity holding the hunting right.

Non-PSG 6.6.12 The forest owner is informed of the procedures for declaring damage caused by game species.

Guidance note: Although the problems associated with the balance between big game species and the forest are a major challenge for forest management in France, it is clear that in many cases forest owners and managers have only partial control of the regulation of big game species populations. FSC may not under any circumstances oppose current regulations by redistributing the roles assigned to each stakeholder in the management of this issue. Indicators 6.6.9 to 6.6.12 are intended to encourage forest owners and managers to maximize the opportunities for intervention afforded them within the regulatory framework.

M 6.6.1 Control measures are taken regarding the collection of non-timber forest products when it threatens the species range and the conservation of biodiversity.

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

- 6.7.1 Natural water bodies and watercourses, and riparian zones (including *riparian forests**) are identified and mapped, and are the subject of protection measures that maintain the habitat features or restore them to more natural conditions.
- 6.7.2 A buffer zone is defined and maintained along the edges of natural water bodies, watercourses and wetlands:
 - 1) its width is determined according to the protection measures identified in 6.7.1; and
 - 2) it includes all of the *riparian forests**; and
 - 3) in all cases, it is at least equal to 10 m from the bank or the boundary of the wetlands.

Guidance note: No clear cutting is carried out in this zone (10.5.3), other than as part of restoration activities (10.5.6). Harvesting is not however prohibited. It may, for example, be carried out on clusters of trees or individual trees (6.5.2).

- 6.7.3 Measures for the restoration of natural water bodies and watercourses, wetlands and riparian zones are implemented, if they have been damaged by management activities.
- 6.7.4 Measures are taken to recreate *riparian forests** through engagement with stakeholders over a minimum width of 10 m from the edge or boundary of the wetlands if they have disappeared due to past management activities.
- 6.7.5 No obstacle to water flow and fish movement is created.
- 6.7.6 Existing artificial blockages are removed or eliminated when The Organization has the authority to do so.
- 6.7.7 Management and harvesting activities for which notification must be served or for which permission must be applied are identified. The associated documentation is available. Recommendations are implemented if applicable.

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 stands in terms of species, sizes, age class, spatial distribution and dynamic stages is maintained in accordance with the functional processes sustaining the ecological landscape in which the Management Unit is located.
- 6.8.2 When the current mix does not allow for the optimum ecological functionality of the landscape, measures are taken within the Management Unit to contribute to restoring it.

Guidance note: The ecological functionality of the landscape and preservation of biodiversity can only be sustainably ensured over large areas, exceeding the size of existing Management Units in Metropolitan France. However, regardless of the surface area, The Organization can analyse its contribution and integration within the ecological landscape. This is a key factor for guaranteeing the Management Unit's ecological and economic resilience in the context of current climate changes.

The actions contained in other criteria and guidelines set forth in the Standard also make a contribution and attest to the positive impact on the landscape of management practised as per the FSC Standard. This is particularly true of Criterion 6.1, for environmental values in general (including the cultural values of the landscape); Criterion 6.5, for the green corridor (conservation network and *representative areas** guaranteeing connectivity for forest biodiversity); Criterion 6.6,

for the diversity of forest species; Criterion 6.7, specifically for the connectivity of hydro-systems (blue corridor); Criterion 6.9, for the maintenance of a minimum naturalness; and Principle 9, for guaranteeing the preservation of High Conservation Values identified in the Management Unit. All of these requirements therefore fulfil this Criterion.

6.9. The Organization* shall not convert *natural forests 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 area 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**.**

Guidance note: The definitions of natural forests and plantations have been adapted to include parameters relating to species diversity, proportion of native species and maturity, which are described in the Glossary of Terms. In the French silvicultural context, these definitions are more commonly referred to as semi-natural forest and cultivated forests, terms which have been used in the French version of the standard to facilitate its comprehension.

How these definitions are to be applied is explained in Annex B.

6.9.1 The status of each stand – semi-natural forest or cultivated forest – is known.

6.9.2 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 For each stand with the status of cultivated forest established between 1 December 1994 and 31 December 2020:

- 1) the date of assumption of responsibility by The Organization is known;
- 2) its previous status is known.

Non-PSG 6.10.1 When the Management Unit has no management record, the previous status is defined via a sworn statement by the forest owner.

6.10.2 Areas converted from semi-natural forest to cultivated forest 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 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 FSC Remedy Framework, or
- 4) The Organization qualifies as a small-scale smallholder.

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

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

6.11.1 For each stand with the status of cultivated forest established after 31 December 2020 within the Management Unit, the previous status is known.

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

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

PRINCIPLE* 7: MANAGEMENT PLANNING*

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

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

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

7.1.2 Specific, operational management objectives are defined and enable:

- 1) the underlying biodiversity supporting the ecosystem to be preserved or strengthened;
- 2) the long-term preservation of all of the ecosystem services;
- 3) all of the requirements of this standard to be met.

Guidance note: Some ecosystem services may be affected by elements that do not come under the responsibility of The Organization, especially depending on the size of the Management Unit (e.g. water quality, which depends on management of the entire drainage basin). In this case, it is the participation of The Organization to the preservation of these services, through its management practices, that must be assessed.

7.1.3 A summary of the policies and management objectives is publicly available at no cost.

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 framework and associated documentation set forth a plan for the management actions, procedures, strategies and measures required to achieve the management objectives over a minimum period of 10 to 20 years.

7.2.2 The management plan at Management Unit level is implemented and addresses the following elements:

- 1) A summary of the policies and management objectives, as stipulated in Criterion 7.1
- 2) Administrative information
- 3) Land-tenure and forest types description
- 4) Legal review
- 5) Equipment and roads
- 6) Environmental challenges, as stipulated in Principles 6 and 9
- 7) Social challenges, as stipulated in Principles 2, 4, 5 and 9
- 8) Forest management analysis, as stipulated in Principle 5

- 9) Probable developments in local conditions due to climate change by 2050 at an *appropriate** spatial level, and their potential impact on economic, environmental and social challenges
- 10) The strategies put in place and steps taken to meet the economic, environmental and social challenges, taking into account the potential impacts of climate change
- 11) Forest management measures, as mentioned in Principles 5 and 10, and a programme of operations (cutting schedule and planned interventions over time)
- 12) Low-impact logging measures
- 13) Stand and conservation area maps
- 14) Description of the monitoring programme, as stipulated in Principle 8.

Guidance note: These requirements may be found in other documents: a sustainable management plan (DGD), a document specific to FSC, a group-level document, etc.

Non-PSG 7.2.2 The contents of the management plan are adapted according to the specific requirements for these forests, spread across the various principles of this standard.

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 The verifiable targets, as well as the frequency and scale at which they are evaluated, are established in order to monitor progress towards achievement of each management objective, in accordance with the challenges identified and the risk assessment as per 6.2.

Non-PSG 7.3.1 Only the targets corresponding to the priority challenges or high risks are established.

7.3.2 The verifiable targets are used as a basis for the monitoring required as per Principle 8. The variables for which targets are established may, for example, include (non-exhaustive list):

- 1) Site productivity, yield of all products harvested;
- 2) Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the vegetation;
- 3) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna;
- 4) Water quality and quantity;
- 5) Soil erosion, compaction, fertility and carbon content;
- 6) Wildlife populations, biodiversity and status of High Conservation Values;
- 7) Sensitive cultural and environmental resources;
- 8) Stakeholder satisfaction with engagement;
- 9) Benefits of management operations provided to local communities;
- 10) Number of occupational accidents; and/or
- 11) Overall economic viability of the Management Unit.

Non-PSG 7.3.2 Only the targets corresponding to the priority challenges or high risks are established.

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 framework is periodically revised to include:

- 1) the results of monitoring and internal assessment;
- 2) the result of stakeholder engagement;
- 3) new scientific and technical information, and
- 4) changes in the ecological, social and economic context, and
- 5) changes made by The Organization.

7.4.2 The management plan at Management Unit level is periodically revised (every 10 to 20 years). Between these revisions, major new developments, arising from the sources defined in 7.4.1 or the results of verification audits, give rise, where necessary, to the drafting of amendments.

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 The management framework, or summary thereof, is publicly available in electronic format at no cost. It must contain the following elements:

- 1) A summary of the policies and management objectives (7.1);
- 2) Pertinent information concerning the silvicultural guidelines and practices adopted;
- 3) Pertinent cartographic information;
- 4) A summary of the results of monitoring (8.4);
- 5) Public summaries of internal and external audit reports.

7.5.2 The management plan at Management Unit level, excluding confidential information, is available to stakeholders on request at the actual and non-prohibitive cost of reproduction and handling.

Non-PSG 7.5.2 The elements available are limited to the stand maps and the description of the forest management and harvesting procedures.

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.**

Guidance note: When engagement has already taken place satisfactorily beforehand with all stakeholders in the framework of other regulatory or contractual mechanisms, the implementation of a new engagement process is not mandatory for aspects already dealt with by these mechanisms (e.g.: CFT, DOCOB Natura 2000). This does not release The Organization from its requirement to respond to stakeholders' requests (7.6.3). Additionally, if a significant number of stakeholders are dissatisfied with the conditions in which the former engagement process took place, a new process must be conducted.

The stakeholders identified may be different depending on the level concerned: management framework or management plan at MU level.

7.6.1 Stakeholders are identified and a list is kept up to date.

- 7.6.2 Stakeholders are provided with an opportunity for engagement concerning:
- 1) Management activity monitoring and planning processes that affect their interests, and
 - 2) Identification of the means of avoiding or reducing such impact.
- 7.6.3 The Organization systematically responds to requests received from stakeholders.
- 7.6.4 The engagement process is planned (mechanisms, content, etc.) in keeping with local conditions and contexts in order to ensure the quality of the dialogue and to maximize stakeholder participation.
- 7.6.5 An up-to-date record is kept of the engagement processes carried out, the requests received from stakeholders and the responses given to them.
- 7.6.6 The list of documents publicly available at no cost to the stakeholders is online on The Organization's website or one of its social media platforms, along with a contact email address.

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 Monitoring procedures are put in place for periodic monitoring of:

- 1) implementation of the management plan (including its policies and management objectives);
- 2) achievement of the verifiable targets defined in 7.3;
- 3) mandatory indicators listed in annex F.

Non-PSG 8.1.1 Monitoring only covers the priority challenges stipulated in 7.3.1 and the mandatory indicators of annex F.

8.1.2 The monitoring procedures are adapted for:

- 1) the level (management framework document or Management Unit level document) and activities concerned;
- 2) the challenges identified; and
- 3) the results of the impact risk assessment conducted as per 6.2.

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 conditions.

8.2.1 Monitoring procedures are put in place for periodic monitoring of the social and environmental impacts of management activities, as well as changes in environmental conditions.

Non-PSG 8.2.1 Actions that have had or may have a significant environmental and/or social impact are monitored.

8.2.2 The monitoring procedures are adapted to:

- 1) the level (management framework document or Management Unit level document) and activities concerned;
- 2) the challenges identified; and
- 3) the results of the impact risk assessment conducted as per Criterion 6.2.

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

8.3.1 The results of monitoring and assessment are analysed and activities adapted in a timely manner to ensure that the requirements of this Standard are complied with.

8.3.2 Analysis of the results of monitoring and assessment is integrated into the periodic review of the management plan (see Criterion 7.4).

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

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

8.4.1 A summary of the monitoring results, excluding confidential information, is made publicly available at no cost (see Criterion 7.5).

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 marketed as FSC-certified. In this context:

- 1) *Transaction verification** is supported by providing FSC transaction data, as requested by the certification body and Assurance Services International (ASI);
- 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 and Assurance Services International (ASI).

8.5.2 Information about all products sold is compiled and documented, including at least the following elements:

- 1) Species (common and scientific name);
- 2) Product type
- 3) Volume (or quantity) of product;
- 4) Information for tracing materials to the logging block of origin;
- 5) Logging or production date; and
- 6) Whether or not the material was sold as FSC-certified.

8.5.3 Sales invoices and ancillary documents are kept for a minimum of five years for all products sold with an FSC claim, specifying at least the following information:

- 1) Name and address of purchaser;
- 2) Date of sale;
- 3) Species (common and scientific name);
- 4) Product type
- 5) Volume (or quantity) sold;
- 6) Management / Control Chain Certificate code;
- 7) The "FSC 100%" claim identifying products sold as FSC-certified.

8.5.4 If all of the information listed in 8.5.3 is not included in the sales invoices (for example, details of the common and scientific names of the species), it is possible to establish a clear link between the invoices and the ancillary documents provided to the purchasers so as to ensure their effective use as part of their FSC control chain.

8.5.5 The staff members and *contractors** concerned are informed or trained to apply control chain verification.

8.5.6 When using the FSC brand on products, invoices and delivery notes, measures are taken to ensure that the requirements of Standard <FSC-STD-50-001 Requirements for use of the FSC trademarks by Certificate Holders> are complied with.

Guidance note: FSC standards relating to the traceability and use of the trademark can be downloaded from the FSC France website.

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**.

Guidance note: The notion of High Conservation Value includes both the value itself (e.g. a protected species) and the area needed for its maintenance (e.g. the species habitat).

- 9.1.1 An assessment (location, condition, threats) of High Conservation Values (HCV) is conducted in accordance with the Annex E: High Conservation Value Framework (metropolitan area), and using the best available information.

Guidance note: These sources of information are listed in Annex E and include at least:

- available local mapping of sub-natural forests
- data provided by ZNIEFF 1 and Natura 2000 sites (ZSC, ZPS)
- data provided by other strict protection (i.e. legally-protected) area defined at national level
- the description of the habitat features included in the MU
- data derived from engagement with stakeholders
- data derived from naturalist reference material and databases.

- 9.1.2 The assessment incorporates the results of stakeholder engagement.

- 9.1.3 High Conservation Values are mapped, as far as available information allows.

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 Before forest management operations begin, management strategies and actions are defined according to threats identified in 9.1.1 and implemented to guarantee the maintenance and/or enhancement of the state of the High Conservation Values identified.
- 9.2.2 The management strategies and actions incorporate the best available information and the results of engagement with stakeholders and other experts. When this information and the results of stakeholder engagement are not sufficient to define an effective strategy, complementary studies are carried out.
- 9.2.3 The results of engagement are made available to stakeholders upon request.

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

- 9.3.1 The state of High Conservation Values and areas necessary for their maintenance is preserved and/or enhanced.
- 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.

Guidance note: Indicator 9.3.2 aims to implement the precautionary approach set out in the criterion. It does not imply an obligation for the Organization to produce scientific information when it is incomplete or inconclusive. The various diagnostics carried out in the context of this reference system, including the risk analysis carried out in 6.2.1, can be used to define the relevant strategies and actions.

- 9.3.3 When *sub-natural forests** are identified in local inventories or the National action plan for old-growth and *sub-natural forests**, they are considered as HCV 2 and fully protected in the form of *set-aside areas**.
- 9.3.4 When High Conservation Values are identified, *appropriate** clauses are defined in the specifications for forestry operations and the worksite sheet, including for *contractors**, operators and their subcontractors.
- 9.3.5 Activities that harm High Conservation Values cease immediately and actions are taken to restore and protect the High Conservation Values concerned.

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 is carried out to assess:
 - 1) implementation of the strategies;
 - 2) the state of High Conservation Values; and
 - 3) the effectiveness of the management strategies and actions to ensure maintenance and/or enhancement of the High Conservation Values.
- 9.4.2 The monitoring program includes engagement with stakeholders and other experts.

- 9.4.3 The monitoring program has a scope, scale, detail and frequency that are sufficient to detect changes in High Conservation Values, relative to the initial assessment.
- 9.4.4 Management strategies and actions are adapted when monitoring program results or other new information show these strategies and actions to be 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 Natural regeneration or planting after harvesting is carried out in order to:

- 1) ensure the sustainability of timber resources (7.1.2);
- 2) protect environmental values (6.1);
- 3) strengthen the *adaptability** of future stands to withstand the impact of climate change (5.2) by diversifying the target species and/or support species, encouraging mixing with native species insofar as this is possible at the site.

10.1.2 Natural regeneration is preferred over sowing or planting in semi-natural forests where conditions at the site allow this, taking into account climate change. In all cases, decisions are justified in the field.

10.1.3 In the case of planting, plant or seed certificates of origin are kept.

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

10.2.1 The species selected for regeneration are always adapted to the site and fulfil the management objectives set out in 7.1.

10.2.2 Species chosen for regeneration are native and from local genotypes, unless clear and convincing justification is provided for using non-local genotypes or alien species.

10.2.3 When non-local genotypes of native species are used, this is justified on the basis of the latest recommendations made by forest research bodies, and the potential impacts on the environmental values of the High Conservation Values in the context of climate change are identified and avoided.

Guidance note: It is recommended to compile mixes of plants taken from various regions of origin and from various mixes of stands from within those origin regions (see the forest reproductive material sheets published by the French Ministry of Agriculture and Food for a given species.).

10.2.4 When alien species are chosen, it is done in accordance with the orders by the French state regarding forest reproductive materials. The following impacts and risks are identified, minimized and documented on the basis of the latest recommendations made by forest research bodies, especially in a context of climate change:

- 1) Impact on biodiversity;
- 2) Local socio-economic impacts (employment, recreational use, etc.);
- 3) Impact of species flammability on fire risk (see indicator 10.9.1);
- 4) Risk of genetic contamination with sensitive native species (see annex C).

Guidance note: These impacts and risks will be assessed at the most pertinent level for The Organization (Management Unit, massif, forest-ecoregion, group, etc.). Where there is no risk of genetic contamination, the genetic proximity of the introduced species to the species already in place is seen as a risk mitigation factor in terms of biodiversity. Geographical proximity is another

risk mitigation factor: the shorter the distance between the current distribution area of the introduced species and the site where it is going to be planted, the lower the risks for biodiversity. There is less of an impact in introducing species already present in Metropolitan France, or at least within Europe, than in introducing species originally from other continents. The impact of species flammability on fire risk also concerns native species, as per indicator 10.9.1.

10.2.5 Alien species are not planted in the conservation area network nor in areas of High Conservation Value.

10.2.6 Alien species are planted in plots with an area greater than 4 ha:

- 1) using silvicultural practices enabling the maintenance of a *significant mix** of species, including through the natural regeneration of native species; and
- 2) with a *significant mix** featuring at least two native species; or
- 3) with a *significant mix** featuring at least one native species when it is shown that conditions at the site, in the context of climate change, cannot ensure the maintenance and sustainable development of the native species diversity indicated in point 2.

10.2.7 Alien species are planted in plots smaller than 4 ha using silvicultural practices enabling the maintenance of a mix of species, including through the natural regeneration of native species.

Guidance note for 10.2.6 and 10.2.7: Native species may be chosen as target species or as support species. In order to maximize biodiversity, it is preferable to choose native species belonging to different genera. The presence of diversity of native species in the Management Unit (6.6.2) and at landscape level (6.8) are key factors in guiding diversification efforts, including in plots < 4 ha. Actions taken to encourage natural regeneration may be included in silvicultural activities and be assessed, for example, via plantation density and/or during the first thinning.

10.2.8 Single-species planting of alien species (including those not included in the orders regarding forest reproductive materials) is possible for experiments, especially as part of research on adapting to climate change, on surface areas of a maximum of 5 ha and provided a monitoring protocol is implemented.

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 The planting of invasive alien species (Annex D) is prohibited, other than in the following cases:

- 1) Red oak (*Quercus rubra*) in the conditions identified in 10.3.2;
- 2) Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) only in the context of indicator 10.2.8 in order to participate in identifying efficient practices to limit its invasive nature.

10.3.2 Planting of red oak (*Quercus rubra*) may be authorized on the basis of reasoning concerning the intensity of its invasive nature and its impact in the local context.

Guidance note: The invasive nature of red oak may vary from one site to another (for example, in certain cases, its invasive nature is more notable on plains below 500 m). This species is therefore considered in principle to be invasive in this Standard, although this is not yet the case in French legislation. Its use in the context of responsible FSC management is regulated as stipulated in Indicators 10.3.4 and 10.3.5.

- 10.3.3 When Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) account for less than 25% of the mix of species in the forest cover or the basal area, the silvicultural practices defined and implemented do not promote it as a target species to the detriment of the other species present.

Guidance note: When the Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) account for more than 25% of the plot, it may be defined as a target species in the context of indicators 10.3.4 and 10.3.5.

- 10.3.4 The impacts of invasive alien species (including pre-existing stands) are monitored taking into account the size of the MU, the challenges identified, and the mid- and long-term behaviour of the invasive species in forest habitats and are assessed at management plan level.

- 10.3.5 Active control measures are put in place if the invasive alien species affect the values of the following sensitive areas:

- 1) High Conservation Value areas;
- 2) Conservation area networks;
- 3) Buffer zones for watercourses, water bodies and wetlands defined in 6.7.2;
- 4) Open habitats associated with the forest in 6.6.7.

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

- 10.4.1 Genetically modified organisms are not used.

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

- 10.5.1 Each silvicultural system is defined according to:

- 1) management objectives (7.1.2);
- 2) identified silvicultural, economic, environmental and social challenges, especially in the context of adapting to climate change (4.5.1; 5.2.1; 6.1.1).

Guidance note: The diversification of silvicultural systems is a means to address the economic, environmental and social challenges. More natural silvicultural systems (e.g. regular silvicultural structure with old wood or with regeneration groups for over 30 years, continuous cover forestry, etc.) offer advantages to be promoted in FSC certification in metropolitan France.

- 10.5.2 Low-impact harvesting specifications are drafted and implemented, including by *contractors**. They are in compliance with existing technical guidelines and standards, and cover the following points as a minimum requirement:

- 1) protection of the environmental values (6.1) and High Conservation Values (9.1, 9.2 and 9.3)
- 2) soil protection (10.10 and 10.11);
- 3) protection of natural water bodies and watercourses, wetlands, buffer zones and riparian forest (6.7);
- 4) protection of forest habitats and habitats associated with the forest, and of flora and fauna (6.4).

- 10.5.3 There are no *clearcuts** in the following situations:

- 1) High Conservation Value areas (9.1, 9.2 and 9.3);
- 2) conservation areas network (6.5.1);
- 3) buffer zones at the edges of watercourses, water bodies and wetlands (6.7).

Guidance note: The conservation area network covers at least 10% of the Management Unit. The width of the buffer zones at the edges of watercourses, water bodies and wetlands is defined according to the management measures required to conserve them. They include the entire surface area of the forests and are in any case at least 10 m wide.

10.5.4 The maximum size of a single area of *clearcut** is:

- 1) 5 ha;
- 2) 2 ha if the slope is greater than 30%.

10.5.5 The maximum threshold indicated in point 1 of 10.5.4 may be adjusted on the basis of documented case-by-case reasoning, taking into account the technical feasibility of alternative silvicultural systems adapted to climate change, and only in the following conditions:

- 1) pure coppice stands; or
- 2) poplar groves; or
- 3) coniferous plantations, if regeneration of the stand and the silvicultural activities are scheduled and implemented in such a way that any future *clearcut** comply with the threshold specified in point 1 of 10.5.4. This is recorded in the management plan.

Guidance note: Both management of the impacts of climate change and evolving expectations within society tend to push forestry management practices towards greater supervision of clear cutting. However, forest managers often inherit forest types and stands that have not been designed or managed with these challenges in mind. Indicator 10.5.5 is intended to take into account the field situations where changes in practice must be managed in a more gradual way.

Non-PSG 10.5.5 The reasoning for any adjustments to the maximum threshold noted in 10.5.4 point 1 takes into account threshold effects related to the forest plot.

10.5.6 If all conditions of 10.5.5 are met, steps are taken to manage landscape sensitivity to harvesting operations and the area adjustment does not exceed 10 ha in a single area.

10.5.7 In order to determine the size of *clearcuts**, the Organization may use different separation values to those identified in the definition of a single area if it can demonstrate the maintenance of elements of continuity:

- 1) on which there has been engagement with stakeholders, and
- 2) that help to reduce the cumulative impacts of the clear-cut areas within the Management Unit, especially as regards the environmental values, the stability of the remaining stands and the uses of the local communities.

10.5.8 If The Organization can demonstrate one of the following three situations, indicators 10.5.2 and 10.5.3 do not apply:

- 1) substantial damage caused by an exceptional event;
- 2) critical condition of the stand;
- 3) activities restoring or recreating the natural features of the habitats that require the existing stand to be reopened or converted to more natural conditions.

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.**

Guidance note: Indicators 10.6.1, 10.6.5, 10.6.6 and 10.6.7 concern all types of fertilizer, including organic fertilizers, and soil *amendments**. Indicators 10.6.2 and 10.6.3 only concern chemical fertilizers. Indicator 10.6.4 only concerns soil *amendments**.

10.6.1 No fertilizer is used in semi-natural forests.

10.6.2 No chemical fertilizer is used in cultivated forests, unless it can be demonstrated that the organic alternatives, whilst technically viable, are not available at an acceptable cost for the required forest use (resource available, efficiency, forms adapted to conditions of storage and use).

10.6.3 When chemical fertilizers are used, their use must in all cases be:

- 1) justified and documented;
- 2) limited to one application per rotation;
- 3) limited to one local application on individual trees or a plantation row;
- 4) prohibited less than 10 m from the edge of natural and artificial watercourses and water bodies (including ditches), permanent or intermittent water sources and wetlands.

10.6.4 Soil *amendments** are only used occasionally and provided their sole objective is to permanently restore damaged production capacity. This is documented.

10.6.5 When fertilizers or soil *amendments** are used, the types of fertilizers or soil *amendments** used, the dosages, areas covered, frequency and method of application are all recorded.

10.6.6 When fertilizers or soil *amendments** are used, environmental values are protected, including through implementation of measures to prevent damage.

10.6.7 If damage resulting from the use of fertilizers or soil *amendments** occurs, their use ceases immediately and the management activities are modified to prevent and mitigate or repair damage.

10.6.8 Sewage sludge is not used.

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 No chemical pesticides or herbicides are used.

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

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

10.8.2 The use of biological control agents complies with national legislation and the scientific protocols accepted at international level.

- 10.8.3 The use of biological control agents is recorded, including the type, amount used, date, place and reason for use.
- 10.8.4 Environmental values are protected from any impact caused by the use of biological control agents.
- 10.8.5 If there is any damage resulting from the use of biological control agents, their use ceases immediately and the management activities are modified to prevent and mitigate or repair damage.

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 Management activities are defined and implemented to:

- 1) mitigate the vulnerability and strengthen the *adaptability** of stands against the impacts of *exceptional events** and climate change, and especially with regard to increased fire risk for certain species;
- 2) prevent and reduce risks for property and people.

Guidance note: The impacts of exceptional events refers to occasional impacts (e.g. extreme climate events, incidents and natural catastrophes), while the impacts of climate change include more predictable long-term effects (e.g. health vulnerability, drought and fire risk). Increased fire risk for certain species may concern alien species (10.2.4) as well as native species.

10.9.2 The management activities implemented include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) identification of the risks of *exceptional events** and the impacts of climate change (indicator 5.2.1), especially fire risk;
- 2) awareness-raising sessions with parties working in forest settings about the prevention of fire risks;
- 3) consideration of and compliance with the Departmental Dossier on Major Risks (DDRM), the Natural Risk Prevention Plan (PPRN), the Forest Fire Protection* Plan (PPFCI) and the massif plan, where they exist;
- 4) compliance with Forest Fire Prevention (DFCI) measures recommended in the PPFCI, where applicable;
- 5) compliance with the Legal Obligations for Clearing out Undergrowth (OLD) incumbent upon the owner of the Management Unit.

Guidance note: Identification of the fire risk may be focused on the interface between the “fuel” (types of stand, climate change context) and the “spark” (in the immense majority of cases, due to human activities). Other prevention or risk reduction measures may, for example, involve transferring the roads and access plan to the Departmental Fire and Emergency Service (SDIS) and/or working on discontinuity of the horizontal and vertical of sources of fuel. Where the risk is high, arbitration may prove necessary for certain management decisions, depending on the various challenges (e.g. between biodiversity and fire risk).

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 Measures are identified and implemented regarding the development, maintenance and use of infrastructure, to guarantee:

- 1) protection of the environmental values identified in Criterion 6.1;
- 2) protection of the areas of High Conservation Value identified in Criterion 9.1;
- 3) protection of the watercourses and water bodies, wetlands and *riparian forest**;
- 4) the integrity of existing roads and pathways to the Management Unit.

Guidance note: In the event of the development of new infrastructures, indicator 10.10.1 applies both inside and outside of the Management Unit, i.e. to the entire layout of the infrastructure, whether or not included in an FSC-certified Management Unit.

10.10.2 When disturbance or damage to values listed under 10.10.1 occur, they are mitigated and repaired in a timely manner, and management activities are modified to prevent further damage.

10.10.3 All infrastructure projects are justified and their viability demonstrated, in terms of the service life of the investment, by the products derived from the plots served and/or by objectives that are not economic (for example, reception of the public).

10.10.4 Soil preparations are minimized so as to protect the environmental values (6.1) whilst also enabling regeneration (10.1), notably:

- 1) the creation of new internal drainage systems in the plot is prohibited, unless there is a risk to the sustainability of the stand and agreement is obtained from competent stakeholders;
- 2) intensive cultivation techniques to break up compacted soil, such as sub-soiling (depths exceeding 25 cm), are only used to restore compacted soil to operating state or to fragment an interlayer;
- 3) complete ploughing is prohibited.

Guidance note: It is important to take information on soil fertility and load-bearing capacity into account when adapting works and harvesting activities.

10.10.5 Stump removal is prohibited except:

- 1) for sanitary reasons (i.e. soil pathogens) as justified by an expert authority (Forest Health Agency (DSF), advisor holding a regulatory certificate for the use of pesticides);
- 2) in a post-storm situation. In this case, at least five stumps or stump bases per ha are preserved in their current state to be used as habitat-trees;
- 3) with the aim of fighting against invasive alien species (10.3). This option is not automatic and is considered on a case-by-case basis according to all identified environmental challenges (6.1).

10.10.6 When timber windrows are used, they are implemented in such a way as to reduce impacts on the soil, mainly by retaining the first layers of organic matter.

Means of verification: Field inspection.

10.10.7 The necessity of implementing a harvesting rack network is identified so as to:

- 1) limit the surface area affected by machinery being driven on the soil;
- 2) enable harvesting of all forestry products;
- 3) protect the environmental values (6.1).

10.10.8 When implementing harvesting rack networks, their layout is optimized according to the topography, the stand and, where applicable, the network of windrows and the challenges listed in 10.10.7.

Guidance note: The best available information for indicator 10.10.7 and 10.10.8 is preferably based on the PROSOL guide (ONF and FCBA, 2009) and the “Récolte durable de bois pour la production de plaquettes forestières” (Sustainable timber harvesting for the in-forest production of woodchips) guide (ADEME, 2020).

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

10.11.1 Harvesting and extraction practices for timber and non-timber forest products are implemented so as to:

- 1) reduce the impacts on the soil and preserve the environmental values identified in Criterion 6.1 and High Conservation Values identified in Criteria 9.1 and 9.2;
- 2) prevent or reduce damage caused to other products and services.

Guidance note: The definition of harvesting and extraction practices adapted to meet these objectives may center, among other things, on the harvesting method (mechanical or not, cable-driven, etc.), the harvesting period (condition of the soil, nesting periods, etc.), the soil load-bearing capacity and the machinery used.

10.11.2 Dead or decomposing trees, standing or on the ground, are kept in the forest for their biological values (6.6.5), with the exception of cases justified due to *exceptional events** or collective dieback.

Means of verification: field inspection, photos, harvesting specifications.

10.11.3 Extraction of forest residue is limited to materials with a small-end diameter of 7 cm, with the exception of cases listed in 10.11.4.

10.11.4 The extraction of forest residue with small-end diameter of less than 7 cm or the extraction of whole trees is authorized only in the following cases. Extraction is documented, always performed after shedding or allowing for drying time after cutting so that the leaves fall within the plot, and when the risks for soil fertility are low or moderate for cases 3, 4 and 5:

- 1) During preservation/restoration of open habitats or wetlands requiring active control of natural dynamics, for which the export of the biomass is necessary. This is to be defined on a case-by-case basis, based on the best available information;
- 2) For the maintenance of external woodland edges or spaces subject to regulatory priorities (e.g. edges of busy roads, military areas, areas concerned by Forest Fire Prevention (DFCI) measures). In this case, the width of the woodland edge is justified;
- 3) For the harvest of *coppice stands** in critical condition;
- 4) For opening harvesting partitions if it is justified that the operation would not have been economically viable without extracting whole trees;

- 5) For harvesting undergrowth that is preventing natural regeneration if it is justified that the operation would not have been economically viable without extracting whole trees. In this case, at least 10% of the cut undergrowth is left in the forest;
- 6) For harvesting firewood if it is justified that the operation would not have been economically viable without a small-end diameter of less than 7 cm.

Means of verification for item 3 for Management Units with a sustainable management plan (DGD): field inspection, photos.

10.11.5 For the cases listed in 10.11.4, the extraction of forest residue with small-end diameter of less than 7cm is documented, always performed after shedding or allowing for drying time after cutting so that the leaves fall within the plot, and when the risks for soil fertility are low or moderate for cases listed in items 3, 4, and 5.

Guidance note: Soil fertility risks may be assessed via their sensitivity to the export of chemical nutrients, as is detailed in the “Récolte durable de bois pour la production de plaquettes forestières” (Sustainable timber harvesting for the in-forest production of woodchips) guide, (ADEME 2020).

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

10.12.1 Non-organic waste generated during management activities is collected and processed in *appropriate** supply chains away from forest operations and in compliance with environmental safety methods and legal requirements. This is documented.

10.12.2 Organization employees and *contractors** are aware of and implement the waste management policy. The training or information process is documented.

10.12.3 For machinery and equipment owned by The Organization, progress objectives are defined and implemented regarding:

- 1) the use of European ecolabel-certified biodegradable chain lubricants for chainsaws and felling heads; and
- 2) the installation of vacuum pumps on felling head hoses.

Means of verification: invoices for oil cans used by The Organization, internal audit reports, machine purchasing specifications.

10.12.4 The other parties working in the Management Unit are made aware of:

- 1) the use of European ecolabel-certified biodegradable chain lubricants for chainsaws and felling heads;
- 2) the installation of vacuum pumps on felling head hoses.

Means of verification: purchasing specifications signed by the parties.

10.12.5 For all parties working in the Management Unit:

- 1) routine maintenance of machinery is conducted outside of the forest stands, and clear of watercourses and water bodies, wetlands and areas of HCV;
- 2) all necessary precautions are taken for repairs that must be carried out on site in order to avoid impacts;
- 3) suitable absorbents are available in the machinery.

10.12.6 When impacts are observed, measures adapted to each type of operator are implemented in proportion to the intensity of the damage.

Means of verification: site inspection reports, internal audit reports, penalties imposed on operators, reports to the DIRECCTE.

F. ANNEXES

(Normative section)

Annex A List² of applicable laws, regulations and nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions, and agreements.

Category	Law/ regulation
1 Legal rights to harvest	
1.1 Land-tenure and management rights	<p>Legislation covering land-tenure rights, including customary rights and management rights, which includes the use of legal methods to obtain tenure rights and management rights. It also covers the legal registration of businesses and tax registration, including relevant legally-required licenses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Civil Code: Art. 516 to 543 (The various kinds of things); Art. 537, 543, 544; Art. 544 to 577 (Ownership); Art. 625 to 636 (Right of use and habitation); Book III (How property is acquired). ○ General Code on Public Ownership: Art. L2212-1 (General rules of occupation); Part 1 of Books I (Methods of acquisition) and II (Acquisition procedures), Part II of Book II (Private assets) and Book III (Shared provisions); Part 3 of Book II (Private assets). ○ L107 A of the book on fiscal procedures. Decree no. 2012-59 of 18 January 2012 on the public issue of certain land registry information. ○ L166 G of the book on fiscal procedures. Art. R166 G-1 et seq. ○ Forestry Code: Art. L211-1 et seq. (Forestry regime) and L221-2 et seq. (National Forest Office (ONF), legal manager of state forests and responsible for application of the forestry regime in public forests mentioned in L211-1). ○ Internal memo: DGPE/SDFCB/2016-526 application of the forestry regime to all woods and forests likely to be subject to management, regular harvesting or recreation operations and belonging to local authorities and legal entities stipulated in article L.211-1 of the Forestry Code, or for which they have undivided rights of ownership. ○ Technical instruction: DGPE/SDFCB/2016-414 relating to the Acts, contracts and agreements for the occupation or use of State forests managed by the National Forest Office, application of decree no. 2015- 1584 of 4 December 2015. Competence of the National Forest Office (ONF).
1.2 Concession licenses	<p>Legislation regulating procedures for issuing forest concession licenses, including the use of legal methods to obtain concession licenses. Bribery, corruption and nepotism are well-known issues connected with concession licenses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Art. 537, 543 (Property in its relations with those who own it) and 544 (Ownership) of the Civil Code.

² Indicative list established on September 2023 and provided for information only. This list will not be automatically updated.

Category

Law/ regulation

- For private forests: Forestry Code: Art. L331-1 to L331-7 (Forest group); L315-1 (Professional forest managers); L315-2 (Contractual management by the National Forest Office of private forests); L231-1 to L231-6 (Forest management inter-municipality union); L232-1 to L232-3 (Forest management mixed union); L233-1 to L233-10 (Forest union group); L332-1 to L332-4 (Forest management union association); L332-5 (Union association for the protection of forest stands against damage from big game species); L332-6 (Shared forest management and harvesting bodies).
- General Code on Public Ownership, Part 4. (Other public ownership property transactions)
- All of the EU directives on “works” (as related to forest management).
- Public Procurement Code.
- Law of 29/01/1993 on the prevention of corruption and transparency in business practices and public procedures, supplemented by law no. 2016-1691 of 9 December 2016 on transparency, anti-corruption and the modernisation of business practices, known as the “Sapin 2 law”.

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.

Forestry Code:

- Section 1 “Management plans and guidelines” of chapter II of Title II of Book I, especially Art.L122- 2 (Regional forest management directives, regional forest management schemes, regional silvicultural management schemes).
- Art. L212-1 to L212-3 (Forest management document), L213-5 (Forest management and base for cutting) and L214-5 (Forest management), L122-5 (Management plans and guidelines) and L212- 4 (Standard management regulation); L312-1 to L312-12 (Content and approval of simple management plans), L313-3 (Silvicultural codes of practice); L312-5, L312-9 to L312-1, L124-5 (Administrative authorization regime); R312-20 (Administrative authorization regime).

Environmental Code:

- Art. L. 122-4 (Regional Forest Management Directives (DRA), Regional Forest Management Schemes (SRA) and Regional Silvicultural Management Schemes (SRGS), subject to environmental assessment), Art. R. 122-20 (obligation of an environmental report), Art. R. 122-17, I, 27° and R. 122-21 (environmental authority notice from the regional environmental authority of the Environment and Sustainable Development General Council sent to the regional department responsible for the environment).
- Circular [DGFAR/SDFB/C2004-5026](#) on the approval and inspection by State departments of the silvicultural codes of practice, introduced by the Forest framework law of 9 July 2001.

Category

Law/ regulation

- Circular DGFAR/SDFB/BOPF/C no. 2005-5018, 3 May 2005: Drafting of and approval procedure for forest management plans and guidelines covered by the forest regime: Regional Forest Management Directives (DRA), Regional Forest Management Schemes (SRA), forest management, Standard Forest Management Regulation (RTG).
- Order of 19/07/2012 stipulating the mandatory elements of the simple management plan for private forests and associated documents (Current version on 13 July 2023).
- Circular DGPAAT/SDFB/C2010-3111 of 15/12/2010 on the drafting and implementation of multi-year regional forest development plans.
- Circular DGPAAT/SDFB/C2010-3079 of 9/08/2010 on local forest development strategies.
- Circular DGPAAT/SDFB/C2010-3100 of 16/11/2010 on simplifying the administrative examination and inspection procedure for drawing up simple management plans.
- Circular DGPAAT/SDFB/C2012-3076 on the standard national framework for Simple Management plans.
- Technical instruction DGPE/SDFCB/2015-450 on the methods for examining simple management plans (PSG) and authorisations of exemptions to PSG cutting operations, their implementation and monitoring.
- Technical instruction: DGPE/SDFCB/2016-492 on concerted simple management plans.
- Technical instruction: DGPE/SDFCB/2020-720 on implementing support for the drafting of a concerted simple management plan with a view to creating a GIEEF (forest environment economic interest group) or support for the drafting an amendment to extend a concerted simple management plan of a GIEEF.
- Technical instruction DGPE/SDFCB/2017-69 of 23/01/2017 on the methods for examining cutting authorization requests in forests with no sustainable management plans, as per the provisions of articles L. 124-5 and L. 312-9 of the Forestry Code and 2-2° of article 793 of the General Tax Code.
- Technical instruction DGPE/SDFCB/2020-567 on Loss of the guarantee of sustainable management in cases where a simple management plan (PSG) is not effectively implemented in private forests.
- Technical instruction: DGPE/SDFCB/2017-441 on the drafting and approval of forest management documents in forests belonging to authorities or legal entities, covered by the forest regime.
- Technical instruction DGPE/SDFCB/2022-289 on the application of article L. 122-7 of the Forestry Code: drafting and application of green appendices to the Regional Silvicultural Management Scheme for private forests (SRGS) and compliance of forest management plans with these appendices.

Category	Law/ regulation
1.4 Harvesting permits	<p>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 connected with the issuing of harvesting permits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (Same as Section 1.3)
2 Taxes and fees	
2.1 Payment of royalties and harvesting fees	<p>Legislation covering payment of all legally-required specific forest harvesting 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 problem, often combined with bribery of officials in charge of controlling such classification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does not apply.
2.2 Value added taxes and other sales taxes	<p>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).</p> <p>General Tax Code:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Part 1, Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 2, VI, see Art. 777 (Tariff and liquidation); ○ Part 1, Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 2, II, see Art. 682 to 717 (Transfers for consideration of real property), Art. 793 (Monichon rebate); ○ Art. 150 U et seq. (Capital gains tax on transfers for valuable consideration); ○ VAT: Part 1, Title 2, Chapter 1, Art. 278 and 279 b septies (Reduced rate), 293B. (VAT exemption basis) and 298 I (Flat-rate reimbursement). <p>Technical instruction DGPAAT/SDFB/2015-402 on the procedures for partial exemption from asset transfer duties and solidarity tax on wealth (ISF) applicable to land in woods and forests, the procedures for issuing fiscal certificates by the DDT (M), inspections to be carried out and next steps.</p>
2.3 Income and profit taxes	<p>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. It does not include other taxes generally applicable to companies and is not related to salary payments.</p> <p>General Tax Code:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Income tax: Part 1- Title 1- Chapter 1 Art. 200 quindecies (Tax credit for certain forest management operations), Art. 206. (Companies and taxable authorities); ○ Corporate income tax: Part 1- Title I – Chapter II Art.197 (Income tax).

Category	Law/ regulation
3 Timber harvesting activities	
3.1 Timber harvesting regulations	<p>All legal requirements for harvesting techniques and technology, including selective cutting, shelter wood regeneration, 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 must be preserved during felling, etc. Establishment of sledging or hauling trails, road construction, drainage systems and bridges, etc., must also be considered, as well as the planning and monitoring of harvesting activities. All legally-binding codes for harvesting practices shall be considered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and Council of 31 May 2023 on making available on the Union market as well as export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) no 995/2010. ○ Title V of Book I of the Forestry Code: Art. L153-1 to L156-3 of the Forestry Code (Development of forests). ○ Order of 24 October 2003 on the marketing of forest reproductive materials (Current version on 13 July 2023). ○ Order of 24 October 2003 fixing the regions of origin of forest species (Current version on 13 July 2023). ○ Order of 24 October 2003 on entry into the French territory of the basic material of forest species (Current version on 13 July 2023). ○ In forests covered by the forest regime: National requirements for harvesting operations (CNPEF) for contracts concluded after 2020, National forest management regulations (RNEF) for contracts concluded before 2020.
3.2 Protected sites and species	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992. ○ Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1992. ○ Ramsar Convention, 2 February 1971, on Wetlands of International Importance. ○ UNESCO Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 16 November 1972. ○ Helsinki criteria (1993) and Vienna criteria (2002). ○ Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979). ○ Protocol for the application of the Alpine Convention in the field of nature protection and landscape maintenance (1991). ○ Birds Directive 2009/147/CE of 30 November 2009, replacing Council Directive 79/409/CEE of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds. ○ Council Directive 92/43/CEE of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

Category

Law/ regulation

- Regulation (EC) No 401-2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network.

Environmental Code:

- Complete Book III (Natural spaces: national parks, nature reserves, etc.);
- Book IV (Natural heritage) and especially Art. L411-1 and L411-2 (Conservation of sites of geological interest, natural habitats, animal or plant species and their habitats) and L414-1 et seq. (NATURA 2000).

Forestry Code:

- Art. L122-7 et seq. (Coordination of administrative procedures, integration of environmental challenges in forest management plans);
- First chapter of Title IV of Book I L141-1 et seq. of the Forestry Code (Forests with protective role);
- Art. L212-2-1 of the Forestry Code and L212-3 (Biological reserves).
- Circular [DGPAAT/SDFB/C2009-3038](#) on the inclusion of Natura 2000 in forest management documents covered by the forest regime.
- Technical note of 19 June 2019 (NOR: TREL1920052N) on application of the Natura 2000 impact assessment to forest management plans and guidelines and to cutting operations and other forest management activities.

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 machinery, 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 Code:

- Art. L122-1 to L122-11 (Environmental assessment);
- Art. L160-1 to 165-2 (Prevention and repair of certain damage caused to the environment);
- Art. L.214-3 (Authorization or declaration regimes, Law on water), L. 215-9 (Water policing and conservation), L. 215-14 (Maintenance and restoration and aquatic habitats) and L. 432-2 (Protection of fishing activities and their habitat);
- Book V, Title I (Facilities classified for environmental protection) and Title II (Chemicals, biocides and nanomaterials).
- Technical instruction: [DGPE/SDFCB/2017-295](#) on regulations related to environmental assessment of forest roads, afforestation and deforestation.

Category

Law/ regulation

- Rural Code: Title V of Book II (Protection of plants).

Forestry Code:

- Art. L112-1 (General interests), L112-2 (Forest owner obligations), L121-1, L121-2 and L121-2-1 (Major principles applicable to forestry policy);
- Art. L121-2-2 (National forest and timber management programme); Art. L122-7 et seq. (Coordination of administrative procedures, integration of environmental challenges in forest management plans).
- ⇨ In forests covered by the forest regime: National requirements for harvesting operations (CNPEF) for contracts concluded after 2020, National forest management regulations (RNEF) for contracts concluded before 2020. R. 425-21 to R. 425-23 and R. 425-28 to R. 425-30 of the Environmental Code.

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 the machinery used. Legally-required safety requirements in relation to the use of chemicals. The health and safety requirements that shall be considered in relation to forestry operations (not office work or other activities less related to actual forest operations).

- Labour Code: complete Part 4 (Occupational health and safety); Part 4, Book VII including Title II, Section 1, Art. R4121-1 to R4121-4 (Single occupational risk assessment document); Part 8, L8112-1 to L8123-6 (Expertise and means of intervention).
- Rural Code: Section 4 “Forest management operations and silvicultural activities” in Chapter VII of Title I of Book VII.
- Order of 31 March 2011 relating to the worksite sheet specified in article R.717-78-1 of the Rural Code (Current version on 13 July 2023).
- Order of 24 January 2017 relating to forest management operations for Chablis wine production and felling of hung-up trees in application of article R. 717-78-5 of the Rural and Maritime Fishing Code (Current version on 13 July 2023).
- Technical instruction SG/SAFSL/SDTPS/2018-79 26/01/2018 on implementation of the regulation covering health and safety rules at forestry and silvicultural sites (Current version on 13 July 2023).
- In forests covered by the forest regime: National requirements for harvesting operations (CNPEF) for contracts concluded after 2020, National forest management regulations (RNEF) for contracts concluded before 2020. R. 425-21 to R. 425-23 and R. 425-28 to R. 425-30 of the Environmental Code.

3.5 Legal employment

Legal requirements for the 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 the payment of social-security contributions and income taxes deducted by the employer. Also covered are the observance of minimum working age and minimum age for personnel involved in hazardous work, legislation to combat forced

Category

Law/ regulation

and compulsory labour, and discrimination and freedom of association.

- Labour Code: Part 1, Title III, Art. L1131-1 to L1134-5 (Discriminations); Book 2: Parts 2 and 3; Part 4, Title V; Part 6; Part 8, including L8112-1 to L8123-6 (Allocation of authority across various ministerial departments); Part 8, Book 2 complete, including L8211-1 to 8272-4 (Combating illegal employment).

Rural and Maritime Fishing Code:

- Art. L722-23, D722-3-1, D722-32 and D722-33 (Lifting of the presumption of salaried status of persons employed in forestry operations or logging companies);
- Title VII of Book I (Land and agricultural experts and forestry experts).
- Technical instruction [SG/SASFL/SDTPS/2016-394 27/04/2016](#) on the lifting of the presumption of salaried status for forestry operations/logging contractors.

Forestry Code:

- Art. L154-2 and L154-3 (Professional qualification requirement);
- Section 1 “Professional forest manager” of Chapter V of Title I of Book III.
- Order of 29 November 2012 on the application to be submitted in order to obtain certification attesting to status of professional forest manager (Current version on 13 July 2023).
- Circular DGPAAT/SDFB/C 2013-3004 of 9 January 2013 on the implementation of the professional forest manager system.

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.

Forestry Code:

- Art. L122-9 to L122-11 (Inclusion in the visitor management documents);
- Art. L241-1 to L241-19 (Rights of use in State woods and forests); L242-1 to L244-1 (Rights of use and estover rights); L213-24 to L213-26 (Grazing, hunting and ancillary products), L261-9 to L261-11 (Rights of use and estover rights); R241-1 to R243-3 and R261-9 to R261-17 (Rights of use and estover rights);
- Art. L314-1 to L314-3 (Rights of use in private forests);
- Art. R213-45 to R213-60 (Hunting operations):

Environmental Code:

- Art. L420-1 to L429-40 (Hunting) and R421-1 to R429-21 (Organization of hunting).

Category	Law/ regulation
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 Organization in charge of the harvesting operation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does not apply.
4.3 Indigenous Peoples’ rights	<p>Legislation that regulates the rights of Indigenous Peoples, insofar as it is related to forestry activities. Possible aspects to consider are land tenure, as well as rights to use certain forest related resources and practice traditional activities, which may involve forest lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does not apply.
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 way of reducing or avoiding payment of legally-prescribed taxes and fees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does not apply.
5.2 Trade and transport	<p>All necessary trading and transport permits must be established, as well as the legally required transport documents which accompany the transport of wood from forest operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and Council of 31 May 2023 on making available on the Union market as well as export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) no 995/2010. ○ Section 4 “Transport of round wood” from chapter III of Title III of Book IV of the highway code. <p>Transport Code:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Order of 9 November 1999 on the transport or rental documents that must be carried on board road freight vehicles, Art. 2, 4, 7, 8 & 9 (Current version on 13 July 2023). ○ Order of 25 September 1991 on the execution of combined transport of goods between the Member States of the European Economic Community amended by the following text: order of 21 February 1995 (Current version on 13 July 2023). ○ Decree No. 2009-1424 of 19 November 2009, derogating from the provisions relating to payment terms in the round wood sector for the supply of forestry and primary wood processing companies.
5.3 Offshore trading and transfer pricing	<p>Legislation regulating offshore trading. Offshore trading with related companies based in tax havens, combined with artificial transfer prices, is a well-known way of avoiding payment of legally prescribed taxes and fees to the country of harvest. This practice is considered to be an important source of funds for the payment of bribes and the obtaining of “dirty money” for forest operations and the personnel involved in harvesting. Many countries have established legislation covering transfer pricing and offshore trading. It should be noted that</p>

Category	Law/ regulation
	<p>only transfer pricing and offshore trading, as far as it is legally prohibited in the country, can be included here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does not apply.
5.4 Customs regulations	<p>Customs legislation covering areas such as export/import licenses and product classification (codes, quantities, qualities and species).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Customs Code: Art. 23 bis (Special import provisions), 68 to 82 (Imports); Art. 22 and 23 (Special export provisions), 83 (Exports); Art. 28 (Definition, assimilation and classification). ○ Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and Council of 31 May 2023 on making available on the Union market as well as export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) no 995/2010. ○ European Council (EC) Regulation No. 2173/2005 of 20 December 2005 concerning the establishment of an FLEGT licensing scheme for imports of timber into the European Community. ○ European Commission Regulation No. 1024/2008 of 17 October 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation No 2173/2005 concerning the establishment of an FLEGT licensing scheme for imports of timber into the European Community. ○ Technical instruction DGPE/SDFCB/2016-755 on the Regime applicable to imports of wood and timber products subject to the obligations stipulated in the FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade) regulation.
5.5 CITES	<p>CITES permits (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Washington Convention).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ European Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein. ○ European Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1497-2003 of 18 August 2003 amending European Council Regulation (EC) No. 338-97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein. ○ European Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1808/2001 of 30 August 2001 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of European Council Regulation (EC) No. 338/97 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein.

Annex B Examples of implementation of the definitions of semi-natural and cultivated forests

a) Articulation with natural forest and plantation definitions

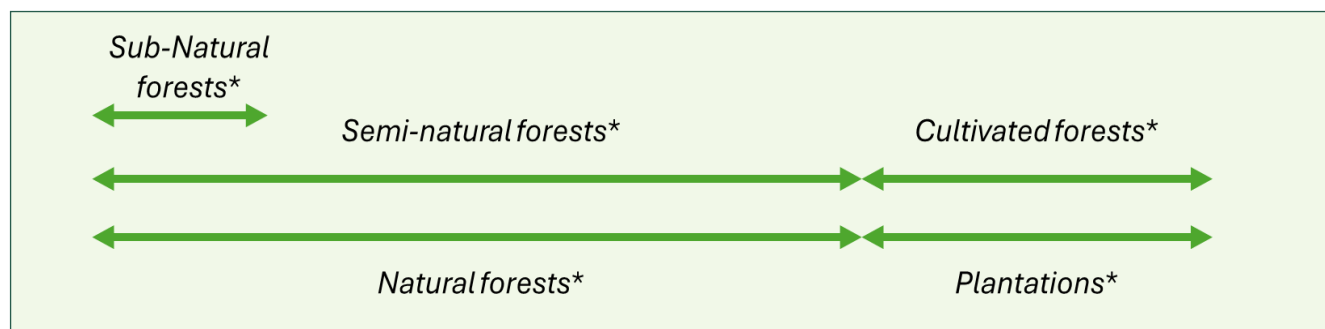


Figure. 1: Articulation between international definitions and national adaptations

b) Implementation

The definition applies at the forest plot level. For each criterion below (diversity, native status and maturity) defining a category (“semi-natural forest” or “cultivated forest”) a score of 1 is applied if the parameter is verified, 0 if not. If the sum of the scores for all parameters is equal or superior to 2, the forest plot is considered as fulfilling the definition of the chosen category.

The Organization shall use simple tools (description of forest timber stand) to define the status of semi-natural forests and cultivated forests, without having to take detailed measurements of the stand parameters when this is not necessary.

Given the local diversity of stands, other parameters may be defined through engagement with stakeholders in order to facilitate the categorization of ambiguous cases.

c) Indicative comparison of typical stands using the “semi-natural forest” and “cultivated forest” definitions

Reminder: using the semi-natural forest definition, $\Sigma \geq 2$ = SNF “semi-natural forest”; $\Sigma \leq 1$ = CF “cultivated forest”.

Criteria	Diversity	Native status	Maturity	Sum	Qualification
Parameters Yes = 1/No = 0	Basal area of main species < 75%	Basal area of native species > 75%	Rotation period for the main stand > 75 years		
Sub-natural forest	1	1	None; 1	3	SNF
Regular stand of Oak in the Centre-West region	0	1	1	2	SNF
Regular stand of Pinus sylvestris in the Massif Central region	0	1	1	2	SNF
Irregular stand of Pinus maritimus in the Landes de Gascogne region	0	1	1	2	SNF

Criteria	Diversity	Native status	Maturity	Sum	Qualification
Parameters Yes = 1/No = 0	Basal area of main species < 75%	Basal area of native species > 75%	Rotation period for the main stand > 75 years		
Regular stand of broadleaves or mixed stands	0 to 1	0 to 1	1	1 to 2	CF or SNF
Mediterranean scrubland	1	1	None; 1	3	SNF
Coppice stand of Oak or Beech	1 or 0	1	0	2 or 1	CF or SNF
Coppice stand of <i>Castanea sativa</i>	0	1	0	1	CF
Coppice stand of <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	0	0	0	0	CF
Regular stand of <i>Pinus maritimus</i> with short rotation in the Landes de Gascogne region	0	1	0	1	CF
Regular stand of Douglas fir or Spruce in lowlands	0	0	0 to 1	0 to 1	CF
Poplar grove (clones)	0	1	0	1	CF

Annex C Interpretation of the notions of native and alien species for France

a) Typology of species

Species are classified according to a simple and historical typology:

- **Native** species: species whose presence in the silvo-ecoregion is due only to natural processes (colonization, competition)
- **Archeophyte** species: species introduced by human activity in the silvo-ecoregion before 1500 AD, sometimes as long ago as the Middle Ages or Gallo-Roman times (*Catanea sativa* for example)

Archeophyte species will be considered as native for the purposes of this Standard.

- **Neophyte** species: species introduced after 1500 AD

In this Standard, alien species will be limited to neophyte species.

b) Definition

The native status level of a forest plot is assessed in terms of the proportion (%) of native species in the overall area of the forest plot.

The scale chosen to define the native status is the biogeographic region ([INPN website](#)). Biogeographic regions are based on European divisions and are used in particular as reference for Natura 2000 areas. Certain species (Sycamore maple, Heart-leaved alder, Hop hornbeam, Norway spruce, Corsican pine) have required a finer subdivision of these areas based on some of the major ecological regions ([GRECO](#)) defined by the IGN: Pyrenees, Corsica, Vosges, Jura. The boundaries of these GRECOs are available on the IGN website.

Native status is considered at species level and does not take into account sub-species.

A list is set out below, based on the list drawn up by the *Commission des Ressources Génétiques Forestières* (French Forest Genetic Resources Commission).

The following sources of information may also be used:

- Distribution maps drawn up by Rameau et al. (2008) and/or;
- EUFORGEN distribution maps (http://www.euforgen.org/distribution_maps) and/or;
- French Botanical Society white paper on alien species in forests.

c) Justification

Native status is a notion that concerns the processes of biological adaptation of trees to their habitats. Native species are genetically a product of the natural selection pressures to which they have been subject since the beginning of the Holocene period (last glaciation). Furthermore, native status is a parameter involved in the assessment of their potential carrying capacity for associated species: each tree species is associated with a specific group of other species (flora, fauna, fungi, etc.), which cannot always survive with alien species.

In this Standard, this parameter is taken into account when defining forest plots as “semi-natural” or “cultivated”.

d) Genetically-sensitive native species

For certain species such as oak, hybridisation between various species is a common, natural process and provides a significant advantage in terms of adaptation. Other species are considered to be more sensitive to genetic pollution, which may eliminate part of their genetic potential. Native species that must be included in genetic pollution risk assessments when introducing alien species (indicator 10.2.4) include European Silver Fir (*Abies alba*) and Pyrenean Pine (*Pinus nigra* subsp. *salzmannii* (Dunal) Franco 1).

Table 1 - Native status of species in metropolitan France by biogeographic region

Scientific name of the species	Common name	Categories of basic material available	Covered by Forestry Code regulations	Atl.	Cont.	Alp.	Med.
<i>Abies alba</i>	Silver or European Silver fir	Selected	x		Native	Native	
<i>Abies borisii-regis</i>	Bulgarian fir						
<i>Abies bornmuelleriana</i>	Turkish fir	Qualified	x				
<i>Abies cephalonica</i>	Grecian fir	Identified, Qualified	x				
<i>Abies cilicica</i>	Cilician fir						
<i>Abies equi-trojani</i>	Trojan fir						
<i>Abies grandis</i> Lindl.	Vancouver or Grand fir	Identified					
<i>Abies marocana</i>	Moroccan fir						
<i>Abies nebrodensis</i>	Sicilian fir						
<i>Abies nordmanniana</i>	Caucasian fir						
<i>Abies numidica</i>	Algerian fir						

Scientific name of the species	Common name	Categories of basic material available	Covered by Forestry Code regulations	Atl.	Cont.	Alp.	Med.
<i>Abies pinsapo</i>	Spanish fir	Identified	x				
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	Identified	x	Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Acer monspessulanum</i>	Montpellier maple						Native
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway maple	Identified	x	Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore maple	Identified (Origin: APS 400 Massif Central), Selected	x		Native	Native other than in the GRECO Pyrenees	Native
<i>Alnus cordata</i>	Italian alder	Identified	x				Native in the GRECO Corsica only
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Black alder or European black alder	Identified		Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Alnus incana</i>	Grey alder	Identified	x		Native	Native	Native
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver birch	Identified	x	Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Downy birch	Identified	x	Native	Native	Native	
<i>Calocedrus decurrens</i>	Incense cedar						
<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	European hornbeam	Identified	x		Native	Native	
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Chestnut	Identified (Origin: CSA 800 Corsica), Selected	x	Native	Native	Native	Native

Scientific name of the species	Common name	Categories of basic material available	Covered by Forestry Code regulations	Atl.	Cont.	Alp.	Med.
<i>Cedrus atlantica</i>	Atlas cedar	Selected, Tested	x				
<i>Cedrus libani</i>	Cedar of Lebanon		x				
<i>Celtis australis</i>	European nettle tree						Native
<i>Cupressus arizonica</i>	Arizona cypress						
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>	Mediterranean cypress						Native
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i> Labill.	Southern blue gum	Identified	x				
<i>Eucalyptus gunnii</i> Hook.f	Cider gum	Identified	x				
<i>Eucalyptus gunnii x dalrympleana</i>	Eucalyptus Gundal	Tested	x				
<i>Eucalyptus nitens</i>	Eucalyptus nitens, Shining gum or Silvertop		x				
<i>Fagus orientalis</i>	Oriental beech						
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	European beech	Selected	x	Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Fagus taurica</i>	Crimean beech						
<i>Fraxinus angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved ash	Identified					Native

Scientific name of the species	Common name	Categories of basic material available	Covered by Forestry Code regulations	Atl.	Cont.	Alp.	Med.
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	European or Common ash	Identified (Origin: FEX 400 Massif Central), Selected, Qualified		Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Juglans major x regia L.</i>	Hybrid walnut	Identified, Qualified	x				
<i>Juglans nigra L.</i>	American black walnut	Identified	x				
<i>Juglans nigra x regia L.</i>	Hybrid walnut	Identified, Qualified	x				
<i>Juglans regia L.</i>	Common walnut	Identified	x	Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Larix decidua</i>	European larch	Selected, Qualified	x			Native	
<i>Larix kaempferi Carr.</i>	Japanese larch						
<i>Larix sibirica Ledeb.</i>	Siberian or Russian larch						
<i>Larix x eurolepis Henry</i>	Hybrid larch	Qualified, Tested	x				
<i>Liquidambar orientalis</i>	Oriental sweet gum						
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	American tulip tree						
<i>Ostrya carpinifolia</i>	European hop-hornbeam		x			Native other than in the GRECO Pyrenees	Native

Scientific name of the species	Common name	Categories of basic material available	Covered by Forestry Code regulations	Atl.	Cont.	Alp.	Med.
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway spruce	Selected, Qualified	x		Native in the GRECO Vosges and Jura only	Native other than in the GRECO Pyrenees	
<i>Picea omorika</i>	Serbian spruce						
<i>Picea orientalis</i>	Oriental spruce						
<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	Sitka spruce	Selected					
<i>Pinus brutia</i>	Brutia pine		x				
<i>Pinus canariensis</i> <i>C.Smith</i>	Canary Island pine						
<i>Pinus cembra</i>	Swiss stone pine	Identified	x			Native	
<i>Pinus contorta</i>	Lodgepole pine						
<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Aleppo pine	Selected	x				Native
<i>Pinus heldreichii</i>	Bosnian pine						
<i>Pinus leucodermis</i> <i>Antoine</i>	Bosnian pine						
<i>Pinus nigra</i>	European black pine	Selected	x				

Scientific name of the species	Common name	Categories of basic material available	Covered by Forestry Code regulations	Atl.	Cont.	Alp.	Med.
<i>Pinus nigra</i> Arn. ssp <i>salzmannii</i> (Dunal) Franco	Spanish black pine	Selected	x				Native
<i>Pinus nigra</i> var. <i>calabrica</i> (J.W.Loudon) Hyl.	Calabrian black pine	Qualified	x				
<i>Pinus nigra</i> var. <i>corsicana</i> (J.W.Loudon) Hyl.	Corsican black pine	Selected, Qualified, Tested	x				Native in the GRECO Corsica only
<i>Pinus peuce</i>	Macedonian pine						
<i>Pinus pinaster</i>	Maritime pine	Identified (PPA303 Atlantic dunes), Selected, Qualified	x	Native			Native
<i>Pinus pinea</i>	Stone pine or Umbrella pine	Identified, Selected	x				Native
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Monterey pine	Identified, Selected					
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	White pine or Weymouth pine						
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots pine or Scotch pine	Selected, Qualified	x		Native	Native	Native
<i>Pinus taeda</i> L.	Loblolly pine	Selected, Qualified					

Scientific name of the species	Common name	Categories of basic material available	Covered by Forestry Code regulations	Atl.	Cont.	Alp.	Med.
<i>Pinus uncinata</i>	Mountain pine				Native	Native	
<i>Pistacia atlantica</i>	Mt. Atlas mastic tree						
<i>Platanus orientalis</i>	Oriental plane or Old World sycamore						
<i>Populus alba</i>	White or Silver poplar	x				Native	Native
<i>Populus nigra</i>	European black poplar	x		Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Eurasian aspen	x		Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Wild cherry	x		Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Cherry plum or Myrobalan plum						
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas fir	x					
<i>Pterocarya fraxinifolia</i>	Caucasian wingnut or walnut						
<i>Pyrus pyraeaster</i>	Wild pear			Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	Turkey oak or Austrian oak	x					Native
<i>Quercus frainetto</i>	Hungarian oak						
<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Holm oak or Holly oak	x		Native		Native	Native

Scientific name of the species	Common name	Categories of basic material available	Covered by Forestry Code regulations	Atl.	Cont.	Alp.	Med.
<i>Quercus nigra</i>	Water oak						
<i>Quercus palustris</i>	Pin oak or Swamp oak						
<i>Quercus pedunculiflora</i>	Greyish oak						
<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile oak			Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy oak or Pubescent oak		x	Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Quercus pyreneica</i>	Pyrenean oak or Spanish oak			Native	Native		
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate oak			Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern red oak						
<i>Quercus suber</i>	Cork oak		x	Native			Native
<i>Quercus trojana</i>	Macedonian oak						
<i>Quercus virgiliana</i>	Oak of Virgil						
<i>Quercus vulcanica</i>	Kasnak oak						
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black locust		x				
<i>Salix alba</i>	White willow			Native	Native	Native	Native

Scientific name of the species	Common name	Categories of basic material available	Covered by Forestry Code regulations	Atl.	Cont.	Alp.	Med.
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat willow or Pussy willow			Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	Coastal redwood or California redwood						
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan or European mountain ash			Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Sorbus domestica</i>	Service tree or sorb tree	x		Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Sorbus intermedia</i>	Swedish whitebeam						
<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	Wild service tree	x		Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Taxodium distichum</i>	Bald cypress or Swamp cypress						
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Common yew			Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved lime	x		Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	Large-leaved lime	x		Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Tilia tomentosa</i>	Silver lime						
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych elm or Scots elm			Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Ulmus laevis</i>	European white elm			Native	Native	Native	

Scientific name of the species	Common name	Categories of basic material available	Covered by Forestry Code regulations	Atl.	Cont.	Alp.	Med.
<i>Ulmus minor</i>	Field elm			Native	Native	Native	Native
<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Siberian elm						

Annex D List of invasive species for France (metropolitan area)

a) Definition (FSC Terms and Glossary)

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

b) Justification

The introduction of invasive alien species is one of the main causes of biodiversity loss (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005). In recent decades, deliberate or accidental introductions of invasive or potentially-invasive species have increased in forest areas (*Mimosa* spp., *Prunus serotina*, American and Korean squirrels, *Robinia pseudoacacia*, etc.).

The problems caused by these invasions become more serious year by year, particularly in fragile habitats (e.g. riparian forests). Even though the control and elimination of these species is difficult, they need to be strictly monitored. They must not be introduced deliberately.

Included in the French National Strategy for Biodiversity, the effort to combat invasive alien species is a strong commitment of the Grenelle de l'Environnement (see article 23 of the Grenelle Law – 3 August 2009).

c) Implementation

There are a number of databases on invasive alien species (status and risks). They cover all types of species belonging to the various kingdoms. The first table below lists the tree species commonly used in forest plantations, while the second table lists – for information purposes only – the tree, shrub and plant species that can occasionally be found in forests. These lists take into account species whose invasiveness has been confirmed in the field and in neighbouring countries, even if they are not yet recognized as such in France.

France:

- <http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/listeEspeces/statut/metropole/J>
- Bio Intelligence Service, 2010, Recensement des actions de lutte menées en France métropolitaine contre les espèces exotiques envahissantes, MEEDDM / MEDDTL

Europe:

- <http://www.europe-aliens.org/default.do> (consider species having “established” status)

Worldwide:

- <http://www.issg.org/database/species/search.asp?sts=sss&st=sss&fr=1&x=0&y=0&sn=&rn=France&hci=-1&ei=-1&lang=EN> (check in particular “trees” and “shrubs”)

d) List of the main invasive forest species

Scientific name	Common name	Bibliographical reference
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	False acacia or Black locust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (French national history museum) : http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/listeEspeces/statut/metropole/J ○ Bio Intelligence Service, 2010, <i>Recensement des actions de lutte menées en France métropolitaine contre les espèces exotiques envahissantes</i>, MEEDDM / MEDDTL
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern red oak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Belgian Forum on Invasive Species: http://ias.biodiversity.be/species/show/87 ○ <i>Évaluation des indicateurs nationaux de biodiversité forestière</i> – Hamza et. Al 2007 – Inventaire Forestier National (p.69)

e) Indicative (non-exhaustive) list of other invasive tree, shrub and plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Bibliographical reference
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver wattle, Blue wattle or Mimosa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (French national history museum): http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/listeEspeces/statut/metropole/J
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Australian blackwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (French national history museum): http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/listeEspeces/statut/metropole/J
<i>Acer negundo</i>	Box elder or Ashleaf maple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (French national history museum): http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/listeEspeces/statut/metropole/J
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/cd_nom/80824 Tree of heaven	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (French national history museum): http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/listeEspeces/statut/metropole/J
<i>Cytisus multiflorus</i>	White broom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (French national history museum): http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/listeEspeces/statut/metropole/J
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Common or Pontic rhododendron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (French national history museum): http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/listeEspeces/statut/metropole/J
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	American pokeweed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bio Intelligence Service, 2010, <i>Recensement des actions de lutte menées en France métropolitaine contre les espèces exotiques envahissantes</i>, MEEDDM / MEDDTL
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Black cherry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bio Intelligence Service, 2010, <i>Recensement des actions de lutte menées en France métropolitaine contre les espèces exotiques envahissantes</i>, MEEDDM / MEDDTL

Annex E High Conservation Value Framework (metropolitan area)

a) Methodology used

The purpose of the French framework for High Conservation Values (HCVs) is to clarify this concept, which is the subject of Principle 9 of the forest management standard, for metropolitan France.

The framework was drawn up through engagement with scientific experts, naturalists, managers of forests or nature reserves, representatives of institutions and local authorities, and independent auditors. It also incorporates feedback from public consultations and clarifications made to version 1.0 of the forest management standard.

b) High Conservation Values in FSC certification

A distinction needs to be made between High Conservation Values and the environmental and cultural values considered in Principles 4, 6 and 10 of the forest management standard.

High Conservation Values (HCVs) are defined internationally (see Principle 9 and the documentation available on the [HCV network website](#)). **They are necessarily connected, spatially and even temporally, with a particular location.** Type-1 HCVs, in particular, are defined in terms of a special habitat, a species habitat or a site of special interest for heritage species (sites used for nesting, hibernation, etc.).

Non-normative documents that may facilitate application of HCV-related requirements

- [Toolbox: maintaining High Conservation Values \(in French\)](#)
- Forest stewardship standard implementation guide (in French)

c) Principle 9 in practice

According to Principle 9, The Organization applies the sequence presented in Figure 1 to the High Conservation Values (HCVs) in its Management Unit (MU).

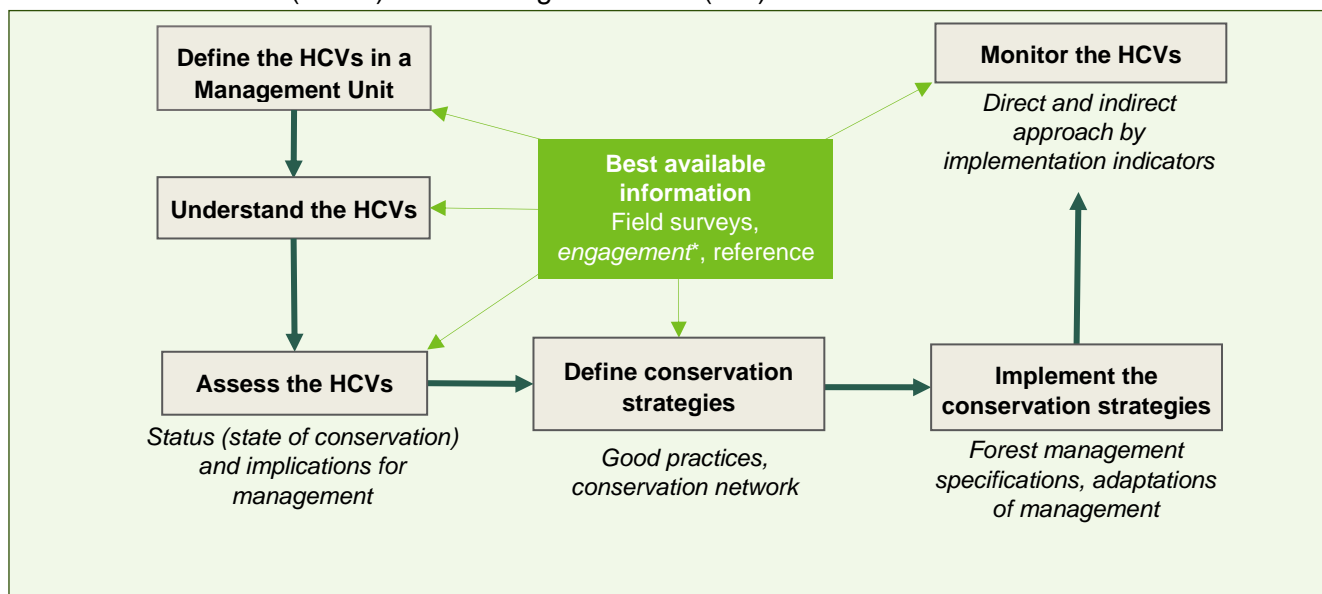


Figure 1. Stages in the process of identification, assessment (Criterion 9.1), adaptation of management (Criteria 9.2 and 9.3) and monitoring (Criterion 9.4) of High Conservation Values

NOTE: This sequence also applies to Criterion 6.4 in that, insofar as regulation is concerned, the species and habits covered by this criterion are taken into account via Principle 9 or Principle 1.

d) Defining the HCVs in a Management Unit

Reminder of the six international categories

- **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.

For metropolitan France, the group of experts chose to combine categories 1 and 3 in order to facilitate their identification in the field. This category is therefore defined as including habitats, or habitats of rare, threatened or endangered species that are significant at global, regional or national levels. In France, for example, this includes species and habitats of priority interest from the Natura 2000 directives, ZNIEFF 'determining' species and habitats, or species regarded as threatened on the national Red List.

HCV1 and HCV3:

Type 1 and 3 HCVs are defined by The Organization according to the best available information established by the data listed below.

1) Field data

This is The Organization's primary source of knowledge. Field data are absolutely vital when The Organization can obtain only meagre data from engagement with stakeholders or from the available literature, or in the case of HCVs that are little accounted for in the national tools and not always well known by the stakeholders.

The Organization is able to **assess the characteristics of the habitat** in ecosystems that make up its MU, **know their potentialities** on the basis of the best available information and **identify the presence/absence of HCV species/habitats**. If this is not the case, The Organization is able to demonstrate that it is working to improve its capacity to identify HCVs.

2) Engagement with stakeholders

This process is described in Criterion 7.6. Engagement is a process of constructive dialogue with stakeholders. Final decisions are made by the Organization, on the basis of well-founded justifications. Stakeholders are identified at the beginning of the FSC certification process. They are mainly local or regional players.

Engagement is implemented in such a way as to ensure that the work of both the Organization and the stakeholders is as efficient as possible: the aim is to maximize stakeholder participation by adapting to each situation both the documents transmitted and the mode of discussion (telephone, e-mail, meetings). Engagement can be carried out for several MUs at the same time if relevant (same type of HVC, , territorial coherence of the MUs, etc.).

The information gathered is incorporated into the management plan. Any decision arising from the engagement process is justified and communicated to the stakeholders.

3) **Scientific literature and naturalist knowledge**

Literature research covering naturalist studies, reports, data (especially on the INPN's [OpenObs portal](#), in French), management plans which concern the Management Unit and analysis of old maps (available in open access on the [IGN Geo-portal](#), in French) are to be carried out by The Organization. Such research prepares the ground for and/or helps to complete the engagement process and the field description phase. If there are no data or reference material available, The Organization is not required to pay for additional expert reports.

4) **Existing areas**

In France, there are a large number of national and regional tools for identifying and managing HCVs (these tools are described in the standard implementation guide). These tools enable management and/or monitoring measures appropriate to the effective conservation of HCVs to be identified more easily.

Some areas need to be analysed as a matter of priority by The Organization.

- **Type-1 ZNIEFFs** (Zones naturelles d'intérêt écologique faunistique et floristique / Natural Areas of Ecological Fauna and Flora Interest). Defined as "Sectors of generally limited area, defined by the presence of species, associations of species or environments which are rare, remarkable or characteristic of the national or regional natural heritage", on the basis of lists of species and 'determining' habitats, at the regional level, approved by Regional Scientific Natural Heritage Councils (more information available on the [INPN website](#), in French).
- **Natura 2000 sites (Special Conservation Area and Special Protection Area)**. Defined at national level, and included in the European network, on the basis of lists of species/habitats of priority interest (more information available on the [INPN website](#)).
- **Strict (legally-protected) conservation areas** defined at national level (**reserves, core areas of national parks, Prefectural Biotope Protection Orders**).

Figure 2 summarises the stage for defining HCV 1 and HCV 3 that The Organization shall follow at the level of its MU:

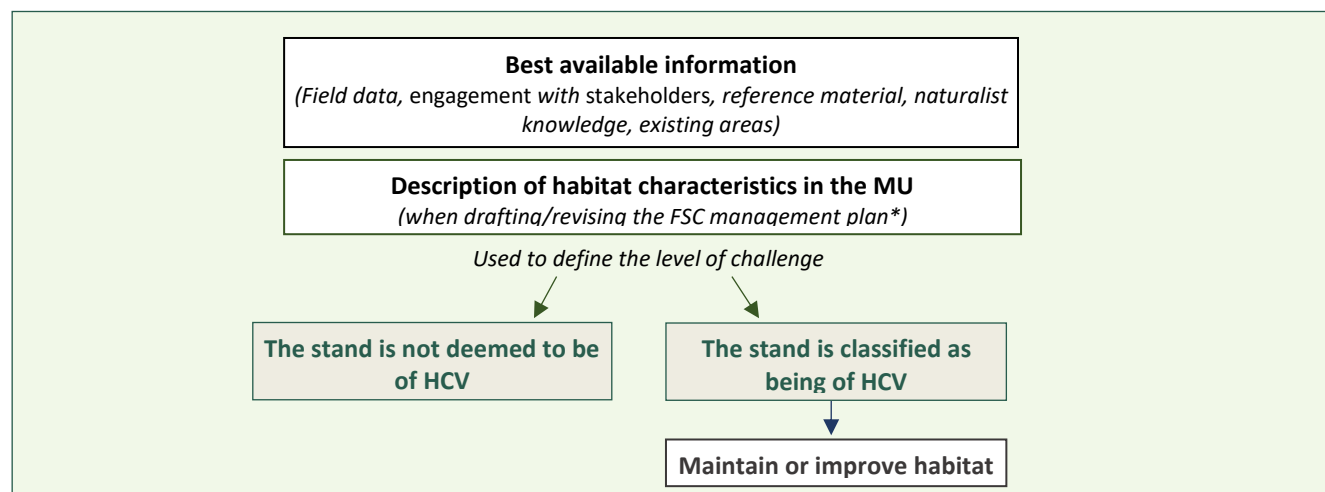


Figure 2. Flowchart of the stage for defining HCV 1/3 by The Organization

HCV 2

Sub-natural forests or old-growth forests as defined by the National Action Plan for Old-growth and Sub-natural Forests are defined as HCV 2 at national level.

French Governmental Ministries are working currently on mapping sub-natural forests (ancient and mature) in metropolitan France. Pending publication of the results of this work, the regional data available may be used by The Organization (may be viewed [here](#)). The Organization shall also be mindful in its MU of including criteria on the age and maturity of stands that enable it to identify sub-natural forests. -

HCV 4

Forests with a regulatory protective role are defined as being HCV 4 at national level.

Forests playing a protective role are not all officially recognized and listed by the regulation. When a regional inventory is available (see the [IRSTEA](#) research work in the Rhône-Alpes region, for example), The Organization shall refer to them. Where no such research work exists, these forests shall be identified in the MU by The Organization on the basis of the best available information.

HCV 5

Immediate and proximate water catchment areas are defined as being HCV 5 at national level.

Other areas may be identified by The Organization on the basis of the best available information.

HCV 6

Peri-urban forests with a regulatory protective role are defined as being HCV 6 at national level.

Other areas may be identified by The Organization on the basis of the best available information, particularly the list of **archaeological sites managed by Regional Cultural Affairs Departments**.

Synthesis

Table 2 summarises the definition of HCVs for metropolitan France.

Table 2. Summary of definitions of HCVs in metropolitan France

Type of HCV	Status	HCV Area
HCV 1 & 3	To be defined according to the best available information	Area established on the basis of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Data provided by ZNIEFF 1 and Natura 2000 sites (ZSC, ZPS)○ Data provided by other significant protection areas defined at national level○ Description of the habitat characteristics forming the MU○ Data derived from engagement with stakeholders○ Data derived from naturalist reference material and databases.
HCV 2	To be defined according to the best available information	Sub-natural forests or old-growth forests as defined by the National Action Plan for Old-growth and Sub-natural Forests <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Local mapping of sub-natural forests may be viewed here

Type of HCV	Status	HCV Area
HCV 4	Defined	Forest with regulatory protective role (other than peri-urban)
	To be defined according to the best available information	Other areas defined by The Organization
HCV 5	Defined	Immediate and proximate water catchment protection areas
	To be defined according to the best available information	Other areas defined by The Organization
HCV 6	Defined	Peri-urban forest with regulatory protective role
	To be defined according to the best available information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other areas defined on a national scale (in particular archaeological sites managed by Regional Cultural Affairs Departments)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other areas defined by The Organization

This analysis may also help to identify regulatory scopes (Principle 1), sites of heritage significance (criterion 4.7) and environmental values (criterion 6.1).

e) Assessing the conservation status of HCVs

Assessment of the status of the HCVs will depend on the type of HCV involved. The protocols put in place should be based on the diagnostics run during the preceding stage.

This assessment is to be carried out prior to the initial audit for an individual certificate or a fixed-group certificate and at the entry of each member for an evolving-group certificate.

f) Adapting management in order to maintain and enhance HCVs

The effects of management are beneficial for some HCVs. In this case, The Organization must maintain them.

Other effects are likely to have a negative impact on HCVs. These impacts need to be identified and strategies defined and implemented to avoid and/or limit them. In any case, appropriate clauses are defined in the specifications for forestry operations and the worksite sheet.

The requirements referred to in Principles 6 and 10 and Criterion 4.7 are sufficient to avoid and mitigate most of the impacts that HCVs may suffer. Nevertheless, special attention needs to be paid to:

- sub-natural forests or old forests identified in local inventories or the National action plan for old wood and sub-natural forests. They are considered as HCV 2 and must be classed in their entirety as set-aside areas (9.3.3),
- species/habitats which require supplementary management measures, especially endangered species (EN) and critically-endangered (CR) species on national Red Lists. These measures are defined by The Organization using the best available information, in particular engagement with stakeholders.

The Principle 6 requirements that contribute to maintaining and restoring Type-1, Type 2 and Type-3 HCVs are set out below:

- 1) Maintenance or restoration of representative sample areas included in the conservation network and which account for at least 10% of the MU.
 - i. HCV areas where measurements listed in the note regarding applicability for indicator 6.5.2 may be taken, aimed at restoring:
 - a) The native status of the forest cover, e.g. by gradual elimination of alien species, encouraging the natural regeneration of native species, active restoration by plantation when natural regeneration is not possible;
 - b) The diversity of native species (especially maintaining pioneer species and broad-leaved species);
 - c) The structural complexity of the stand (multi-storied stand, stratified stand);
 - d) The micro-habitats (and the trees that support them);
 - e) Dead timber, either standing or on the ground.
 - ii. A corridor consisting of set-aside areas (6.5) and other elements of connectivity such as living habitat-trees and dead timber defined in indicators 6.6.3 to 6.6.5. This network shall take into account the preservation of HCVs. Type-1 and type-3 HCVs (species habitats and heritage habitats) are to be included in the section as a matter of priority. The Organization may extend the set-aside areas to spaces more extensive than the sections (reserves) themselves;
- 2) Maintenance of **habitat-trees** (≥ 5 living habitat-trees /ha) and of **dead timber** (maintenance of all dead trees, standing or on the ground), [6.6];
- 3) Introduction of specific management measures (e.g. **extensive silvicultural rules**, areas and/or periods of **temporary exclusion** of certain activities) to ensure the survival and sustainability of species and habitats identified as being of environmental value [6.1, 6.2, 6.3];
- 4) **Diversification of the vertical and horizontal structure** of stands, and the **mixing of tree species** and genotypes, [6.6, 6.8, 10.1, 10.2]
- 5) Diversification of the **stand structures** within the MU or group of Mus [6.3.1].

The case of natural habitats associated with the forest :

Natural habitats associated with the forest are **natural features connected with the forest by a dynamic and spatial relationship**. These may be **open habitats** (meadows, heaths, grassy areas, clearings, woodland edges, etc.), **rocky habitats** (caves, cliffs, scree, karst formations, etc.), or **wetland and aquatic habitats** (ponds, water courses, peatlands, marshes, marshland areas, lakes, lagoons, etc.).

These environments are potential candidates for classification as being of High Conservation Value. Their management is **strictly regulated by Principles 6 and 10** of the forest management standard, which cover the identification of these values, their assessment, management adaptations and monitoring.

It is very important that the **natural dynamic of change** of these habitats be taken into account. The Organization must not artificially plant certain open, rocky or wetland habitats with trees, but neither must it systematically counteract the spontaneous growth of tree cover. The Organization must be able to show that such spontaneous growth is not to the detriment to the state of conservation of an habitat classified as being of HCV. This is to be done on a case-by-case basis, with reference to the best available information and the character of the environment.

Regarding the other HCV, a synthesis of good practices is presented in the table below.

Type of HCV	Recommendations
HCV 4	The management of protection forests must be adapted to the risks that these forests limit (avalanches, erosion, flooding, block falls, dune fixation, etc.). For example, in the case of a mountain protection forest, its role may be to limit boulder falls and erosion. The best way to help it play its role will be to limit the impact on the soil, maintain a continuous forest cover and a fairly high density of stems. These protection forests may also be subject to overlapping issues (e.g. HCV 4 and 3): in this case, the management measures will be adapted according to the priority issues. For example, if a protection forest also has the characteristics of an old-growth forest, it may be decided to conserve more old trees, to the detriment of a high density of younger trees.
HCV 5	The management of forests located within water catchment areas is strictly regulated in France. The work required to protect the water caught is specific to each water catchment and is determined by the expertise of an approved hydrogeologist. What's more, the regulations are adapted to suit the situation: nature of the works, nature of the water table and subsoil, land use, activities present, volume of water abstracted and population served, etc. It is vital to avoid any significant impact on the soil, to avoid the use of inputs, to be particularly vigilant when using oils and lubricants for machinery, and preferably to maintain continuous cover in the near and far perimeters.
HCV 6	<p>The management of peri-urban protection forests will be particularly focused on the challenges of welcoming the public. Care should be taken to ensure the safety of the public by avoiding locating protection zones for old trees too close to busy roads. Information panels can be installed to explain the multifunctional nature of forest management and to raise public awareness of other issues. Landscape management needs to be adapted to each site (maintaining a continuous forest cover on slopes and summits or clearing viewpoints, for example).</p> <p>In the case of archaeological sites, the Department of Cultural Affairs will advise on the most appropriate practices. In all cases, the remains must be preserved by avoiding any impact on the soil and limiting the risk of windthrow near the structures.</p>

g) Monitoring of High Conservation Values

Monitoring measures will vary depending on the type of HCV. They will depend on the analysis made during the stage "Understanding HCVs". The variables to be recorded must be focused on monitoring the maintenance of the functional potentialities of habitats. The protocols proposed for assessing an area's status may be reused, so as to compare its initial state with the situation at the end of the certification period.

Direct monitoring may be envisaged for some species, by The Organization or one of its stakeholders. The protocol identified may also include indicators for the implementation of good management practices.

The monitoring period is adapted to the HCV under consideration (based on the best available information). Assessments may rely on revisions of the management documents, or on mid-management plan surveys (e.g. for public forests).

Annex F Mandatory monitoring Requirements

The indicators in the continuation table shall be incorporated in The Organization's monitoring system and submitted to FSC France according to the mentioned frequency.

The data collected will be analyzed by FSC France with the aim of communicating globally and anonymously on the impact of certification in mainland France.

Table 1. List of mandatory monitoring indicators for mainland France

Indicators at MU and/or certified group level	Sought-after benefit	Unit	Frequency	NFSS criterion
Breakdown of areas clear-cut in the past year into the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ clearcuts ≤ 5 ha, specifying the proportion ≤ 2 ha on slopes $> 30\%$. ○ clearcuts > 5 ha, specifying the proportion in pure coppice stands, poplar groves and coniferous plantations. 	Provide information on the supervision of intensive silvicultural practices	Hectare	Annual	10.5
Breakdown of the number of clear-cuts in the past year into the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ clearcuts ≤ 5 ha, specifying the proportion ≤ 2 ha on slopes $> 30\%$. ○ clearcuts > 5 ha, specifying the proportion in pure coppice stands, poplar groves and coniferous plantations. 	Provide information on the supervision of intensive silvicultural practices	Hectare	Annual	10.5
Surface area harvested subsequent to exceptional events	Raise awareness among the general public	Hectare	Annual	10.5
Surface area of set-aside areas	Conserve and restore the forest ecosystem	Hectare	Annual	6.5
Breakdown of the surface area of set-aside areas among different categories of size of Management Units:	Conserve and restore the forest ecosystem	Hectare	Every 5 years and at least before the next FSS revision	6.5

Indicators at MU and/or certified group level	Sought-after benefit	Unit	Frequency	NFSS criterion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MUs of 1000 ha and above ○ MUs between 500 and 1000 ha ○ MUs between 100 and 500 ha ○ MUs subject to PSG (simple management plan) but below 100 ha ○ MUs not subject to PSG (simple management plan) 				
Breakdown of the surface area of the Conservation Network Area among different categories of size of Management Units: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MUs of 1000 ha and above ○ MUs between 500 and 1000 ha ○ MUs between 100 and 500 ha ○ MUs subject to PSG (simple management plan) but below 100 ha ○ MUs not subject to PSG (simple management plan) 	Conserve and restore the forest ecosystem	Hectare	Every 5 years and at least before the next FSS revision	6.5
Number of active stakeholders	Have good and calm stakeholders' relations	Number	Annual	7.6
Number of workplace accidents with/without sick leave	Improve well-being through employment	Number	Annual	2.3

In addition, the following indicators are already collected on a mandatory basis by FSC International via the online audit reports (non-exhaustive list). They will be used to contextualize the additional mandatory indicators for mainland France.

Table 2. Non-exhaustive list of mandatory monitoring indicators in the online audit report (for information)

Indicators at MU and/or certified group level		Sought-after benefit	Unit	Frequency	Standard criterion
1	Number of certified forest owners	Develop FSC certification and supply chains	Number	Annual	/
2	Number of Management Units that have undergone an internal audit in a group certification	Raise awareness among the general public and develop FSC certification	Number	Annual	/
3	Total number of Management Units	Develop FSC certification and supply chains	Number	Annual	/
4	Total surface area certified	Develop FSC certification and supply chains	Hectare	Annual	/
5	Volume of the harvest sold with FSC claim	Develop FSC certification and supply chains	m ³	Annual	8.5
6	Total harvested volume	Develop FSC certification and supply chains	m ³	Annual	8.5
7	Total surface area of production	Develop FSC certification and supply chains	Hectare	Annual	5.2/10.5
8	Surface area of conservation area network	Conserve and restore the forest ecosystem	Hectare	Annual	6.5
9	Surface area of Semi-natural forest	Supply industries whilst protecting forest ecosystems	Hectare	Annual	6.9
10	Surface area of Cultivated forest	Supply industries whilst protecting forest ecosystems	Hectare	Annual	6.9

Annex G Glossary of Terms

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

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

A single area: A surface is considered to be a single area when various conversions or cuts are separated:

- from a spatial point of view by a distance of less than 100m +/-20%; or
- from temporal point of view by a regeneration height of the stand of less than 5 m.

Adaptability: Capacity of individuals, a population, a species or a forest stand, to adapt to changes in environmental conditions by developing evolving properties or an ability to use habitat resources differently, or to tolerate water, air, thermal or trophic stress. (Source: Vocabulaire forestier. Écologie, gestion et conservation des espaces boisés (Forest vocabulary. Ecology, management and conservation of woodlands), Y. Bastien, 2011).

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

Additionality:

- **Additionality outside the Management Unit:** Conservation and/or restoration outcomes over and above those already achieved or planned to be achieved, and that would not have been achieved without the support and/or intervention of the organization. Projects must either be new (i.e., not already being implemented or planned), amended or extended so that conservation and/or restoration outcomes are enhanced beyond what would have been achieved, or planned or funded to be achieved without The Organization planning to remedy for historical conversion.
- **Additionality inside the Management Unit:** Conservation and/or restoration outcomes above and beyond those required by the applicable FSC standards.

Affected Rights Holder: Persons and groups, including Indigenous Peoples, traditional peoples and local communities with legal or customary rights whose Free, Prior and Informed Consent is required to determine management decisions (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-1).

Affected stakeholder (see 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
- Indigenous Peoples
- Workers
- Forest dwellers
- Neighbors

- Downstream landowners
- Local processors
- Local businesses
- Tenure and use rights holders, including landowners
- Organizations authorized or known to act on behalf of affected stakeholders, for example social and environmental NGOs, labor unions, etc. (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

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).

Amendment: addition of mineral or organic substances to the soil to restore a degraded production capacity on a long-term basis.

Ancient forest: A wooded area where there has been no land clearance and resowing or replanting since the first half of 19th century (minimum forest surface period). It is considered that between these two dates, 1850 and now, there has been continuity in the state of the wooded area, without any change in land use (IGN, <https://inventaire-forestier.ign.fr/spip.php?rubrique273>).

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

Appropriate: Is adapted to the challenges and risks identified/exposed to, and/or is in conformity with applicable standards (for example EC standards for personal protection equipment PPE).

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

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

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

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

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

Clearcutting/clearcut: Clearcutting/clearcut is a forestry management practice that, in one operation and over a single area with surface area of more than 0.5 ha, harvests all the stand except for trees maintained for landscape or biodiversity objectives and is followed by artificial or natural regeneration (including stump sprouts and basal shoots).

Clearcut coppice stands are considered to be clearcut areas.

Due to its gradual nature, seed-tree cutting - including seed-tree cutting in strips and final cuts made to harvest the last seed trees following several successive regeneration cuts - does not come under the definition of clearcut, even if its surface area exceeds 0.5 ha.

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

Competent authority: The competent authority is the body or institution that has the power and responsibility to take decisions or regulate in a specific area.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contractor: any person or entity having a direct contractual relationship with the organization to carry out activities on the Management Unit. This includes: service providers, forestry or silvicultural contractors, harvesting companies, etc.

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.

Coppice stands: Regular structure forest stand derived from stump sprouts and basal shoots, perpetuated by coppicing periodically all of the stand.

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

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

Critical condition: The critical condition of a stand is determined by:

- A recognized protocol. For example, in the DEPERIS protocol, categories D, E and F correspond to a critical condition; or
- A Forest Health Agency (DSF) notice and a one-off or emergency authorization for cutting, for health reasons, issued by the competent administration.

Cultivated forest (see Plantation for international definition): a forest plot established by planting, seeding or replanting exotic or native species, often with a single species or few species, regular spacing and homogeneous ages, and which lacks most of the main characteristics and essential elements of native ecosystems or semi-natural forests.

In a cultivated forest, the stand is drastically modified in at least two of the major characteristics of natural forest ecosystems. The main parameters used to define the "cultivated forest" category are:

- Diversity: a single main species or the basal area of the main species > 75%. The stand is said to be mono-specific.

- Indigenous: basal area of indigenous species < 75%. The stand contains a significant proportion of exotic species.
- Maturity: harvesting age for the dominant stand less than 75 years. The complete revolution of the stand drastically truncates the longevity of the species and the maturity of the stand.

At least two of these parameters must be verified (see Appendix B for more details on how to apply this definition). Given the local diversity of stands, other stand parameters may be defined in consultation with stakeholders, with the aim of facilitating the classification of ambiguous cases.

Plots that are not forest or habitats associated with the forest can be treated as cultivated forest for the purposes of this standard. Please note that the regeneration - natural or artificial - of a plot is not in itself considered to be a conversion to cultivated forest.

On the other hand, areas which would initially have conformed to this definition of cultivated forest, but which, after a few years, include many, or most, of the essential characteristics and elements of native ecosystems, can be considered as semi-natural forests.

Similarly, plantations managed to rehabilitate and enhance habitats and biodiversity diversity, structural complexity and ecosystem functionality can be considered as semi-natural forests. (Source: adapted from FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

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 V4-0).

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

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

Discrimination: includes:

- a) any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction, social origin, sexual orientation, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation;
- b) such other distinction, exclusion or preference which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation as may be determined by the Member concerned after consultation with representative employers' and workers' organization where such exist, and with other appropriate bodies (adapted from ILO Convention 111, Article1).

Sexual orientation' was added to the definition provided in Convention 111, as it has been identified as an additional type of discrimination which may occur.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ecosystem functions (including carbon sequestration and storage);
- biological diversity;
- water resources;
- soils;
- atmosphere;
- landscape values (including cultural and spiritual values).

The actual worth attributed to these elements depends on human and societal perceptions.

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

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

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

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

Exceptional events: Occasional high-level impacts such as extreme climate events, incidents (fires) and natural catastrophes.

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

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

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

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

Final phases of harvesting: In regular stands, the final phases of harvesting includes clearcutting, coppicing and all regeneration cuttings.

Forced or compulsory labour: Work or service exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself/herself voluntarily (ILO Convention 29, Article 2.1). Practices indicative of forced or compulsory labour, include, without being limited to, the following:

- Physical and sexual violence
- Bonded labour
- Withholding of wages /including payment of employment fees and or payment of deposit to commence employment
- Restriction of mobility/movement
- Retention of passport and identity documents
- Threats of denunciation to the authorities

Forest: A tract of land dominated by trees (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2. Derived from FSC Guidelines for Certification Bodies, Scope of Forest Certification, Section 2.1 first published in 1998, and revised as FSC-GUI-20-200 in 2005, and revised again in 2010 as FSC-DIR-20-007 FSC Directive on Forest Management Evaluations, ADVICE-20-007-01).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Habitat associated with the forest: natural habitat linked to forests by a dynamic and spatial relationship (notion of continuity). For example:

- open habitats
- rocky habitats
- wetland and aquatic habitats

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

- Old commercial and non-commercial trees whose age noticeably exceeds the average age of the main canopy;
- Trees with special ecological value;
- Vertical and horizontal complexity;
- Standing dead trees;
- Dead fallen wood;
- Forest openings attributable to natural disturbances;
- Nesting sites;
- Small wetlands, bogs, fens;
- Ponds;
- Areas for procreation;
- Areas for feeding and shelter, including seasonal cycles of breeding;
- Areas for migration;
- Areas for hibernation.

Habitat-tree: tree of particular interest for biodiversity (fauna, flora, fungi, etc.). Examples (non-exhaustive) of such trees:

- large or old trees
- dying trees
- trees with big bird nests
- cavity trees
- trees with fungi
- partly dead or broken trees

Hazardous work (in the context of child labour): any work which is likely to jeopardize children's physical, mental or moral health, should not be undertaken by anyone under the age of 18 years. Hazardous child labour is work in dangerous, or unhealthy conditions that could result in a child being killed or injured/maimed (often permanently) and/or made ill (often permanently) as a consequence of poor safety and health standards and working arrangements. In determining the type of hazard child labour referred to under (Article 3(d) of the Convention No 182, and in identifying where they exist, consideration should be given, inter alia, to:

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

Mainstreaming Child labour concerns in education sector plans and Programmes, Geneva, 2011 & ILO Handbook on Hazardous child labour, 2011).

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

Heritage species (and habitats): Heritage species are all protected species, threatened species (red list) and rare species, as well as (sometimes) species with a scientific or symbolic interest (also applies to habitats).

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

- **HCV1:** Species Diversity. Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.
- **HCV 2:** Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics. Intact Forest Landscapes, large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- **HCV 3:** Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.
- **HCV 4:** Critical ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.
- **HCV 5:** Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or Indigenous Peoples (for example for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water), identified through engagement with these communities or Indigenous Peoples.
- **HCV 6:** Cultural values. Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or Indigenous Peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or Indigenous Peoples. (Source: based on FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

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

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

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

- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)
- Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)

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

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

- Freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- The elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour;
- The effective abolition of child labour; and
- The elimination of discrimination* in respect of employment and occupation. (Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017.)

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

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

- The key characteristic or Criterion is self-identification as Indigenous Peoples at the individual level and acceptance by the community as their member;
- Historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies;
- Strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources;
- Distinct social, economic or political systems;
- Distinct language, culture and beliefs;
- Form non-dominant groups of society;
- Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Conservation organizations, for example environmental NGOs;
- Labor (rights) organizations, for example labor unions;
- Human rights organizations, for example social NGOs;
- Local development projects;
- Local governments;
- National government departments functioning in the region;
- FSC National Offices;
- Experts on particular issues, for example High Conservation Values. (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Light work: National laws or regulations may permit the employment or work of persons 13 to 15 years of age on light work which is:

- a) not likely to be harmful to their health or development; and
- b) not such as to prejudice their attendance at school, their participation in vocational orientation or training programmes approved by the competent authority or their capacity to benefit from the instruction received (ILO Convention 138, Article 7).

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

Local communities: Communities of any size that are in or adjacent to the Management Unit, and also those that are close enough to have a significant impact on the economy or the environmental values of the Management Unit or to have their economies, rights or environments significantly affected by the management activities or the biophysical aspects of the Management Unit (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

Clarifications for France (non-exhaustive list):

- Communes (municipalities);
- Local/territory associations (hunting, fishing, outdoor pursuits/sports, neighbourhood, environmental, etc.);
- Other represented groups.

NOTE: Individuals are not local communities but may be considered as stakeholders.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mature forest: A forest that has reached the latter stages of forest dynamics and has typical features in terms composition (native species) and structure (many large and old trees, and a substantial amount of dead wood from large trees). These forests have either not been harvested or only harvested in very limited manner for at least 60 years.

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

Moral harassment: Moral harassment is manifested by repeated acts that can lead to a deterioration in the working conditions of the person who is subjected to them, which can result in:

- an infringement of his/her rights and dignity,
- or an alteration of his/her physical or mental health,
- or a threat to his/her professional development.

It can for example take the following forms:

- Regular and repeated insults,
- Unwanted telephone calls or messages,
- Inappropriate comments about a gender,
- Repeated threats of dismissal,
- Repeated withdrawal from assignments.

(Source: adapted from <https://www.service-public.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F2354>)

Multi-site certificate: A multi-site certificate consists of several Management Units belonging to a single owner. It differs from a group certificate, which groups together Management Units belonging to several different owners.

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

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

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

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

'Natural forest' includes the following categories:

- Forest affected by harvesting or other disturbances, in which trees are being or have been

regenerated by a combination of natural and artificial regeneration with species typical of natural forests in that site, and where many of the above-ground and below-ground characteristics of the natural forest are still present. In boreal and north temperate forests which are naturally composed of only one or few tree species, a combination of natural and artificial regeneration to regenerate forest of the same native species, with most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems of that site, is not by itself considered as conversion to plantations;

- Natural forests which are maintained by traditional silvicultural practices including natural or assisted natural regeneration;
- Well-developed secondary or colonizing forest of native species which has regenerated in non-forest areas;
- The definition of 'natural forest' may include areas described as wooded ecosystems, woodland and savannah.

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

'Natural forest' does not include land which is not dominated by trees, was previously not forest, and which does not yet contain many of the characteristics and elements of native ecosystems. Young regeneration may be considered as natural forest after some years of ecological progression. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may indicate when such areas may be excised from the Management Unit, should be restored towards more natural conditions, or may be converted to other land uses.

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

Thresholds and guidelines may cover areas such as:

- Other vegetation types and non-forest communities and ecosystems included in the Management Unit, including grassland, bushland, wetlands, and open woodlands;
- Very young pioneer or colonizing regeneration in a primary succession on new open sites or abandoned farmland, which does not yet contain many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems. This may be considered as natural forest through ecological progression after the passage of years;
- Young natural regeneration growing in natural forest areas may be considered as natural forest, even after logging, clear-felling or other disturbances, since many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems remain, above-ground and below-ground;
- Areas where deforestation and forest degradation have been so severe that they are no longer 'dominated by trees' may be considered as non-forest, when they have very few of the principal above-ground and below-ground characteristics and key elements of natural forests. Such extreme degradation is typically the result of combinations of repeated and excessively heavy logging, grazing, farming, fuelwood collection, hunting, fire, erosion, mining, settlements, infrastructure, etc. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may help to decide when such areas should be excised from the Management Unit, should be restored towards more natural conditions, or may be converted to other land uses. (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

Natural watercourse: A natural watercourse is a flow of running water in an originally natural bed, fed by a source and with a sufficient flow for most of the year. The flow may not be permanent given local

hydrological and geological conditions. A stream with intermittent flow can therefore be classified as a watercourse. However, an environment characterized by a flow fed exclusively by local rainfall events cannot be considered to be a watercourse. The assessment must therefore be local. In order to clarify the law applicable in each department, following the instruction of 3 June 2015 on the mapping of watercourses and their maintenance, the services of the Ministry of Ecological and Solidarity have embarked on a project to identify watercourses. This pragmatic approach takes account of local uses and specific geo-climatic features. (Source: Article L215-7-1, Created by Law no. 2016-1087 of 8 August 2016 - art. 118).

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

Non-professional contractors: Examples: forest owners, holders of estover rights.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Precisions for France: Land, whether harvested or not, that is usually permanently or temporarily flooded or waterlogged by fresh, salt or brackish water, or where the vegetation, where it exists, is dominated by hygrophilous plants for at least part of the year. Networks of forest ponds are to be considered as wetlands. (Art. L.211-1 du code de l'environnement : <http://www.zones-humides.org/entre-terre-et-eau/une-zone-humide-c-est-quoi>).

Principle: An essential rule or element; in FSC's case, of forest stewardship (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0).

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

Professional contractors: Examples: Logging sub-contractors, forestry works managers or contractors.

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: At least available on submission of a written request to The Organization, preferably online on The Organization's website.

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

List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK).

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

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

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

Regulatory protective role (forest with): Woodlands and forests whose preservation is recognized as necessary to maintain land on mountains and slopes, to defend against avalanches, erosion and the invasion of water and sand; or are located on the outskirts of large urban areas; and in areas where their preservation is required either for ecological reasons, or for the well-being of the population. Any change of use or land use likely to compromise the conservation or protection of woodlands is prohibited (Source: Articles L. 411-1 et seq. and R. 411-1 et seq. of the French Forestry Code, Circulaire DERF/SDEF n° 92-3011 of May 12, 1992 issued by the French Ministry of Agriculture).

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

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

Remuneration: includes the ordinary, basic or minimum wage or salary and any additional emoluments whatsoever payable directly or indirectly, whether in cash or in kind, by the employer to the worker and arising out of the workers employment (ILO Convention 100, Article 1a).

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

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

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

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

Restore / Restoration: These words are used in different senses according to the context and in everyday speech. In some cases, 'restore' means to repair the damage done to environmental values that resulted from management activities or other causes. In other cases, 'restore' means the formation of more natural conditions in sites which have been heavily degraded or converted to other land uses. In the Principles and Criteria, the word 'restore' is not used to imply the recreation of any particular previous, pre-historic, pre-industrial or other pre-existing ecosystem (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

The Organization is also not obliged to restore environmental values that may have existed at some time in the historic or pre-historic past, or that have been negatively affected by previous owners or organizations. However, The Organization is expected to take reasonable measures to mitigate, control and prevent environmental degradation which is continuing in the Management Unit as a result of such previous impacts.

Riparian forest: Afforestation of natural origin, consisting of various native species, that form at the edges of watercourses, their floodplain and adjacent slopes. The width of riparian forests varies according to the watercourses that it lies next to, as well as the extent and shape of the floodplain. (Fibois Landes de Gascogne et Sepanso, 2022).

Riparian zone: Interface between land and a water body, and the vegetation associated with it (including riparian forest).

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'.

Semi-natural forest: (see Natural forest for international definition): a forest plot with most of the main characteristics and essential 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 cultivated forest. The main parameters used to define the "semi-natural forest" category are:

- Diversity: basal area of the main species < 75%. Generally, several species are present in a significant mixture.
- Indigenous: basal area of indigenous species > 75%.
- Maturity: the age at which the dominant stand is harvested is greater than 75 years. The longevity of the main tree species is often over 200 years, and some can exceed 500 years. Maturity is a key factor in hosting biodiversity.

At least two of these parameters must be verified (see Appendix B for more details on how to apply this definition). Given the local diversity of stands, other stand parameters may be defined in consultation with stakeholders, with the aim of facilitating the classification of ambiguous cases.

The definition of semi-natural forest may include areas described as habitats associated with the forest (wetlands, open or rocky environments) when they also meet the definition of forest.

Set-aside area: Area that has been deliberately left to allow nature to develop spontaneously until the complete collapse of the trees and renewal of the sylvigenetic cycle. These areas provide habitats that improve the "naturalness" of forests: they can contain large and old trees as well as dead wood, as would be found in a natural forest, enabling species that are dependent on these habitats to survive. This "non-management" is a specific element of the management plan.

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

- A designation, classification or recognized conservation status, assigned by an international agency such as IUCN or Birdlife International;
- A designation by national or regional authorities, or by a responsible national conservation organization, on the basis of its concentration of biodiversity;
- A voluntary recognition by the manager, owner or Organization, on the basis of available information, or of the known or suspected presence of a significant biodiversity concentration, even when not officially designated by other agencies.

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

Significant mix: In a significant mix of species, the main species does not account for more than 75% of the surface area considered.

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

Simple Management plan (PSG for the French acronym): a tool for analyzing the economic, ecological and social functions of a forest. It schedules the management and harvest activities. It is compulsory for private forest owners who own one or more forest parcels with a surface area of 20 hectares or more, in a single block or located in the same geographical area as defined by decree. The decree of 19 July 2012 sets out the compulsory content of the PSG and the list of documents that must be appended to it. The PSG may be valid for between 10 and 20 years (Source: Ministry of Agriculture).

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.

NOTE: Contractors and other third parties engaged on a contract basis for the purpose of carrying out management activities are not considered to be employees of the forest owner, and therefore the use of such third parties does not prevent the forest owner from being considered a small-scale smallholder.

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: The definition of stakeholder includes:

- **Affected stakeholders:** Any person, group of persons or entity that is or is likely to be subject to the effects of the activities of one or several Management Units, (use right holders, local communities, neighboring landowners, etc.), and
- **Interested stakeholders:** Any person, group of persons or entity that has shown an interest, or is known to have an interest, in the activities of one or several Management Units (environmental associations, Regional Natural Parks, inter-branch organizations, administrations of forest and environmental sectors, etc.).

When an indicator in this standard refers to “stakeholder(s)”, it applies to both types of stakeholders listed above.

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

Sub-natural forest: Also named old-growth forests, their definition and identification is detailed in the National Action Plan for Old-growth and Sub-natural Forests. There are generally mature and ancient forest derived from natural regeneration and consisting of native species. These forests are now in Western Europe those closest to so-called primary forests.

Sustainable management plan (DGD): Document defined by French regulations as providing guarantees regarding the sustainable management of woods and forests in accordance with:

- 1) A fixed forest management document;
- 2) A certified simple management plan;
- 3) An approved standard forest management regulation, provided the forest owner complies with the provisions mentioned in articles L. 122-5 and L. 313-2 that are applicable to them.

(Source: https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/codes/article_lc/LEGIARTI000025245838/2012-07-01)

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

Threat: An indication or warning of impending or likely damage or negative impacts (Source: Based on Oxford English Dictionary).

Threatened species: Species that meet the IUCN (2001) criteria for Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR), and are facing a high, very high or extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. These categories may be re-interpreted for FSC purposes according to official national classifications (which have legal significance) and to local conditions and population densities (which should affect decisions about appropriate conservation measures). (Source: Based on IUCN. (2001). IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.).

Timber harvesting level: The actual harvest quantity executed on the Management Unit, tracked by either volume (e.g. cubic meters or board feet) or area (e.g. hectares or acres) metrics for the purpose of comparison with calculated (maximum) allowable harvest levels.

Timely manner: As promptly as circumstances reasonably allow; not intentionally postponed by The Organization; in compliance with applicable laws, contracts, licenses or invoices.

Traditional knowledge: Information, know-how, skills and practices that are developed, sustained and passed on from generation to generation within a community, often forming part of its cultural or spiritual identity (Source: based on the definition by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Glossary definition as provided under Policy / Traditional Knowledge on the WIPO website).

Traditional peoples: Traditional peoples are social groups or peoples who do not self-identify as indigenous and who affirm rights to their lands, *forests** and other resources based on long established custom or traditional occupation and use (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, Forest Peoples Programme (Marcus Colchester, 7 October 2009).

Transaction verification: Verification by certification bodies and/or Accreditation Services International (ASI) that FSC output claims made by certificate holders are accurate and match with the FSC input claims of their trading partners (Source: FSCSTD-40-004 V3-0).

Uphold: To acknowledge, respect, sustain and support (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Use rights: Rights for the use of resources of the Management Unit that can be defined by local custom, mutual agreements, or prescribed by other entities holding access rights. These rights may restrict the use of particular resources to specific levels of consumption or particular harvesting techniques (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Verifiable targets: Specific goals, such as desired future forest conditions, established to measure progress towards the achievement of each of the management objectives. These goals are expressed as clear outcomes, such that their attainment can be verified and it is possible to determine whether they have been accomplished or not.

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

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

- Hazardous waste, including chemical waste and batteries;
- Containers;
- Motor and other fuels and oils;
- Rubbish including metals, plastics and paper; and
- Abandoned buildings, machinery and equipment.

Water bodies: Areas with superficial stagnant water of natural or artificial origin (lakes, ponds, pools or former quarries, etc.). They may be supplied directly or indirectly by a water course and its associated groundwater, by a spring, by pumping of ground water, or solely by the run-off of rainwater. (National Administration Service for Water Data and Standards, <http://id.eaufrance.fr/ddd/PLA/2005-1#PlanEau>)

Wetlands: Transitional areas between terrestrial and aquatic systems in which the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water (Source: Cowardin, L.M., Carter, V., Golet, F.C., Laroe, E.T. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. DC US Department: Washington).

Under the Ramsar Convention, wetlands can include tidal mudflats, natural ponds, marshes, potholes, wet meadows, bogs, peatlands, freshwater swamps, mangroves, lakes, rivers and even some coral reefs (Source: IUCN, No Date, IUCN Definitions – English).

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

Workers' organization: any organization of workers* for furthering and defending the interest of workers* (adapted from ILO Convention 87, Article 10). It is important to note that rules and guidance on composition of workers' organization vary from country to country, especially in relation to those who are considered as rank-and-file members, as well those who are deemed to have power to "hire and fire". Workers' organizations tend to separate association between those who can "hire and fire" and those who cannot (Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017).

Worst forms of child labour: comprises:

- a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performance;
- c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;
- d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children (ILO Convention 182, Article 3).



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