



Forest Stewardship Council®



Interim National Standard of Lao People's Democratic Republic

FSC-STD-LAO-01-2020 EN



Standard

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

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

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A Objective

The objective of this standard is to provide a set of indicators for conformity assessments of responsible forest management by FSC accredited certification bodies within the defined scope (see below).

B Scope

This standard shall be applied in the following scope:

Geographic region	Lao People's Democratic Republic
NTFPs	Applicable to: Mushrooms, venison (wild game meat), honey, cones and seeds, lichens, mosses and ferns, rattan, latex and resins.
Types of The Organization	All types of organizations, including SLIMF
Forest type	All types of forests

All aspects of this document are considered to be normative, including the scope, effective date, references, terms and definitions, notes, tables and annexes, unless otherwise stated (e.g. examples).

SLIMF organizations are expected to comply with all indicators except those indicated as "Not applicable for SLIMF". Where an adapted SLIMF indicator exists, the organization shall refer to this specific SLIMF indicator (marked as "SLIMF x.x.x.x").

Organizations managing the Management Unit for NTFP are expected to conform with all indicators of this standard, but refer to the specific NTFP (marked as "NTFP x.x.x.x.") indicator where such adapted indicator exists.

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

C References

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

<i>FSC-STD-60-004</i>	<i>International Generic Indicators</i>
<i>FSC-DIR-20-007</i>	<i>FSC Directive on FSC Forest Management Evaluations</i>
<i>FSC-POL-01-004</i>	<i>Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC</i>
<i>FSC-POL-20-003</i>	<i>The Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification</i>
<i>FSC-POL-30-001</i>	<i>FSC Pesticides Policy</i>
<i>FSC-POL-30-401</i>	<i>FSC Certification and the ILO Conventions</i>
<i>FSC-POL-30-602</i>	<i>FSC Interpretation on GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms)</i>
<i>FSC-PRO-60-007</i>	<i>Structure, Content and Development of INS</i>
<i>FSC-PRO-30-006</i>	<i>Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools</i>
<i>FSC-STD-01-001</i>	<i>FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship</i>
<i>FSC-STD-01-002</i>	<i>FSC Glossary of Terms</i>
<i>FSC-STD-01-003</i>	<i>SLIMF Eligibility Criteria</i>
<i>FSC-STD-30-005</i>	<i>FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups</i>

<i>FSC-GUI-60-002</i>	<i>Guideline for Standard Developers for addressing risk of unacceptable activities in regard to scale and intensity</i>
<i>FSC-GUI-60-009</i>	<i>Guidance for Standard Development Groups: Developing National High Conservation Value Frameworks</i>
<i>FSC-GUI-60-009a</i>	<i>Template for National High Conservation Value Frameworks</i>
<i>FSC-GUI-60-005</i>	<i>Promoting Gender Equality in National Forest Stewardship Standards</i>

D Principles, Criteria and Indicators

PRINCIPLE 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

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

- 1.1 **The Organization* shall* be a legally defined entity with clear, documented and unchallenged legal registration*, with written authorization from the legally competent* authority for specific activities.**
- 1.1.1 *Legal registration** to carry out all activities within the scope of the certificate is documented and unchallenged.
- 1.1.2 *Legal registration** is granted by a legally *competent** authority according to legally prescribed processes.
- 1.2 **The Organization* shall* demonstrate that the legal* status of the Management Unit*, including tenure* and use rights*, and its boundaries, are clearly defined.**
- 1.2.1 *Legal* tenure** to manage and use resources within the scope of the certificate is documented.
- NTFP 1.2.1.1 *Legal* tenure** to manage and use resources including harvesting and processing of non-timber forest products* within the scope of the certificate is documented.
- 1.2.2 *Legal* tenure** is granted by a legally *competent** authority according to legally prescribed processes.
- 1.2.3 The boundaries of all *Management Units** within the scope of the certificate 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 activities undertaken in the *Management Unit** are carried out in compliance with:
- *Applicable laws** and regulations and administrative requirements,
 - *Legal* and customary rights**; and
 - Obligatory codes of *practice**.
- NTFP 1.3.1.1 All activities including harvesting and processing of non-timber forest *products** undertaken in the *Management Unit** are carried out in compliance with:
- *Applicable laws** and regulations and administrative requirements,
 - *Legal* and customary rights**; and
 - Obligatory codes of *practice**.
- 1.3.2 Payment is made in a *timely manner** of all applicable legally prescribed charges connected with *forest** management.
- 1.3.3 Activities covered by the *management plan** are designed to comply with all *applicable laws**.
- 1.4 **The Organization* shall* develop and implement measures, and/or shall* engage with regulatory agencies, to systematically protect the Management Unit* from unauthorized or illegal resource use, settlement and other illegal activities.**
- 1.4.1 Measures are implemented to provide *protection** from unauthorized or illegal harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.

- SLIMF 1.4.1.1: Where signs of illegal or unauthorized activities are observed or reported within the Management Unit, *the Organization** informs neighbouring *forest* owners and/or villages to avoid reoccurrence.
- 1.4.2 Where *protection** is the *legal** responsibility of regulatory bodies, a system is implemented to work with these regulatory bodies to identify, report, control and discourage unauthorized or illegal activities.
- 1.4.3 If illegal or unauthorized activities are detected, measures are implemented to address them.
- 1.5 *The Organization* shall* comply with the applicable national laws*, local laws, ratified* international conventions and obligatory codes of practice*, relating to the transportation and trade of forest products* within and from the Management Unit*, and/or up to the point of first sale.***
- 1.5.1 Compliance with *applicable national laws*, local laws*, ratified** international conventions and *obligatory codes of practice** relating to the transportation and trade of *forest products** up to the point of first sale is demonstrated.
- NTFP 1.5.1.1 Compliance with *applicable national laws*, local laws*, ratified** international conventions and *obligatory codes of practice** relating to the transportation and trade of NTFP up to the point of first sale is demonstrated.
- NTFP 1.5.1.2 When *non-timber forest products** are aimed to human or animal consumption, all applicable legal and administrative requirements for hygiene and food safety are complied with.
- 1.5.2 Compliance with CITES provisions is demonstrated, including through possession of certificates for harvest and trade in any CITES species.
- NTFP 1.5.2.1 Compliance with CITES provisions is demonstrated, including through possession of certificates for harvest and trade in any NTFP species.
- 1.6 *The Organization* shall* identify, prevent and resolve disputes* over issues of statutory or customary law*, which can be settled out of court in a timely manner*, through engagement with affected stakeholders*.***
- 1.6.1 A publicly available* dispute* resolution process is in place; developed through culturally appropriate* engagement* with affected stakeholders*.
- SLIMF 1.6.1.1: *The organization** has an appropriate process to quickly resolve any *dispute** that arise that directly involve *the organization**.
- 1.6.2 *Disputes** related to issues of *applicable laws* or customary law** that can be settled out of court are responded to in a *timely manner** and are either resolved or are in the *dispute** resolution process.
- 1.6.3 Up to date records of *disputes** related to issues of *applicable laws* or customary law**, are held including:
- Steps taken to resolve *disputes**;
 - Outcomes of all *dispute** resolution processes; and
 - Unresolved *disputes**, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.
- 1.6.4 Operations cease in areas where *disputes** exist:
- Of substantial *magnitude**; or
 - Of substantial duration*; or
 - Involving a *significant** number of interests.

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

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

SLIMF 1.7.1.1 A written or verbal declaration not to give or receive bribes (money) or to engage in other forms of corruption is communicated to neighbours and customers.

1.7.2 The policy meets or exceeds related legislation.

1.7.3 The policy is *publicly available** at no cost.

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

1.7.5 Corrective measures are implemented if corruption does occur.

SLIMF 1.7.5.1 Corrective measures are implemented if corruption does occur.

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

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

1.8.2 The policy is *publicly available** at no cost.

PRINCIPLE 2: WORKERS' RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

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

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

2.1.1 *The Organization** does not use child labour.

2.1.1.1 *The Organization** does* not employ *workers** below the age of 15. For *workers** below the age of 18 the work hours *shall** not exceed 6 hours per day or 36 hours per week.

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

SLIMF 2.1.1.2: Regular employment of children does not occur. Where children help their families occasionally in forestry work, they work only outside of school hours and are not exposed to any danger related with the labour.

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

2.1.1.4 *The Organization** prohibits worst forms of *child labour**.

2.1.2 *The Organization** eliminates all forms of forced and compulsory labour.

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

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

- 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.

2.1.3 *The Organization** ensures that there is no discrimination in employment and occupation.

2.1.3.1 Employment and occupation* practices are non-discriminatory.

2.1.4 *The Organization** respects freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining.

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

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

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

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

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

- 2.2.1 Systems are implemented that promote *gender equality** and prevent gender discrimination in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of *engagement** and management activities.
- 2.2.2 Job opportunities are open to both women and men under the same conditions, and women are encouraged to participate actively in all levels of employment.
- 2.2.3 Work typically carried out by women (nurseries, silviculture, Non-Timber Forest Product harvesting, weighing, packing, etc.) is included in training and health & safety programs to the same extent as work typically carried out by men.
- 2.2.4 Women and men are paid the same wage when they do the same work.
- 2.2.5 Women are paid directly and using mutually agreed methods (e.g. direct bank transfer, direct payments for school fees, etc.) to ensure they safely receive and retain their *wages**.
- 2.2.6 Maternity leave is in compliance with the national legislation (6 months for female and two weeks for male.)
- 2.2.7 Paternity leave is *available** and there is no penalty for taking it.
- 2.2.8 Meetings, management committees and decision-making forums are organized to include women and men, and to facilitate the active participation of both.
- 2.2.9 Confidential and effective mechanisms exist for reporting and eliminating cases of sexual harassment and discrimination based on gender, marital status, parenthood or sexual orientation.

SLIMF 2.2.9.1 There are no signs for cases of sexual harassment and discrimination based on gender, marital status, parenthood or sexual orientation.

SLIMF 2.2.9.2 Where such cases of sexual harassment and discrimination exist, confidential and effective countermeasures are implemented.

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

- 2.3.1 Health and safety practices are developed and implemented that meet or exceed the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.
 - NTFP 2.3.1.1 Health and safety practices are developed and implemented for all *workers** including *workers** harvesting and processing of non-timber *forest products** that meet or exceed the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.
 - SLIMF 2.3.1.1: Each worker is informed about the health and safety measures corresponding to his/her activity and these meets or exceed the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.
- 2.3.2 *Workers** are provided with personal protective equipment appropriate to their assigned tasks free of charge.
 - NTFP 2.3.2.1 *Workers**, including *workers** harvesting and processing of non-timber *forest products**, have personal protective equipment appropriate to their assigned tasks.
- 2.3.3 Use of personal protective equipment is enforced.
- 2.3.4 Records are kept on health and safety practices including accident rates and lost time to accidents.
 - SLIMF 2.3.4.1: The use of health and safety measures by *workers** is checked and *workers** are aware of the requirements.

- 2.3.5 The frequency and severity of accidents are consistently low compared to national *forest** industry averages.
- SLIMF 2.3.5.1 Accident level is low compared to national *forest** industry averages.
- 2.3.6 The health and safety practices are reviewed and revised as required after major incidents or accidents.
- 2.4 *The Organization* shall* pay wages* that meet or exceed minimum forest* industry standards or other recognized forest* industry wage agreements or living wages*, where these are higher than the legal* minimum wages*. When none of these exist, The Organization* shall* through engagement* with workers* develop mechanisms for determining living wages*.***
- 2.4.1 *Wages** paid by *The Organization** in all circumstances meet or exceed *legal** minimum wage rates.
- 2.4.2 (Not applicable for SLIMF) *Wages** paid meet or exceed:
- Minimum *forest** industry standards; or
 - Other recognized *forest** industry wage agreements; or
 - *Living wages** that are higher than *legal** minimum *wages**.
- 2.4.3 When no minimum wage levels exist, *wages** are established through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *workers** and/or *formal and informal workers* organizations**.
- 2.4.4 *Wages**, salaries and contracts are paid on time.
- 2.5 *The Organization* shall* demonstrate that workers* have job-specific training and supervision to safely and effectively implement the Management Plan* and all management activities.***
- 2.5.1 *Workers** have job specific training consistent with Annex B and supervision to safely and effectively contribute to the implementation of the *management plan** and all management activities.
- NTPF 2.5.1.1 *Workers**, including *workers** harvesting and processing of non-timber *forest products**, have job specific training and supervision to safely and effectively contribute to the implementation of the *management plan** and all management activities.
- 2.5.2 Up to date training records are kept for all relevant *workers**.
- 2.6 *The Organization* through engagement* with workers* shall* have mechanisms for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation* to workers* for loss or damage to property, occupational diseases*, or occupational injuries* sustained while working for The Organization*.***
- 2.6.1 A *dispute** resolution process is in place, developed through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *workers**. It is also applicable for participants of out grower schemes (if such exist).
- SLIMF 2.6.1.1: If employees are hired, an appropriate process is *available** and followed to quickly resolve any *disputes** that arise with those employees.
- 2.6.2 *Workers** grievances are identified and responded to and are either resolved or are in the *dispute** resolution process.
- 2.6.3 Up-to-date records of *workers** grievances related to *workers** loss or damage of property, occupational *diseases** or injuries are maintained including:
- Steps taken to resolve grievances;
 - Outcomes of all *dispute** resolution processes including *fair compensation**; and
 - Unresolved *disputes**, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.
- 2.6.4 *Fair compensation** is provided to *workers** for work-related loss or damage of property and occupational *disease** or injuries.

PRINCIPLE 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS

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

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

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

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

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

SLIMF: 3.1.2.1: If potentially affected Indigenous Peoples are present in the Management Unit (3.1.1), the smallholder identifies the Indigenous Peoples, their specific location and their interests in the SLIMF organizations forest.

NTFP 3.1.2.1 (Not applicable for SLIMF): Through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with the *Indigenous Peoples** identified in 3.1.1, the following issues are documented and/or mapped:

- Their legal* and customary rights* of tenure*;
- Their legal* and customary* access to, and use rights*, of the forest* resources, non-timber forest products* and ecosystem services*;
- Their legal* and customary rights* and obligations that apply;
- The evidence supporting these rights* and obligations;
- Areas where rights* are contested between *Indigenous Peoples**, governments and/or others;
- Summary of the means by which the legal* and customary rights* and contested rights*, are addressed by *The Organization**;
- The aspirations and goals of *Indigenous Peoples** related to management activities.

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

3.2.1 *Indigenous Peoples** are informed when, where and how they can comment on and request modification to management activities to the extent necessary to protect their *rights**, resources, *lands and territories**.

3.2.2 The legal* and customary rights* of Indigenous Peoples* are not violated by *The Organization**.

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

3.2.4 During management planning, *the Organization** actively involves representatives of *Indigenous Peoples** with the aim of achieving a consent on acceptable management activities, where forest management activities are likely to affect their identified *rights**. This process is repeated at least every 3 years and includes;

- Ensuring *Indigenous Peoples** know their *rights** and obligations regarding the resource;
- Informing the *Indigenous Peoples** of the value of the resource, in economic, social and environmental terms;
- Informing the *Indigenous Peoples** of their right to withhold or modify consent to the proposed management activities to the extent necessary to protect their *rights**, resources, *lands and territories**; and
- Informing the *Indigenous Peoples** of the current and future planned *forest** management activities.

SLIMF 3.2.4.1 If potentially affected Indigenous Peoples are present in the Management Unit (3.1.1), *the organization** obtains their Free Prior and Informed Consent* to forestry activities that affect their identified *rights**.

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

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

3.3.1 (Not applicable for SLIMF) Where control over management activities has been granted through *Free Prior and Informed Consent** based on active involvement of representatives of *Indigenous Peoples** in management planning, a written *binding agreement** contains the duration, provisions for renegotiation, renewal, termination, economic conditions and other terms and conditions.

3.3.2 Records of *binding agreements** are maintained.

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

- 3.4** *The Organization* shall* recognize and uphold* the rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples* as defined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) and ILO Convention 169 (1989).*
- 3.4.1 The *rights**, customs and culture of *Indigenous Peoples** as defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 are not violated by *The Organization**.
- 3.4.2 Where evidence exists that *rights**, customs and culture of *Indigenous Peoples**, as defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169, have been violated by *The Organization**, the situation is documented including steps to *restore** these *rights**, customs and culture of *Indigenous Peoples**, to the satisfaction of the *rights** holders.
- 3.5** *The Organization*, through engagement* with Indigenous Peoples*, shall* identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance and for which these Indigenous Peoples hold legal* or customary rights*. These sites shall* be recognized by The Organization* and their management, and/or protection* shall* be agreed through engagement* with these Indigenous Peoples.*
- 3.5.1 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance for which *Indigenous Peoples** hold *legal** or *customary rights** are identified through *culturally appropriate* engagement**.
- 3.5.2 Measures to protect such sites are agreed, documented and implemented through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *Indigenous Peoples**. When *Indigenous Peoples** determine that physical identification of sites in documentation or on maps would threaten the value or *protection** of the sites, then other means will be used.
- 3.5.3 Wherever sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance are newly observed or discovered, management activities cease immediately in the vicinity until protective measures have been agreed to with the *Indigenous Peoples**, and as directed by local and *national laws**.
- 3.6** *The Organization* shall* uphold* the right of Indigenous Peoples* to protect* and utilize their traditional knowledge* and shall* compensate local communities* for the utilization of such knowledge and their intellectual property*. A binding agreement* as per Criterion* 3.3 shall* be concluded between The Organization* and the Indigenous Peoples for such utilization through Free, Prior and Informed Consent* before utilization takes place, and shall* be consistent with the protection* of intellectual property* rights.*
- 3.6.1 *Traditional knowledge* and intellectual property** are protected and are only used when the acknowledged owners of that *traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property** have provided their *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** formalized through a *binding agreement**.
- 3.6.2 *Indigenous Peoples** are compensated according to the *binding agreement** reached through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** for the use of *traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property**.

PRINCIPLE 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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

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

4.1.1 *Local communities* that exist in or adjacent to the Management Unit* and that may be affected by management activities are identified.*

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

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

SLIMF 4.1.2.1 *The Organization* has identified the possible impacts of forest management on other forest users.

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

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

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

4.2.4 (Not applicable for SLIMF) *During management planning, the Organization* actively involves representatives of local communities* with the aim of achieving a consent on acceptable management activities, where forest management activities are likely to affect their identified rights*. This process is repeated at least every 3 years and includes:*

- *Ensuring local communities* know their rights* and obligations regarding the resource;*
- *Informing the local communities* of the value of the resource, in economic, social and environmental terms;*
- *Informing the local communities* of their right to withhold or modify consent to the proposed management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights* and resources; and*

- 4.6.3 An up to date record of grievances related to the impacts of management activities is held including:
- Steps taken to resolve grievances;
 - Outcomes of all *dispute** resolution processes including *fair compensation** to *local communities** and individuals; and
 - Unresolved *disputes**, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.
- 4.6.4 Operations cease in areas while *disputes** exist of:
- Substantial *magnitude**;
 - Substantial *duration**; or
 - Involving a *significant** number of interests.
- 4.7 *The Organization**, through *engagement** with *local communities**, shall identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance, and for which these *local communities** hold *legal** or *customary rights**. These sites shall be recognized by *The Organization**, and their management and/or *protection** shall be agreed through *engagement** with these *local communities**.**
- 4.7.1 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance for which *local communities** hold *legal** or *customary rights** are identified through *culturally appropriate engagement** and are recognized by *The Organization**.
- 4.7.2 Measures to protect such sites are agreed, documented and implemented through *culturally appropriate engagement** with *local communities**. When *local communities** determine that physical identification of sites in documentation or on maps would threaten the value or *protection** of the sites, then other means will be used.
- 4.7.3 Whenever sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance are newly observed or discovered, management activities cease immediately in the vicinity until protective measures have been agreed to with the *local communities**, and as directed by local and *national laws**.
- 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.**
- 4.8.1 *Traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property** are protected and are only used when the owners of that *traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property** have provided their *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** formalized through a *binding agreement**.
- 4.8.2 *Local communities** are compensated according to the *binding agreement** reached through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** for the use of *traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property**.

PRINCIPLE 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST*

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

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

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

NTPF 5.1.1.1 The range of resources, non-timber forest products* and ecosystem services* that could strengthen and diversify the local economy are identified.

SLIMF 5.1.1.1 The organization* has identified the range of resources and ecosystem services* within the Management Unit* that could enhance its economic viability.

5.1.2 (Not applicable for SLIMF) Consistent with management objectives*, the identified benefits and products are produced by The Organization* and/or made available* for others to produce, to strengthen and diversify the local economy.

SLIMF 5.1.2.1 Consistent with management objectives*, the identified benefits, non-timber forest products* and products are produced by The Organization* and/or made available* for others to produce.

NTPF 5.1.2.1 Consistent with management objectives*, the identified benefits, non-timber forest products* and products are produced by The Organization* and/or made available* for others to produce, to strengthen and diversify the local economy.

5.1.3 If the Organization* makes promotional claims regarding maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services, it follows the procedures described in FSC-PRO-30-006 V1-0 EN Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools and FSC-GUI-30-006 V1-0 EN Guidance for Demonstrating Ecosystem Services Impacts.

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

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

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

5.2.3 Actual annual harvest levels for timber are recorded and the harvest over a defined period according to the approved Forest management Plan* (FMP) does not exceed the sustainable timber harvest level determined in 5.2.2 for the same defined period.

Note: For SLIMFs and plantations: The Organization* ensures that the rate of harvest for regionally dispersed FMUs does not allow concentrating the annual harvest in one sub-unit.

5.2.4 For extraction of commercially harvested product under and non-timber-forest products under The Organization's* control a sustainable harvest level is calculated and adhered to. Sustainable harvest levels are based on Best Available Information*.

NTPF 5.2.4.1 For extraction of commercially harvested non-timber forest products* under The Organization's* control a sustainable harvest level is calculated and adhered to. Sustainable harvest levels are based on Best Available* Information*.

- 5.3** ***The Organization* shall* demonstrate that the positive and negative externalities* of operations are included in the management plan*.***
- 5.3.1 Costs related to preventing, mitigating or compensating for negative social and environment impacts of management activities are quantified and documented in the *management plan**.
- SLIMF 5.3.1.1 The organization documents any compensation payments or fines that resulted from negative social and environmental impacts caused by *the organization's forest* management activities*.
- 5.3.2 Benefits related to positive social and environment impacts of management activities are identified and included in the *management plan**.
- 5.4** ***The Organization* shall* use local processing, local services, and local value adding to meet the requirements of The Organization* where these are available, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk*. If these are not locally available, The Organization* shall* make reasonable* attempts to help establish these services.***
- 5.4.1 Where cost, quality and capacity of non-local and local options are at least equivalent, local goods, services, processing and value-added facilities are used.
- NTFP 5.4.1.1 Where cost, quality and capacity of non-local and local options are at least equivalent, local goods, services, processing and value-added facilities are used for NTFPs.
- SLIMF 5.4.1.1 Where cost, quality and capacity of non-local and local options are at least equivalent, local goods, services, processing and value-added facilities are used.
- 5.4.2 (Not applicable for SLIMF) Based on the capacity of *the organization**, attempts are made to establish and encourage capacity where local goods, services, processing and value-added facilities are not available*.
- 5.5** ***The Organization* shall* demonstrate through its planning and expenditures proportionate to scale, intensity and risk*, its commitment to long-term* economic viability*.***
- 5.5.1 Sufficient funds are allocated to implement the *management plan** in order to meet this standard and to ensure *long-term* economic viability**.
- SLIMF 5.5.1.1 Sufficient funds or work force are allocated to implement the *management plan**.
- 5.5.2 (Not applicable for SLIMF) Expenditures and investments are made to implement the *management plan** in order to meet this standard and to ensure *long-term* economic viability**.

PRINCIPLE 6: ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES* AND IMPACTS

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

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

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

NTFP 6.1.1.1 *Best Available Information** (see Annex I) is used to identify *environmental values** within, and, where potentially affected by NTFP management activities, outside of the *Management Unit**.

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

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

NTFP 6.1.2.1 Assessments of *environmental values** are conducted with a level of detail and frequency so that:

- *Environmental values** in and outside the *management Unit** that can be affected by management activities are identified;
- Potential risks* to these values are known;
- Necessary *conservation** measures can be defined in the stand management model;
- Monitoring of impacts or environmental changes can be conducted as per Principle* 8.

SLIMF 6.1.2.1 Assessments of *environmental values** are conducted with a level of detail and frequency so that *Environmental values** in and outside the *management Unit** that can be affected by management activities are identified;

- Potential risks* to these values are known;
- Necessary *conservation** measures can be defined in the stand management model;
- *Monitoring** of impacts or environmental changes can be conducted as per 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 An *environmental impact assessment** identifies potential present and future impacts of management activities on *environmental values**, from the stand level to the landscape level.

NTFP 6.2.1.1 An *environmental impact assessment** identifies potential present and future impacts of management activities on *environmental values** and non-timber *forest products**, from the stand level to the landscape level.

- SLIMF 6.2.1.1 Prior to implementing site-disturbing activities an assessment is conducted to identify possible adverse impacts from planned management activities.
- 6.2.2 The *environmental impact assessment** identifies and assesses the impacts of the management activities prior to the start of site-disturbing activities.
- 6.3 *The Organization* shall* identify and implement effective actions to prevent negative impacts of management activities on the environmental values*, and to mitigate and repair those that occur, proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk* of these impacts.***
- 6.3.1 Management activities are planned and implemented to prevent negative impacts and to protect *environmental values**.
- NTFP 6.3.1.1 Management activities are planned and implemented to prevent negative impacts and to protect *environmental values** and *non-timber forest products**.
- 6.3.2 Management activities prevent negative impacts to *environmental values**.
- NTFP: 6.3.2.1 Management activities prevent negative impacts to *environmental values** *non-timber forest products**.
- 6.3.3 Where negative impacts to *environmental values** occur, measures are adopted to prevent further damage, and negative impacts are *mitigated** and/or *repaired**.
- NTFP 6.3.3.1 Where negative impacts to *environmental values** and *non-timber forest products** occur, measures are adopted to prevent further damage, and negative impacts 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 *Best Available Information** (see Annex I) is used to identify *rare and threatened species**, and their *habitats**, including CITES species (where applicable) and those listed on national, regional and local lists of *rare and threatened species** that are present or likely to be present within and adjacent to the *Management Unit**.
- SLIMF 6.4.1.1 *Best Available Information** (see Annex I) is used to identify *rare and threatened species**, and their *habitats**, including CITES species (where applicable) and those listed on national, regional and local lists of *rare and threatened species** that are present or likely to be present within and adjacent to the *Management Unit**.
- 6.4.2 Potential impacts of management activities on *rare and threatened species** and their *conservation** status and *habitats** are identified and management activities are modified to avoid negative impacts.
- SLIMF 6.4.2.1 Management activities are designed or modified to avoid negative impacts to *rare and threatened species**, and their *habitats**.
- 6.4.3 The *rare and threatened species** and their *habitats** are protected, including through the provision of *conservation zones**, *protection areas**, *connectivity**, and other direct means for their survival and viability, such as species' recovery programs.
- SLIMF 6.4.3.1 Consistent with indicator SLIMF 6.4.2.1, *the organization** respects *conservation zones** and *protection areas** and supports connectivity by preservation of buffer zones where for *rare and threatened species** and their *habitats** exist.
- 6.4.4 Hunting, fishing, trapping and collection of *rare or threatened species** is prevented.
- NTFP 6.4.4.1 Hunting, fishing, trapping and collection of *rare or threatened species** including *non-timber forest products** is prevented.

- SLIMF 6.4.4.1 A system is in place to prevent hunting, fishing, trapping and collection of rare or threatened *species**
- 6.5** ***The Organization* shall* identify and protect representative sample areas of native ecosystems* and/or restore* them to more natural conditions*. Where representative sample areas* do not exist or are insufficient, The Organization* shall* restore* a proportion of the Management Unit* to more natural conditions*. The size of the areas and the measures taken for their protection* or restoration, including within plantations, shall* be proportionate to the conservation* status and value of the ecosystems* at the landscape* level, and the scale, intensity and risk* of management activities.***
- 6.5.1 *Best Available Information** (see Annex I) is used to identify native *ecosystems** that exist, or would exist under *natural conditions**, within the *Management Unit**.
- SLIMF 6.5.1.1 *Best Available Information** (see Annex I) is used to identify native *ecosystems** that exist, or would exist under *natural conditions**, within the *Management Unit**.
- 6.5.2 *Representative Sample Areas** of native *ecosystems** are protected, where they exist.
- 6.5.3 Where *Representative Sample Areas** do not exist, or where existing *sample areas** inadequately represent *native ecosystems**, or are otherwise insufficient, a proportion of the *Management Unit** is *restored** to more *natural conditions**.
- 6.5.4 The size of the *Representative Sample Areas** and/or *restoration** areas is proportionate to the *conservation** status and value of the *ecosystems** at the *landscape** level, the size of the *Management Unit** and the *intensity** of *forest** management.
- SLIMF 6.5.4.1 *Restoration** measures are implemented on group level (where applicable) and include enrichment with *species** occurring in nearby *ecosystems**.
- 6.5.5 *Representative Sample Areas** in combination with other components of the *conservation areas network** comprise a minimum 10% area of the *Management Unit**.
- 6.6** ***The Organization* shall* effectively maintain the continued existence of naturally occurring native species* and genotypes*, and prevent losses of biological diversity*, especially through habitat* management in the Management Unit*. The Organization* shall* demonstrate that effective measures are in place to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting.***
- 6.6.1 Management activities maintain the plant communities and *habitat features** found within *native ecosystems** in which the *Management Unit** is located.
- SLIMF 6.6.1.1 Management activities within the FMU prevent direct negative impacts on adjacent *native ecosystems**.
- 6.6.2 Where past management has eliminated plant communities or *habitat features**, management activities aimed at re-establishing such *habitats** are implemented.
- 6.6.3 Management maintains, enhances, or *restores** *habitat features** associated with *native ecosystems**, to support the diversity of naturally occurring species and their genetic diversity.
- 6.6.4 Effective measures are taken to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting activities to ensure that naturally occurring *native species**, their diversity within species and their natural distribution are maintained.
- NTPF 6.6.4.1 Effective measures are taken to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting activities to ensure that naturally occurring *native species** including non-timber *forest products**, their diversity within species and their natural distribution are maintained.
- 6.6.5 Mechanisms for wildlife *protection** are in place: Applicable national and/or international regulations on *protection**, hunting and trade in animal species or parts (trophies) are known and complied with.
- 6.6.6 (Not applicable for SLIMF) An internal regulation banning and punishing the transportation of and trade in bush meat and firearms in the facilities and vehicles of *The Organization**;
- 6.6.7 (Not applicable for SLIMF) A system of regular and punctual controls to ensure hunting policies are respected is implemented.

6.6.8 Effective mitigation measures are in place to ensure that *workers** do not increase hunting trapping or collecting of bush meat or wild fish of rare and *endangered species**.

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 *Protection** measures are implemented to protect natural *watercourses**, *water bodies**, *riparian zones** and their *connectivity**, including water quantity and water quality.

Note: Protection measures include but are not limited to:

- Buffer zones are established to protect natural *watercourses** and *water bodies**, their *connectivity**, *in-stream habitat**, and fish, invertebrates, and other aquatic species according to national legislation but in no case less than 5 meters;
- Native vegetation in buffer zones is maintained. Where plantations have been established in buffer zones, these plantations are converted proactively to more *natural conditions** within one rotation period;

Road (including forest road) design prevents impacts on *watercourses** caused by erosion, sedimentation or blocking of water courses:

- The design and construction of forest roads considers topography;
- Where erosion can occur, adequate drainage is installed, e.g. culverts, ditches and cross-ditches.

Note: Useful guidance is provided by FAO Guide for planning, construction and maintenance of forest roads (www.fao.org)

*The Organization** adapts its management system to prevent sedimentation of *water bodies** and soil erosion from harvesting. This includes:

- Definition of acceptable levels of impacts;
- Machinery and equipment to be used;
- Maximum size of contiguous clear-felling areas;
- Conditions (whether, soil moisture, etc) for harvesting activities.

*Fertilizers** and chemicals are not used within the buffer zone.

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.9 **The Organization* shall* not convert natural forest* to plantations*, nor natural forests* or 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* benefits in the Management Unit*; and**
- c) **Does not damage or threaten High Conservation Values*, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those High Conservation Values*.**

6.9.1 There is no conversion of natural forest* to plantations*, nor conversion of natural forests* to non-forest* land use, nor conversion of plantations* on sites directly converted from natural forest* to non-forest* land use, except when the conversion:

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

6.10 **Management Units* containing plantations* that were established on areas converted from natural forest* after November 1994 shall* not qualify for certification, except where:**

- a) **Clear and enough evidence is provided that The Organization* was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion; or**
- b) **The conversion affected a very limited portion* of the area of the Management Unit* and is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation* benefits in the Management Unit*.**

6.10.1 Based on Best Available Information*, accurate data is compiled on all conversions since 1994.

6.10.2 Areas converted from natural forest* to plantation* since November 1994 are not certified, except where:

- The Organization* provides clear and enough evidence that it was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion; or
- The conversion is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation* benefits in the Management Unit*; and
- The total area of plantation* on sites converted from natural forest* since November 1994 is less than 5% of the total area of the Management Unit*.

PRINCIPLE 7: MANAGEMENT PLANNING

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

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

7.1.1 *The Organization** has defined its general *management objectives** Policies (vision and values) that contribute to meeting the requirements of this standard.

NTFP 7.1.1.1 *The Organization* has defined its general *management objectives** (vision and values) related to NTFP that contribute to meeting the requirements of this standard.

SLIMF 7.1.1.1 By signing a contract for certification *the Organization** confirms its commitment to meet the requirements of this standard and to manage its *forests** in responsible manner.

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

NTFP 7.1.2.1 Specific, operational *management objectives** for NTFPs that address the requirements of this standard are defined.

7.1.3 (Not applicable for SLIMF) Summaries of the defined policies and *management objectives** are included in the *management plan** and publicized.

NTFP 7.1.3.1 Summaries of the defined policies and *management objectives** for the NTFPs are included in the *management plan** and publicized.

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

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

NTFP 7.2.1.1 The *management plan** includes management actions, procedures, strategies and measures to achieve the *management objectives**.

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

NTFP 7.2.2.1 The *management plan** of NTFPs addresses the elements listed in Annex E and is implemented.

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

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

NTFP 7.3.1.1 Verifiable targets*for NTFPs, and the frequency that they are assessed, are established for monitoring* the progress towards each management objective*.

Note: Examples of verifiable targets* to be established include:

- Site productivity, yield of all products harvested;
- Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna;
- Water quality and quantity;
- Soil erosion, compaction, fertility and carbon content;
- Wildlife populations, biodiversity* and status of High Conservation Values*;
- Sensitive cultural and environmental resources;
- Stakeholder satisfaction with engagement*;
- Benefits of management operations provided to local communities*;
- Number of occupational accidents*;
- Area of Intact Forest Landscape* protected* as Core Areas*; and
- Overall economic viability* of the Management Unit*.

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

7.4.1 The management plan* is revised and updated periodically consistent with Annex F to incorporate:

- Monitoring results, including results of certification audits;
- Evaluation results;
- Stakeholder engagement* results;
- New scientific and technical information, and
- Changing environmental, social, or economic circumstances.

SLIMF 7.4.1.1 The management plan* is revised and updated periodically consistent with Annex F to incorporate:

- Own field observations made;
- Market requirements for quality of products;
- Evaluation results; including results of certification audits;
- Comments from neighbors, forest authorities or other stakeholders*;
- Changing environmental, social, or economic circumstances.

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

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

SLIMF 7.5.1.1 Interested *stakeholders** are informed about the main contents of the *management plan** and operations that might affect them upon request at no cost.

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

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

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

- *Dispute* resolution processes (Criterion* 1.6, Criterion* 2.6, Criterion* 4.6); (Not applicable for SLIMF)*
- *Definition of Living wages* (Criterion* 2.4); (Not applicable for SLIMF)*
- *Identification of rights* (Criterion* 3.1, Criterion* 4.1), Indigenous cultural landscapes* (Criterion* 3.1) sites (Criterion* 3.5, Criterion* 4.7) and impacts (Criterion* 4.5);*
- *Local communities** socio-economic development activities (Criterion* 4.4); (Not applicable for SLIMF) and*
- *High Conservation Value* assessment, management and monitoring (Criterion* 9.1, Criterion* 9.2, Criterion* 9.4).*

SLIMF 7.6.1.1 The SLIMF organization informs affected and interested stakeholders about management planning and monitoring.

7.6.2 *Culturally appropriate* engagement** is used to:

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

- 7.6.3 *Affected stakeholders** are provided with an opportunity for *culturally appropriate* engagement** in *monitoring** and planning processes of management activities that affect their interests.
- SLIMF 7.6.3.1: The SLIMF organization ensures that concerns of *affected stakeholders** are addressed in the development and implementation of management and monitoring activities.
- 7.6.4 On request, *interested stakeholders** are provided with an opportunity for *engagement** in monitoring and planning processes of management activities that affect their interests.

PRINCIPLE 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

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

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

NTFP 8.2.1.1 The social and environmental impacts of NTFP management activities are *monitored** consistent with Annex F.

8.2.2 Changes in environmental conditions are *monitored** consistent with Annex F.

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

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

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

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

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

SLIMF 8.4.1.1 *Affected stakeholders** are informed about the monitoring results of social and environmental impacts upon request at no cost.

8.5 The Organization* shall* have and implement a tracking and tracing system proportionate to scale, intensity and risk* of its management activities, for demonstrating the source and volume in proportion to projected output for each year, of all products from the Management Unit* that are marketed as FSC certified.

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

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

NTFP 8.5.1.1 It is demonstrated based on *best available information** or other means (e.g. telemetric data) that the target species spent at least 50% of its lifespan

within the FSC certified *Management Unit** before venison can be sold with the FSC claim: FSC 100%.

NTFP 8.5.1.2 It is demonstrated based on *best available information** or pollen analysis that at least 50% of the collected pollen originates from within the FSC certified *Management Unit** before honey can be sold with the FSC claim: FSC 100%.

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

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

NTFP 8.5.2.1 Information about all NTFP products sold is compiled and documented, including:

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

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

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

PRINCIPLE 9: HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SLIMF 9.1.3.1 If information is received from affected or interested ***stakeholders**** or experts on potential presence of HCV, the HCV assessment is revised latest within 6 months.

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

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

9.2.2 Management strategies and actions are developed to maintain and/or enhance the identified ***High Conservation Values**** and to maintain associated ***High***

*Conservation Value Areas** prior to implementing potentially harmful management activities.

9.2.3 *Affected rights holders**, *affected** and *interested stakeholders** and experts are engaged in the development of management strategies and actions to maintain and/or enhance the identified *High Conservation Values**.

9.2.4 Management strategies are developed to *protect* core areas**.

9.2.5 The vast majority* of each Intact *Forest Landscape** is designated as core area*.

Note: The definition of vast majority* is 80% of the total area of Intact *Forest Landscapes** within the *Management Unit** as of January 1, 2017.

9.2.6 The strategies developed are effective to maintain and/or enhance the *High Conservation Values**.

9.2.7 Management strategies allow limited *industrial activity** within *core areas** only if all effects of *industrial activity** including *fragmentation**:

- Are restricted to a very limited portion of the core area*;
- Do not reduce the *core area** below 50,000 ha; and
- Will produce clear, substantial, additional, *long-term conservation** and social benefits.

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

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

SLIMF 9.3.1.1 Measures are implemented to contribute to the maintenance and/or enhancement of identified HCV within the boundaries of the *management unit**.

9.3.2 The strategies and actions prevent damage and avoid risks* to *High Conservation Values**, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of *High Conservation Values** are uncertain.

SLIMF 9.3.2.1 A precautionary approach is implemented to avoid negative impacts on identified HCV.

9.3.3 *Core areas** are *protected** consistent with *Criterion* 9.2.*

9.3.4 Limited *industrial activity** in *core areas** is consistent with Indicator 9.2.7.

9.3.5 Activities that harm *High Conservation Values** cease immediately and actions are taken to *restore** and protect the *High Conservation Values**.

SLIMF 9.3.5.1 The SLIMF organization immediately stops forestry activities that might damage any new High Conservation Values that are found during forestry activities in the smallholder's *forest**.

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

9.4.1 A program of periodic monitoring assesses:

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

SLIMF 9.4.1.1 *The organization** periodically monitors the High Conservation Values and the implementation of plans to maintain and/or enhance the values identified in the management unit.

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

SLIMF 9.4.2.1 Competent authorities and affected stakeholders are consulted as part of the monitoring.

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

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

PRINCIPLE 10: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

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

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

10.1.1 Harvested sites are regenerated in a *timely manner** that:

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

10.1.2 *Regeneration activities** are implemented in a manner that:

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

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

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

NTPF 10.2.1.1 *Species** chosen for regeneration, including *non-timber forest products**, are ecologically well adapted to the site, are *native species** and are of local provenance, unless clear and convincing justification is provided for using non-local *genotypes** or non-*native species**.

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

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

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

NTPF 10.3.1.1 *Alien species**, including non-timber *forest products**, are used only when direct experience and/or the results of scientific research demonstrate that invasive impacts can be controlled.

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

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

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

- 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*.**
(new)
- 10.5.1 Silvicultural practices are implemented that are ecologically appropriate for the vegetation, *species**, sites and *management objectives**.
- 10.6 The Organization* shall* minimize or avoid the use of fertilizers*. When fertilizers* are used, The Organization* shall* demonstrate that use is equally or more ecologically and economically beneficial than use of silvicultural systems that do not require fertilizers, and prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values*, including soils.**
- 10.6.1 The use of not-natural *fertilizers** is minimized or avoided.
- Note: This Criterion and IGI Indicators refer to “fertilizer*s”. For the purposes of this Standard, “not-natural fertilizer*s” are defined in the Glossary as “mineral” or “not natural” fertilizers*, often referred to as “synthetic” or “chemical” or “inorganic” fertilizers*. The Indicators in this Criterion do not prevent the use of “organic” fertilizers*, such as animal waste or composted plant material or other organic waste in forest management*.
- 10.6.2 When not-natural *fertilizers** are used, their ecological and economic benefits are equal to or higher than those of silvicultural systems that do not require *fertilizers**.
- 10.6.3 When not-natural *fertilizers** are used, their types, rates, frequencies and site of application are documented.
- 10.6.4 When not-natural *fertilizers** are used, *environmental values** are protected, including through implementation of measures to prevent damage.
- 10.6.5 Damage to *environmental values** resulting from not-natural *fertilizer** use is mitigated or repaired.
- 10.6.6 Application of fertilizers* in forestry or intercropping does not occur within the buffer along natural *water bodies**.
- 10.7 The Organization* shall* use integrated pest management and silviculture* systems which avoid, or aim at eliminating, the use of chemical pesticides*. The Organization* shall* not use any chemical pesticides* prohibited by FSC policy. When pesticides* are used, The Organization* shall* prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values* and human health.**
- 10.7.1 Integrated pest management, including selection of *silviculture** systems, is used to avoid, or aim to eliminate, the frequency, extent and amount of chemical *pesticide** applications, and result in non-use or overall reductions in applications.
- 10.7.2 Chemical *pesticides** prohibited by FSC’s Pesticide Policy are not used or stored in the *Management Unit** unless FSC has granted derogation.
- 10.7.3 Records of *pesticide** usage are maintained, including trade name, active ingredient, quantity of active ingredient used, period of use, location and area of use and reason for use.

- 10.7.4 The use of *pesticides** complies with the ILO document “Safety in the use of chemicals at work”:
- Storage and transportation follow the instructions indicated on the chemical safety data sheets
 - *Workers** are equipped with personal protective equipment which includes respiratory protective equipment, protective clothing and footwear, equipment to protect the face, eyes and hands.
 - emergency procedures for clean-up following accidental spillages are established and
 - fresh water is *available** at any time.
- 10.7.5 If *pesticides** are used, application methods minimize quantities used, while achieving effective results, and provide effective *protection** to surrounding *landscapes**.
- 10.7.6 Damage to *environmental values** and human health from *pesticide** use is prevented and mitigated or repaired where damage occurs.
- NTFP 10.7.6.1 Damage to *environmental values**, NTFPs and human health from *pesticide** use is prevented and mitigated or repaired where damage occurs.
- 10.7.7 When *pesticides** are used:
- The selected *pesticide**, application method, timing and pattern of use offers the least risk to humans and non-target *species**; and
 - Objective evidence demonstrates that the *pesticide** is the only effective, practical and cost-effective way to control the pest.
- 10.8 *The Organization** shall* minimize, monitor* and strictly control the use of biological control agents* in accordance with internationally accepted scientific protocols*. When biological control agents* are used, *The Organization** shall* prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values*.**
- 10.8.1 The use of biological control *agents** is minimized, monitored* and controlled.
- 10.8.2 Use of biological control agents* complies with internationally accepted *scientific protocols**.
- 10.8.3 The use of biological control *agents** is recorded including type, quantity, period, location and reason for use.
- 10.8.4 Damage to *environmental values** caused by the use of *biological control agents** is prevented and mitigated or repaired where damage occurs.
- 10.9 *The Organization** shall* assess risks* and implement activities that reduce potential negative impacts from natural hazards* proportionate to scale, intensity, and risk*.**
- 10.9.1 Potential negative impacts of natural hazards* on *infrastructure**, forest* resources and communities in the *Management Unit** are assessed.
- 10.9.2 Management activities mitigate these impacts.
- SLIMF 10.9.2.1 Where natural hazards are likely to occur, management activities mitigate potential unacceptable negative impacts of natural *hazards**. If capacity or resources do not allow, *the Organization** or manager communicates with government or relevant local Organizations about mitigation capacity and possibilities.
- 10.9.3 The *risk** for management activities to increase the frequency, distribution or severity of *natural hazards** is identified for those *hazards** that may be influenced by management.

- SLIMF 10.9.3.1 Awareness is demonstrated on positive and negative effects of management activities on the frequency, distribution or severity of natural *hazards** that may be influenced by management
- 10.9.4 Management activities are modified and/or measures are developed and implemented that reduce the identified risks*.
- SLIMF 10.9.4.1 Management activities are modified and/or measures are developed and implemented aiming at a reduction of the identified risks*.
- 10.10 *The Organization* shall* manage infrastructural development*, transport activities and silviculture* so that water resources and soils are protected, and disturbance of and damage to rare and threatened species*, habitats*, ecosystems* and landscape values* are prevented, mitigated and/or repaired.***
- 10.10.1 Development, maintenance and use of *infrastructure**, as well as transport activities, are managed to protect *environmental values** identified in *Criterion** 6.1.
- NTFP 10.10.1.1 Development, maintenance and use of *infrastructure**, as well as transport activities, are managed to protect *environmental values** and non-timber *forest products** identified in *Criterion** 6.1.
- 10.10.2 *Silviculture** activities are managed to ensure *protection** of the *environmental values** identified in *Criterion** 6.1.
- NTFP 10.10.2.1 *Silviculture** activities are managed to ensure *protection** of the *environmental values** and non-timber *forest products** identified in *Criterion** 6.1.
- 10.10.3 Disturbance or damages to *water courses**, *water bodies**, soils, *rare and threatened species**, *habitats**, *ecosystems** and *landscape values** are prevented, mitigated and repaired in a *timely manner**, and management activities modified to prevent further damage.
- NTFP 10.10.3.1 Disturbance or damages to *water courses**, *water bodies**, soils, rare and threatened *species**, *habitats**, *ecosystems**, non-timber *forest products** and *landscape values** are prevented, mitigated and repaired in a *timely manner**, and management activities modified to prevent further damage.
- 10.11 *The Organization* shall* manage activities associated with harvesting and extraction of timber and non-timber forest products* so that environmental values* are conserved, merchantable waste is reduced, and damage to other products and services is avoided.***
- 10.11.1 Harvesting and extraction practices for timber and *non-timber forest products** are implemented in a manner that conserves *environmental values** as identified in *Criterion** 6.1 and *High Conservation Values** identified in *Criteria** 9.1 and 9.2. (see also 10.11.5)
- 10.11.2 Harvesting practices optimize the use of *forest** products and merchantable materials.
- 10.11.3 Sufficient amounts of dead and decaying biomass and *forest** structure are retained to conserve *environmental values**.
- 10.11.4 Harvesting practices avoid damage to standing residual trees and other *environmental values**. Harvesting operations cease if whether conditions are likely to cause negative impacts on soil and water resources

10.11.5 Where machinery is used for timber extraction, a regular system of skid trails are established meeting the following requirements:

- Skid trail orientation is designed to prevent from erosion.
- Skid trails are marked prior to harvesting and maintained.
- The regular distance between skid trails is not less than 20 meters.
- In case of slopes > 30 %, skid trail systems follow the slope line.

10.11.6 Slash burning after harvesting is minimized.

Note: The FAO model code of *forest** harvesting practice should be considered

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

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

NTPF 10.12.1.1 Collection, clean up, transportation and disposal of all waste materials* is done in an environmentally appropriate way that conserves *environmental values** and non-timber *forest products** as identified in *Criterion** 6.1.

Annex A: Minimum list of applicable laws, regulations and nationally ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements

The normative references pertinent to Laos are listed below. This annex is not intended to be a complete list of all national and international legislation relevant to *forest** management. Rather, its aim is to constitute a primary source for certification bodies and forest management organizations intending to apply this standard. Given the ongoing evolution of applicable legislation, the websites of enforcement and regulatory authorities working in areas relating to society, the environment, forestry, and international conventions shall be consulted, as they are the major themes covered in this standard:

<http://www.na.gov.la>

<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/guide/nations/laos.php>

<http://www.laolandinfo.org>

Laws

- Law on Mining (1997)
- Law on Agriculture (1998)
- Law on Land (2003 – under revision)
- Law on the Promotion of Domestic Investment (2004)
- Law on the Promotion of Foreign Investment (2004)
- Anti-Corruption Law (2005)
- Forestry Law (2007 – under revision)
- Law on Mining (amended 2011)
- Anti-corruption Law (amended 2012)
- Environmental Protection Law (Amended 2012)
- Investment Promotion Law (amended 2016)
- Stabilization of Livelihoods and Occupation Creation Law
- Law on the Handling of Petitions (2015)

Decrees and Ministerial Instructions

- Order 13/PM (2012) on Halting Investment Projects Related to Mining, Rubber, Eucalyptus in Lao
- Decree 88/PM (2008) on Implementation of the Land Law
- Decree 112/PM (2010) on Environmental Impact Assessment
- Decree 135/PM (2009) on State Land Lease or Concession
- Decree 192/PM (2005) on Compensation and Resettlement of People Affected by Development Projects
- Decree 84/PM (2016) on Compensation and Resettlement of People Affected by Development Projects
- Regulations for Implementing Decree 192/PM (2005) on Compensation
- Ministerial Instruction 8029/MONRE (2013) on The Process of Initial Environmental Examination of the Investment Projects and Activities
- Ministerial Instruction 8030/MONRE (2013) on Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Process of the Investment Projects and Activities
- Prime Minister order 15 PM/2016 to stop export logging

- Decree on Associations, No. 238/Gov on 11 August 2017
- Ministerial Instruction on the implementation of the Decree on Association, No. 05/MOHA on 11 October 2017
- Agreement No. 1369/Monre on 28 March 2018 on Prohibition and principles of Officials in Land sector

Other policy documents

- Resolution of the National Land Meeting 06/PMO (2007)
- Instruction as Regards the Implementation of Decree on State-owned Land Approval for Lease or Concession (No. 20/PMO.NLMA, 2010)
- Discussion Paper on the Legal Framework of State Land Leases and Concessions in the Lao PDR (2012)
- 7th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2011-2015)
- Guidelines No. 707/MONRE: on the Adoption and Promulgation of the Guidelines for Public Participation in the Environmental Impact Assessment Process
- Decision on *the Organization** and Operation of the Village Dispute Resolution Committees

Party Resolution

- Party Resolution of the Party's central Committee on the Enhancement of Land Management and Development in New period (2017)
- All national laws are *available** in English and Lao on the National Assembly website
- Sources on 16.07.2015: <http://www.investlaos.gov.la>; www.laolandissues.org

Convention

- C5 Minimum Age (Industry) Convention, 1919
- C6 Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention, 1919
- C14 Weekly Rest (Industry) Convention, 1921
- C81 Labour Inspection Convention, 1947
- C100 Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951
- C111 Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958
- C116 Final Articles Revision Convention, 1961
- C120 Hygiene (Commerce and Offices) Convention, 1964
- C123 Minimum Age (Underground Work) Convention, 1965
- C124 Medical Examination of Young Persons (Underground Work) Convention, 1965
- C138 Minimum Age Convention, 1973
- C144 Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976
- C155 Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981
- C182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999
- Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat
- International Labour Organization Conventions (China is not a full signatory)
- International Tropical Timber Agreement

- International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer

Annex B: Training requirements for *workers** (Principle 2)

*Workers** are able to:

- 1) Implement *forest** activities to comply with applicable *legal** requirements (*Criterion** 1.5);
- 2) Understand the content, meaning and applicability of the eight ILO Core Labour Conventions (*Criterion** 2.1);
- 3) Recognize and report on instances of sexual harassment and gender discrimination (*Criterion** 2.2);
- 4) Safely handle and dispose of hazardous substances to ensure that use does not pose health *risks** (*Criterion** 2.3);
- 5) Carry out their responsibilities for particularly dangerous jobs or jobs entailing a special responsibility (*Criterion** 2.5);
- 6) Identify where *Indigenous Peoples** have *legal** and *customary rights** related to management activities (*Criterion** 3.2);
- 7) Identify and implement applicable elements of UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 (*Criterion** 3.4);
- 8) Identify sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to *Indigenous Peoples** and implement the necessary measures to protect them before the start of *forest** management activities to avoid negative impacts (*Criterion** 3.5 and *Criterion** 4.7);
- 9) Identify where *local communities** have *legal** and *customary rights** related to management activities (*Criterion** 4.2);
- 10) Carry out social, economic and *environmental impact assessments** and develop appropriate mitigation measures (*Criterion** 4.5);
- 11) Implement activities related to the maintenance and/or enhancement of *ecosystem services**, when FSC Ecosystem Services Claims are used (*Criterion** 5.1);
- 12) Handle, apply and store *pesticides** (*Criterion** 10.7); and
- 13) Implement procedures for cleaning up spills of *waste materials** (*Criterion** 10.12).

Annex C: Additional Requirements for Ecosystem Services* (Principle 5)

Editorial Note: Ecosystem services requirements from this Annex have been transferred into Part II of FSC-PRO-30-006 in the Version 2-0 revision of this Standard. Organizations shall comply with the applicable requirements of Parts I, II, III, and IV of FSC-PRO-30-006 when they want to demonstrate the positive impact of their forest* management on ecosystem services and use FSC ecosystem services claims. Standard Developers are no longer required to incorporate these requirements into their national standards.

Annex D: List of rare and threatened species in Laos

Scientific name	Common name	Class	IUCN Red list Category
<i>Aptosyax grypus</i>	Mekong Giant Salmon Carp	Actinopterygii	Critically Endangered
<i>Balantiocheilos ambusticauda</i>	Siamese Bala-shak	Actinopterygii	Critically Endangered
<i>Catlocarpio siamensis</i>	Giant Carp	Actinopterygii	Critically Endangered
<i>Cirrhinus cirrhosus</i>	Mrigal Carp	Actinopterygii	Vulnerable
<i>Cirrhinus microlepis</i>	Small Scaled Mud Carp	Actinopterygii	Vulnerable
<i>Datnioides pulcher</i>	Siamese Tiger Perch	Actinopterygii	Critically Endangered
<i>Laubuka caeruleostigmata</i>	Flying Minnow	Actinopterygii	Endangered
<i>Luciocyprinus striolatus</i>	Pa Sak	Actinopterygii	Endangered
<i>Osphronemus exodon</i>	Elephant Ear Gourami	Actinopterygii	Vulnerable
<i>Pangasianodon gigas</i>	Mekong Giant Catfish	Actinopterygii	Critically Endangered
<i>Pangasianodon hypophthalmus</i>	Striped Catfish	Actinopterygii	Endangered
<i>Pangasius krempfi</i>	Pa Souay Hang Leuang	Actinopterygii	Vulnerable
<i>Pangasius sanitwongsei</i>	Giant Pangasius	Actinopterygii	Critically Endangered
<i>Probarbus jullieni</i>	Jullien's Golden Carp	Actinopterygii	Critically Endangered
<i>Probarbus labeamajor</i>	Thicklipped Barb	Actinopterygii	Endangered
<i>Schistura kaysonei</i>	Laotian Cave Loach	Actinopterygii	Vulnerable
<i>Tenualosa thibaudeaui</i>	Mekong herring	Actinopterygii	Vulnerable
<i>Tor sinensis</i>	Red Mahseer	Actinopterygii	Vulnerable
<i>Yasuhikotakia nigrolineata</i>	Black-Lined Loach	Actinopterygii	Vulnerable
<i>Yasuhikotakia sidthimunki</i>	Dwarf Clown Loach	Actinopterygii	Endangered
<i>Amolops vitreus</i>	Vitreous Cascade Frog	Amphibia	Vulnerable
<i>Gracixalus quangii</i>	Quang's Tree Frog	Amphibia	Vulnerable
<i>Gracixalus quyeti</i>	Quyet's Treefrog	Amphibia	Endangered
<i>Leptobranchella melica</i>	Musical leaf-litter toad	Amphibia	Endangered
<i>Limnonectes liui</i>		Amphibia	Vulnerable
<i>Nanorana yunnanensis</i>	Yunnan Spiny Frog	Amphibia	Endangered
<i>Odorrana jingdongensis</i>	Jingdong Frog	Amphibia	Vulnerable
<i>Quasipaa spinosa</i>	Chinese Edible Frog	Amphibia	Vulnerable

Scientific name	Common name	Class	IUCN Red list Category
<i>Aceros nipalensis</i>	Rufous-necked Hornbill	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Acrocephalus tangorum</i>	White-browed Reed-warbler	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Anser cygnoid</i>	Swan Goose	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Antigone antigone</i>	Sarus Crane	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Aquila heliaca</i>	Eastern Imperial Eagle	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Asarcornis scutulata</i>	White-winged Duck	Aves	Endangered
<i>Aythya baeri</i>	Baer's Pochard	Aves	Critically Endangered
<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	Great Hornbill	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Carpococcyx renauldi</i>	Coral-billed Ground-cuckoo	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Ciconia episcopus</i>	Asian Woollyneck	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Clanga clanga</i>	Greater Spotted Eagle	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Columba punicea</i>	Pale-capped Pigeon	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Emberiza aureola</i>	Yellow-breasted Bunting	Aves	Critically Endangered
<i>Gallinago nemoricola</i>	Wood Snipe	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Garrulax konkakhensis</i>	Chestnut-eared Laughingthrush	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Gyps bengalensis</i>	White-rumped Vulture	Aves	Critically Endangered
<i>Gyps tenuirostris</i>	Slender-billed Vulture	Aves	Critically Endangered
<i>Heliopais personatus</i>	Masked Finfoot	Aves	Endangered
<i>Leptoptilos dubius</i>	Greater Adjutant	Aves	Endangered
<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	Lesser Adjutant	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Mulleripicus pulverulentus</i>	Great Slaty Woodpecker	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Pavo muticus</i>	Green Peafowl	Aves	Endangered
<i>Pseudibis davisoni</i>	White-shouldered Ibis	Aves	Critically Endangered
<i>Rheinardia ocellata</i>	Crested Argus	Aves	Endangered
<i>Rhyticeros undulatus</i>	Wreathed Hornbill	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Rynchops albicollis</i>	Indian Skimmer	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	Red-headed Vulture	Aves	Critically Endangered
<i>Sitta formosa</i>	Beautiful Nuthatch	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Sterna acuticauda</i>	Black-bellied Tern	Aves	Endangered

Scientific name	Common name	Class	IUCN Red list Category
<i>Thaumatibis gigantea</i>	Giant Ibis	Aves	Critically Endangered
<i>Turdus feae</i>	Grey-sided Thrush	Aves	Vulnerable
<i>Margaritifera laosensis</i>	Trai	Bivalvia	Endangered
<i>Hemistrygon laosensis</i>	Mekong Freshwater Stingray	Chondrichthyes	Endangered
<i>Pristis pristis</i>	Largetooth Sawfish	Chondrichthyes	Critically Endangered
<i>Saussurella acuticornis</i>	Pointed Pygmy Grasshopper	Insecta	Vulnerable
<i>Aonyx cinereus</i>	Asian Small-clawed Otter	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Arctictis binturong</i>	Binturong	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Arctonyx collaris</i>	Greater Hog Badger	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Axis porcinus</i>	Hog Deer	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Bos gaurus</i>	Gaur	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Bos javanicus</i>	Banteng	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Bos sauveli</i>	Kouprey	Mammalia	Critically Endangered
<i>Bubalus arnee</i>	Wild Water Buffalo	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Chrotogale owstoni</i>	Owston's Civet	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Cuon alpinus</i>	Dhole	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Dicerorhinus sumatrensis</i>	Sumatran Rhinoceros	Mammalia	Critically Endangered
<i>Elephas maximus</i>	Asian Elephant	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Hapalomys delacouri</i>	Lesser Marmoset Rat	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Helarctos malayanus</i>	Sun Bear	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Hipposideros khaokhouayensis</i>	Phou Khao Khouay Leaf-nosed Bat	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Hipposideros scutinares</i>	Shield-nosed Leaf-nosed Bat	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Hylobates lar</i>	Lar Gibbon	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Hylobates pileatus</i>	Pileated Gibbon	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Lutra sumatrana</i>	Hairy-nosed Otter	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Lutrogale perspicillata</i>	Smooth-coated Otter	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Macaca arctoides</i>	Stump-tailed Macaque	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Macaca leonina</i>	Northern Pig-tailed Macaque	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Manis javanica</i>	Sunda Pangolin	Mammalia	Critically Endangered

Scientific name	Common name	Class	IUCN Red list Category
<i>Manis pentadactyla</i>	Chinese Pangolin	Mammalia	Critically Endangered
<i>Moschus berezovskii</i>	Forest Musk Deer	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Muntiacus vuquangensis</i>	Large-antlered Muntjac	Mammalia	Critically Endangered
<i>Naemorhedus griseus</i>	Chinese Goral	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Nesolagus timminsi</i>	Annamite Striped Rabbit	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Nomascus concolor</i>	Black Crested Gibbon	Mammalia	Critically Endangered
<i>Nomascus gabriellae</i>	Red-cheeked Gibbon	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Nomascus leucogenys</i>	Northern White-cheeked Gibbon	Mammalia	Critically Endangered
<i>Nomascus siki</i>	Southern White-cheeked Gibbon	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Nycticebus bengalensis</i>	Bengal Slow Loris	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Nycticebus pygmaeus</i>	Pygmy Slow Loris	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i>	Irrawaddy Dolphin	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Panthera pardus</i>	Leopard	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Panthera tigris</i>	Tiger	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Pseudoryx nghetinhensis</i>	Saola	Mammalia	Critically Endangered
<i>Pygathrix nemaeus</i>	Red-shanked Douc Langur	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Rhinoceros sondaicus</i>	Javan Rhinoceros	Mammalia	Critically Endangered
<i>Rucervus eldii</i>	Eld's Deer	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Rusa unicolor</i>	Sambar	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Sus bucculentus</i>	Indo-chinese Warty Pig	Mammalia	Extinct
<i>Trachypithecus germaini</i>	Indochinese Lutung	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Trachypithecus hatinhensis</i>	Hatinh Langur	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Trachypithecus laotum</i>	Laotian Langur	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Trachypithecus phayrei</i>	Phayre's Leaf-monkey	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Ursus thibetanus</i>	Asiatic Black Bear	Mammalia	Vulnerable
<i>Viverra megaspila</i>	Large-spotted Civet	Mammalia	Endangered
<i>Amyda cartilaginea</i>	Asiatic Softshell Turtle	Reptilia	Vulnerable
<i>Boiga bourreti</i>	Bourret's Cat Snake	Reptilia	Endangered
<i>Bungarus slowinskii</i>	Red River Krait	Reptilia	Vulnerable

Scientific name	Common name	Class	IUCN Red list Category
<i>Crocodylus siamensis</i>	Siamese Crocodile	Reptilia	Critically Endangered
<i>Cuora bourreti</i>	Bourret's Box Turtle	Reptilia	Critically Endangered
<i>Cuora galbinifrons</i>	Indochinese Box Turtle	Reptilia	Critically Endangered
<i>Cuora mouhotii</i>	Keeled Box Turtle	Reptilia	Endangered
<i>Cyrtodactylus khammouanensis</i>	Khammouane Bent-toed Gecko	Reptilia	Vulnerable
<i>Cyrtodactylus lomyenensis</i>	Lomyen Bent-toed Gecko	Reptilia	Vulnerable
<i>Gekko aaronbaueri</i>	Aaron Bauer's Gecko	Reptilia	Vulnerable
<i>Gekko boehmei</i>	Boehme's Gecko	Reptilia	Vulnerable
<i>Gekko bonkowskii</i>	Bonkowski's Gecko	Reptilia	Vulnerable
<i>Gekko sengchanthavongi</i>	Sengchanthavong's Gecko	Reptilia	Vulnerable
<i>Gekko thakhekensis</i>	Thakhek Gecko	Reptilia	Vulnerable
<i>Heosemys grandis</i>	Giant Asian Pond Turtle	Reptilia	Vulnerable
<i>Indotestudo elongata</i>	Elongated Tortoise	Reptilia	Critically Endangered
<i>Malayemys subtrijuga</i>	Mekong Snail-eating Turtle	Reptilia	Vulnerable
<i>Naja atra</i>	Chinese Cobra	Reptilia	Vulnerable
<i>Naja siamensis</i>	Black And White Spitting Cobra	Reptilia	Vulnerable
<i>Ophiophagus hannah</i>	King Cobra	Reptilia	Vulnerable
<i>Pelochelys cantorii</i>	Asian Giant Softshell Turtle	Reptilia	Endangered
<i>Physignathus cocincinus</i>	Chinese Water Dragon	Reptilia	Vulnerable
<i>Platysternon megacephalum</i>	Big-headed Turtle	Reptilia	Endangered
<i>Protobothrops sieversorum</i>	Three Horned-scaled Pitviper	Reptilia	Endangered
<i>Pseudocalotes poilani</i>	Laotian False Bloodsucker	Reptilia	Endangered
<i>Python bivittatus</i>	Burmese Python	Reptilia	Vulnerable
<i>Sacalia quadriocellata</i>	Four-eyed Turtle	Reptilia	Endangered
<i>Viridovipera truongsoneensis</i>	Truong Son Pit Viper	Reptilia	Endangered
<i>Cycas pectinata</i>	Thaljimura	Cycadopsida	Vulnerable
<i>Cycas siamensis</i>		Cycadopsida	Vulnerable
<i>Paphiopedilum dianthum</i>	Double Flowered Paphiopedilum	Liliopsida	Endangered

Scientific name	Common name	Class	IUCN Red list Category
<i>Keteleeria evelyniana</i>	Yunnan Yushan	Pinopsida	Vulnerable

Source: www.iucnredlist.org; Date of report: 20 August 2019

Annex E-1: Elements of the *Management Plan** (Principle 7)

- 1) The results of assessments, including:
 - i. Natural resources and *environmental values**, as identified in *Principle** 6 and *Principle** 9;
 - ii. Social, economic and cultural resources and condition, as identified in *Principle** 6, *Principle** 2 to *Principle** 5 and *Principle** 9; (Not applicable for SLIMF)
 - iii. Intact Forest Landscapes* and core areas*, as identified in *Principle** 9;
 - iv. Indigenous cultural landscapes*, as identified with affected rights holders* in *Principle** 3 & *Principle** 9;
 - v. Major social and environmental risks in the area, as identified in *Principle* 6, *Principle** 2 to *Principle** 5 and *Principle** 9; and (Not applicable for SLIMF)
- 2) Programs and activities regarding:
 - i. *Workers** *rights**, occupational health and safety, *gender equality**, as identified in *Principle** 2;
 - ii. *Indigenous Peoples**, community relations, local economic and social development, as identified in *Principle** 3, *Principle** 4 and *Principle** 5;
 - iii. Stakeholder *engagement** and the resolution of *disputes** and grievances, as identified in *Principle** 1, *Principle** 2 and *Principle** 7;
 - iv. Planned management activities and timelines, silvicultural systems used, typical harvesting methods and equipment, as identified in *Principle** 10;
 - v. The rationale for harvesting rates of timber and other natural resources, as identified in *Principle** 5.
- 3) Measures to *conserve** and/or *restore**:
 - i. Rare and threatened species* and habitats*;
 - ii. Water bodies* and riparian zones*;
 - iii. *Landscape** *connectivity**, including wildlife corridors;
 - iv. Representative *Sample Areas**, as identified in *Principle** 6; and
 - v. *High Conservation Values**, as identified in *Principle** 9.
- 4) Measures to assess, prevent, and mitigate negative impacts of management activities on:
 - i. Environmental values*, as identified in *Principle** 6 and *Principle** 9;
 - ii. Social Values and *Indigenous cultural landscapes**, as identified in *Principle** 2 to *Principle** 5 and *Principle** 9; and
 - iii. *Intact Forest Landscapes** and *core areas**, as identified in *Principle** 9. (Not applicable for SLIMF)
- 5) A description of the monitoring program, as identified in *Principle** 8, including:
 - i. Growth and yield, as identified in *Principle** 5;
 - ii. *Environmental values**, as identified in *Principle** 6;
 - iii. Operational impacts, as identified in *Principle** 10;
 - iv. *High Conservation Values**, as identified in *Principle** 9;
 - v. Monitoring systems based on stakeholder *engagement** planned or in place, as identified in *Principle** 2 to *Principle** 5 and *Principle** 7;

- vi. Maps describing the natural resources and land use zoning on the *Management Unit** with a scale not larger than 1/50.000.
- vii. (Not applicable for SLIMF) GIS data at least describing the boundaries of the *management unit**, major infrastructure elements and settlements, water courses, protected areas and main land use.
- viii. (Not applicable for SLIMF) Description of the methodology to assess and *monitor** any development and land use options allowed in *Intact Forest Landscapes** and *core areas** including their effectiveness in implementing the *precautionary approach**;
- ix. (Not applicable for SLIMF) Description of the methodology to assess and *monitor** any development and land use options allowed in *Indigenous cultural landscapes** including their effectiveness in implementing the *precautionary approach**; and

(Not applicable for SLIMF) Global Forest Watch map, or more accurate national or regional map, describing the natural resources and land use zoning on the *Management Unit**, including the *Intact Forest Landscapes* core areas**.

Annex E-2: Conceptual Framework for Planning and Monitoring (Principle 7)

Note: This conceptual framework is not mandatory.

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

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

Annex F: Monitoring Requirements (Principle 8)

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

- xiii. *Protection** of sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to *Indigenous Peoples** and *local communities** (*Criterion** 3.5 and *Criterion** 4.7) (Not applicable for SLIMF);
 - xiv. The persistence of *Indigenous cultural landscapes** and associated values of significance to *Indigenous Peoples** (*Criterion** 3.1, *Criterion** 3.5);
 - xv. The use of traditional knowledge* and intellectual property* (*Criterion** 3.6 and *Criterion** 4.8) (Not applicable for SLIMF);
 - xvi. Local economic and social development (*Criterion** 4.2, *Criterion** 4.3, *Criterion** 4.4, *Criterion** 4.5) (Not applicable for SLIMF);
 - xvii. The production of diversified benefits and/or products (*Criterion** 5.1) (Not applicable for SLIMF);
 - xviii. The maintenance and/or enhancement of *ecosystem services** (*Criterion** 5.1);
 - xix. Actual compared to projected annual harvests of timber and *non-timber forest products** (*Criterion** 5.2);
 - xx. The use of local processing, local services and local value-added manufacturing (*Criterion** 5.4) (Not applicable for SLIMF);
 - xxi. Long term* *economic viability** (*Criterion** 5.5) (Not applicable for SLIMF);
 - xxii. *High Conservation Values** 5 and 6 identified in *Criterion** 9.1.
- 3) Monitoring procedures in 8.2.2 are sufficient to identify and describe changes in environmental conditions including where applicable:
- i. The maintenance and/or enhancement of *ecosystem services** (*Criterion** 5.2) (when *The Organization** uses FSC ecosystem services claims);
 - ii. *Environmental values** and *ecosystem functions** including carbon sequestration and storage (*Criterion** 6.1) (Not applicable for SLIMF);
 - iii. Effectiveness of actions identified and implemented to prevent, mitigate and repair negative impacts to *environmental values** (*Criterion** 6.3);
 - iv. *Rare and threatened species**, and the effectiveness of actions implemented to protect them and their *habitats** (*Criterion** 6.4) (Not applicable for SLIMF);
 - v. *Representative sample areas** and the effectiveness of actions implemented to *conserve** and/or *restore** them (*Criterion** 6.5) (Not applicable for SLIMF);
 - vi. Naturally occurring *native species** and *biological diversity** and the effectiveness of actions implemented to *conserve** and/or *restore** them (*Criterion** 6.6);
 - vii. Water courses, *water bodies**, water quantity and water quality and the effectiveness of actions implemented to *conserve** and/or *restore** them (*Criterion** 6.7) (Not applicable for SLIMF);
 - viii. *Landscape values** and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or *restore** them (*Criterion** 6.8) (Not applicable for SLIMF);
 - ix. Conversion of *natural forest** to *plantations** or conversion to non-forest* (*Criterion** 6.9);
 - x. The status of *plantations** established after 1994 (*Criterion** 6.10); and
 - xi. *High Conservation Values** 1 to 4 identified in *Criterion** 9.1 and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or enhance them.

Annex G: High Conservation Value framework for Lao PDR

The objective of this High Conservation Value (HCV) Framework is to provide nationally specific interpretations of HCVs and Best Available Information* for addressing HCVs.

This National HCV Framework is to be used by accredited Certification bodies and certificate holders.

The national or regional interpretations of the HCV categories and elements apply to all certificate holders, wherever occurrences of those HCVs may exist. Conversely, the Best Available* Information for addressing those HCV interpretations may vary, depending on whether the certificate holder is a SLIMF or non-SLIMF, as indicated in the Framework.”

The HCV interpretations and *Best Available Information** provided in this Framework are not necessarily exhaustive; additional examples of HCV occurrences may exist and shall be identified at the forest *management Unit** scale.

The Framework includes 2 types of information sources:

- *Best Available Information (BAI)*: Information sources shall be used.
- Other Recommended Information (ORI): Information sources are recommended to be used.

Note: For some BAI sources, (only) SLIMF organizations may use the indicated source of information on voluntary base. The consideration of these sources remains mandatory for non-SLIMF organizations and is then defined as BAI.

The national or regional interpretations of the HCV categories and elements apply to all certificate holders, wherever occurrences of those HCVs may exist.

Specific sections of this Framework are also applicable to National and Centralized National Risk Assessments for Controlled Wood, and to Certification Bodies and Certificate Holders seeking certification under FSC-STD-30-010 and FSC-STD-40-005. The applicable sections are: The Interpretations and *Best Available Information** for each HCV category; and the *Best Available Information** for Assessments for each HCV category.

Overarching Best Available Information

The following table shows the types of overarching Best *Available** Information (BAI) that is applicable for assessments for all HCVs, specific categories of HCV, or specific HCV elements. The purpose of listing this overarching BAI here is to avoid having to list it repetitively for each HCV in the following sections. BAI that is more specific to individual HCV Interpretations is included alongside those Interpretations in the following sections.

Note that where the BAI is *engagement** with *Indigenous Peoples**, this should include *engagement** with local traditional communities or ethnic minority communities, including Lao Sung and especially Lao Theung, and including members of past *local communities** that may have been displaced. (MRGI, 2017)

A. Overarching Best Available Information for HCV Identification and Assessments

Best Available Information* for Identifying and Assessing Regional or National HCV Interpretations		BAI >SLIMF	BAI (SLIMF)
All HCV Categories: All Elements	Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and results of field surveys or consultations with <i>stakeholders*</i> 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*. <i>High Conservation Value*</i> surveys of the <i>Management Unit*</i> ; relevant databases and maps; <i>culturally appropriate* engagement*</i> with Indigenous Peoples, affected <i>rights holders*</i> , affected* and interested <i>stakeholders*</i> , and relevant local and regional experts; FSC Guidance on Free Prior and <i>Informed Consent*</i> (2012) (or subsequent versions when approved); review of the results by knowledgeable expert(s) independent of <i>The Organization*</i> .	X	X
HCV 2: Element 1, IFLs	Global Forest Watch Intact <i>Forest Landscapes*</i> maps (2017) www.globalforestwatch.org , or other maps based on a more recent and accurate Intact <i>Forest Landscapes*</i> inventory using a refined methodology.	X	X
HCV 5: Element 1, Values fundamental to local communities	<i>Culturally appropriate* engagement*</i> with <i>local communities*</i> . Note this shall be the primary BAI for these elements.	X	X
HCV 5: Element 2, Values fundamental to Indigenous Peoples	<i>Culturally appropriate* engagement*</i> with Indigenous Peoples. Note this shall be the primary BAI for these elements.	X	X
HCV 6: Element 2, Values important to local communities	<i>Culturally appropriate* engagement*</i> with <i>local communities*</i> . Note this shall be the primary BAI for these elements.	X	X
HCV 6: Element 3, Values important to Indigenous Peoples	<i>Culturally appropriate* engagement*</i> with Indigenous Peoples. Note this shall be the primary BAI for these elements.	X	X

B. Overarching *Best Available Information** for Development of Management Strategies

The following table shows the types of overarching *Best Available** Information (BAI) that is applicable for the development of management strategies all HCVs, specific categories of HCVs, or specific HCV elements. The purpose of listing this overarching BAI here is to avoid having to list it repetitively for each HCV in the following sections. BAI that is more specific to individual HCV Interpretations is included alongside those Interpretations in the following sections.

<i>Best Available Information* for Developing Management Strategies for Regional or National HCV Interpretations</i>		<i>BAI >SLIMF</i>	<i>BAI (SLIMF)</i>
All HCV Categories, All Elements	<p>Identification of threats, using: Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and results of field surveys or consultations with <i>stakeholders*</i> that are most credible, accurate, complete, and/or pertinent and that can be obtained through <i>reasonable*</i> effort and cost, subject to the <i>scale*</i> and <i>intensity*</i> of the management activities and the <i>Precautionary Approach*</i>.</p> <p><i>Engagement*</i> with Indigenous Peoples, <i>affected rights holders*</i>, <i>affected*</i> and interested <i>stakeholders*</i>, and experts.</p>	X	X
HCV 5: Element 1, Values fundamental to local communities	<i>Culturally appropriate* engagement*</i> with <i>local communities*</i> . Note this shall be the primary BAI for these elements. Note the “fundamentality” of the resource should be determined in collaboration with the local communities.	X	X
HCV 5: Element 2, Values fundamental to Indigenous Peoples	<i>Culturally appropriate* engagement*</i> with Indigenous Peoples. Note this shall be the primary BAI for these elements. Note the “fundamentality” of the resource should also be determined in collaboration with the Indigenous peoples.	X	X
HCV 6: Element 2, Values important to local communities	<i>Culturally appropriate* engagement*</i> with local communities. Note this shall be the primary BAI for these elements. Note that “critical... importance” should be understood as an outcome of <i>engagement*</i> with the local communities	X	X
HCV 6: Element 3, Values important to Indigenous Peoples	<i>Culturally appropriate* engagement*</i> with Indigenous Peoples. Note this shall be the primary BAI for these elements. Note that “critical... importance” should be understood as an outcome of <i>engagement*</i> with the Indigenous Peoples.	X	X

C. Overarching Best Available Information for Development of Monitoring Methodologies

The following table shows the types of overarching Best *Available** Information (BAI) that is applicable for the monitoring all HCVs, specific categories of HCVs, or specific HCV elements. The purpose of listing this overarching BAI here is to avoid having to list it repetitively for each HCV in the following sections. BAI that is more specific to individual HCV Interpretations is included alongside those Interpretations in the following sections.

Best Available Information* for Monitoring Regional or National HCV Interpretations		BAI >SLIMF	BAI (SLIMF)
All HCV Categories, All Elements	<i>Engagement*</i> with rights-holders, consistent with Criteria 3.5, 4.5 and 4.7; <i>culturally appropriate*</i> <i>engagement*</i> with Indigenous Peoples and affected and interested <i>stakeholders*</i> ; information on engaging with representatives of the Indigenous Peoples and/or <i>local communities*</i> ; monitoring conducted by the Indigenous Peoples and/or <i>local communities*</i> ; and <i>engagement*</i> with experts.	X	X

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

A. Interpretations of HCV 1, for HCV Identification

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

Element 1: Concentrations of *biological diversity that are *significant** at global, regional, or national levels:**

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
Large contiguous natural forests, especially in Intact Forest Landscapes, which are generally likely to contain HCV 1. (FSC, 2017b)	www.globalforestwatch.org ; http://www.intactforests.org/	X		
Protected areas, including National Protected Areas (aka National Biodiversity & Conservation Areas). (Note that not all NPAs/NBCAs have IUCN I-III status.)	Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment. (For lists and maps, see also: MoNRE IUCN (2016), UNEP-WCMC (2017), and Protected Areas.)	X	X	
Forests adjacent to protected areas, that have similar habitat conditions, and thus likely support some of the same biodiversity. (WWF, 2008)				X
Biodiversity Hotspots	Biodiversity Hotspots lists and maps (see References, including CEFP, 2017).	X	X	
Key Biodiversity Areas / Important Bird Areas. (Note in Laos, KBAs and IBA are the same sites.)	Key Biodiversity Area and Important Bird Area lists and maps (see References, including KBA Partnership, 2017, and Birdlife International, 2017).	X	X	

Element 2: Concentrations of endemic species* that are significant* at global, regional, or national levels:

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
Endemic Bird Areas: Southern Laos (species include grey-faced tit-babbler and white-cheeked laughingthrush); Fan-Si-Pan and Northern Laos (Ward's trogon, broad-billed warbler, red-winged laughingthrush, and yellow-billed nuthatch); Annamese Lowlands (Arborophila merlini, Lophura imperialis, Lophura hatinhensis, Lophura edwardsi, Crested Argus, Sooty Babbler, Grey-faced Tit-babbler, Rimator danjoui, White-cheeked Laughingthrush.) (Birdlife International, 2017.)	For lists and maps, see Birdlife International (2017)	X	X	
Presence of any endemic species*, or location in an area considered to have high endemism, is indicative of HCV. (Per the Vietnam HCV Toolkit; see WWF, 2008)				X

Element 3: Concentrations of rare, * threatened,* or endangered species* that are significant* at global, regional, or national levels:

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
Significant occurrences of terrestrial and freshwater species* listed by the IUCN Red List as Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, or Near Threatened.	IUCN Red List: www.iucnredlist.org	X	X	
Species* on the Laos nationally adapted IUCN Red List. (MoNRE IUCN, 2016)	IUCN Red List: www.iucnredlist.org	X		X
Protected areas, including NPAs. (FSC, 2017b)	Protected areas (see References). The MNRE.	X	X	
Natural forests that provide habitats* for threatened or endangered species*: that are wide-ranging (e.g., tiger, elephant); for which Laos is of global importance (e.g., saola); or whose ranges are largely outside protected areas (e.g., black-cheeked crested gibbon and pileated				X

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	<i>Best Available Information*</i> for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
gibbon). (FSC, 2017b, citing STEA & UNEP, 2006, and Duckworth et al,1998)				
Migration areas and other <i>habitats*</i> that are critical to the survival of a population may be HCV. (In Vietnam, this applies to elephants, Sarus crane, and black-faced spoonbill.) (WWF, 2008)				X
<i>Threatened species*</i> of particular note include Asian elephant, tiger, clouded leopard, gaur, saola, gibbon, Siamese crocodile, Irrawaddy dolphin, and white winged duck. (MoNRE IUCN, 2016)				X
HCV 1 in plantations: There is no publicly <i>available*</i> data on the presence of HCV1 within plantations however due to the small size of plantations and to their anthropogenic nature, they likely do not support HCV1. (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 EN)	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People's Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)			X
HCV 1 in natural forests: It is likely that HCV1 occur in most natural forests (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 EN)	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People's Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)			X

B. Assessments for HCV 1

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

National or regionally appropriate methodologies and *Best Available Information** for assessments for HCV 1:

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 1 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information*</i> for assessing occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
For certain protected areas	For certain NPAs, some information on their values is at: De Koning et al (undated), DFRC? (undated), and Project Anoulak (undated).	X	X	
For Biodiversity Hotspots	Some information on their ecological components and <i>species*</i> of concern is at CEEP (2017)	X	X	
For Key Biodiversity Areas	For certain KBAs, some information on their values is <i>available*</i> in Birdlife International factsheets at KBA Partnership (2017).	X	X	
For Endemic Bird Areas	Some descriptions of the Areas and their values is at Birdlife International (2017)	X	X	
For all HCV 1 in production forests: Consider the SUFORD toolkit for HCV assessments. Per Dennis et al (2008), also consider the biodiversity survey methods established for the SUFORD project. See Poulsen, et al (2005) and Poulsen, et al (2006) for surveys conducted per these methods.				X
For all HCV 1 Interpretations: For guidance in identifying other examples of HCV 1 that may exist in the <i>management Unit*</i> , see: FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2013) (e.g., Chapter 3.1, Identification of HCV 1)				X

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 1

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section B.)

Management strategies for HCV 1:

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 1 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for management strategies for these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF	ORI
For all HCV 1 Interpretations: <i>Protection*</i> zones, harvest prescriptions, and/or other strategies to protect threatened, endangered, endemic <i>species*</i> , or other concentrations of <i>biological diversity*</i> and the ecological communities and <i>habitats*</i> upon which they depend, sufficient to prevent reductions in the extent, integrity, quality, and viability of the <i>habitats*</i> and <i>species*</i> occurrences.				
For all HCV 1 Interpretations: Where enhancement is identified as the <i>objective*</i> , measures to develop, expand, and/or <i>restore*</i> <i>habitats*</i> for such <i>species*</i> .				
For conservation areas and protected areas, respect logging bans regardless of special authorizations, and prevent development of roads or tracks. (MAF, 2013; FSC, 2017b (implicit))				
For rare, threatened, and endangered (RTE) wildlife, adopt controls to prevent poaching, illegal harvest, and overharvest, including in cooperation with authorities. (FSC, 2017b; RA, 2005; RA, 2008)				
For RTE wildlife, help educate <i>local communities*</i> about their value and concerns with poaching. (FSC, 2017b)				
For tigers	See the National Tiger Action Plan for Lao PDR, 2010-2020.	X		X
For gibbon	See the Gibbon Conservation Action Plan (2011-2020)	X		X

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 1 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information*</i> for management strategies for these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF	ORI
For Saola, Eld's deer, Asian elephants, Siamese crocodiles, great hornbill, and green peafowl	See existing conservation initiatives.	X		X

D. Monitoring for HCV 1

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section C.)

Methodologies and *Best Available Information** for monitoring programs for HCV 1:

National or regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 1 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information*</i> for monitoring occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF	ORI
For all HCV Interpretations: Per Dennis et al (2008), consider the monitoring recommendations, including for biodiversity surveys, established for the SUFORD project. See Poulsen, et al (2005) and Poulsen, et al (2006) for surveys using these methods.				
For all HCV 1 Interpretations in non-SLIMF management units: Consider using satellite imagery to help monitor forest cover loss (MAF, 2013).				
For all HCV 1 Interpretations: Consider FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2014) (e.g., Part 3).				

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.

A. Interpretations of HCV 2, for HCV Identification

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

Element 1: Intact forest landscapes*:

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
<i>Intact Forest Landscapes*</i> (IFLs). Given Laos' small size, this includes IFLs occurring only partially within the country.	Primary: IFL maps for 2013; see Global Forest Watch. Secondary: See the Best Available* Information listed below.	X	X	

Element 2: Large landscape*-level ecosystems* that are significant* at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species* in natural patterns of distribution and abundance:

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
<i>Tiger Conservation Landscapes*</i>	For maps, see References	X	X	
<i>Forests*</i> that are roadless, and/or have not been affected by <i>forest*</i> management activity, and other large intact <i>forest*</i> areas that do not fully meet the thresholds for <i>Intact Forest Landscapes*</i> , e.g., they do not meet the minimum size requirements.	Mapping and other data on <i>forest*</i> cover, age, succession, structure, <i>species*</i> composition, <i>habitat*</i> connectivity*, anthropogenic disturbance, etc.	X		X
Other native forests* with successional stages, <i>forest*</i> structures, and <i>species*</i> composition that are similar in distribution and abundance to native <i>forests*</i> that have experienced minimal human disturbance (traditional community management regimes notwithstanding).	Mapping and other data on <i>forest*</i> cover, age, succession, structure, <i>species*</i> composition, <i>habitat*</i> connectivity*, anthropogenic disturbance, etc.	X		X
Important wetland <i>ecosystems*</i> , e.g., RAMSAR sites, e.g., Beung Kiat Ngong Wetlands and Xe Champhone Wetlands.	RAMSAR (see References, including RSIS, 2017)	X		X

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	<i>Best Available Information*</i> for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
Other forests recognized as being regionally <i>significant*</i> at the bioregion or larger scale in formally recognized reports or peer-reviewed journals, due to the unusual landscape*-scale* biodiversity values provided by size and condition of the <i>forest*</i> relative to regional <i>forest*</i> land cover and land use trends				X
HCV 2 in plantations: Plantations are mostly created in degraded forests and it is unlikely that HCV2 occurs in plantations. (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 EN)	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People’s Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)			X
HCV 2 in natural forests: SUFORD-SU has identified a 150,000 ha of relatively intact forest inside the Dong Sithouane PFA. Intactforests.org identifies 6 intact forests in Laos in the 2013 assessment, including SUFORD’s finding. The Intactforest.org assessment from the year 2000 identified several more intact forests than the one from 2013. (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 EN)	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People’s Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N); www.intactforests.org			X

Element 3: *Ecosystem mosaics that are *significant** at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance:**

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
Areas important as biological connectivity corridors, e.g., forests that provide regionally <i>significant habitat</i> * connectivity* between larger <i>forest</i> * areas and/or refugia*	Mapping and other data on <i>forest</i> * cover, age, succession, structure, <i>species</i> * composition, <i>habitat</i> * connectivity*, anthropogenic disturbance, IFLs, protected areas, etc.	X	X	
<i>Forest ecosystems</i> * forming a landscape-level mosaic with other vegetation types used by a diversity of species. (FSC, 2017b)				X
HCV 2 in plantations: Plantations are mostly created in degraded forests and it is unlikely that HCV2 occurs in plantations. (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 EN)	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People’s Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)			X
HCV 2 in natural forests: Other categories of HCV2, such as <i>forest ecosystems</i> * forming a landscape-level mosaic with other vegetation types used by a diversity of species may exist in Laos. (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 EN)	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People’s Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)			X

B. Assessments for HCV 2

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

National or regionally appropriate methodologies and *Best Available Information for assessments for HCV 2:**

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 2 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information</i> * for assessing occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
For all HCV 2 Interpretations: Consider the SUFORD toolkit for HCV assessments in production forests.				
For <i>Intact Forest Landscapes</i> *	www.globalforestwatch.org www.intactforests.org See Annex H of FSC (2017). See also the <i>Best Available</i> * Information for identifying HCV 2	X	X	
For <i>Tiger Conservation Landscapes</i> *	For some high-level considerations, see Dinerstein et al (2006)	X	X	
For RAMSAR sites	For a summary of some of the areas' features and values, see RSIS (2017)	X	X	
For all HCV 2 Interpretations: For additional guidance on assessing HCV 2, see: FSC (20XXa), FSC (20XXb), and HCVRN (2013) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.2, Identification of HCV 2).				X

C: Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 2

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section B.)

Management strategies for HCV 2:

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 2 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for management strategies for these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF	ORI
For all HCV 2 Interpretations: Strategies that fully maintain the extent and intactness of the <i>forest* ecosystems*</i> and the viability of their biodiversity concentrations, including plant and animal indicator <i>species*</i> , keystone <i>species*</i> , and/or guilds associated with large intact <i>natural forest* ecosystems*</i> . Examples include <i>protection* zones</i> and set-aside areas, with any commercial activity in areas that are not set-aside being limited to <i>low-intensity*</i> operations that fully maintain <i>forest*</i> structure, composition, regeneration, and disturbance patterns at all times.				
For all HCV 2 Interpretations: Where enhancement is identified as the <i>objective*</i> , measures to <i>restore*</i> and reconnect <i>forest* ecosystems*</i> , their intactness, and <i>habitats*</i> that support natural <i>biological diversity*</i> are in place.				
For IFLs: The core area of each <i>Intact Forest Landscape*</i> within the <i>Management Unit*</i> is protected, comprising at least 80% of the <i>Intact Forest Landscapes*</i> within the <i>Management Unit*</i> . See also Annex H of FSC (2017).		X	X	
For IFLs and other HCV 2 characterized by intactness, restrict logging and development of roads, which are the primary threats to intact forests. (FSC, 2017b)		X	X	
For Tiger Conservation <i>Landscapes*</i>	For high-level recommendations, see Dinerstein et al (2006)	X		X
For RAMSAR sites	Consider the information at RSIS (2017)	X		X

D. Monitoring for HCV 2

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section C.)

Methodologies and *Best Available Information for monitoring programs for HCV 2:**

National or regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 2 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information</i> * for monitoring occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF	ORI
For <i>Intact Forest Landscapes</i> *: Consider FSC (20XXb).				
For all HCV 2 Interpretations in non-SLIMF management units: Consider using satellite imagery to help monitor forest cover loss (MAF, 2013)				
For all HCV 2 Interpretations: Consider FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2014) (e.g., Part 3).				

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

A. Interpretations of HCV 3, for HCV Identification

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

Element 1: Rare*, threatened*, or endangered *ecosystems:**

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	<i>Best Information* Available for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:</i>	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
Mature <i>forest*</i> remnants in degraded <i>landscapes*</i> .				
Karsts, including in the Provinces of Khammouane and Bolikhamxay, including smaller unprotected occurrences. (FSC, 2017b; RA, 2005)				
Dry Dipterocarp Forests of the Mekong Plain. (RA, 2005)				
WWF Global 200 Ecosystems, e.g., Annamite Range Moist Forests and Indochina Dry Forests.	WWF Global 200 Ecoregions (see References)	X	X	
Other ecoregions of global priority, e.g., Northern Indochina Sub-tropical Moist Forests and Mekong River and its catchment. (RA, 2005)				
Other <i>ecosystems*</i> that are threatened, greatly reduced in extent or function, or poorly protected at bioregional scales.				
Areas important for the conservation of important genes or genetically distinct populations.				
HCV 3 in plantations: Plantations are mostly created in unforested areas or in degraded forests. Consequently, HCV3 should not occur in plantations. (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 EN)	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People’s Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)			X

Element 2: Rare*, threatened*, or endangered *habitats:**

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
<i>Forest*</i> types and <i>habitats*</i> now very limited in extent, e.g., level lowland evergreen forest below 500m, north of Vientiane. (FSC, 2017b, citing STEA & UNEP, 2006)				
Other <i>habitats*</i> and habitat features that are vulnerable and/or important to HCV 1 biodiversity or species, e.g., wetlands (e.g., swamps, pools, etc.), floodplain forests and grasslands, caves, and mineral licks. (MAF, 2013)				
Other <i>rare*</i> , <i>threatened*</i> , or endangered <i>habitats*</i> . (Note that some of the Interpretations under RTE Ecosystems are also likely RTE Habitats.)				

Element 3: Refugia*:

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
Protected areas, including NPAs/NBCAs. (FSC, 2017b) (Note protected areas are also HCV 1)	The MNRE. For lists and maps, see also: MoNRE IUCN (2016), UNEP-WCMC (2017), and Protected Areas.	X	X	
Other isolated areas where extensive changes, typically due to changing climate or by disturbances such as those caused by humans, have not occurred and where plants and animals typical of a region may survive. (Note that some of the Interpretations under RTE Ecosystems are likely also refugia.)				
HCV 3 in plantations: Plantations are mostly created in unforested areas or in degraded forests. Consequently, HCV3 should not occur in plantations. (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 EN)	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People's Democratic			X

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
	Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)			
<p>HCV 3 in natural forests:</p> <p>Karsts are the only HCV3 in Laos. Karsts correspond to the description of HCV3 in that they represent a rare ecotype, contain a distinct biodiversity not found on other landscapes*, are poorly protected at the national scale and contain remnants of natural forest vegetation in heavily cleared landscapes*.</p>	<p>Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People's Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)</p>			

B. Assessments for HCV 3

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

National or regionally appropriate methodologies and *Best Available Information for assessments for HCV 3:**

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 3 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for assessing occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
<p>For all HCV 3 Interpretations: Consider the SUFORD toolkit for HCV assessments in production forests.</p>				
<p>For all HCV 3 Interpretations: Per Dennis et al (2008), consider the biodiversity survey methods established for the SUFORD project. See Poulsen, et al (2005) and Poulsen, et al (2006) for surveys conducted per these methods.</p>				
<p>For all HCV 3 Interpretations: For additional guidance on assessing HCV 3, see: FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2013) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.3, Identification of HCV 3).</p>				

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 3

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section B.)

Management strategies for HCV 3:

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 3 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for management strategies for these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF	ORI
For all HCV 3 Interpretations: Strategies that fully maintain the extent and integrity of rare or threatened ecosystems*, habitats*, or refugia*.				
For all HCV 3 Interpretations: Where enhancement is identified as the objective*, measures to restore* and/or develop rare or threatened ecosystems*, habitats*, or refugia* are in place.				
For all HCV 3 Interpretations: Restrict or minimize the development of roads or tracks, and restrict unauthorized access, to help reduce poaching and unsustainable wildlife harvest. (MAF, 2013; FSC, 2017b (implicit))				
For conservation areas and protected areas, respect logging bans regardless of special authorizations, and prevent development of roads or tracks. (MAF, 2013; FSC, 2017b (implicit))				
For karsts, avoid developing or upgrading roads and tracks, restrict quarrying, avoid timber felling, protect any remaining natural forest or habitats* for rare biodiversity (e.g., primates, endemics, etc.), and establish buffer zones. (MAF, 2013; FSC, 2017b; RA, 2005)				
For wetlands (e.g., swamps, pools, etc.), floodplain forests and grasslands, caves, and mineral licks, avoid developing or upgrading roads and tracks, avoid timber felling, exclude logger camps and log decks, and establish buffer zones. Also avoid entering or disturbing caves. (MAF, 2013)				
For Dry Dipterocarp Forests of the Mekong Plain, include protections for				

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 3 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for management strategies for these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF	ORI
permanent and seasonal pools, given their importance to wildlife. (RA, 2005)				

D. Monitoring for HCV 3

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section C.)

Methodologies and Best Available Information* for monitoring programs for HCV 3:

National or regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 3 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for monitoring occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF	ORI
For all HCV 3 Interpretations: Per Dennis et al (2008), consider the monitoring recommendations, including for biodiversity surveys, established for the SUFORD project. See Poulsen, et al (2005) and Poulsen, et al (2006) for surveys using these methods.				
For all HCV 3 Interpretations in non-SLIMF management units: Consider using satellite imagery to help monitor forest* cover loss (MAF, 2013)				
For all HCV 3 Interpretations: Consider FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2014) (e.g., Part 3).				

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

A. Interpretations of HCV 4, for HCV Identification

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

Element 1: Water catchments in critical* situations:

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
Forests upstream of rural communities, including both natural	BAI includes but is not limited to STEA & UNEP (2006)	X	X	

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
forests and plantations. (FSC, 2017b)				
Riparian buffers, in both natural forests and plantations. (RA, 2011; FSC, 2017b)				X
Significant wetlands, e.g., RAMSAR sites. (Note RAMSAR sites are also HCV 2)	RAMSAR (see References, including RSIS, 2017)	X	X	
Protected areas, including NPAs/NBCAs. (FSC, 2017b; RA, 2011) (Note protected areas are also HCV 1)	The MNRE. For lists and maps, see also: MoNRE IUCN (2016), UNEP-WCMC (2017), and Protected Areas	X	X	
HCV 4 in plantations: Once established, a tree plantation may still present some attributes that can qualify it as containing HCV4. This includes <i>protection*</i> from flooding or erosion, and forest fire (46). Therefore, HCV4 are likely to occur in plantations. (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People’s Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)			X
HCV 4 in Natural forests: By definition, PFs are designed to provide critical ecosystem services such as to preserve water resources, prevent soil erosion and maintain soil quality, to prevent natural disasters including fire and to protect the natural environment. NPAs and PFs are strongly connected with the role of clean water catchment <i>protection*</i> because they tend to be forested and are, in the main, located in upper catchments. Water supply is closely linked to <i>forest*</i> area. (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People’s Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)			X
	For guidance in identifying other examples of HCV 4 that may exist in the management unit, see: FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2013) (e.g., Chapter 3.4, Identification of HCV 4); UN-REDD (2017); and the FSC Ecosystem Services Procedure (FSC, 2017b).			X

Element 2: Control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes in *critical situations:**

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	<i>Best Available Information*</i> for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
Protected areas, including NPAs/NBCAs. (FSC, 2017b; RA, 2011) (Note protected areas are also HCV 1)	The MNRE. For lists and maps, see also: MoNRE IUCN (2016), UNEP-WCMC (2017), and Protected Areas	X	X	
Other vulnerable soils and slopes in <i>critical</i> * situations	Soil and vegetation maps, including maps of steep, unstable, and/or erodible soils	X		X
HCV 4 in plantations: Once established, a tree plantation may still present some attributes that can qualify it as containing HCV4. This includes <i>protection</i> * from flooding or erosion, and <i>forest</i> * fire (46). Therefore, HCV4 are likely to occur in plantations. (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People’s Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)			X
HCV 4 in Natural forests: By definition, PFs are designed to provide critical ecosystem services such as to preserve water resources, prevent soil erosion and maintain soil quality, to prevent natural disasters including fire and to protect the natural environment. NPAs and PFs are strongly connected with the role of clean water catchment <i>protection</i> * because they tend to be forested and are, in the main, located in upper catchments. Water supply is closely linked to forest area. (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People’s Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)			X
	For guidance in identifying other examples of HCV 4 that may exist in the management unit, see: FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2013) (e.g., Chapter 3.4, Identification of HCV 4); UN-REDD (2017); and the FSC Ecosystem Services Procedure (FSC, 2017b).			X

Element 3: Other ecosystem services* in critical* situations:

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	<i>Best Available Information*</i> for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
Other ecosystem services* in critical* situations	For guidance in identifying other examples of HCV 4 that may exist in the <i>management unit*</i> , see: FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2013) (e.g., Chapter 3.4, Identification of HCV 4).			X
HCV 4 in plantations: Once established, a tree plantation may still present some attributes that can qualify it as containing HCV4. This includes <i>protection*</i> from flooding or erosion, and forest fire). Therefore, HCV4 are likely to occur in plantations. Because plantations are typically not managed for the provision of ecosystem services, management activities (for example they are likely to be clear-cut at maturity) pose a specified risk to HCV4 in plantations. (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People’s Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)			X
HCV 4 in Natural forests: By definition, PFs are designed to provide critical ecosystem services such as to preserve water resources, prevent soil erosion and maintain soil quality, to prevent natural disasters including fire and to protect the natural environment. NPAs and PFs are strongly connected with the role of clean water catchment <i>protection*</i> because they tend to be forested and are, in the main, located in upper catchments. Water supply is closely linked to forest area. Maintaining these NPAs and PFs for water supply is therefore essential. (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People’s Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)			

B. Assessments for HCV 4

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

National or regionally appropriate methodologies and *Best Available Information** for assessments for HCV 4:

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 4 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information*</i> for assessing occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
For all HCV 4 Interpretations: Consider FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2013) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.4, Identification of HCV 4).				
For all HCV 4 Interpretations: Consider the SUFORD toolkit for HCV assessments in production forests.				

C: Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 4

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section B.)

Management strategies for HCV 4:

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 4 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information*</i> for management strategies for these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF	ORI
For all HCV 4 Interpretations: Strategies to protect any water catchments of importance to <i>local communities*</i> located within or downstream of the <i>Management Unit*</i> , and areas within the unit that are particularly unstable or susceptible to erosion. Examples may include <i>protection*</i> zones, harvest prescriptions, chemical use restrictions, and/or prescriptions for road construction and maintenance, to protect water catchments and upstream and upslope areas.				
For all HCV 4 Interpretations: Where enhancement is identified as the <i>objective*</i> , measures to <i>restore*</i> water quality and quantity are in place.				
For water catchments and erosion control, fully implement best management practices, including for water crossings, erosion and rutting				

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 4 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for management strategies for these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF	ORI
control, and buffer zones for water bodies. (FSC, 2017b)				
For water catchments and erosion control, prevent and minimize road damage and runoff from trucks and equipment during the rainy season. (SCS, 2012)				
For conservation areas and protected areas, respect logging bans regardless of special authorizations, and prevent development of roads or tracks. (MAF, 2013; FSC, 2017b (implicit))				
Where identified HCV 4 <i>ecosystem services*</i> include climate regulation, strategies to maintain or enhance carbon sequestration and storage are in place.				

D. Monitoring for HCV 4

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section C.)

Methodologies and Best Available Information* for monitoring programs for HCV 4:

National or regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 4 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for monitoring occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF	ORI
For water catchments and erosion control, monitor and ensure compliance with best management practices, including for logging and hauling. (FSC, 2017b, implicit)				
For water quality and quantity, soils, and other ecosystem services; see Annex D of FSC (2017b) for basic factors to consider <i>monitoring*</i> .				
For all HCV 4 Interpretations: Consider FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2014) (e.g., Part 3).				

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.

A. Interpretations of HCV 5, for HCV Identification

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

Element 1: Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of *local communities (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.):**

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
Watersheds (including rivers, streams, upland areas) that provide water for drinking, cooking, and cleaning, and/or fish for consumption, to <i>local communities*</i> . (Note the precautionary principle suggests most water courses and lakes are HCV.) (FSC, 2017b)	Culturally appropriate <i>engagement*</i> with the <i>local communities*</i> .	X	X	
Hunting grounds for subsistence in <i>local communities*</i> (not inclusive of poaching and other wildlife hunting for non-local trade). (MoNRE IUCN, 2016) (Note the precautionary principle suggests most local forests are likely HCV as food sources for rural communities.) (RA, 2005; MoNRE IUCN, 2016; FSC, 2017b)	Culturally appropriate <i>engagement*</i> with the <i>local communities*</i> .	X	X	
Sources of plants for subsistence in local communities. Examples include, but are not limited to game, honey, and food plants, e.g., mak tao (fruit of palm), bamboo shoots, chestnuts, wild tea, passion fruits, and other fruit trees and bushes (e.g., <i>Ormocia Combodiana</i> , <i>Aerranga sp.</i> , <i>Fagaceae</i> , <i>Euphorbiaceae</i> , <i>Anacardiaceae</i>). (FSC, 2017b; RA, 2016) (Note the precautionary principle suggests local forests are likely HCV as food sources for rural communities.) (RA, 2005; MoNRE IUCN, 2016; FSC, 2017b)	Culturally appropriate <i>engagement*</i> with the local communities.	X	X	
Sources of traditional medicines. Examples include but are not limited to: malva nuts, orchid stems, cardamom, berberine, fern roots, berberine, Lao ginseng, mushrooms, 'hom sam meuang'. (FSC, 2017b; RA, 2016)	Culturally appropriate <i>engagement*</i> with the local communities.	X	X	
Sources of fuelwood, building materials, khem (broom grass), or rattan canes. (FSC, 2017b)	Culturally appropriate <i>engagement*</i> with the local communities.	X	X	

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	<i>Best Available Information*</i> for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
Other sites and resources identified via <i>engagement*</i> with local communities.	Culturally appropriate <i>engagement*</i> with the local communities.	X	X	
<p>HCV 5 in plantations: There is no data on HCV5 in plantations. Especially in SLIMF plantations, due to their small size, it is unlikely that they include NTFPs.</p> <p>It should be noted that many plantations have been established by authorities and companies by converting forests which were rich in HCV 5 and were used by villagers. (Source: FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)</p>	<p>Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People's Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)</p>			X
<p>HCV 5 in natural forests: With 892 species recorded, the Mekong river system has a higher diversity of species per square km than the Amazon. In that sense, it is possible most water courses and lakes qualify as HCVs.</p> <p>While in some regions all NTFP are harvested from the <i>forest*</i>, in other regions where the <i>forest*</i> is degraded, some commercial species (e.g. posaa, khem, peuakmeuak) are gradually domesticated as <i>forest*</i> and old fallow patches get smaller, fragmented and scarce in the landscape.</p> <p>The <i>forest*</i> regulation includes provision that maintains the right to harvest NTFPs for customary use. In production forests, the forestry law includes provision for local people participation and for preserving trees, NTFP species as well as water sources of villages. In PF and NPA, harvesting of NTFP is prohibited but still practiced covertly. (Source: FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)</p>	<p>Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People's Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)</p>			X
For all HCV 5 Interpretations	Supplemental BAI may include databases, maps, and community development organizations and professionals.			X

Element 2: Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of Indigenous Peoples* (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.):

Note: For definition of Indigenous Peoples in the context of Laos, refer to FSC-STD-LAOS-2018 V1.0 EN. Engagement* also covers local traditional communities and ethnic minority communities, including Lao Sung and especially Lao Theung, and including members of past local communities that may have been displaced. (MRGI, 2017)*

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
See the Interpretations for sites and resources fundamental to local communities.	Culturally appropriate <i>engagement*</i> with Indigenous Peoples, local traditional communities and ethnic minority communities.	X	X	
Other sites and resources identified via <i>engagement*</i> with traditional communities and ethnic minority communities.	Culturally appropriate <i>engagement*</i> with Indigenous Peoples, local traditional communities and ethnic minority communities.	X	X	
<p>HCV 5 in plantations: There is no data on HCV5 in plantations. Especially in SLIMF plantations, due to their small size, it is unlikely that they include NTFPs.</p> <p>It should be noted that many plantations have been established by authorities and companies by converting forests which were rich in HCV 5 and were used by villagers (Source: FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)</p>	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People’s Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)			X
<p>HCV 5 in natural forests: With 892 species recorded, the Mekong river system has a higher diversity of species per square km than the Amazon. In that sense, it is possible most water courses and lakes qualify as HCVs.</p> <p>While in some regions all NTFP are harvested from the forest, in other regions where the <i>forest*</i> is degraded, some commercial species (e.g. posaa, khem, peuakmeuak) are gradually domesticated as <i>forest*</i> and old fallow patches get smaller, fragmented and scarce in the landscape.</p> <p>The <i>forest*</i> regulation includes provision that maintains the right to</p>	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People’s Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)			X

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	<i>Best Available Information*</i> for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
harvest NTFPs for customary use. In production forests, the forestry law includes provision for local people participation and for preserving trees, NTFP species as well as water sources of villages. In PF and NPA, harvesting of NTFP is prohibited but still practiced covertly. (Source: FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)				
For all HCV 5 Interpretations	Supplemental BAI may include organizations that represent or provide services for Ethnic groups and minority and ethnic groups.			X

B. Assessments for HCV 5

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

National or regionally appropriate methodologies and *Best Available Information for assessments for HCV 5:**

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 5 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information*</i> for assessing occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
For all HCV 5 Interpretations: <i>Engagement*</i> with local communities and traditional and ethnic minority communities, including Lao Sung and especially Lao Theung, and including members of past local communities that may have been displaced.	<i>Engagement*</i> with the communities.	X	X	
For all HCV 5 Interpretations: Also consider the SUFORD toolkit for HCV assessments in production forests.				
For all HCV 5 Interpretations: In addition to sites currently used by local communities, assessments, consider plantation areas that previously were important sources of HCV 5 values to local communities and traditional or ethnic communities.				
For all HCV 5 Interpretations: For additional guidance on assessing HCV 5,				

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 5 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information*</i> for assessing occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
consider: FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2013) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.5, Identification of HCV 5).				

C: Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 5

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section B.)

Management strategies for HCV 5:

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 5 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information*</i> for management strategies for these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF	ORI
All HCV 5 Interpretations: Strategies to protect the community's and/or traditional or ethnic minority communities' needs in relation to the <i>Management Unit*</i> are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of <i>local communities*</i> and traditional or ethnic minority communities.	Engagement with the local communities and traditional or ethnic minority communities.	X	X	
For plantations: managers should obtain consent from local villages, where it has not already been secured, and protect sites as requested by villagers.				
All HCV 5 Interpretations: Consider FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2014) (e.g., Part 2, including section 2.3.5).				

D. Monitoring for HCV 5

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section C.)

Methodologies and *Best Available Information** for monitoring programs for HCV 5:

National or regional methodologies for <i>monitoring*</i> occurrences of the HCV 5 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information*</i> for <i>monitoring*</i> occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF	ORI

For all HCV 5 Interpretations: Monitoring conducted by the local communities and the traditional or ethnic minority communities, or using methodologies otherwise developed in cooperation with the communities through culturally appropriate <i>engagement*</i> .	<i>Engagement*</i> with local communities and traditional or ethnic minority communities	X	X	
For all HCV 5 Interpretations: Consider also: FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2014) (e.g., Part 3).				

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.**

A. Interpretations of HCV 6, for HCV Identification

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

Element 1: Sites, resources, *habitats and *landscapes** of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance:**

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
Internationally or nationally important cultural, archaeological, or historical sites, resources, habitats, or <i>landscapes*</i>				
HCV 6 in plantations: Most Laotian villages have identified spirit forests, cremation (burial) grounds and cultural forests. This is generally well documented and known by forestry practitioners and villagers (45). HCV6 are in natural forests only and are not found in plantations. (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People’s Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)			X
HCV 6 in natural forests: HCV6 are very common in Laos and are extremely important in the lives of Laotians. Most Laotian villages have identified spirit forests, cremation (burial) grounds and cultural forests. This is generally well documented and known by forestry practitioners and villagers. For instance, in the	Centralized National Risk Assessment for Lao People’s Democratic Republic (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)			X

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	<i>Best Available Information*</i> for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
Nongkan SFMA HCV report, sacred forest (spirit forest, burial ground) and cultural forest (annual celebration and prayed for luck) were identified by villagers. (FSC-CNRA-LA V1-0 N)				
	For guidance in identifying more specific examples of HCV 6 that may exist in the <i>management unit*</i> , see: FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2013) (e.g., Chapter 3.6, Identification of HCV 6).			X

Element 2: Sites, resources, *habitats and *landscapes** of *critical** cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of *local communities**:**

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	<i>Best Available Information*</i> for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
“Spirit forests,” e.g., burial grounds, temples, and other sacred sites, including sites used for religious or cultural events. (FSC, 2017b)	Culturally appropriate <i>engagement*</i> with the local communities.	X	X	
Sites that provide resources for religious or cultural practices, e.g., trees, plants, or other resources used for ceremonial dress. (WWF, 2008)	Culturally appropriate <i>engagement*</i> with the local communities.	X	X	
Other sites, resources, <i>habitats*</i> , or <i>landscapes*</i> of cultural, ecological, economic, or religious/sacred importance to local communities	Culturally appropriate <i>engagement*</i> with the local communities.	X	X	
	For guidance in identifying more specific examples of HCV 6 that may exist in the <i>management unit*</i> , see: FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2013) (e.g., Chapter 3.6, Identification of HCV 6).			X

Element 3: Sites, resources, *habitats and *landscapes** of *critical** cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of Indigenous Peoples:**

Note: Engagement covers traditional communities or ethnic minority communities, including Lao Sung and especially Lao Theung, and including members of past local communities that may have been displaced. (MRGI, 2017)

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
See the Interpretations for sites, resources, <i>habitats</i> *, and <i>landscapes</i> * of importance to local communities.	Culturally appropriate <i>engagement</i> * with traditional communities or ethnic minority communities, including Lao Sung and especially Lao Theung.	X	X	
Other sites, resources, <i>habitats</i> *, and <i>landscapes</i> *, identified via <i>engagement</i> * with traditional communities or ethnic minority communities.	Culturally appropriate <i>engagement</i> * with traditional communities or ethnic minority communities, including Lao Sung and especially Lao Theung.	X	X	
	For guidance in identifying more specific examples of HCV 6 that may exist in the <i>management unit</i> *, see: FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2013) (e.g., Chapter 3.6, Identification of HCV 6).			X

B. Assessments for HCV 6

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

National or regionally appropriate methodologies and Best Available Information* for assessments for HCV 6:

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 6 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for assessing occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
For all HCV 6 Interpretations: <i>Engagement</i> * with local communities and traditional or ethnic minority communities, including Lao Sung and especially Lao Theung, and including members of past local communities that may have been displaced	<i>Engagement</i> * with the communities.	X	X	
For all HCV 6 Interpretations: Also consider the SUFORD toolkit for HCV assessments in production forests.				

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 6 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for assessing occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI	BAI (SLIMF)	ORI
For plantations: In addition to sites currently used by local communities, assessments should consider plantation areas that previously were important sources of HCV 5 values to local communities and traditional or ethnic minority communities.				
	For additional guidance on assessing HCV 6, see: FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2013) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.6, Identification of HCV 6).			X

C: Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section B.)

Management strategies for HCV 6:

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 6 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for management strategies for these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF	ORI
For HCV occurrences related to local communities and/or traditional or ethnic minority communities, strategies to protect the cultural values are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of the <i>local communities*</i> and the traditional or ethnic minority communities.	<i>Engagement*</i> with the <i>local communities*</i> and/or traditional or ethnic minority communities.	X	X	
For other HCV occurrences (i.e., those identified primarily due to global or national significance), strategies are based on Best Available* Information, and considered effective for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV.				
For Plantations: Managers should obtain consent from local villages, where it has not already been secured, and protect sites as requested by villagers.				

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 6 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for management strategies for these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF	ORI
All HCV 6 Interpretations: Consider also: FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2014) (e.g., Part 2, including section 2.3.6)				

D. Monitoring for HCV 6

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section C.)

Methodologies and Best Available Information* for monitoring programs for HCV 6:

National or regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 6 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for monitoring occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF	ORI
For HCV occurrences related to local communities, monitoring conducted by the local communities, or using methodologies otherwise developed in cooperation with the communities through <i>culturally appropriate*</i> engagement*.	<i>Local communities*</i> .	X	X	
For HCV occurrences related to traditional or ethnic minority communities, monitoring conducted by the communities, or using methodologies otherwise developed in cooperation with the communities through <i>culturally appropriate engagement*</i> .	Traditional or ethnic minority communities	X	X	
For all HCV 6 Interpretations: Consider also FSC (20XXa) and HCVRN (2014) (e.g., Part 3)				

Acronyms, Examples of Stakeholders* and Experts, and References

Acronyms

BAI – Best *Available** Information

DoF -- Department of Forestry

KBA – Key Biodiversity Area

IBA – Important Bird Area
IFL – Intact Forest Landscape
LARReC -- Living Aquatic Resources Research Center
MAF -- Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry
MNRE – Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment
NBCA -- National Biodiversity & Conservation Area
NUoL – National University of Lao
NPA – National Protected Area
RTE – Rare, Threatened, or Endangered
WCS – Wildlife Conservation Society
WREA -- Water Resources & Environmental Administration
WWF – World Wildlife Fund

Examples of Relevant Stakeholders* and Experts

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

Environmental Stakeholders*:

Lao Wildlife Conservation Association
Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
WWF Laos and Greater Mekong; IUCN Laos

Social Stakeholders* and Community Development Organizations:

Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact
Community Knowledge Support Association (CKSA)
Gender & Development Organization (GDA)
Lao Biodiversity Association

Other Expert Organizations – Environmental:

Forestry Faculty at NUoL
IUCN Laos
Living Aquatic Resources Research Center (LARReC)

Other Expert Organizations – Social:

Traditional Medicine Research Institute / Institute of Traditional Medicine

Other Expert Organizations – Archaeological and Historical Values:

Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association
UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Office

Government Agencies:

Department of Forest Inspection (DOFI), MAF
Department of Heritage of Laos
Forestry Inventory & Planning Division, DoF, MAF
Village Forestry & Non-Timber Forest Products Division, DoF, MAF
Water Resources & Environment Admin, MNRE

References

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Annex H: Glossary of Terms

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

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

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

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

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

- Local communities
- Indigenous Peoples
- Workers
- Forest dwellers
- 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 V5-2).

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.

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

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

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

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

Best Available Information: Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and results of field surveys or consultations with *stakeholders** that are most credible, accurate, complete, and/or pertinent and that can be obtained through *reasonable** effort and cost, subject to the *scale** and *intensity** of the management activities and the *Precautionary Approach**. See also Annex I for a list of BAI in the context of Laos.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Connectivity: A measure of how connected or spatially continuous a corridor, network, or matrix is. The fewer gaps, the higher the *connectivity**. Related to the structural *connectivity** concept; functional or 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/Protection: These words are used interchangeably when referring to management activities designed to maintain the identified environmental or cultural values in existence long-term. Management activities may range from zero or minimal interventions to a specified range of appropriate interventions and activities designed to maintain, or compatible with maintaining, these identified values (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

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).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Discrimination: includes- a) any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction, social origin, sexual orientation*, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation; b) such other distinction, exclusion or preference which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation as may be determined by the Member concerned after consultation with representative employers' and *workers' organization** where such exist, and with other appropriate bodies (adapted from ILO Convention 111, Article1). *Sexual orientation* was added to the definition provided in Convention 111, as it has been identified as an additional type of discrimination which may occur.

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

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

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

- Affects the *legal** or *customary rights** of *Indigenous Peoples** and local communities*;
- Where the negative impact of management activities is of such a scale that it cannot be reversed or mitigated;

- Physical violence;
- Destruction of property;
- Presence of military bodies;
- Acts of intimidation against *forest* workers** and *stakeholders**.

This list should be adapted or expanded by Standard Developers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, -STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fragmentation: The process of dividing habitats into smaller patches, which results in the loss of original habitat, loss in *connectivity**, reduction in patch size, and increasing isolation of patches. *Fragmentation** is considered to be one of the single most important factors leading to loss of native species, especially in *forested landscapes**, and one of the primary causes of the present extinction crisis. In reference to *Intact Forest Landscapes**, the *fragmentation** of concern is understood to be that caused by human industrial activities. (SOURCE: Adapted from: Gerald E. Heilman, Jr. James R. Strittholt Nicholas C. Slosser Dominick A. Dellasala, BioScience (2002) 52 (5): 411-422.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ILO Core (Fundamental) Conventions: these are labor 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 labor*^{*}; the effective abolition of *child*^{*} labor; and the elimination of *discrimination*^{*} in respect of *employment and occupation*^{*}.

The eight Fundamental Conventions are:

- Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)
- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)
- Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)
- Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017.

ILO 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 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 labor*^{*};
- The effective abolition of *child*^{*} labour; and
- The elimination of *discrimination*^{*} in respect of employment and occupation^{*}.
- Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017.

Indicator: A quantitative or qualitative variable which can be measured or described, and which provides a means of judging whether a *Management Unit*^{*} complies with the requirements of an FSC Criterion. Indicators and the associated thresholds thereby define the requirements for

responsible *forest** management at the level of the *Management Unit** and are the primary basis of forest evaluation (Source: FSC-STD-01-002 V1-0 FSC Glossary of Terms (2009)).

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

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

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

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

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

Indigenous Peoples in Laos: Officially all Indigenous Peoples have equal status in Laos, and the concept of indigenous peoples is not recognised by the government. For the purpose of this standard Indigenous Peoples with first languages belonging to the Mon-Khmer, Sino-Tibetan and Hmong-lu Mien are considered to be the indigenous peoples of Laos. **Industrial activity:** Industrial forest and resource management activities such as road building, mining, dams, urban development and timber harvesting.

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

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

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

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

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

- Conservation organizations, for example environmental NGOs;

- Labor (rights) organizations, for example labor unions;
- Human rights organizations, for example social NGOs;
- Local development projects;
- Local governments;
- National government departments functioning in the region;
- FSC National Offices;
- Experts on particular issues, for example High Conservation Values.
- (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Legal status: The way in which the Management Unit is classified according to law. In terms of tenure, it means the category of tenure, such as communal land or leasehold or freehold or State land or government land, etc. If the Management Unit is being converted from one category to another (for example, from State land to communal indigenous land) the status includes the current position in the transition process. In terms of administration, legal status could mean that the land is owned by the nation as a whole, is administered on behalf of the

nation by a government department, and is leased by a government Ministry to a private sector operator through a concession (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

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

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

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

Long-term: The timescale 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).

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

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

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

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

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

'Natural forest' includes the following categories:

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

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

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

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

Thresholds and guidelines may cover areas such as:

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

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

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

Not-natural Fertilizer): A chemical, synthetic or not-natural substance, most commonly N, P2O5 and K2O, which is applied to soil for the purpose of enhancing plant growth. These do not include natural fertilizers such as manure or dung. Source: Adapted from FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0.

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)).

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, larvacides, 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.

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

Protection: See definition of Conservation.

Protection Area: See definition of Conservation Zone.

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

Rare species: Species that are uncommon or scarce, but not classified as threatened. These species are located in geographically restricted areas or specific habitats or are scantily

scattered on a large scale. They are approximately equivalent to the IUCN (2001) category of Near Threatened (NT), including species that are close to qualifying for, or are likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future. They are also approximately equivalent to imperilled species (Source: Based on IUCN. (2001). IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK).

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

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

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

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

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

Representative 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.).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stakeholder: See definitions for 'affected stakeholder' and 'interested stakeholder'. **Statutory law or statute law:** The body of law contained in Acts of Parliament (national legislature) (Source: Oxford Dictionary of Law).

Sustainable timber harvest level: Depending on forest type and silvicultural system (e.g. even aged vs uneven aged; monocyclic vs polycyclic) different approaches for the determination of the sustainable timber harvest level can be used:

- Allowable Cut, Prescribed Cut, Prescribed Yield and Permissible Yield: A clearly expressed specification of the average quantity (of wood, bamboo or cane), usually in an approved *management plan**, that may be harvested from a forest *management unit**, annually or periodically over a five- or ten-year period.
- Annual Allowable Cut (AAC): The Allowable Cut expressed on an annual- basis.
- Annual Cutting Area (ACA): The area of productive forest which may be cut in one year. The ACA is synonymous with Felling Area, Cutting Area and Annual Coupe.
- Annual Yield and Periodic Yield: The volume or number of stems that can be removed in a specific area in one year, or during a specified period, respectively.
- In practice, the choice and use of each method depends upon the silvicultural system being applied in a specific forest situation. The methods are:
 - A combination of area and the felling cycle.
 - A combination of area, volume and the felling cycle.
 - A combination of volume and forest increment.
 - A consideration of volume only.
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- For further reading / Source: Guidelines for the management of tropical forests 1. The production of wood (FAO forestry paper 135); FAO (1999): <http://www.fao.org/3/w8212e/w8212e00.htm#Contents>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 area affected *shall** not exceed 0.5% of the area of the *Management Unit** in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% of the area of the *Management Unit** (Source: FSC-STD-01-002).

Very limited portion of core area: The area affected *shall** not exceed 0.5% of the area of the *core area** in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% of the area of the *core area**.

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

- Hazardous waste, including chemical waste and batteries;

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

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

Water scarcity: A water supply that limits food production, human health, and economic development. Severe scarcity is taken to be equivalent to 1,000 cubic meters per year per person or greater than 40% use relative to supply (Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: Policy Responses. Findings of the Responses Working Group. Washington DC: Island Press, Pages 599-605).

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

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

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

Workers: All employed persons including public employees as well as ‘self-employed’ persons. This includes part-time and seasonal employees, of all ranks and categories, including laborers, administrators, supervisors, executives, contractor employees as well as self-employed contractors and sub-contractors (Source: ILO Convention 155, Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981).

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

Worst forms of *child labor:** 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 labor, 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).

Annex I: Best Available Information (BAI) for Lao PDR

The standard consists of 2 types of sources of information:

- Best Available Information* (BAI): Information sources shall be used by the Organization*.
- Other Recommended Information (ORI): Information sources recommended to be considered.

Note: For some BAI sources, (only) SLIMF organizations may use the indicated BAI on voluntary base. The consideration of these sources remains mandatory for non-SLIMF organizations.

The interpretations for *Best Available Information** provided in this Standard are not necessarily exhaustive; additional examples may exist.

Indicator	Sources of information	BAI	BAI(SLIMF)	ORI
5.1.1	<p>Relevant data comprises:</p> <p>Estimation of the main growth variables or an updated forest inventory, as indicated by applicable regulations.</p> <p>Estimation of possible reductions in volume and cutting surface caused by mortality due to natural disturbances (such as: fires, storms, sanitary damages, etc.), for the maintenance of the functions of the ecosystem and / or for other reasons.</p> <p>Updated information at local or regional level, if any, on stocks, growth and production</p> <p>Sources of information:</p> <p>Recommendations from forest authorities and research institutions. Examples:</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry: Forest Inventory and Planning Division at Department of Forestry</p> <p>NAFRI (National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (Lao PDR); Universities.</p>	X		X (SLIMF)
5.1.1	<p>A system of permanent sampling plots is installed, and measurements of growth rates and mortality is regularly documented (at least every 3 years) and considered in management planning</p>	X		X (SLIMF)
6.1.1; 6.4.1; 6.5.1	<p>Recommendations from forest authorities as well as national and regional stakeholders. Examples:</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry: Department of Forest Inspection (DOFI); Department of Forestry (DOF), especially Wildlife division.</p>	X	X	

Indicator	Sources of information	BAI	BAI(SLIMF)	ORI
6.1.1; 6.4.1; 6.5.1	Reports from forest research institutions. Examples: NAFRI (National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (Lao PDR); universities	X	X	
6.1.1; 6.4.1; 6.5.1	Reports on wildlife distribution from EnGOs. Examples: WWF Laos and Greater Mekong; IUCN Laos; the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS); the Lao Wildlife Conservation Association	X	X	
6.1.1; 6.4.1; 6.5.1	Comments from stakeholders such as communities and Indigenous Peoples	X		X (SLIMF)
6.1.1; 6.4.1; 6.5.1	Own observations in the field. Examples: Monitoring & inventory results; results from analysis of permanent sampling plots; studies			X
6.1.1; 6.4.1; 6.5.1.	Observations from neighboring plantations, if available			X



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