



FSC INTERIM FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD FOR COTE D'IVOIRE

FSC-STD-CIV-01-2026 EN

25/03/2026



Photo credits: George Akwah, a forest expert, is examining a rubber tree in Grand Bassam, Côte d'Ivoire. © FSC Africa / Israel Bionyi

NOTE ON THIS ENGLISH VERSION:

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¹ The transition period is the timeline in which there is a parallel phase-in of the new version and the phase-out of the old version of the standard. By the transition period's end date, certificate holders based on the previous version of this Forest Stewardship Standard are expected to have been evaluated against this revised version and any non-conformities that were identified against the revised set of requirements to be closed (this applies only to major non-conformities, if the certification body still operates under FSC-STD-20-007 V4-0). Certificates issued against the previous version of this Forest Stewardship Standard will automatically expire and be considered terminated at the transition period's end date.

Version control

Version	Description	Final Approval Date
V1.0	Initial version, FSC-STD-CIV-01-2025 Cote d'Ivoire Interim Forest Stewardship Standard, based on P&C V5-3, conditionally approved by the Policy and Standards Committee at their 65 th meeting on 10 th December 2025, and finally approved by the Policy and Performance Unit on 29 January 2026.	29/01/2026

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A FOREWORD

A.1 The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

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

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

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

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

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

A.2 The FSC Principles and Criteria

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

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

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

B PREAMBLE

B.1 Objective

(Informative section)

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

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

B.2 Scope

(Normative section)

This standard shall be applied in the following scope:

Geographic region	Cote d'Ivoire
Forest types	All forest types
Ownership types	All types of ownerships, including public, private and others
Scale and intensity categories (According to section 6 of FSC-STD-60-002)	All categories of Management Units, including provisions for small or low intensity managed forests (SLIMFs)
Forest products (According to FSC-STD-40-004a)	Rough wood NTFPs: Rattan (raw form, natural, edible and not fuel); grasses, ferns, mosses and lichens; whole trees or plants; pine cones; bark, leaves, medicinal plants, rubber/latex (natural rubber); gum-resin; nuts; tea; heart palm; mushrooms/truffles; fruit; honey; karity game nuts, rubber tree seeds, food crops (bananas, plantains), palm seeds, palm trees, makoré seeds, snails.

B.3 Responsibility for Conformance

(Normative section)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Normative section)

Normative elements in the standard are:

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

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

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

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

Verifiers, notes and examples which are attached to some of the indicators.

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

Organizations managing Management Units qualifying as small or low intensity managed forests (SLIMFs) shall conform with all indicators in the standard. Where specific SLIMF indicators exist (marked as, e.g., 'SLIMF 1.7.1'), these Organizations shall conform with them instead.

SLIMF eligibility criteria	National threshold
Small Management Units	Up to 100 hectares for natural forest and up to 50 hectares for rubber tree plantation
Low-intensity Management Units	The rate of harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI) within the total production forest area of the unit, AND EITHER the annual harvest in the entire forest production area is less than 5,000 cubic metres,

OR the average annual harvest in the entire production forest is less than 5,000 cubic metres per year during the validity period of the certificate, as shown by harvest reports and surveillance audits.

For rubber plantations, the annual harvest of dried latex in the entire forest production area is less than 90 tons/dry per year (for rubber),

OR the average annual harvest of dried latex in the management unit is less than 90 tons/dry per year, during the period of validity of the certificate, as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits.

Eligibility criteria for community forests

National threshold

A management unit may be referred to as a 'community forest' when the following tenure AND management criteria are met:

Tenure: The legal and/or customary right to manage a management unit (e.g. title deed, long-term lease, concession) is held at the communal level, whether it is located in a communal forest and/or on individually allocated plots.

Management: The community actively manages the management unit (e.g. as part of a communal forest management plan) OR the community allows the management of the forest by others (e.g. a resource manager, forest subcontractors, forest products production organization).

- If the community authorizes the management of the forest by others, the following conditions must be met:

a) The community is legally responsible for forestry operations,

AND

b) It controls forest management decisions and supervises forestry operations.

Organizations including NTFPs in their certification scope shall conform to all indicators in the standard. Where specific NTFP indicators exist (marked as, e.g. 'NTFP 8.5.1.1'), these Organizations shall conform with them in addition.

Verbal forms for the expression of provisions

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

'shall'	indicates requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform with the standard; 'shall not' indicates a prohibition.
'should'	indicates that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required. The Organization can meet these requirements in an equivalent way provided this can be demonstrated and justified.
'may'	indicates a course of action permissible within the limits of the standard.
'can'	is used for statements of possibility and capability, whether material, physical or causal.

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

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

B.5 Interpretations and Disputes

(Normative section)

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

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

C CONTEXT

C.1 General description of the forestry sector

(Informative section)

Côte d'Ivoire is in the intertropical zone in West Africa. Its surface area is 322,463 km². The country is bordered to the north by Burkina Faso and Mali, to the south by the Atlantic Ocean, to the east by Ghana and to the west by Guinea and Liberia. Over the past century, Côte d'Ivoire's forest cover has decreased from 16 million hectares to 2.97 million hectares (IFFN, 2021), with 517,000 hectares of primary forest. There are three main ecological zones: in the north, the Sudanese sector, characterized by alternating open forests, wooded and grassy savannahs and lateritic plateaus; in the center, the mesophilic sector, which is a transition zone made up of a mosaic of savannahs, open forests and dense semi-deciduous forests; in the south, the ombrophile sector characterizes the dense humid forest. In addition to these three large areas, there are swamp forests, mountain forests located in the west and mangroves on the coast. The forest area extends over the southern half of the country. The climate in this area is generally tropical with four seasons: two dry seasons and two rainy seasons. The vegetation cover is divided into two zones, which are the dense humid evergreen forest and the dense moist semi-deciduous forest. The forest area is home to a great diversity of flora and fauna. Unfortunately, from 16 million hectares at the beginning of the last century, the dense humid forest decreased to 9 million hectares in 1965 and to 3 million hectares in 1991. Today, it is estimated to be about 2.5 million hectares. This situation is attributable to extensive agriculture based on the technique of slash-and-burn cultivation, the overexploitation of the forest for timber and energy and bush fires. Most forests in Côte d'Ivoire are severely degraded or are in the early stages of secondary growth, except for protected forest areas (national parks, nature reserves) and a few classified forests. The results of the recent National Forest and Wildlife Inventory (IFFN) of Côte d'Ivoire give a national forest area of 2.97 million ha. This figure is made up of 558,030 ha of classified forests managed by SODEFOR, 674,500 ha of protected areas managed by the OIPR, and 1,740,300 ha of forests in the rural domain managed by MINEF. Today, Côte d'Ivoire has only about 517,000 hectares of primary forest. Nevertheless, forests contribute significantly to Côte d'Ivoire's economy and provide jobs and livelihoods for local populations. Most of the industrial production of wood is destined for the export market (BNETD, 2015). In Côte d'Ivoire, forest policy and regulations are primarily defined by Law No. 2019-675 of 23 July 2019, which establishes the Forest Code and sets the framework for sustainable forest management. The law aims to enhance the forest sector's contribution to sustainable development by promoting the environmental, socio-economic, and cultural functions of forest resources; preserve and restore biological diversity and ecological balance; encourage the active participation of local communities, NGOs, and civil society in forest management while recognizing rights derived from customary practices and the Rural Land Code; promote the establishment of community forests and forests managed by local authorities as well as private individuals and entities; increase the value and profitability of forest resources through improved processing and utilization; support the national objective of achieving at least 20% forest cover in line with the *Stratégie de Préservation, de Réhabilitation et d'Extension des Forêts* (SPREF) adopted in 2018; and foster an eco-citizen culture that encourages responsible environmental stewardship. Beyond the Forest Code, the sector is also governed by legislation on land tenure, which forms the basis for all related regulations and is complemented by decrees, orders, and ordinances that serve as implementation instruments or guide political decisions in forestry and land management. Logging in Côte d'Ivoire began in 1880 and expanded significantly during the colonial period, with a major surge in timber production after independence. Harvest volumes peaked in 1977 at 5,321,000 m³ before declining to roughly 2 million m³ today. For rural populations, forests remain essential for meeting energy needs through the extraction of fuelwood as well as the gathering of non-timber forest products, including fruits, snails, small animals, leaves, medicinal plants, rattan, honey, and wax. These continue without comprehensive data on harvest levels or resource potential. The forest industry has grown and diversified over time, remaining dominated by sawmills but increasingly incorporating peeling and plywood

manufacturing to meet domestic and international demand. In response to export quotas on green sawn wood, many operators are shifting toward secondary and tertiary processing. According to the 2021 National Forest and Wildlife Inventory (IFFN), Côte d'Ivoire's Permanent Forest Estate covers approximately 6.27 million hectares, or about 19% of the national territory, comprising 233 classified forests totaling 4.2 million hectares, as well as national parks and reserves. These protected areas are distributed roughly 70% in forest and pre-forest zones and 30% in savannah regions, reflecting the country's ecological diversity. Côte d'Ivoire is recognized as a biodiversity hotspot, home to numerous endemic and endangered species, including forest elephants, chimpanzees, pygmy hippopotamuses, and diverse plant life, most of which are concentrated in national parks and reserves. Classified forests also contribute significantly to biodiversity conservation. The management of classified forests is entrusted to the Forest Development Company (SODEFOR), while the Directorate of Nature Protection (DPN) oversees national parks and reserves. Fire remains a traditional tool for agricultural preparation, hunting, and pasture renewal; however, due to its destructive impacts, the National Committee for Forest Protection and Bushfire Control was established to promote behavioural change, raise awareness, and implement preventive measures, including the creation of village-level self-defence committees tasked with preventing and controlling fires. Despite these efforts, bushfires continue to pose a major threat to forests, ecosystems, and communities, particularly in savannah regions.

C.2 Background information on the standard development

(Informative section)

This standard was developed according to the requirements and regulations laid out in FSC-PRO-60-007 V1-2 in the period from 3 April 2023 to 30 October 2024. Two stakeholder consultations were conducted. The first consultation was conducted from 15 December 2023 to 15 February 2024. The second consultation was conducted from 10 June 2024 to 10 August 2024. In addition, two stakeholder meetings were held. The first took place on 5 October 2023, and the second on 2 April 2024.

Note: Further information is available from P&P upon request.

D REFERENCES

(Informative section)

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

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

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

E LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

(Informative section)

AAC	Annual Allowable Cut
ASI	Accreditation Services International
BCBG	Classified Forest Wood Circulation Slip
BCBP	Plantation Wood Circulation Slip
BREPF	Exit Slip for the Export of Forest Products
BRH	Approved Transport Slip
BTGU	Inter-Factory Transfer Slip
BTH	Approved Transfer Slip
CB	Certification Body
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBNRM	Community-Based Natural Resource Management
CIGN	Côte d'Ivoire Geographic and Digital Information Center
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CNPS	National Social Security Fund
COE	Economic Operator Code
DFE	Tax Registration Certificate
DPFE	Directorate of Forest and Water Police
DUS	Unique Export Duty
ECC	Environmental Compliance Certificate
ECSPHR	European Centre on Sustainable Policies for Human and Environmental Rights
EFIR	Low Impact Logging
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESRA	Environmental and Social Risk Assessment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FIRCA	Interprofessional Fund for Agricultural Research and Advisory
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GIZ	German Development Agency (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit)
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GFW	Global Forest Watch
HABG	High Authority for Good Governance (Côte d'Ivoire)
HCV	High Conservation Value
HHP	Highly Hazardous Pesticide
ICCN	Congolese Institute for Nature Conservation
ILO	International Labour Organization
IGI	International Generic Indicators

IOMC	Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ONF	National Forestry Office
PRESFOR	Land Certification Support Project
QHSE	Quality, Health, Safety, and Environment
RCCM	Commercial and Movable Credit Register
SODEFOR	Forest Development Corporation
SMAG	Guaranteed Minimum Agricultural Wage
SMIG	Guaranteed Interprofessional Minimum Wage
SLIMF	Small or Low Intensity Managed Forest
TER	Toxicity Exposure Ratio
TIN / NIF	Taxpayer Identification Number / Fiscal Identification Number
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

F PRINCIPLES*, CRITERIA* AND INDICATORS*

(Normative section)

PRINCIPLE* 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

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

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

1.1.1 The Organization or manager holds legal registration from the competent national authorities to carry out all activities within the certificate's scope, and it is documented and undisputed.

Verifiers: Administrative and legal documents: extract from the Trade and Personal Property Credit Register (*Registre du Commerce et du Crédit Mobilier – RCCM*); tax registration certificate (*Déclaration fiscale d'existence – DFE*); employer registration form with National Social Security Fund (*Caisse Nationale de Prévoyance Sociale – CNPS*); CNPS registration certificate; national identity card or residence permit (for foreigners); proof of affiliation to a community or municipality (e.g. certificate of residence, attestation from a local chief or mayor); articles of association or statutes of the company or cooperative; minutes of the Constitutive General Assembly; proof of location or lease contract of business premises (title deed or tenancy agreement); constitutive and legal entity documents: decree or order establishing the local authority (if applicable); decree or order establishing the cooperative or association; publication in the official gazette (*Journal Officiel*) (if applicable); notarized certificate of company incorporation (from a notary, especially for SARL/SA entities); technical licences and sectoral approvals (depending on the operator's sector and activities): a) Forestry/Timber Sector: licence for harvesting timber and service wood; silviculturist's approval (for forest areas above 50 hectares); authorization for forest product processing; industrial approval for timber processing; industrial approval for processing wood residues; approval for industrial wood joinery processing; approval for supervision of village plantations; forest management plan (if operating forest concessions); Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC); traceability certificate (e.g. legality verification or FLEGT-style compliance); fire safety and workplace safety certificates (from relevant authority); b) Rubber Sector: rubberwood buyer's licence; approval as a processor of rubber products; export authorization for rubber products; quality conformity certificate for processed rubber (from a recognized lab or regulatory body); sanitary or phytosanitary certificate (for raw plant exports); Trade and Export-Import Compliance: importer/exporter code (*Code d'Opérateur Économique – COE*) from the customs directorate; Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN/NIF); Commercial Invoice and Packing List formats (for exporters); proof of registration with sectoral regulatory authorities (e.g. ARSO, FIRCA, ONF); certificate of origin (for export purposes); insurance certificate for commercial and transport operations.

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

Verifiers: Deed of creation of the company signed by the competent authorities; deed of creation of the association/local authority of the company, signed by the competent authorities; proof of deposit and registration of the forestry hammer.

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 forest management under certification is documented.

Note: Verifiers are grouped into two categories based on forest ownership. For state and local authority forests, documents like decrees and concession agreements confirm public ownership and legal allocation. For privately owned forests, land titles, certificates, and lease agreements verify legal rights. This classification ensures proper verification based on the specific type of forest domain.

Verifiers: a) Private Forest Domain of the State and Forest Domain of Local Authorities: decree classifying the concession (Classified Forest, Agro-Forest, or Community Forest); operating agreement between SODEFOR and the operator (for classified forests allocated before November 2019); concession agreement with the State; decree awarding the management concession (for allocations after 2019); decree classifying the concession for the management of classified forests, agro-forests, or forests of local authorities; b) Forest Domain of Legal Persons under Private Law and Natural Persons: land deed (land certificate or land title); copy of the publication of the land certificate in the official gazette and the land plan attached; deed of transfer of land certificate issued by AFOR; copy of the land title and land plan registered in the land registry; forest parcel registration certificate; copy of agreement plus land certificate/proof of registration/certificate of registration; decision allocating the forest exploitation perimeter plus copy of agreements with the landowners; emphyteutic lease established for the benefit of the plantation or plot manager.

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

Note: In the case of the forest domain of legal and private persons, the deeds of ownership follow the acquisition procedures. This procedure requires the approval of both the customary authorities and the AFOR. *PRESFOR, a project for the issuance of land certificates, and PAMOFOR have been set up to support communities.*

Verifiers: Forest domain of legal and private persons in the case of small producers, documents such as a report of the Village Committee for Rural Land Management; complaint agreement, signing of the minutes by the Village Committee for Rural Land Management; filed legal document, producer application form signed by the third parties.

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.

Verifiers: Maps clearly showing all Management Unit boundaries; physical boundary markers (e.g. painted trees, signposts) on site; GIS data or GPS points of boundaries; forest management plan with boundary details; confirmation from local stakeholders about boundary locations.

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

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

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

Verifiers: Copies of applicable laws, regulations, harvesting permits, management concession agreement, and decree or approval by competent authority; forest parcel registration certificate; management plan or simplified management plan; activity report for the previous year; internal audit report or follow-up evaluation; inspection report from territorially competent administrations, records showing compliance with laws such as licenses and inspection reports; documentation of respect for legal and customary rights including agreements and land tenure documents; codes of practice and evidence that activities follow them, including monitoring and training records; interviews with staff and stakeholders confirming awareness and compliance; field observations confirming activities comply with legal and customary requirements; evidence on site showing application of codes of practice such as safety signs and protective equipment.

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

Verifiers: Internal financial reports tracking due charges and payment schedules; invoices or official payment notices received from authorities; tax declarations prepared and submitted by the manager; payment records showing amounts, dates, and recipients; receipts or bank statements confirming payments were made; interviews with finance or management staff to confirm process and timelines; inspection or audit reports from external authorities confirming compliance.

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

Verifiers: Management concession agreement; concession specifications; approved management plan or simplified management plan referencing legal requirements; activity report for the previous year; internal audit report or follow-up evaluation; inspection report from competent authorities; training records on legal compliance; interviews with staff on understanding of legal aspects; field observations confirming activities comply with 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 of the management unit from unauthorized or illegal harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.

Verifiers: Internal regulations discouraging staff and beneficiaries from engaging in prohibited activities; guide for site managers on protected species and hunting bans; simplified IUCN and CITES species lists available and in use; wildlife protection strategy for the management unit; barriers or access controls on forest roads and high-risk areas; temporary roads physically closed after harvesting; post-operation control and Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) closure procedures; patrol logs or reports on forest roads to detect illegal activities; calendar or schedule of control missions; wildlife monitoring procedure; evidence of staff and resources assigned for surveillance and law enforcement.

- 1.4.2 A system is implemented to work with the Ministry of Water and Forestry or any associated regulatory body to identify, report, control and discourage unauthorized or illegal activities.

Verifiers: Internal monitoring and control reports; letters transmitting monitoring and control reports to the forestry administration; acknowledgements of receipt from the forestry administration; letters denouncing violations of management rules to the forestry administration; partnership agreements or Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with regulatory bodies; reports from independent observers.

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

Verifiers: Awareness and training reports for staff and local communities about illegal activities and response procedures; incident logs documenting detected illegal or unauthorized activities; written corrective action plans developed in response to detected incidents; follow-up monitoring reports showing implementation of corrective measures; communication records with enforcement agencies regarding actions taken; records of sanctions or penalties applied to offenders; minutes of meetings with stakeholders discussing responses to illegal activities; patrol reports documenting detection and response efforts; photographic or GPS evidence of illegal activity sites and subsequent interventions; partnership protocols or MOUs with enforcement agencies outlining roles in addressing illegal activities.

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

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

Verifiers: Summary of perimeter books; approved waybill (*Bordereau de Route Homologué – BRH*); approved transfer slip (*Bordereau de Transfert Homologué – BTH*); plantation timber movement slip (*Bordereau de Circulation des Bois de Plantation – BCBP*); timber circulation slip for classified forests (*Bordereau de Circulation des Bois des Forêts Classées – BCBG*); inter-mill log transfer slip (*Bordereau de Transfert Inter-Usine – BTGU*); receipt of payment of the single exit right (*Droit Unique de Sortie - DUS*); specification sheet issued by the General Directorate of Water and Forests; export code documentation; annual export approval; state site diary; entry journal; list of protected species in Côte d'Ivoire; export waybill for forest products by land (*Bordereau de Sortie pour l'Exportation des Produits Forestiers par voie terrestre – BREPF*).

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

Verifiers: Non-Detriment Certification or Opinion; CITES permits for the species concerned; internal list of CITES species managed or harvested.

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

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

Verifiers: Minutes of consultations with communities and administrative authorities; minutes of information meetings prior to activity start; minutes of stakeholder consultations on conflict management and resolution; company's social commitment policy respecting customary rights;

conflict management procedure; grievance and complaints register; minutes of consultation meetings; minutes of dispute closure/resolution.

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

Verifiers: Conflict management procedure; grievance and complaints register; minutes of consultation meetings; closing minutes or resolution documents.

- 1.6.3 Up-to-date records of disputes related to issues of applicable laws or customary law are held, including:
- 1) Steps taken to resolve disputes;
 - 2) Outcomes of all dispute resolution processes; and
 - 3) Unresolved disputes, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.

Verifiers: Grievance and complaints register; consultations with communities and administrative authorities.

Note: In addition to the conflict register, the Organization is recommended to draw up an analysis report of the conflict situation and present the possible solutions envisaged regarding the nature of the conflict and propose an action plan to be followed so that the problem does not arise again in the future.

- 1.6.4 Operations cease in areas where disputes exist:
- 1) Of substantial magnitude; or
 - 2) Of substantial duration; or
 - 3) Involving a significant number of interests.

Verifiers: Official orders or internal directives to suspend operations in disputed areas; records of dispute identification and assessment (showing magnitude, duration, interests involved); maps or site plans indicating suspension zones; minutes of meetings documenting decisions to halt activities; field observations confirming cessation of operations in dispute zones; communications with affected stakeholders regarding suspension; reports from monitoring or compliance officers verifying stoppage.

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 commitment not to offer or receive bribes of any description.

Verifiers: Anti-bribery policy signed by the company manager; employee code of conduct including anti-bribery clauses; proof of policy implementation (corrective actions, awareness-raising, memos, corruption case management unit, etc.); training records on anti-corruption and bribery policies; records of internal audits or compliance checks regarding bribery; reports of investigations or disciplinary actions related to bribery; interviews with staff confirming awareness and understanding of the policy.

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

Verifiers: Written Declaration or Charter of Ethics; proof of communication or dissemination of the statement to neighbours and customers; records of community meetings or outreach activities; signed acknowledgements or feedback from neighbours/customers confirming receipt.

1.7.2 The policy meets or exceeds related legislation.

Note: Côte d'Ivoire signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption on 10 December 2003 and ratified it on 6 December 2011, depositing the instrument of ratification on 25 October 2012. Key national bodies combating corruption include the High Authority for Good Governance (HABG), the National Financial Information Processing Unit (CENTIF), the General State Inspectorate, the National Secretariat for Capacity Building (NSRC), the Observatory of Ethics and Good Conduct, the Anti-Corruption Brigade, the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, and the Anti-Racketeering Unit. Relevant anti-corruption laws and decrees are detailed in Annex A.

1.7.3 The policy is publicly available at no cost.

Verifiers: The policy can be made publicly available through posters, public summaries of management documents, the company website, media outlets, social networks, and other free communication channels.

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

Verifiers: Records of internal audits and compliance reviews showing no incidents; reports from whistleblower or grievance mechanisms with no substantiated bribery or corruption cases; disciplinary records confirming no corruption-related sanctions; interviews with staff, neighbours, and stakeholders reporting no knowledge or experience of bribery or coercion; external audit or third-party assessment reports confirming absence of corruption; records of training and awareness sessions on anti-corruption.

1.7.5 Corrective measures are implemented if corruption does occur.

Verifiers: Internal Anti-Corruption Procedure; corruption case management strategy and corrective action plan; proof of implementation of corrective actions in response to corruption cases.

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.

Verifiers: Written forest management policy document; FSC commitment policy signed by the legal representative of the Organization (company, cooperative, plantation owner, etc.); policy including a long-term commitment to forest management practices; policy referencing FSC Principles, Criteria, and related Policies and Standards; evidence of policy communication within the Organization; records of periodic reviews and updates of the policy.

1.8.2 The policy is publicly available at no cost.

Verifiers: Policy publicly available at no cost via posters, public summaries of management documents, company website, media, social networks, or other communication channels; evidence of free distribution or access (printed copies, digital downloads, screenshots); records of communication campaigns informing stakeholders about policy availability; feedback or acknowledgment from stakeholders confirming they have accessed the policy.

PRINCIPLE* 2: WORKERS* RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

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

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

2.1.1 The Organization shall not use child labour.

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

Verifiers: Payroll book and records of legal deductions (taxes, social security); employer's register (three fascicles, with the first two optionally in electronic format); recruitment procedure; personnel files (including birth certificate, national identity card, social security card, etc.).

2.1.1.2 Employment of persons aged 13 to 15 years in light work is permitted only if it does not interfere with schooling and is not harmful to their health or development. Where compulsory education laws apply, such work shall take place only outside school hours and during normal daytime working hours.

Verifiers: Copy of national labour laws/regulations permitting light work for ages 13–15; employment records showing age of workers and type of work assigned; work schedules demonstrating that work occurs outside school hours and during daytime only; medical records or health check documentation for employed minors; proof of school enrolment or attendance; parental or guardian consent forms (where applicable); interviews with child workers (if any), supervisors, and guardians; monitoring or audit reports verifying compliance with legal requirements.

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.

Verifiers: Copy of national laws/regulations defining hazardous or heavy work and exceptions for training; employment records showing worker ages and assigned duties; risk assessments ensuring workers under 18 are not assigned hazardous tasks; approved training programme documents (if under 18s are in training roles); medical clearance for under-18 trainees; interviews with workers, staff, union representatives, and local primary school teachers; field observations to detect any non-compliant assignments; in family forestry: field inspections and interviews confirming that any children's involvement is limited to helping parents informally during school holidays or weekends, and not formal employment; monitoring or audit reports confirming compliance.

2.1.1.4 The Organization shall prohibit worst forms of child labour.

Verifiers: Declaration of commitment signed by the representative not to practise the worst forms of child labour.

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

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

Verifiers: Signed employment contracts in accordance with the Ivorian Labour Code; recruitment records showing no payment of recruitment fees by workers; worker interviews confirming freedom to accept or leave employment without coercion; absence of wage withholding, passport or ID retention, or physical confinement; company policy

on ethical recruitment aligned with the Ivorian Labour Code (*Code du Travail de Côte d'Ivoire*); grievance log showing no reports of forced labour or threats of penalty; inspection or audit reports from the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection (*Ministère de l'Emploi et de la Protection Sociale*); field observations confirming voluntary working conditions.

2.1.2.2 There is no evidence of any practice 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.

Verifiers: Payroll documents compliant with Ivorian Labour Code showing timely and full wage payments; registers and inspection reports from the Inspectorate for Employment and Social Security (*Inspection du Travail et de la Sécurité Sociale*); employment contracts and work agreements respecting national regulations; records of statutory deductions (taxes, social security contributions – CNPS); interviews with workers, trade union representatives, supervisors, and employer representatives; field observations including visits to worker accommodations and camps; grievance and complaint logs monitored by the company and labour authorities; internal anti-forced labour policies aligned with Côte d'Ivoire labour laws; reports from external audits or the Ministry of Employment confirming compliance.

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

2.1.3.1 Employment and occupation practices are non-discriminatory.

Verifiers: Recruitment policy and procedures (public job offers, application documents, selection and evaluation reports); assessment procedures and management of career profiles; payroll documents reflecting fair compensation practices; worker records and career profiles showing equal opportunities; employee interviews about treatment and access to opportunities; company charter of ethics including non-discrimination commitments; grievance logs with no unresolved discrimination complaints; labour inspection or audit reports verifying compliance with non-discrimination laws.

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

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

Verifiers: Workers' complaints register; proof of workers' membership in trade union organizations; collective agreement or establishment agreement; report of election of union representatives; minutes of union meetings; proof of appointment of staff delegates; register of grievances of delegates and/or unions; interviews with workers and union representatives confirming freedom to join or form organizations; company policy on freedom of association and collective bargaining; labour inspection reports from *Inspection du Travail et de la Sécurité Sociale*.

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

Verifiers: Proof of workers' membership in trade union organizations; collective agreement or establishment agreement; report of the election of union representatives; minutes of union meetings; disciplinary records; workers' complaints register.

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.

Verifiers: Collective agreement or establishment agreement; minutes of union meetings; minutes of meetings with employers; workers' complaints register; register of grievances; litigation file at the labour inspectorate.

2.1.4.4 Collective bargaining agreements are implemented where they exist.

Verifiers: Minutes of union meetings; minutes of meetings between unions and employers; workers' complaints register; litigation files at the labour inspectorate; minutes of conciliation or dispute resolution meetings; signed collective bargaining agreements (CBAs); records of implementation of CBA terms (wages, hours, benefits); interviews with workers, union representatives, and management confirming adherence to CBAs; labour inspection or audit reports verifying compliance.

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.

Verifiers: Procedures (e.g. contracting criteria; employment criteria; proof of employment, job offers, promotion criteria, etc.); stakeholder consultation; charter of ethics; gender policy statement.

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.

Verifiers: Procedures (e.g. contracting criteria; employment criteria; proof of employment, job offers, promotion criteria, etc.); stakeholder consultation; charter of ethics; gender policy statement.

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

Verifiers: Registration for training; risk analysis by workstation; Environmental and Social Impact Assessment.

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

Verifiers: Payroll register; workers' list and contracts; discharge of payslips; payroll and social security tax returns; sample payslips given to workers.

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.

Verifiers: Proof of payment (transfer order, waiver, etc.); complaints register; minutes of agreement on the method of payment.

2.2.6 Maternity leave is no less than a six-week period after childbirth.

Verifiers: Employment contract; maternity leave certificates; certificate of return to work; interviews with employees; evidence of other maternity-related benefits.

2.2.7 Paternity leave is available and there is no penalty for taking it.

Verifiers: Employment contract; certificates of paternity leave; certificate of resumption of work; employee interviews; evidence of other benefits related to paternity.

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.

Note: Incentives can be in place within the company to enhance women's involvement and to promote or recruit women into management positions.

Verifiers: Recording of management and board meetings.

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.

Verifiers: Charter of ethics; harassment case management procedure; complaint and worker management procedure; workers' complaints register; existence of a management unit for the management of harassment complaints; interviews with company employees.

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.

Note: The codes of practice in the field of occupational safety and health are set out in national regulatory texts, in particular Decree No. 67-321 of 21 July 1967 codifying the regulatory provisions adopted for the application of Title VI 'Health and Safety - Medical Service' of Law No. 2015-532 of 20 July 1015 on the Labour Code.

Verifiers: ILO Guidelines on Health and Safety in Forestry Work; QHSE Procedures; risk analysis by workstation; Environmental and Social Impact Assessment; enterprise-wide occupational injury risk assessment; list of personal protective equipment (PPE) and collective protective equipment (EPC) required by workstation; PPE distribution sheets; awareness-raising report on PPE use and compliance with HSE instructions; proof of instruction on PPE wearing.

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

Note: The manager can clearly explain the types of hazards to which workers are exposed and the recommended actions for each type of hazard.

Verifiers: Simplified health and safety (H&S) policy and procedures adapted to SLIMF scale; records of basic H&S training sessions for workers; attendance logs for training activities; simple safety guidelines or posters displayed on-site; interviews with workers confirming awareness of key H&S practices; records of provision and use of essential PPE; basic incident or accident reports and follow-up actions; evidence of periodic checks or supervision on H&S compliance adapted to SLIMF context.

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

Verifiers: Direct observation and interviews with workers; list of PPE and EPC required by workstation; PPE distribution sheets; proof of PPE wearing instructions; awareness report on the use of PPE.

2.3.3 Use of personal protective equipment is enforced.

Verifiers: Memorandum on PPE use; awareness and training reports on PPE; rules of procedure regarding PPE enforcement; penalty register for non-compliance with PPE use; procedure documents for managing and wearing PPE; records of PPE issuance to workers; site inspection reports verifying PPE use; interviews with workers and supervisors confirming enforcement.

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

Verifiers: Workers' compensation registry; occupational accident analysis report.

SLIMF 2.3.4 The use of health and safety measures by workers is checked, and information on recent accident cases is known.

Verifiers: Simple written or oral health and safety instructions for workers; records or logs of informal safety briefings or toolbox talks; evidence of PPE provided and explained to workers; worker interviews confirming awareness of safety measures; visual aids like posters or signage on-site about safety practices; basic incident reports or notes on health and safety issues; field observations showing safety practices in place.

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

Verifiers: Occupational Accident Analysis Report; accident frequency and severity records; national forest industry accident statistics; comparative analysis reports showing lower frequency/severity; documentation of safety programmes and corrective actions; interviews confirming ongoing safety management.

SLIMF 2.3.5 The accident rate is low compared to the national forestry sectoral averages for companies in the same category.

Verifiers: Simple accident and incident logs kept by the manager; reference to available national or regional forestry accident data; basic summary comparing SLIMF's accident rate to national/sector averages; evidence of safety actions to maintain or reduce accident rates; worker or manager interviews confirming awareness of safety performance.

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

Verifiers: Occupational accident reports; records of health and safety reviews after major incidents; implementation reports of corrective actions from Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Committee meetings; updated health and safety policies or procedures; incident investigation and meeting minutes; evidence of training or communication on revised practices.

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.

Verifiers: Employment contracts specifying wages; payslips issued to workers; collective and establishment agreements; payroll records showing wages paid; national laws or regulations on wages and minimum incomes; interviews with workers confirming wage payments.

2.4.2 Wages paid meet or exceed:

- 1) Minimum forest industry standards; or
- 2) Other recognized forest industry wage agreements; or
- 3) Living wages that are higher than legal minimum wages.

Note: In Côte d'Ivoire, there is no forestry-specific statutory minimum wage. The applicable minimum wage depends on worker classification. The SMIG (75,000 CFA/month) applies to forestry and wood-processing workers classified under the general private sector, while the SMAG (39,960 CFA/month) applies to workers classified under agricultural or plantation-related forestry activities. Where a sectoral or company collective agreement exists and sets higher wages, those rates prevail. In the absence of such agreements, the applicable national minimum wage constitutes the legal minimum.

Verifiers: Collective agreements (*Conventions collectives*); establishment agreements; memoranda and minutes of worker consultations; register of workers' grievances; employment contracts specifying wages; payslips and payroll records; written wage agreements with workers; relevant national laws and wage regulations; interviews with workers confirming wage compliance.

2.4.3 Salaries, wages, allowances and bonuses are established through culturally appropriate consultation with workers and/or formal and informal worker organizations.

Verifiers: Minutes of consultation meetings with workers and/or their organizations; memoranda or agreements from consultations on wage-related matters; records of formal and informal worker organizations' participation; documentation of culturally appropriate consultation processes; register of workers' grievances and feedback related to compensation; interviews with workers and representatives confirming consultation.

2.4.4 Wages, salaries and contracts are paid on time.

Verifiers: Date of acknowledgement of receipt of the payslip; employment contract; salary transfer or discharge date.

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.

Verifiers: Annual training plan approved by company management; training modules aligned with job-specific needs and Annex B; certificates of participation or aptitude for trainees; training reports and participant lists; supervision schedules and reports; worker interviews confirming training and supervision; records of competency assessments or certifications; management plan referencing training needs and implementation.

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

Verifiers: Individual training records/logbooks for each worker; centralized training database or register; signed attendance sheets for training sessions; certificates of participation or completion; reports summarizing training sessions (with dates, topics, and participant names); evaluation forms or feedback reports from training events.

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 and in compliance with applicable laws.

Note: Legal requirements for dispute resolution take precedence. However, culturally appropriate methods may still be applied for stakeholder engagement, consultation, or conflict prevention wherever feasible and relevant, provided they do not conflict with legal obligations.

Verifiers: Internal grievance or dispute resolution procedure; records of worker consultations during procedure development; complaint and grievance logbook; minutes from staff delegate or union meetings; proof of dissemination (e.g. memos, awareness sessions); dispute resolution records demonstrating implementation; regular updates or reviews of grievance procedures; training records on grievance handling for supervisors and staff; worker interviews confirming awareness and use of grievance mechanisms; external audit or inspection reports verifying effective grievance management.

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

Verifiers: Grievance and complaints register/log documenting reported issues and responses; interviews with staff delegates and workers on grievance handling; minutes of meetings and dispute resolution discussions; chronology of administrative correspondence related to grievances; evidence of grievance resolution, such as memos, agreements, contracts, or follow-up reports.

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

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

Verifiers: Updated grievance register/log including workers' claims related to loss or damage of property, occupational diseases, or injuries; documentation of steps taken to resolve each grievance; records of outcomes from dispute resolution processes, including details of fair compensation provided; documentation of unresolved disputes with explanations and planned actions for resolution; interviews with workers and staff delegates confirming record accuracy. Report from the workers' union; report from staff representatives; report from the labour inspectorate.

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

Verifiers: Updated grievance register/log including claims related to work-related loss or damage of property, occupational diseases, or injuries; documentation of steps taken to resolve grievances; records of fair compensation provided for work-related loss, damage, disease, or injuries; outcomes of dispute resolution processes recorded and communicated; documentation of unresolved disputes with reasons and planned resolution actions; interviews with workers and staff

delegates confirming compensation and grievance handling; minutes of meetings or correspondence related to grievance resolution and compensation.

PRINCIPLE* 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES'* RIGHTS

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

Note: An assessment was carried out to determine whether any group in Côte d'Ivoire meets the FSC Criteria for Indigenous Peoples. The seven FSC Criteria, developed by adapting documents from the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2007), UN Development Group Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues (2009), and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), include:

- Self-identification
- Historical continuity
- Strong territorial connection
- Distinct institutions
- Distinct language/culture/beliefs
- Non-dominance in society
- Collective efforts to maintain ancestral systems.

The assessment drew upon international sources (including ILO Convention No. 169, the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and reports of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) and national sources (including Côte d'Ivoire historical records, ethnographic information, stakeholder consultations, and expert inputs from the National Museum of Côte d'Ivoire).

In Côte d'Ivoire, the term *autochtone*, often translated as 'indigenous', refers to populations considered native before colonial rule and is tied to notions of national identity. Using the French term *indigène* better reflects local understanding while aligning with international standards such as those of the UN and FSC. Archaeological evidence shows human presence in the region for hundreds of thousands of years, with Neolithic migrations shaping current populations. Oral traditions suggest that pygmy peoples once inhabited the forests but were later displaced or assimilated. Today, Côte d'Ivoire hosts over 60 ethnic groups, including Akan, Gur, Mandé, and Krou, formed through centuries of migration. While some researchers proposed links between ancient pygmies and modern groups like the Gagu, these claims lack support; most scholars classify the Gagu within the Mandé cultural group.

Consultations with stakeholders to assess whether any of Côte d'Ivoire's ethnic groups could be considered indigenous according to the FSC definition focused on groups typically viewed as local or traditional. The analysis was conducted for the Senufo (centred around Korhogo), Malinké, Krou, Mandé, and Akan ethnic groups, and it revealed that there is currently no evidence of an ongoing pygmy presence in Côte d'Ivoire, even though these communities are often described in oral histories as the territory's first inhabitants.

Based on the current Best Available Information and applying the seven criteria defined by the FSC, the conclusion is that there are no recognized Indigenous Peoples in Côte d'Ivoire today. The pygmy communities, historically considered the original inhabitants, no longer exist in the country, having been assimilated, displaced beyond its borders, or disappeared over time.

However, this conclusion is not permanent and may be revised if the situation changes in the future. Such changes could include a group choosing to self-identify as Indigenous or the emergence of new credible evidence demonstrating that a group meets the FSC criteria.

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:

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

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

3.2.1 Through culturally appropriate engagement, Indigenous Peoples 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, resources, lands and territories.

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

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

3.2.4 Free, Prior and Informed Consent is granted by Indigenous Peoples prior to management activities that affect their identified rights through a process that includes:

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

- 4) Informing the Indigenous Peoples of the current and future planned forest management activities.
- 3.2.5 Where the process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) has not yet resulted in an FPIC agreement, the Organization 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 Where control over management activities has been granted through Free, Prior and Informed Consent based on culturally appropriate engagement, the binding agreement contains the duration, provisions for renegotiation, renewal, termination, economic conditions and other terms and conditions.
- 3.3.2 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 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 the Management Unit and those that may be affected by management activities are identified.

Verifiers: Community identification reports; participatory rural appraisals; stakeholder maps; socio-economic baseline studies; interviews with local leaders and community members; records of consultations and site visits; maps indicating community locations and areas of influence.

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

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

Note: Regarding item (7), since forest management units are owned by the government and community rights are not applicable in private forests, community requirements should be consistent with the legal framework.

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

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

Verifiers: Evidence of community information sessions (agendas, attendance lists, minutes); public notices, posters, radio broadcasts, or local announcements informing communities of management activities; communication records (letters, memos, WhatsApp messages) shared with community representatives; grievance or suggestion register showing community input or requests for changes; procedure/manual on community engagement methods; documentation showing adjustments made to management activities in response to community feedback.

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

Verifiers: Maps and records recognizing legal and customary rights of local communities; FPIC agreements and documentation of consent processes; signed co-management or access agreements with communities; minutes of consultations confirming community oversight and involvement; conflict or grievance registers showing no violations of rights; monitoring reports or audits verifying community control has been maintained.

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.

Verifiers: Grievance or conflict registers referencing community rights violations; minutes of culturally appropriate consultations or reconciliation meetings; corrective action plans and their implementation reports; evidence of fair redress (e.g. agreements, compensation records); correspondence with affected communities; documentation of conflict resolution.

4.2.4 The Free, prior and informed consent is granted by traditional peoples prior to management activities that affect their identified rights through a process of:

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

Note: In the current configuration of people in Côte d'Ivoire, the local communities are traditional peoples. It is essential to clarify whether the forest is state-owned or privately owned. Local communities (village and non-village) have the right to access forest resources according to the management plan. When their interests are identified, such as trees, food, plantations, farms, or cultural sites, they have the right to express their consent on how these interests or sites are managed. While local communities may not have the legal authority to refuse access to the forest to the organization holding the concession, the Organization remains bound by FSC requirements to respect the communities' decisions and interests in forest management.

Verifiers: FPIC procedure document; signed FPIC agreements; awareness session records; communication materials on resource value and rights; meeting minutes; notices on forest activities; interviews with traditional representatives; FLEGT VPA monitoring report referencing legality matrix.

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

Verifiers: FPIC procedure document adopted by the Organization; records of meetings and communications showing active engagement; evidence of community satisfaction with the process (e.g. signed attendance lists, statements from community leaders); timelines or roadmaps co-developed with traditional communities; monitoring reports showing progress and adjustments made; third-party facilitator or observer reports (if applicable).

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

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

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

Verifiers: Records of community meetings announcing opportunities; job vacancy announcements accessible to local communities; lists of hired local workers, contractors, and suppliers; training plans and attendance registers including local participants; contracts awarded to local suppliers and service providers; communication materials (flyers, posters, radio announcements) targeted at local communities; monitoring reports on local participation rates.

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

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

Verifiers: Records of consultations and meetings with local communities and organizations, including interviews with community leaders; reports or minutes documenting identified local development needs and opportunities; community development plans or strategies developed jointly with communities; evidence of culturally appropriate engagement methods used (e.g. traditional gatherings, use of local languages); agreements or documented commitments/partnerships with local organizations for development initiatives.

SLIMF 4.4.1 Opportunities for local social and economic development are identified and implemented.

Verifiers: Records of consultations with local communities and relevant organizations; simple reports or notes documenting identified social and economic development opportunities; evidence of actions taken or projects implemented (e.g. receipts, photos, community feedback); basic community development plans or agreements (even informal); proof of culturally appropriate engagement methods (local meetings, verbal agreements).

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

Verifiers: List of social or economic projects implemented or supported by The Organization; budget allocation or financial records for community support; photos, reports, or testimonials from beneficiaries; monitoring reports on project outcomes and community benefits.

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

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

Verifiers: Impact assessment reports covering social, environmental, and economic aspects; minutes of meetings with local communities discussing potential impacts; records of mitigation

measures implemented (e.g. buffer zones, compensation plans); grievance or complaints register with resolution steps; visual documentation (e.g. maps, photos) of avoided or restored areas; follow-up monitoring reports showing impact mitigation results; interviews with local communities concerned; High Conservation Value identification study; FLEGT VPA monitoring report referencing legality matrix; report by the independent observatory and civil society organizations.

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

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

Verifiers: Publicly accessible dispute resolution procedure/manual; records of culturally appropriate consultations with local communities during development; minutes of community meetings on dispute resolution process; evidence of dissemination (posters, local media, community notice boards); grievance and dispute registry accessible to the public.

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

Verifiers: Grievance and complaints register with timestamps; records of responses to grievances showing timely action; minutes or reports from dispute resolution meetings; evidence of resolution agreements or ongoing dispute process documentation.

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

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

Verifiers: Interviews with complainant community members; complaints and conflict register/log with detailed resolution steps; chronology of administrative correspondence related to grievances; minutes of dispute resolution meetings; evidence of conflict resolution (memos, agreements, amendments, contracts, quotes, etc.); notes on unresolved grievances including reasons and planned actions for resolution.

4.6.4 Operations cease in areas while disputes exist of:

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

Verifiers: Complaint and conflict log detailing magnitude, duration, and affected parties; official suspension orders or internal directives halting operations; minutes of management or stakeholder meetings approving the suspension; field inspection reports confirming operational stoppage in disputed areas; documented correspondence with affected communities or authorities; interviews with complainant communities.

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.

Verifiers: Procedure for identifying and mapping sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious, or spiritual significance; participatory mapping reports and social mapping records involving local communities; maps and inventories of significant sites integrated into management plans; documentation of culturally appropriate engagement processes used for site identification; records or agreements confirming recognition of sites by The Organization and local communities.

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.

Verifiers: Documented protection measures for identified sites; records of culturally appropriate consultations and agreements with local communities on protection actions; evidence of implementation of agreed protection measures; alternative site identification methods documented when physical marking/maps are deemed a threat by local communities; monitoring reports showing effectiveness of protection measures.

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 on with the local communities, and as directed by local and national laws.

Verifiers: Procedure for mapping sites of special interest; participatory mapping reports and social mapping documentation; procedures for managing and protecting sites during operations; post-operation monitoring reports for protected sites; conflict management procedure related to site protection; records of immediate suspension of activities upon discovery of new significant sites; documentation of engagement with local communities on protective measures; evidence of compliance with local and national laws regarding site protection.

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

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

Note: There is no traditional knowledge that could be considered intellectual property of local communities used in the forest plantation industry for commercial purposes.

Verifiers: Documented Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) agreements with traditional peoples; records of engagement and consultation respecting traditional knowledge and intellectual property; policies or procedures protecting traditional knowledge and intellectual property rights; evidence of formal binding agreements regarding use of traditional knowledge; minutes of meetings or communication showing consent process and approvals.

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

Note: There is no traditional knowledge that could be considered intellectual property of local communities used in the forest plantation industry for commercial purposes.

Verifiers: Copies of binding agreements detailing compensation terms; records of payments or other forms of compensation made to traditional peoples; financial reports or receipts confirming compensation disbursement; minutes or correspondence documenting agreement on compensation; interviews with traditional peoples confirming receipt and satisfaction with compensation.

PRINCIPLE* 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST*

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

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan identifying local economic opportunities and ecosystem services; High Conservation Value (HCV) identification study; socio-economic or impact study focused on local livelihoods and resources; inventory of ecosystem services with potential for local use; records of community consultations or participatory rural appraisals (PRAs); interviews with local stakeholders confirming resource relevance.

SLIMF 5.1.1 The Organization is aware of the range of resources and ecosystem services that could strengthen and diversify the local community's economy.

Note: Managers can provide a verbal description.

Verifiers: List or inventory of local forest resources and ecosystem services; notes or minutes from informal discussions with community members; basic socio-economic observation or mapping reports; documentation of local use of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), water sources, ecotourism, etc.; evidence of awareness (e.g. posters, training, village meetings); internship reports.

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

Note: The range of products and services available is used where there are opportunities. The organization will therefore have to provide evidence of how the opportunities are made known to the community. This could include passing on word-of-mouth information, notices to neighbours, agendas of stakeholder liaison meetings, advertising campaigns. Although ecosystem services are sometimes not profitable for organizations, they still contribute to the preservation of social cohesion and coexistence.

Verifiers: Records of authorized use/access by local users (harvesting permits, agreements); production or harvesting records showing local benefit; contracts or memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with community groups or local enterprises; meeting minutes showing decisions on local access or benefit sharing; reports or photos documenting local product development or use.

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

Verifiers: Documentation showing compliance with FSC-PRO-30-006 requirements; records of ecosystem services claims made by The Organization; evidence of internal procedures and controls for FSC Ecosystem Services Claims; audit reports verifying adherence to FSC-PRO-30-006.

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

5.2.1 Timber harvest levels in the management unit are based on the management decisions adopted in the management document approved by MINEF and on an analysis of the Best Available Information on growth and yield, forest inventory, mortality rates and maintenance of ecosystem functions.

Verifiers: Management plan; inventory report; results of experimental scientific studies.

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

Verifiers: Official document specifying the Maximum Allowable Annual Cut (AAC); analysis reports showing harvest levels v forest growth rates; forest management plan reflecting sustainable harvest limits; monitoring records confirming actual harvest volumes stay within AAC; correspondence or approvals from MINEF validating AAC determination.

5.2.3 Actual annual timber harvest levels are recorded in logbooks and harvesting does not exceed the annual allowable cut determined in the management plan and the annual operating plan, as established in 5.2.2.

Verifiers: Logbooks recording actual timber harvest levels; annual operating plan detailing allowable cut; management plan specifying sustainable harvest limits; production declarations and harvesting permits; monitoring or audit reports confirming compliance with allowable cut; list of legal violations; MINEF statistics from the DISA database.

5.2.4 For the extraction of non-timber forest products and services for commercial purposes, The Organization determines a level of sustainable harvesting which is recorded in the operational management plan and applied in the field.

Note: Management plans created for the collection of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) from plantations do not need administrative approval. Harvesting thresholds for NTFPs are to be established based on the Best Available Information. However, for commercial timber harvesting, the Water and Forestry Administration approves the management plan and harvesting thresholds defined in the plan to permit timber collection.

Verifiers: Calculations or assessments supporting sustainable harvest levels based on best available data; field monitoring records confirming implementation of sustainable harvest levels; harvesting permits or authorization records; declaration of production for NTFPs and services; records of felled trees (where applicable); reports from internal/external audits verifying compliance with sustainable harvest limits; MINEF statistics from the DISA database.

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 environmental impacts of management activities are quantified and documented in the management plan.

Verifiers: Budget reports or financial statements showing allocated funds for these activities; management plan referencing these budgeted activities or linking to relevant financial documents; records of payments or investments made toward impact prevention, mitigation, or compensation; monitoring and evaluation reports documenting use of these funds and effectiveness of actions.

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

Verifiers: Management plan sections identifying positive social and environmental benefits; reports or assessments documenting benefits realized from management activities; community feedback or survey results confirming positive impacts.

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.

Note: This is more related to the mechanism in place at the level of The Organization to consider the interests of the community when making decisions about purchasing goods and services.

Verifiers: Procurement policy prioritizing local suppliers; records of purchases from local versus non-local suppliers; contracts or agreements with local service providers and processors.

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

Verifiers: Records of outreach or engagement with local businesses to build capacity; training or support programmes offered to local suppliers or service providers; documentation of efforts to identify and develop local processing or value-added facilities; reports or meeting minutes showing initiatives to encourage local enterprise development; interviews with local stakeholders or company staff involved in capacity building.

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.

Verifiers: Approved annual budget showing allocation for management plan implementation; financial reports demonstrating fund disbursement for key management activities; management plan with cost estimates linked to budget allocations; audit reports confirming adequacy and use of funds; interviews with finance and management staff on budgeting and resource allocation.

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

Verifiers: Financial statements showing expenditures aligned with management plan activities; records of investments in forest management, monitoring, and conservation; payment receipts, contracts, and invoices related to management plan implementation; audit reports verifying use of funds for intended purposes; reports or minutes from management meetings discussing financial commitments and expenditures.

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 The Organization uses Best Available Information to identify environmental values within the Management Unit and in adjacent areas potentially affected by its management activities, consistent with the requirements of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

Note: Environmental aspects are regulated by legal frameworks set by the ministerial departments of the Environment, Water, and Forests in Côte d'Ivoire. The environmental values assessment considers the legal requirements for environmental protection and standards for low impact forest management and wildlife protection at the national and regional levels.

Verifiers: Natural resources inventory report; management plan including environmental values; High Conservation Values (HCV) Assessment report; environmental baseline studies and surveys; maps and GIS data showing environmental values inside and near the Management Unit; official requirements or guidelines from the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

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

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

Verifiers: Approved Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); natural resources inventory report; High Conservation Value (HCV) identification study; environmental management plan & implementation report; annual operational plan and annual activity report; monitoring reports on environmental value protection; logging supervision or control reports; records of corrective actions taken.

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.

Verifiers: Approved Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report; scientific studies on environmental values; management plan referencing environmental values and impact assessments; High Conservation Value (HCV) identification study; maps or spatial data showing impacted areas (from stand to landscape level); records of stakeholder consultations during the EIA process; official approvals from the Ministry of Environment.

SLIMF 6.2.1 Prior to implementing site-disturbing activities, an assessment is conducted to identify possible adverse impacts from planned management activities.

Verifiers: Site-specific environmental impact assessment report; pre-operation site assessment records; management plan referencing site assessments; approval or clearance documents from relevant authorities; records of consultations with environmental specialists or local communities; monitoring reports verifying that assessment findings informed management actions.

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

Verifiers: Site-specific Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report; pre-operation site assessment records; management plan referencing site assessments and environmental considerations; approval or clearance documents from relevant Ivorian authorities (e.g. Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development); records of consultations with environmental experts and local communities; monitoring reports confirming integration of assessment findings into management actions.

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.

Verifiers: Low impact logging procedures; annual operational plan with environmental safeguards; sustainable management plan; environmental management plan (EMP); training records on environmental protection; monitoring and audit reports.

6.3.2 Management activities prevent negative impacts to environmental values.

Verifiers: Field verification reports, observations, and interviews with managers and operators; logging and forest management procedures; stakeholder consultation records; incident and corrective action reports; monitoring and audit records.

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.

Verifiers: Environmental Impact Assessment reports (internal and external); internal monitoring reports and corrective action plans; annual monitoring and follow-up reports; administrative control and post-harvest logging control activity reports; records of mitigation and restoration activities; field inspection and follow-up visit reports.

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, including Annex D 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.

Verifiers: HCV identification study; resource inventory report; management plan; Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); references to Best Available Information (BAI), Annex D.

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.

Verifiers: HCV identification study; protected species management procedure or low impact logging procedure; list of CITES and other rare, threatened, and endangered species presented by the land managers; natural resources management inventory report; management plan; Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

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

Verifiers: HCV identification study; protected species management procedure or low impact logging procedure; list of CITES species and other rare, threatened, and endangered species presented by the land managers; natural resources management inventory report; management plan; Environmental Impact Assessment.

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 programmes.

Verifiers: Low impact operating procedure; annual plans of operation; field verification reports; administrative control and compliance monitoring reports; maps and zoning plans showing conservation and protection areas; management plan sections describing conservation strategies and species recovery programmes; monitoring reports on rare and threatened species populations; field inspection records confirming implementation of protection measures; records of connectivity initiatives (e.g. wildlife corridors); stakeholder consultation records regarding protection efforts.

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

Verifiers: Field inspection reports; patrol and enforcement records; incident and violation reports; interviews with forest staff and local communities; monitoring data on species presence and hunting activities.

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

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

Verifiers: Native ecosystem inventory reports; ecological surveys and maps; management plan referencing native ecosystems; scientific studies and baseline assessments; scientific studies on environmental values; Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) reports; High Conservation Value (HCV) identification study; interviews with ecologists or forest managers.

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

Verifiers: Maps showing Representative Sample Areas (RSAs); protected area documentation in management plan; field inspection reports confirming protection status; monitoring records of RSAs; stakeholder consultation notes confirming protection; low impact operating procedure; annual plans of operation; land use maps.

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

Verifiers: Restoration plans or reports; management and annual operation plans showing restoration objectives; land use maps; direct field observations of nurseries and reforested sites; field inspection reports documenting restoration progress; monitoring records on ecosystem recovery; before-and-after satellite or aerial imagery; interviews with management and field staff.

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.

Verifiers: Documentation on criteria for sizing Representative Sample Areas (RSAs) and restoration areas; direct field observations of nurseries, reforested sites, and enrichment plots; notifications or approvals of reforestation sites from authorities (e.g. MINEF) and areas under management in concessions and communal forests; management plans detailing restoration and RSA objectives; annual operation plans reflecting restoration activities and area coverage; land use maps showing location and extent of restoration and representative sample areas; forest enrichment programme documentation and implementation records.

6.5.5 Representative Sample Areas in combination with other components of the Conservation Area Network comprise 10% minimum of the Management Unit area.

Verifiers: Maps and spatial data showing Representative Sample Areas (RSAs) and other conservation area components within the Management Unit; calculations or GIS analysis confirming RSAs plus conservation areas cover at least 10% of the Management Unit; management plan sections or reports describing composition and size of the Conservation Area Network.

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan; field monitoring reports; ecological surveys showing maintenance of species composition and structure; records of silvicultural or other management activities aimed at conserving native ecosystems; interviews with forest managers and ecologists confirming conservation practices; forest stratification maps; low impact logging procedure; development and management plan; HCV identification study; annual plans of operation.

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

Verifiers: Restoration plans and implementation reports; maps showing reforested or restored areas; field inspection records confirming restoration activities; development and management plan detailing re-establishment strategies; annual operation plans referencing restoration goals; nursery production records and species used; monitoring data on restored plant communities or habitat features.

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

Verifiers: Management plan; field observation reports confirming habitat features (e.g. snags, logs, canopy layers); maps showing habitat feature locations; annual operation plans referencing habitat feature activities; monitoring data on species diversity linked to habitat features; records of applied regional good practices for biodiversity conservation.

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.

Verifiers: Hunting and wildlife management procedures; patrol or surveillance records; incident reports of illegal or unsustainable activities; agreements with communities or authorities on wildlife use; wildlife population monitoring reports; awareness materials or training logs for staff and local communities.

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

Verifiers: Wildlife protection procedures; forest management plan sections on fauna protection; records of legal compliance with CITES and national hunting/trade laws; staff training records on wildlife protection; coordination meeting records with enforcement bodies (e.g. forestry or wildlife authorities); assessment of repression activities; biomonitoring of wildlife to be carried out at regular intervals.

6.6.6 The Organization develops and implements internal measures to ban and punish poaching-related activities by its workers and subcontractors.

Note: A law on wildlife management and hunting is being drafted, as well as the Wildlife and Hunting Code. It is important to consult it when it comes into force.

Verifiers: Internal policies banning poaching; disciplinary procedures for violations; signed worker and subcontractor codes of conduct; awareness-raising materials and training session records; incident reports and enforcement actions taken against poaching-related activities.

6.6.7 The Organization develops and implements a system of regular and timely controls to ensure that hunting policies are respected.

Verifiers: Wildlife patrol schedules and reports; records of infractions and corrective actions; monitoring data on hunting pressure and species populations; collaboration records with enforcement agencies; stakeholder feedback on control effectiveness; use of tracking rings to verify hunting quotas.

6.6.8 The Organization develops and implements effective mitigation measures to ensure that workers do not increase hunting, trapping, or the collection of bushmeat or wild fish.

Verifiers: Wildlife patrol schedules and reports; records of infractions and corrective actions; monitoring data on hunting pressure and species populations; collaboration records with enforcement agencies; stakeholder feedback on control effectiveness; awareness-raising materials for workers; training records on sustainable hunting and legal compliance; monitoring reports of bushmeat and wild fish collection; worker agreements or codes of conduct; field inspections confirming compliance.

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

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

Verifiers: Riparian zone maps and buffer demarcation; watercourse protection procedures; field inspection reports showing compliance with buffer rules; water quality monitoring data; annual operation plans with riparian protection measures; training records on watercourse protection; incident records and corrective actions for water-related impacts; interviews with workers and local stakeholders on water resource protection.

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

Verifiers: Water monitoring reports showing degradation; records of implemented restoration activities (e.g. replanting, erosion control); updated management plans incorporating corrective measures; field inspection reports confirming restoration implementation; photos or maps showing before-and-after conditions; stakeholder consultation records regarding restoration needs.

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

Verifiers: Restoration plans and reports; field inspection records of restoration sites; monitoring data on water quality and connectivity improvements; photos or satellite imagery before and after restoration; management plan updates reflecting restoration activities; stakeholder consultation records related to restoration efforts.

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

Verifiers: Water monitoring reports showing ongoing issues; records of mitigation actions taken; field inspection notes confirming measures in place; documentation linking degradation to past managers or third parties; meeting minutes with stakeholders about water issues; evidence of collaboration with authorities; photos or data showing improvement after actions.

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

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

Verifiers: Forest inventory and stratification maps; management plan sections on structural diversity; monitoring reports on species composition and age classes; field observations of regeneration patterns; silvicultural prescriptions supporting mosaic maintenance; interviews with forest managers.

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

Verifiers: Restoration plans and reports; management plan describing mosaic restoration objectives; monitoring data showing progress; field inspections of restored areas; silvicultural treatments records; satellite or aerial imagery comparisons; interviews with management and field staff.

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

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

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

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

Verifiers: Official records authorizing limited conversion; maps showing converted areas within MU; conservation and social benefits assessment reports; stakeholder consultation records on conversion; monitoring reports confirming no HCV damage; management plan sections addressing conversion rationale and safeguards; HCV identification study; monitoring and evaluation report of degraded areas; deforestation monitoring map; observation of satellite images.

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

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

6.10.1 Based on Best Available Information, accurate data is compiled on all conversions between 1 December 1994 and 31 December 2020 within the Management Unit.

Verifiers: Records of land use conversions between 1 December 1994 and 31 December 2020; satellite imagery and aerial photos documenting changes; official permits or authorizations for conversions; forest management plan referencing historical conversions; reports using Best Available Information on conversion data; GIS maps showing conversion boundaries within the Management Unit.

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

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

Verifiers: Records of forest-to-plantation conversions in that period; certification documents; proof that conversion affected only a small part of the Management Unit; evidence of long-term conservation benefits; documentation of social harm restitution and environmental remedies as per FSC Remedy Framework; verification of smallholder status where applicable.

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

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

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

Verifiers: Records of conversions of natural forests and High Conservation Value Areas after 31 December 2020; satellite and aerial imagery documenting changes; official permits or authorizations for conversions; forest management plan referencing recent conversions; reports using Best Available Information on post-2020 conversion data; GIS maps showing conversion boundaries within the Management Unit.

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

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

Verifiers: Records of post-31 December 2020 conversions of natural forests or HCV areas; certification status documentation; evidence that conversion affected a very limited portion of the Management Unit; documentation showing clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation and social benefits; verification that HCV and related sites were not threatened; forest management plan referencing these conversions; satellite imagery and monitoring reports confirming compliance.

PRINCIPLE* 7: MANAGEMENT PLANNING

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

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

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

Verifiers: Written policies with vision and values; approval records; communication evidence; implementation proof; staff awareness interviews.

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

Verifiers: Forest management plan; HCV identification study.

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

Verifiers: Policy and objective summaries; management plan sections; public communication materials; website or brochures; stakeholder notifications.

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 approved management plan includes management actions, procedures, strategies and measures to achieve the management objectives according to code of good practices and guidelines provided by the administration.

Verifiers: Forest management plan; annual operational plan; internal procedures and operational manuals; memoranda; documented management actions, procedures, strategies; alignment with good practice codes; administrative guidelines; review and approval records.

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

Verifiers: Management plan addressing Annex E elements; implementation records; progress reports; field verification; internal audits; compliance checks.

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan sections detailing verifiable targets per objective; monitoring plan specifying indicators and assessment frequency; progress reports showing evaluation against

targets; meeting minutes or records discussing objective tracking; annual reports or performance reviews referencing indicators and results.

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

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

- 1) monitoring results, including results of certification audits;
- 2) evaluation results;
- 3) stakeholder engagement results;
- 4) new scientific and technical information; and
- 5) changing environmental, social, or economic circumstances.

Verifiers: Updated management plan showing revisions based on monitoring, evaluation, and engagement outcomes; annual operational plans and procedures reflecting adaptive changes; reports or records of stakeholder consultations influencing revisions; certification audit results and follow-up actions; documentation of integration of new scientific or technical knowledge; notes on changes in social, environmental, or economic context used to trigger updates.

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.

Verifiers: Publicly accessible summary of the management plan (digital or printed); summary includes non-confidential elements like maps, objectives, key activities; records of distribution or publication (e.g. website, local notice boards, community meetings); interview evidence confirming accessibility and comprehension by stakeholders.

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

Verifiers: Procedure for document access by affected stakeholders; log of document requests and responses; records of documents provided, and reproduction costs charged; acknowledgements from affected stakeholders confirming receipt.

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

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

- 1) dispute resolution processes (Criterion 1.6, Criterion 2.6, Criterion 4.6);
- 2) 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);
- 3) local communities' socio-economic development activities (Criterion 4.4); and
- 4) High Conservation Value assessment, management and monitoring (Criterion 9.1, Criterion 9.2, Criterion 9.4).

Verifiers: Records of culturally appropriate engagement methods used; meeting minutes or reports documenting stakeholder participation in dispute resolution, rights identification, site recognition, and impact assessments; documentation of community involvement in socio-economic development planning; evidence of local stakeholder participation in High Conservation Value assessments and management; communication materials adapted to local culture and language; meeting minutes and report from the independent observatory.

7.6.2 Culturally appropriate engagement is used to:

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

Verifiers: Records of culturally appropriate engagement methods used; lists or registers of representatives, contact points, and stakeholder groups engaged; copies of agreements on communication channels or protocols; attendance records; meeting minutes or summaries documenting all topics discussed and decisions made; signed or approved meeting records by participants; communication materials or reports shared with stakeholders after engagement activities; feedback forms or follow-up interviews confirming information was shared and understood; records of stakeholder requests for information and The Organization's responses.

7.6.3 Affected rights holders and affected stakeholders are provided with an opportunity for culturally appropriate engagement in monitoring and planning processes of management activities that affect their interests.

Verifiers: Records of culturally appropriate stakeholder engagement; meeting minutes; consultation reports; attendance sheets; feedback summaries; evidence of stakeholder influence on planning and monitoring; annual monitoring reports; engagement policies and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategies; stakeholder consultation reports (e.g. participatory mapping, boundary demarcation, land monitoring); signed agreements with communities and specifications; management plan implementation reports; meeting minutes and report from the independent observatory.

SLIMF 7.6.3 Culturally appropriate engagement is completed with affected stakeholders to ensure that their concerns are addressed during the development of the management plan, its implementation and monitoring activities.

Verifiers: Records of culturally appropriate engagement with affected stakeholders; meeting minutes and attendance lists; documentation showing concerns raised and how they were addressed; stakeholder consultation reports; evidence of integration of stakeholder input into management and monitoring activities.

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

Verifiers: Records of stakeholder requests and invitations for engagement; meeting minutes and attendance lists; evidence of stakeholder input considered in planning and monitoring decisions; stakeholder consultation reports (e.g. participatory mapping, land monitoring); engagement policies and CSR strategies; signed agreements with communities and specifications.

PRINCIPLE* 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

Verifiers: Documented monitoring procedures; monitoring and evaluation reports; records showing implementation of management objectives; tracking sheets for verifiable targets; internal audit reports; field verification records.

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 applicable requirements of Annex G.

Verifiers: Impact monitoring reports and control sheets.

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

Verifiers: Environmental monitoring protocols; water and soil quality test results; biodiversity surveys; climate data records; monitoring reports aligned with Annex G; field observation records; satellite or aerial imagery showing environmental changes.

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.

Verifiers: Documented adaptive management procedures; impact monitoring reports and control sheets; management activity impact reports; annual monitoring and audit reports with related action plans; records showing updates to the management plan based on monitoring results; meeting minutes reflecting decisions from monitoring feedback; internal procedures describing how adaptive changes are made.

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

Verifiers: Non-conformity reports and corrective action records; revised management objectives and updated verifiable targets; updated forest management plans reflecting changes; meeting minutes or decision logs showing revision processes; follow-up monitoring reports confirming implementation of corrective measures; internal review and audit records documenting adjustments in response to findings.

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

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

Verifiers: Public summary reports of monitoring results aligned with Annex G; maps showing relevant environmental and social monitoring outcomes; online or printed documents accessible at no cost to stakeholders; records of dissemination (e.g. emails, community meetings); internal procedures for handling confidential information; logs showing stakeholder access or download history.

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

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

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

Verifiers: Documentation of tracking and tracing system procedures; reports or correspondence confirming transaction verification requests and responses; training records demonstrating personnel understanding of tracking and tracing procedures.

NTFP 8.5.1.1 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 MU before the honey can be sold with the FSC claim 'FSC 100%'.

Verifiers: Pollen analysis reports confirming $\geq 50\%$ of pollen is sourced from within FSC MU; scientific studies or monitoring data on pollen origin; maps showing FSC-certified MU boundaries relative to honey collection areas; records of sampling methods and laboratory analysis; documentation supporting Best Available Information used (e.g. expert assessments).

NTFP 8.5.1.2 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 MU before the products can be sold with the FSC claim 'FSC 100%'.

Verifiers: Telemetric or tracking data showing species presence within FSC MU; scientific or ecological studies supporting lifespan residency; maps of species range and FSC MU boundaries; documentation of data sources and methodology used.

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

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

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

Verifiers: Product tracking records and sales invoices; species identification sheets (common and scientific names); logbooks or harvest records showing logging date and block of origin; production reports showing quantities harvested or processed; FSC claim documentation and summary tables of FSC-certified v non-certified volumes; records from in-forest processing activities (dates, volumes).

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

- 1) name and address of purchaser;
- 2) the date of sale;
- 3) common and scientific species name;
- 4) product description;
- 5) the volume (or quantity) sold;
- 6) certificate code; and
- 7) the FSC claim 'FSC 100%' identifying products sold as FSC certified.

Verifiers: Sales invoices or delivery slips with all required elements; FSC sales documentation archive (physical or digital); summary logs or databases showing FSC transactions and certificate codes; internal audit reports confirming traceability and completeness of FSC claims.

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, including Annex J (High Conservation Value Framework) that records the location and status of High Conservation Value Categories 1-6, as defined in Criterion 9.1 and Annex J, the High Conservation Value Areas they rely upon, and their condition.

Verifiers: High Conservation Value (HCV) assessment report, covering all six HCV categories; maps indicating HCV locations, extent, and related HCV areas; field survey reports and data used to determine HCV status and condition; stakeholder consultation records related to HCV identification; expert input or studies used as Best Available Information.

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

Verifiers: HCV assessment report identifying Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs); maps showing the extent and location of IFLs within and around the management unit; use of Global Forest Watch or other recognized IFL datasets; expert or third-party validation of IFL status and boundaries; stakeholder consultation records addressing IFL identification.

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

Verifiers: Records of stakeholder engagement (meeting minutes, attendance lists, photos); documentation of culturally appropriate methods (translated materials, oral consultations, participatory mapping); inputs from local communities, NGOs, and conservation experts; final HCV assessment showing how stakeholder input was incorporated; communication materials used during engagement (posters, flyers, radio messages).

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

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

Verifiers: Threat assessment reports using Best Available Information and stakeholder input; records of engagement with affected stakeholders on threats to HCVs; documentation of how stakeholder feedback was incorporated; meeting minutes and consultation summaries with affected stakeholders; field reports referencing stakeholder observations of threats.

9.2.2 Management strategies and actions, including ones consistent with Annex I and Annex J (High Conservation Value Framework) 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.

Verifiers: Management plan and HCV strategy documents and procedures, interviews with managers and stakeholders; field visit reports confirming protective measures.

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.

Verifiers: Records of culturally appropriate engagement with rights holders, stakeholders, and experts; meeting minutes and consultation reports; documentation of agreed management strategies, and adjusted procedures.

9.2.4 Management strategies are developed to protect core areas.

Verifiers: Documented management strategies specifying protection of core areas; maps highlighting core areas and protection zones; meeting records approving protection measures, and adjusted procedures.

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

Verifiers: Map of Intact Forest Landscapes showing designated core areas; management plan indicating zoning and protection status; documentation justifying the designation of the vast majority as a core area, and adjusted procedures.

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

Verifiers: Field inspection reports showing HCV condition over time; monitoring data comparing pre- and post-management status; interviews with managers, experts, and affected stakeholders; corrective actions documented when threats to HCVs are identified; photos or GIS evidence supporting conservation outcomes, and adjusted procedures.

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

- 1) are restricted to a very limited portion of the core area;
- 2) do not reduce the core area below 50,000 ha; and
- 3) will produce clear, substantial, additional, long-term conservation and social benefits.

Verifiers: Map overlays before and after the planned industrial activity showing the extent of the affected core area; field inspection reports confirming activity is limited in scale and fragmentation; size confirmation (official survey/GIS) proving the remaining core area is $\geq 50,000$ ha; benefit analysis report justifying the substantial, additional, and long-term conservation and social outcomes (if applicable); signed stakeholder minutes or agreements showing affected stakeholders and experts were involved and informed (if applicable); post-activity monitoring reports demonstrating positive outcomes or minimal impact, and adjusted procedures.

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.

Verifiers: Monitoring reports on HCV status; evidence of management actions; field inspections; stakeholder engagement records, and adjusted procedures.

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.

Verifiers: Documented precautionary measures and adjusted procedures; risk assessments with incomplete data; monitoring reports showing no damage; records of stakeholder input on risks.

9.3.3 Core areas are protected consistent with Criterion 9.2.

Verifiers: Maps showing core areas; protection plans and enforcement records; field inspection reports confirming protection, and adjusted procedures.

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

Verifiers: Records of approved limited industrial activities in core areas; monitoring reports confirming compliance with Indicator 9.2.7; field inspections verifying restricted impact and conservation benefits, and adjusted procedures.

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

Verifiers: Incident reports documenting harm to High Conservation Values; records of immediate cessation of harmful activities; restoration and protection action plans and their implementation reports; follow-up monitoring confirming recovery efforts, and adjusted procedures.

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 programme of periodic monitoring assesses:

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

Verifiers: Monitoring programme schedule and procedures; periodic monitoring reports on strategy implementation; status reports on High Conservation Values and their areas; evaluations of management effectiveness and follow-up actions.

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

Verifiers: Documented consultations and field visits with rights holders, stakeholders, and experts during monitoring; signed attendance sheets and engagement note and summaries; records showing how stakeholder input influenced monitoring results or management adjustments, and adjusted procedures.

9.4.3 The monitoring programme 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.

Verifiers: Regular monitoring schedules and field visit logs; data records comparing current conditions to baseline assessments; reports documenting detected changes and any follow-up actions, and adjusted procedures.

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

Verifiers: Monitoring reports showing issues; meeting records approving changes; updated management/action plans; field reports confirming implementation, and adjusted procedures.

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 compliance with the requirement of the management plan that:

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

Note: In Côte d'Ivoire, all forest harvesting is based on either an annual or five-year management plan and related management documents, which include measures for reforestation or natural regeneration after harvesting to restore pre-harvest forest composition and structure. For managed concessions, the law requires that regeneration be planned and implemented to maintain forest productivity and ecological functions. The plan must clearly define regeneration methods, species to be planted, planting density, schedule, responsibilities, monitoring, and restoration objectives. It is recommended that auditors verify that harvested sites are regenerated in accordance with the plan or legal requirements and that evidence of implementation exists (inventories, reports, reforestation/regeneration certificates, monitoring data). The Ivorian Forest Code does not specify a uniform legal deadline for post-harvest regeneration; compliance is therefore assessed based on planning and effective implementation according to the concession's management plan.

Verifiers: Harvesting and regeneration procedures; regeneration records of harvest sites to include species; maps; AAC plans; logging manual; direct observation in the field; stakeholder consultation.

10.1.2 Regeneration activities are implemented in a manner that:

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

Verifiers: Harvesting and regeneration procedures; regeneration records of harvest sites to include species; maps; AAC plans; logging manual; direct observation in the field; stakeholder consultation.

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.

Verifiers: Forest management plan, annual operational plan; list of species selected for regeneration; forest regeneration/planting records, including maps and logging manual; justification for species choice and justification for any non-native species used; interview with stakeholders; direct observation in the field.

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

Verifiers: Forest management plan; list of species selected for regeneration; justification for species choice; interview with stakeholder; direct observation in the field.

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.

Verifiers: Forest management plan; list of species selected for regeneration; planted species records; evidence that invasive impacts of alien species can be controlled; interview with stakeholders; direct observation in the field.

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.

Verifiers: Forest management plan; list of species selected for regeneration; records of planted species; evidence of measure implemented to control the spread of alien species; interview with stakeholders; direct observation in the field.

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

Verifiers: Forest management plan; The Organization policy and procedures; monitoring records; interview with stakeholders; direct observation in the field.

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

Verifiers: Forest management plan; policies and procedures; invasive species control records; evidence of cooperation with regulatory bodies.

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

10.4.1 Genetically modified organisms are not used.

Verifiers: Forest management plan; policies and procedures; list of species selected for regeneration; consultation with experts/local water and forest technical services; direct observation in the field.

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

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

Verifiers: Forest management plan; silvicultural procedures; justification of silviculture practices with vegetation, species, site and management objectives; consultation with experts/water and forest technical services; direct observation in the field.

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

10.6.1 The use of fertilizers is minimized or avoided.

Verifiers: Forest management plan; policies; procedures for fertilizer use; records of fertilizer usage; interview with workers; inspection and review of fertilizer storage and management records.

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

Verifiers: Records comparing growth/productivity with and without fertilizer use; records of fertilizer type, quantity, and application; interviews with workers about fertilizer use and effects; direct field observations of fertilizer application and site condition.

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

Verifiers: Types, rates, frequencies, and sites of fertilizer application documented in records; fertilizer usage logs or application schedules; field reports confirming documented application details; interviews with staff responsible for fertilizer application.

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

Verifiers: Forest management plan and fertilizer use procedures; buffer and riparian zone management documents; fertilizer use and monitoring records (soil/water analysis); interviews with workers; field observations of fertilizer application; evidence of protective measures implemented.

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

Verifiers: Records of identified environmental damage from fertilizer use; documentation of mitigation or repair actions taken; monitoring reports confirming effectiveness; field inspection verifying remediation.

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 to result in non-use or overall reduction in application.

Verifiers: Organization's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan; evidence of IPM implementation; chemical pesticide use records; documentation showing IPM used to avoid or reduce chemical pesticide applications; interviews with workers about pest management practices; direct field observations confirming IPM and limited pesticide use.

10.7.2 Prior to using chemical pesticides, the requirements of the Environmental and Social Risk Assessment framework for Organizations (Clause 4.12 of FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0 FSC Pesticides Policy) are met.

Verifiers: Environmental and Social Risk Assessment (ESRA) report or documentation; evidence that pesticide use complies with FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0 (Clause 4.12 of the FSC Pesticides Policy); records of pesticide approval or authorization following ESRA; interviews with responsible personnel confirming risk assessment before pesticide use; field inspection confirming adherence to ESRA requirements; checks with the Ministry of Agriculture's pesticide committee for a list of pesticides approved in Côte d'Ivoire.

10.7.3 Affected rights holders and affected and interested stakeholders are provided with an opportunity for engagement in the development of the Environmental and Social Risk Assessment in a culturally appropriate manner.

Verifiers: Records of stakeholder engagement; meeting reports or minutes; invitations or communication logs; participant interviews; documentation of feedback integration; checks with the Ministry of Agriculture's pesticide committee for a list of pesticides approved in Côte d'Ivoire.

10.7.4 The Environmental and Social Risk Assessment is reviewed and, if necessary, revised within the certificate cycle.

Verifiers: Documented schedule for periodic ESRA reviews; records of ESRA review meetings and decisions; revised ESRA reports or addenda; management plan updates reflecting ESRA changes; interviews with responsible staff confirming review process.

10.7.5 A decision process and rationale are in place to select the pest, weed or disease control option that demonstrates least social and environmental damages, more effectiveness and equal or greater social and environmental benefits.

Verifiers: Documented decision-making process for pest, weed, or disease control options; comparative assessments of control methods showing social and environmental impacts; records justifying selected control measures based on least harm and greatest benefits; meeting minutes or approvals endorsing the chosen control strategies; interviews with decision makers confirming rationale and criteria used.

10.7.6 Records of pesticide usage are maintained, including trade name, active ingredient, quantity of active ingredient used, period of use, number and frequency of applications, location and area of use and reason for use.

Verifiers: Records of pesticide usage, including trade name, active ingredient, quantity used, period of use, application frequency and number, location and area treated, and justification for use.

10.7.7 The use of pesticides complies with the ILO document 'Safety in the use of chemicals at work' regarding requirements for the transport, storage, handling, application and emergency procedures for clean-up following accidental spillages.

Verifiers: Pesticide use, handling, and storage procedures; emergency procedures for pesticide spillage and worker awareness; complete pesticide uses records; availability of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS); availability and documented use of personal protective equipment (PPE); health monitoring records for handlers; presence and maintenance of emergency showers at storage and change rooms.

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

Verifiers: Application protocols minimizing pesticide quantities while ensuring effectiveness; records of pesticide application methods and dosages; monitoring reports confirming protection of surrounding landscapes; field inspections verifying adherence to application best practices; training records for applicators on minimizing environmental impact.

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

Verifiers: Chemical pesticide use, handling and storage procedures; accident records; monitoring records (including health of chemical handlers); evidence of preventing, mitigating or repairing damage caused by chemical application; interviews with workers; direct observation.

10.7.10 When pesticides are used:

- 1) The selected pesticide, application method, timing and pattern of use offers the least risk to humans and non-target species; and

- 2) Objective evidence demonstrates that the pesticide is the only effective, practical and cost-effective way to control the pest.

Verifiers: Records documenting pesticide selection rationale minimizing risks to humans and non-target species; application method, timing, and pattern procedures demonstrating risk reduction; objective evidence or studies supporting pesticide as the only effective, practical, and cost-effective control option; alternative assessment reports; interviews with pest management personnel, local administration and other organizations; field observation confirming adherence to application protocols.

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.

Verifiers: Procedure for the use of biological control agents; procedure for monitoring impacts and controlling the use of biological control agents.

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

Verifiers: Records of biological control agents used; compliance documentation with national or international scientific protocols (e.g. FAO guidelines); approvals or permits from relevant authorities; monitoring reports on the effectiveness and impact of biological control; training records of staff handling bio-agents; scientific studies or risk assessments supporting the use.

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

Verifiers: Application logs detailing type, quantity, date, location, and purpose of each use; field operation records; monitoring forms or treatment reports; maps showing application zones; internal control sheets; audit records confirming traceability of use.

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

Verifiers: Environmental risk assessments prior to use; monitoring reports on impacts to biodiversity and soil/water quality; incident and mitigation records; restoration or remediation action plans; internal procedures for safe use; staff training records on risk mitigation.

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.

Verifiers: Risk assessment reports covering natural hazards (e.g. storms, fires, floods); maps identifying hazard-prone zones within the Management Unit; records of historical hazard events and impacts; infrastructure vulnerability assessments; consultation records with local communities on hazard risks; integration of hazard assessments into forest management plans.

10.9.2 Management activities mitigate these impacts.

Verifiers: Direct field observation of low impact logging (*Exploitation forestière à impact réduit – EFIR*) procedure implementation (FAO Regional Code, 2003) and interviews with operators and management teams; development plan with hazard assessment and mitigation strategies; EFIR forest management procedure documentation; internal audit and monitoring reports; post-exploitation monitoring reports; field inspection confirming hazard mitigation measures;

training records on natural hazard prevention and response; records of collaboration with local emergency services.

SLIMF 10.9.2 Where capacity and resources permit, management activities mitigate the potential unacceptable negative impacts of natural disasters. If capacity or resources do not permit, The Organization or manager will contact the relevant local organizations regarding capacity and mitigation opportunities.

Verifiers: Field observations and reports showing mitigation actions where capacity allows; records of management decisions when mitigation is not feasible; documentation of communication and coordination with local authorities or organizations regarding disaster risk management; training records for staff on disaster preparedness; monitoring reports on implementation of mitigation measures.

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.

Verifiers: Risk assessments identifying management activities that may increase frequency, distribution, or severity of natural hazards; management plan sections addressing natural hazard risks; records of hazard monitoring and analysis; interviews with forest managers and field staff; field observations confirming awareness and mitigation of such risks.

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

Verifiers: Records of modifications to management activities addressing identified risks; implementation reports of risk reduction measures; monitoring reports showing effectiveness of risk mitigation; management plan updates reflecting risk management actions; interviews with managers and field staff confirming changes; field observations verifying implemented measures.

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.

Verifiers: Infrastructure and transport plans protecting environmental values; monitoring and inspection reports; interviews with managers and operators; direct field observation of EFIR procedures (FAO Regional Code, 2003); development and annual operation plans.

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

Verifiers: Direct field observation of the implementation of EFIR procedures; interviews with operators and management teams; Annual Operation Plan; Operational Programme for Reforestation.

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 promptly, and management activities modified to prevent further damage.

Verifiers: Records of disturbance prevention, mitigation, and repair actions; monitoring and incident reports; field inspection and damage assessment records; management plan updates reflecting modifications; interviews with staff and affected stakeholders; post-exploitation monitoring report.

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

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

Verifiers: Harvesting and extraction procedures; monitoring reports on environmental and HCV impacts; field inspection records; management plan sections on conservation practices; training records for harvest crews; incident and corrective action reports; interviews with harvest supervisors and workers.

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

Verifiers: Harvesting and extraction procedures; harvesting reports and records; yield and utilization data; field observations of harvesting operations; management plan sections on resource optimization; training materials on efficient harvesting; interviews with harvest supervisors and workers on practices to reduce waste.

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

Verifiers: Harvesting and extraction procedures; harvesting reports and site records; field observations of biomass and forest structure retention; monitoring data on habitat and environmental values; management plan sections on ecological conservation; training materials for harvesters on retention practices; interviews with forest managers and field crews.

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

Verifiers: Harvesting procedures minimizing damage to residual trees and woody debris; field observations of harvesting sites; post-harvest impact assessments; management plan guidelines on protection of residual trees; training materials for harvest crews; interviews with harvest supervisors and workers on damage prevention practices.

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 and in accordance with national legislation that conserves environmental values as identified in Criterion 6.1.

Verifiers: Waste management procedures; transport and waste collection slips; certificates of destruction or disposal of waste; records of waste management activities; compliance documentation with national legislation; field inspections of waste handling sites; training materials on environmental waste management; interviews with workers responsible for waste handling.

G ANNEXES

(Normative section)

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

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

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

1. Legal harvesting rights

1.1 Land tenure and management rights

- Uniform Act on General Commercial Law adopted on 15 September 2010 in Lomé, OHADA.
- OHADA Uniform Act of 15 December 2010 on the Rights of Cooperative Societies.
- Civil code (27 December 2019). Date of original text: 1964.
- Ordinance No. 2018-646 of 1 August 2018 on the Investment Code.
- Decree of 25 November 1930 on the regime of expropriation in the public interest.
- Law No. 98-750 on rural land tenure.
- Law No. 2019-573 of 26 June 2019 on inheritance.
- Ordinance No. 2013-481 of 2 July 2013 laying down the rules for the acquisition of ownership of urban land.
- Ordinance No. 2018-357 of 29 March 2018 amending Article 6 of Ordinance No. 2013-481 of 2 July 2013 laying down the rules for the acquisition of ownership of urban land.
- Law No. 2013-655 of 13 September 2013 on the time limit granted for the establishment of customary rights on the land of the Customary Domains.
- Law No. 98-489 on the State Regime of the Regions.
- Decree No. 2023-378 of 3 May 2023 defining the procedure for the recognition of land without an owner of the rural land domain.
- Law No. 97-721 of 23 December 1997 on cooperatives.
- Law No. 2017-540 of 3 August 2017 laying down the rules relating to the regulation, control and monitoring of the activities of the Rubber and Oil Palm sectors.
- Decree No. 98-257 of 3 June 1998 implementing Law No. 97-721 of 23 December 1997 on cooperatives.
- Decree No. 74-139 of 12 April 1974 relating to cooperative groups.
- Decree No. 74-140 of 12 April 1974 laying down the procedures for the establishment and approval of cooperatives and unions of cooperatives.
- Law No. 95-893 1995.
- Decree No. 72-606 of 18 September 1972 on the creation of civil companies of Forestry Operators' Grouping.
- All the texts relating to the Nationality Code, updated on 27 January 2016.
- United Nations Convention against Corruption.
- Law No. 81-640 of 31 July 1981 on the Criminal Code (CC).

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- Law No. 60-366 of 14 November 1960 on the Code of Criminal Procedure (CCP).
 - Law No. 2013-875 of 23 December 2013 ratifying Ordinance No. 2013-660 of 20 September 2013 on the prevention and fight against corruption and related offences (Ordinance 660), which largely reflects the incriminating provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
 - Law No. 2013-661 of 20 September 2013 establishing the attributions, composition, organization and functioning of the High Authority for Good Governance.
 - Law No. 2005-554 of 2 December 2005 on the fight against money laundering (Law 2005).
 - Act of 10 March 1927 on the extradition of foreigners (Extradition Act).
 - Law No. 2019-868 of 14 October 2019, amending Law No. 98-750 of 23 December 1998 on rural land tenure, as amended by Laws No. 2004-412 of 14 August 2004, and No. 2013-655 of 13 September 2013.
 - Decree No. 2019-266 of 27 March 2019 laying down the terms and conditions for the application of Law No. 98-750 of 23 December 1998 to the customary rural land domain.
 - Decree No. 2023-238 of 5 April 2023 determining the procedures for the registration of land in the rural land domain.
 - Decree No. 2019-265 of 27 March 2019 laying down the procedure for consolidating the rights of temporary concessionaires of land in the rural land domain.
 - Decree No. 2021-441 of 8 September 2021 on the modalities for the exercise of independent observation.

1.2 Concession licences

- Law No. 2019-675 of 23 July 2019 on the Forest Code.
- Order No. 007/MINEF/CAB of 6 January 2021 determining the conditions and procedures for the registration of forests.
- Order No. 1136/MINEF/CAB of 8 December 2020 specifying the constituent documents of the application file for a forest or agro-forestry management concession.
- Decree No. 2019-977 of 27 November 2019 on the procedures for the classification of forests and agro-forests.
- Decree No. 66-428 of 15 September 1966 laying down the procedures for the classification and declassification of State forests.
- Decree No. 2019-828 of 9 October 2019 on the modalities for the creation of agro-forests.
- Order No. 069 MINEF-MININTER-MINAGRA of 4 May 1999 on the Creation of a Consultative Commission for the Allocation of Logging Perimeters (CCAPEF).
- Decree No. 2019-978 of 27 November 2019 on the concession of the management of the private forest estate of the State and local authorities.
- Decree No. 2021-440 of 8 September 2021 setting the conditions and procedures for the creation and management of forests.

1.3 Harvest management and planning

- Regional Code for Low Impact Logging in Dense Tropical Rainforests of Central and West Africa.
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- Decree No. 2021-437 of 8 September 2021 laying down the general framework for the management of classified forests in the private forest domain of the State, eligible for the concession regime.
 - Decree No. 2014-689 of 12 November 2014 amending the title of Annex II of Decree No. 78-231 of 15 March 1978 laying down the terms and conditions for the management of the State Forest Domain.
 - Law No. 2015-537 of 20 July 2015 on Agricultural Orientation of Côte d'Ivoire.
 - Order No. 33 MINAGRA of 13 February 1992 entrusting SODEFOR with the management of classified forests in the State Forest Domain.
 - Decree No. 78-231 of 15 March 1978 laying down the terms and conditions for the management of the State Forest Estate.
 - Decree No. 2019-979 of 27 November 2019 on the modalities for the management of agro-forests, the operation of agricultural plantations and the marketing of agricultural products in agro-forests.
 - Order No. 861/MINEF/CAB of 13 December 2019 on the modalities for the development and implementation of forest and agro-forest management plans.
 - Decree No. 2021-440 of 8 September 2021 setting the conditions and procedures for the creation and management of community forests.
 - Decree No. 2019-978 of 27 November 2019 on the concession for the management of the Private Forest Estate of the State and Local Authorities.
 - Order No. 00480/MINEEF/DPIF of 16 March 2007 amending Order No. 055/MINEF/DPIF on the organization of the exploitation of teak and other exotic forest species planted in the Rural Domain.
 - Order No. 33 MINAGRA of 13 February 1992 entrusting SODEFOR with the management of all classified forests.
 - Decree No. 2021-437 of 8 September 2021 establishing the general framework for the management of classified forests in the private forest domain of the State, eligible for the concession regime.
 - Decree No. 78-231 laying down the procedures for the management of the State's forest domain.
 - Order No. 008/MINEF/CAB of 6 January 2021 defining the modalities and periodicity of the national forest inventory.
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1.4 Harvesting permits

- Law No. 88-650 on the Punishment of Offences in the Marketing of Agricultural Products. Text date: 7 July 1988.
 - Decree No. 66-50 of 8 March 1966 regulating the profession of forest operator.
 - Decree 2021-438 of 8 September 2021 on the conditions for exercising the profession and obtaining approval as a forester.
 - Decree No. 2022-781 of 12 October 2022 determining the conditions for obtaining approval as a forestry operator and authorization for forest exploitation.
 - Law No. 2017-540 of 3 August 2017 laying down the rules relating to the regulation, control and monitoring of the activities of the rubber and oil palm sectors.
 - Decree No. 2018-228 of 28 February 2018 on the name of the body responsible for the regulation, control and monitoring of the activities of the rubber and oil palm sectors.
 - Decree No. 243 of 1 March 1967 correcting Decree No. 1577 of 5 December 1966 laying down the procedures for the application of
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- Decree No. 66-420 of 15 September 1966 regulating the timber industries.
- Decree No. 67-576 of 15 December 1967 regulating the profession of timber exporters.
- Decree No. 66-50 of 8 March 1966 regulating the profession of forestry operator.
- Decree No. 66-50 of 8 March 1966 regulating the profession of forest operator.

2. Taxes and Fees

2.1 Payment of royalties and harvesting costs

- Decision No. 00326/MINEEF/CAB of 12 February 2010 on procedures for the collection of forest revenues within the Ministry of Water and Forests.
- Decree No. 2018-150 of 14 February 2018 on the adjustment of the terms and conditions for the payment of the industrial land occupancy fee for industrialists processing logs.
- Decree No. 94-657 of 14 December 1994 fixing the rate of the special tax on water consumption and laying down the procedures for its collection.
- Ordinance No. 2013-297 of 2 May 2013 setting the scale of the amounts of the industrial land occupancy fee.
- Law No. 72-854 of 21 December 1972 allocating to certain expenses the proceeds of the tax on reforestation, the delimitation of the forest domain and the protection of wildlife.
- Ordinance No. 66-626 of 31 December 1966 fixing the amount of forestry royalties for the export of timber and cabinet-making by instituting a reforestation tax.

2.2 Value-added and other sales taxes

- General Tax Code 2023.
- Law No. 98-488 on the financial regime of the Regions.

2.3 Income and profit taxes

- General Tax Code 2023.

3. Timber harvesting activities

3.1 Logging regulations

- Order No. 0511/MINEF/DGFF/DPIF of 19 May 2023 specifying the terms and conditions for the exploitation in forests of legal persons under private law, natural persons and trees outside forests.
- Decree No. 66-421 of 15 September 1966 regulating the exploitation of timber and cabinet-making, service, fire or coal and fascinage timber.
- Decree No. 83-454 of 27 May 1983 supplementing Decree No. 66-421 of 15 September 1966 regulating the exploitation of timber and cabinet-making, service, fire and coal and fascinage timber.
- Order No. 25 MINEFOR-CAB. of 26 August 1983, specifying certain provisions of Decrees No. 66-421 of 15 September 1966 and No. 83-454 of 27 May 1983 regulating the exploitation of timber and cabinet-making, service, fascinage, fire and coal wood.
- Order No. 927/MINEFOR/MEF/MC of 19 December 1975 encouraging the local industry to process an ever-increasing volume

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- of quality logs in situ and promoting certain little-known species more rapidly.
- Decision No. 1505/MINEFOR/DPF of 7 September 1982 prohibiting logging in the savannah area of Côte d'Ivoire.
 - Decree No. 94-368 of 1 July 1994 on the reform of forestry.
 - Decision No. 065 of 29 March 1995 on the Monitoring Committees for the Management of Logging Areas.
 - Order No. 480/MINEEF/DPIF of 16 March 2007 amending Order No. 055/MINEF/DGEF/DPIF of 20 December 2001 on the organization of the exploitation of teak and other exotic forest species planted in the rural estate.
 - Order No. 402/MINEF/DGEF/DPIF of 23 March 2013 prohibiting the exploitation of timber above the 8th parallel.
 - Decree 2019-980 of 27 November 2019 on logging in the national forest sector.
 - Decree 2020-423 of 29 April 2020 setting the conditions for deforestation and land clearing in the national forest domain.
 - Order No. 0511/MINEF/DGFF/DPIF of 19 May 2023 specifying the terms and conditions for legal persons under private law and natural persons for the exploitation of forests and trees outside forests.
 - Decree No. 66-420 of 15 September 1966 regulating the timber industries.
 - Decree No. 2020-423 of 29 April 2020 setting the conditions for deforestation and land clearing in the national forest domain.
 - Decree No. 2013-815 of 26 November 2013 prohibiting contract sawing.
 - Order No. 00480/MINEEF/DPIF of 16 March 2007 amending Order No. 055/MINEF/DPIF on the organization of the exploitation of teak and other exotic forest species planted in the rural domain.
 - Decree No. 2021-588 of 6 October 2021 determining the procedure and scale of transactions in forestry matters.

NTFP

- Decree No. 2018-228 of 28 February 2018 on the name of the body responsible for the regulation, control and monitoring of the activities of the rubber and oil palm sectors.
- Decree No. 66-421 of 15 September 1966 regulating the exploitation of timber and cabinet-making, service, fire and coal wood.
- Decree No. 83-454 of 27 May 1983 supplementing Decree No. 66-421 of 15 September 1966 regulating the exploitation of timber and cabinet-making, service, fire and coal and fascinage timber.

3.2 Protected sites and species

- Decree No. 66-122 of 31 March 1966 determining the so-called protected forest species.
 - Order No. 628/MINEF/DGEF/DPIF of 28 June 2013 prohibiting the export of veneer wood.
 - Order No. 402/MINEF/DGEF/DPIF of 23 March 2013 prohibiting the exploitation of timber above the 8th parallel.
 - Decree No. 2021-585 of 6 October 2021, defining the conditions and modalities for the processing and marketing of forest products.
 - Decree No. 2013-816 of 26 November 2013 prohibiting the exploitation, cutting, transport, processing, marketing and export of natural forest timber and cabinet-making taken above the 8th parallel.
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- Decree No. 2013-508 of 25 July 2013 prohibiting the exploitation, cutting, transport, marketing and exploitation of *Pterocarpus spp* (veneer wood).
 - Decree No. 97-130 of 7 March 1997 regulating the possession and prohibition of the trade in ivory.
 - Order No. 00628 MINEF-DGEF-DPIF of 28 June 2013 prohibiting the export of *Pterocarpus spp*, commonly known as veneer wood, a species of natural forests with small diameters.
 - Order No. 00402 of 26 March 2013, strengthening the measures prohibiting the exploitation of timber and cabinet-making above the 8th parallel.
 - Order No. 058 of 6 February 2013 prohibiting logging above the 8th parallel.
 - Order No. 838 MINEEF of 18 December 2006 repealing Order No. 531 of 28 October 2003 suspending all exploitation of teak wood in besieged areas.
 - Decision No. 30-MINEF-DPIF of 14 August 2001 on the cancellation of the logging areas adjacent to the National Parks.
 - Decree No. 2021-583 of 6 October 2021 laying down the terms and conditions for the management and use of sensitive ecological areas.
 - Law No. 94-442 of 16 August 1994 amending Law No. 65-255 of 4 August 1965 on the protection of wildlife and the practice of hunting.
 - Law No. 65-255 of 4 August 1965 on the protection of wildlife and the exercise of hunting.
 - Decree No. 97-130 of 7 March 1997 regulating the possession of ivory.
 - Decree No. 66-423 of 15 September 1966 laying down the system of hunting permits and the procedures for their allocation in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.
 - Decree No. 66-425 of 15 September 1966 regulating the trafficking, circulation, import, exploitation of trophies of protected and spectacular animals and their remains.
 - Order No. 1069 of 29 December 1967 regulating the keeping of live animals by private individuals.
 - Civil Code Book Two: Of Goods and the Various Modifications of Property..
 - Civil Code Book Three: Of the different ways in which property is acquired.
 - Law No. 98-750 of 23 December 1998 on rural land tenure.
 - Order No. 0002 MINAGRA of 8 February 2000 on the official models of the Land Certificate.
 - Decree No. 99-594 of 13 October 1999 laying down the modalities of application to the Customary Rural Land Estate of Law No. 98-750 of 23 December 1998 (pp.11-18).
 - Law No. 98-750 of 23 December 1998 on rural land tenure (pp.5-10).
 - Decree No. 2013-224 of 22 March 2013 regulating the purging of customary rights to land for the general interest.
 - Decree of 26 July 1932 on the reorganization of the system of land ownership in French West Africa.
 - Decree No. 2014-25 of 22 January 2014, amending Decree No. 2013-224 of 22 March 2013 regulating the purge of customary rights on the land for the general interest.
 - Decree of 26 July 1932 on the reorganization of land ownership in French West Africa.
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- Decree No. 2019-263 of 27 March 2019 defining the procedure for delimiting the territory of villages.
 - Decree No. 2019-264 of 27 March 2019 on the organization and attributions of the Sub-Prefectural Committees for Rural Land Management and the Village Committees for Rural Land Management.
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3.3 Environmental requirements

- Law No. 2014-390 of 20 June 2014 on Sustainable Development.
 - Law No. 96-766 of 3 October 1996 on the Environmental Code.
 - Decree No. 2005-03 of 6 January 2005 on Environmental Audit.
 - Law No. 98-388 of 2 July 1998 laying down the general rules relating to national public establishments and creating categories of public establishments and repealing Law No. 80-1070 of 13 September 1980.
 - Order No. 973 of 14 November 2007 relating to the application of Decree 2005-03 of 6 January 2005 on environmental audits.
 - Law No. 88-651 of 7 July 1988 on the protection of public health and the environment against the effects of toxic and nuclear industrial waste and harmful substances.
 - Decree No. 2012-1047 of 24 October 2012 laying down the terms and conditions for the application of the polluter-pays principle as defined by Law No. 96-766 of 3 October 1996 on the Environmental Code.
 - Decree No. 98-43 of 28 January 1998 relating to classified installations for the protection of the environment.
 - Decree of 20 October 1926 regulating dangerous, unhealthy or inconvenient establishments.
 - Decree No. 2013-440 of 13 June 2013 determining the legal regime for the protection of water resources, hydraulic developments and structures.
 - Decree No. 96-894 of 8 November 1996 determining the rules and procedures applicable to studies relating to the environmental impact of development projects.
 - Decree No. 89-02 of 4 January 1989 on the approval, manufacture, sale and use of pesticides.
 - Interministerial Order No. 509/MINAGRI/MEMIS of 11 November 2014 organizing the control of pesticides, the inspection and sanitary, phytosanitary and quality control of plants, products of plant origin, agricultural products and any other material likely to carry organisms harmful to crops, human and animal health at the gateways of entry and exit from the national territory.
 - Order No. 334 MINAGRI.CAB of 19 May 2014 approving phytosanitary applicators for the treatment of wood-based packaging materials in international trade for the year 2014.
 - Decree No. 63-457 of 7 November 1963 laying down the conditions for the introduction and export of plants and other materials likely to carry organisms dangerous to crops.
 - Decree No. 89-02 of 4 January 1989 on the approval, manufacture, sale and use of pesticides.
 - Order No. 445/MINEME/CAB of 24 March 2004 on the integration of the Environmental Impact Studies Bureau (*Bureau d'Etudes d'Impact Environnemental* – BEIE) into the National Environment Agency (*Agence Nationale De l'Environnement* – ANDE).
 - Order No. 00972 of 14 November 2007 relating to the application of Decree No. 96-894 of 8 November 1996 determining the authorities
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and procedures applicable to studies relating to the environmental impact of development projects.

- Order No. 044/MINEME/IG of 24 March 2004 on the integration of the Classified Facilities Inspection Service (*Service de l'Inspection des Installations Classées* – SIIC) into the Ivorian Anti-Pollution Centre (*Centre Ivoirien Anti-Pollution* – CIAPOL).
- Decree No. 2005-268 of 21 July 2005 laying down the procedures for the application of Law No. 2003-308 of 7 July 2003 on the transfer and distribution of powers from the State to the Local Authorities.
- Law No. 98-755 on the Water Code.

3.4 Health and safety

- Law No. 99-477 of 2 August 1999 on the Social Security Code.
- Order No. 09 MC/MEF/MSP/MDR/MTPCPT of 7 March 1986 concerning the minimum quantity of each sample taken and the precautions to be taken for the transport and storage of products intended for physicochemical analysis.
- Order No. 159/MINAGRI of 21 June 2004 prohibiting the use in agriculture of active substances used in the manufacture of plant protection products.
- Memorandum No. 061/DG/CNPS/2020 of 25 March 2020 suspending itinerant activities (National Social Insurance Fund).
- Law No. 2019-677 of 23 July 2019 on the orientation of public health policy in Côte d'Ivoire.
- Decree No. 98-323 of 15 June 1998 regulating private security activities.
- Decree No. 2020-955 of 9 December 2020 on the attributions, composition and functioning of the Occupational Health and Safety Committee.
- Decree No. 2019-328 of 10 April 2019 setting the limit values for the exposure of the public and workers to non-ionizing radiation emitted by radio installations and equipment.
- Decree No. 2012-980 of 10 October 2012 prohibiting smoking in public places and public transport.
- Order No. 1715/MFPE/CAB of 20 February 2008 on the organization and procedures for granting approvals to medical and paramedical staff of occupational health services in public and private companies and establishments.
- Order No. 1716/MFPE/CAB of 20 February 2008 relating to the inspection of electrical installations, dangerous machinery and their protective devices in the workplace.
- Decree No. 98-379 of 30 June 1998 on the organization and operation of urban public health establishments that do not have the status of national public establishment.
- Decree No. 65-210 of 17 June 1965 laying down the procedures for the fulfilment of the employer's obligation to provide a medical or health service to their workers.
- Decree No. 397/IGTLS/AOF of 18 January 1955 on the classification of enterprises with regard to the fixing of the minimum resources imposed on employers in terms of medical and health personnel.
- Decree No. 5253/IGTLS/AOF of 19 July 1954 on the obligations of employers in terms of health and safety.
- Decree No. 2019-244 of 20 March 2019 amending Decree No. 2017-123 of 22 February 2017 setting the amount and terms of

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- collection of contributions due under the basic general scheme and the medical assistance scheme of the Universal Health Coverage.
- Decree No. 2018-397 of 11 April 2018 on the revaluation of pensions, special allowances and non-medical expenses due to victims of occupational accidents or diseases.
 - Decree No. 2017-486 of 26 July 2017 on the revaluation of the amount of family allowances paid by the National Social Insurance Fund.
 - Decree No. 2017-46 of 25 January 2017 defining the conditions and procedures for subjection, affiliation and registration to the basic general scheme of Universal Health Coverage.
 - Law No. 2014-131 of 24 March 2014 establishing Universal Health Coverage.
 - Decree No. 2013-554 of 5 August 2013 establishing the list of compensable occupational diseases.
 - Decree No. 2012-652 of 11 July 2012 setting the statutory retirement age for civil servants governed by the General Civil Service Regulations.
 - Decree No. 2008-62 of 28 February 2008 on the creation, attributions, organization and operation of the Observatory for Solidarity and Social Cohesion.
 - Law No. 2005-557 of 2 December 2005 supplementing and amending Chapter 2 of Title V of Law No. 99-477 of 2 August 1999 amending the Social Security Code.
 - Law No. 2001-636 of 9 October 2001 on the establishment, organization and operation of universal health insurance.

3.5 Legal employment

- Law No. 2015-532 of 20 July 2015 on the Labour Code.
- Ordinance No. 2021-902 of 22 December 2021, amending Law No. 2015-532 of 20 July 2015, on the Labor Code.
- Decree No. 2022-31 of 12 January 2022 laying down the terms and conditions for the implementation of telework for workers governed by the Labour Code.
- Order No. 405 MJDAP of 21 May 1969 authorizing the concession of workforce.
- Law No. 2016-1111 of 8 December 2016 on the fight against trafficking in persons.
- Law No. 2010-272 of 30 September 2010 prohibiting trafficking and the worst forms of child labour.
- Decree No. 98-41 of 28 January 1998 on collective labour agreements.
- Decree No. 96-208 of 7 March 1996 on the conciliation procedure concerning collective labour disputes.
- Decree No. 96-207 of 7 March 1996 on staff delegates and trade union delegates.
- Decree No. 95-690 of 6 September 1995 laying down special procedures for the performance of the minimum service in the event of a strike in the public services.
- Law No. 60-315 of 21 September 1960 on associations.
- Decree No. 2014-290 of 21 May 2014 on the implementation of Law No. 2010-272 of 30 September 2010 on the prohibition of trafficking and the worst forms of child labour.

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- Decree No. 2001-467 of 25 July 2001 on the establishment of the National Committee for the Fight against Trafficking and Exploitation of Children.
 - Decree No. 2018-272 of 7 March 2018 on work prohibited for women and pregnant women.
 - Order No. 2017-017 MEPS/CAB of 02 June 2017 determining the list of dangerous work prohibited to children.
 - Order No. 2017-016 MEPS/CAB of 2 June 2017 determining the list of light work authorized for children between the ages of thirteen (13) and sixteen (16) years.
 - Order No. 2250 determining the list of hazardous work prohibited for children under eighteen (18) years of age.
 - Order No. 2017-016 MEPS/CAB of 2 June 2017 determining the list of light work authorized for children between the ages of thirteen (13) and sixteen (16) years.
 - Order No. 2017-017 MEPS/CAB of 2 June 2017 determining the list of dangerous work prohibited for children.
 - Law No. 2021-894 of 21 December 2021 on measures for the protection of victims of domestic violence, rape and non-domestic sexual violence.
 - Decree 2017-846 of 20 December 2017 on the modalities of application of Law No. 2014-430 of 14 July 2014 on the prevention, protection and punishment regime in the fight against HIV and AIDS.
 - Law No. 2014-430 of 14 July 2014 on the prevention, protection and punishment regime in the fight against HIV and AIDS.
 - Decree No. 2018-383 of 4 April 2018 on the terms and conditions of the internship-school contract.
 - Decree No. 2019-118 of 6 February 2019 on vocational training by apprenticeship.
 - Order No. 0194/MENETFP/DAIP of 24 October 2019 laying down the terms and conditions for the recruitment of apprentices in the context of vocational training by apprenticeship.
 - Decree No. 96-201 of 7 March 1996 on severance pay.
 - Decree No. 96-200 of 7 March 1996 on the length of notice of termination of the employment contract.
 - Law No. 92-573 of 11 September 1992 on dismissal for economic reasons.
 - Decree No. 2022-986 of 21 December 2022 on the revaluation of the guaranteed interprofessional minimum wage.
 - Order No. 0195/MENETFP/DAIP of 24 October 2019 determining the standard model of apprenticeship contract.
 - Order No. 005/MCAPPME/CAB of 16 January 2015 defining the procedures for registration in the register of craft enterprises.
 - Order No. 006/MCAPPME/CAB of 16 January 2015 defining the terms and conditions of registration in the Trade Register.
 - Decree No. 2014-370 of 18 June 2014 on the transferable and sizeable portion regime.
 - Order No. 11323/MFPE/CAB of 1 October 2008 amending Order 9503/MFPE/CAB of 14 August 2008 on the revaluation of monthly transport bonuses for all workers in the private sector.
 - Decree No. 96-287 of 3 April 1996 on employment contracts.
 - Decree No. 96-195 of 7 March 1996 on probationary employment and the duration of the probationary period.
 - Decree No. 96-197 of 7 March 1996 on the rules of procedure.
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- Decree No. 2011-371 of 4 November 2011 amending and supplementing Decree No. 96-205 of 7 March 1996 determining the list and regime of public holidays.
- Decree No. 96-204 of 7 March 1996 on night work.
- Decree No. 96-203 of 7 March 1996 on working hours.
- Order 0050/MEPS/CAB of 19 May 2023 on the application of the scale of minimum wage categories.

4. Rights of third parties

4.1 Customary rights

- Interministerial Order No. 247/MINAGRI/MPMEF/MPMP of 17 June 2014 setting the scale of compensation for destroyed crops.
- Decree No. 2020-424 of 29 April 2020 defining the terms and conditions for the protection of sacred forests.
- Law No. 2014-428 of 14 July 2014 on the Status of Traditional Kings and Chiefs.
- Decree No. 2015-358 of 20 May 2015 on the organization and functioning of the National Chamber of Traditional Kings and Chiefs.
- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights of 27 June 1981, entered into force on 21 October 1986, ratified by Côte d'Ivoire on 6 January 1992.

4.2 Free, Prior and Informed Consent

- Decree No. 2021-590 of 6 October 2021 laying down the terms and conditions for the information, consultation and participation of local populations in the management of forests in the private domain of the State and local authorities.
- Interministerial Order No. 54 MINAGRA-INT of 3 June 1993 organizing the Farmers-Forests Commission.
- Decree No. 2019-263 of 27 March 2019 defining the procedure for delimiting the territories of villages - Côte d'Ivoire.
- Decree No. 2019-264 of 27 March 2019 on the organization and attributions of the Sub-Prefectural Committees for Rural Land Management and the Village Committees for Rural Land Management - Côte d'Ivoire.

4.3 Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- There is no specific law concerning Indigenous Peoples in Côte d'Ivoire.

5. Trade and transport

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

5.1 Species classification, quantities, qualities

- Decree 2021-348 of 7 July 2021 defining the modalities for establishing the nomenclature of forest products.
- Decree No. 95-682 of 6 September 1995 prohibiting the export of raw, squared and studded wood.
- Order No. 00624 MINEF of 24 November 2011 amending Order No. 00505/MINEF/DGEF/DPIF of 15 September 2011 on the

identification of the legal origin and traceability of forest products marketed in Côte d'Ivoire.

- Decree No. 011 of 26 January 1996 laying down the modalities for the application of Decree No. 95-682 of 6 September 1995 prohibiting the export of raw, squared and studded wood.

5.2 Trade and transport

- Uniform Act on Contracts for the Carriage of Goods by Road, Act adopted on 22 March 2003, OHADA.
- Decree 2021-587 of 6 October 2021 setting the conditions and modalities for the export and import of forest products.
- Decree No. 67-576 of 15 December 1967 regulating the profession of timber exporters.
- Decree No. 2022-781 of 12 October 2022 determining the conditions for obtaining approval as a forestry operator and authorization for forest exploitation.
- Order No. 00623 MINEF of 24 November 2011 supplementing Order No. 00478/MINEF of 7 September 2011 establishing a waybill for the export of forest products by land to Côte d'Ivoire.
- Decision No. 32 MINEFOR. DCFC of 8 June 1982, establishing an approved waybill valid for all forestry operators in Côte d'Ivoire
- Order No. 1072 MINEEF of 13 July 2009 clarifying the terms and conditions for the exploitation, circulation and transfer of timber in logs in Côte d'Ivoire.
- Interministerial Order No. 36 MINAGRA-MDIE-ET of 7 April 1997 prohibiting the transport of logs by road at night.
- Interministerial Order No. 99 MINAGRA-MDIE-ET of 8 May 1996 regulating the road transport of timber in logs.
- Decree No. 90-503 of 20 June 1990 on the processing and export of timber in logs and sawn.
- Interministerial Order No. 5085-AEF of 24 January 1968, implementing the provisions of Decree No. 67-576 of 15 December 1967 regulating the profession of timber exporters.

5.3 Offshore trading and transfer pricing

- Ordinance No. 82-71 amending the tariff of export duties for logs.
- Decision No. 00326/MINEEF/CAB of 12 February 2010 on procedures for the collection of forest revenues within the Ministry of Water and Forests.
- Ordinance No. 2013-662 of 20 September 2013 on competition.
- Ordinance No. 2012-161 of 2 April 2014 relating to the form of the articles of association and the share capital of the limited liability company.
- Circular No. 749 of 2 August 1994 on mercurial values on timber in logs and certain wood products for export.
- Decree No. 94-377 of 1 July 1994 modifying the mercurial values on logs.

5.4 Customs regulations

- Law No. 64-291 of 1 August 1964 amended by Ordinance No. 88-225 of 2 March 1988 - Customs Code.
 - Decree No. 2014-179 of 9 April 2014 repealing Article 2 of Decree No. 95-682 of 6 September 1995 prohibiting the export of raw, squared and studded wood.
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- Decree No. 73-490 of 11 October 1973 requiring primary wood processing companies to ensure the supply of semi-finished products to the local market.
- Decree No. 66-420 of 15 September 1966 regulating the timber industries.
- Decree No. 88-222 of 2 March 1988 on the control of goods in transit in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire.
- Decree No. 88-224 of 2 March 1988 on the determination of the customs value of imported goods.

5.5 CITES

- Non-Detrimental Trade Opinion (NDTO) On *Pericopsis Elata* (Harms) V. Meeuwen (*Fabaceae*) in Côte d'Ivoire.
- https://cites-tsp.org/sites/default/files/project_files/2023-01/ACNP_CITES_Assamela_vf.pdf Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. <https://www.cites.org/eng/disc/text.php>
- Decree No. 66-122 of 14 April 1966 determines the so-called protected forest species.

6. Due diligence / Due care

6.1 Due diligence / Due care procedures

- Law No. 2013-867 of 23 December 2013, on access to information of public interest.
- Decree No. 2021-441 of 8 September 2021 on the modalities for the exercise of independent observation.

7. Ecosystem services

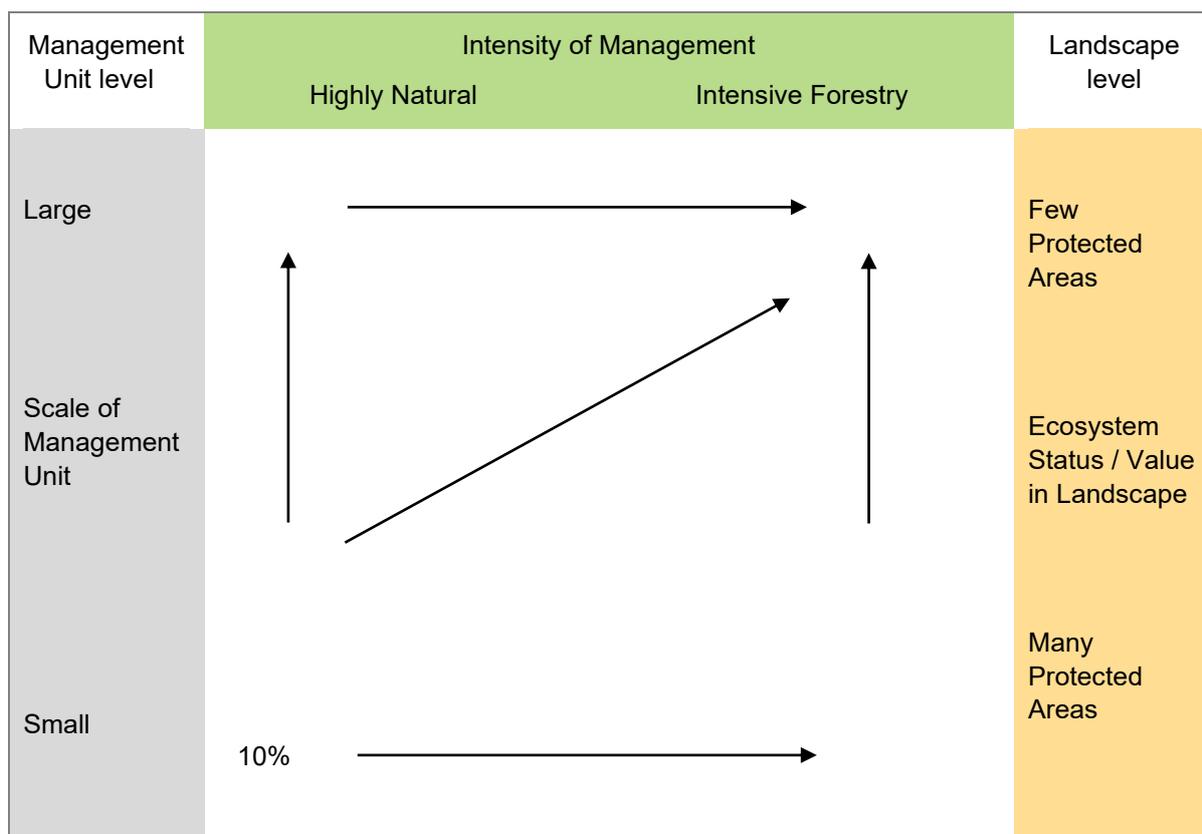
- There is no specific law on ecosystem services in Côte d'Ivoire.

Annex B Training requirements for workers (Principle 2)

Workers shall be able to:

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

Annex C Conservation Area Network conceptual diagram (Principle 6)



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

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

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

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

Decree No. 66-122 of 31 March 1966, determining the so-called protected forest species

Pursuant to Article 49 of the 2019 Law on the Forestry Code, the following forest species are to be protected (link: <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/ivc2230.pdf>).

Code	Vernacular name	Scientific name
01	Cashew	<i>Khayas (ivorensis-anthotheca et grandifoliola)</i>
02	Aboudikro	<i>Entandrophragma cylindricum</i>
03	Avodiré	<i>Turreanthus africana</i>
04	Makoré	<i>Dumoria keckelii</i>
05	Sipo	<i>Entandrophragma utile</i>
10	Bété	<i>Mansonia altissima</i>
11	Bossé	<i>Guarea Cedrata</i>
12	Dibétou	<i>Lovoa klaineana</i>
13	Framiré	<i>Terminalia ivorensis</i>
14	Tiama	<i>Entandrophragma angolense</i>
20	The assamela	<i>Afromosia Elata</i>
21	Iroko	<i>Chlorophora excelsa</i>
22	Kossipo	<i>Entandrophragma candollei</i>
23	Kotibé	<i>Nesogordonia papaverifera</i>
24	Linqué	<i>Afzelia africana</i>
25	Movingui	<i>Disthemonanthus benthamianus</i>
26	Niangon	<i>Tarrietia utilis</i>
30	Ako	<i>Antiaris africana</i>
31	Fraké	<i>Terminalia superba</i>
32	Oualelé	<i>Picnanthus combo</i>
33	Samba	<i>Triplochiton scleroxylon</i>
40	Azobé	<i>Lophira alata</i>
41	Badi	<i>Sarcocephalus diderrechii</i>

According to the IUCN, the endangered species identified for Côte d'Ivoire are as follows:

Note: The species listed in this Annex are examples of potentially relevant IUCN-listed species in the management unit. This list is not exhaustive. Managers and auditors should consult the IUCN Red List website (www.iucnredlist.org) to identify all potentially relevant threatened, endangered, or rare species for the area.

Anopyxis klaineana (Pierre) Engl. Rhizophoraceae Bodioa

Berlinia confusa Hoyle Fabaceae Mélégba

Bombax brevicuspe Sprague Malvaceae Kondroti

Entandrophragma cylindricum (Sprague) Sprague

Meliaceae Adoudikro

Entandrophragma angolense (Welw.) C.DC. Meliaceae Tiama

Entandrophragma utile (Dawe & Sprague) Sprague Meliaceae Sipo

Eribroma oblongum (Mast.) Germain Malvaceae Bi

Guarea cedrata (A. Chev.) Pellegr. Meliaceae Bossé

Heritiera utilis Sprague Malvaceae Niangon
Khaya ivorensis A. Chev Meliaceae Acajou Bassam
Lophira alata Gaertn. f. Ochnaceae Azobé
Milicia excelsa (Welw.) C.C. Berg Moraceae Iroko brun
Milicia regia (A. Chev.) Berg Moraceae Iroko jaune
Nauclea diderrichii (De Wild & Th. Dur.) Merrill
Rubiaceés Badi
Nesogordonia papaverifera (A. Chev.) Cap. Malvaceae Kotibé
Parinari excelsa Sabine Chrysobalanaceae Sougué
Parkia bicolor A. Chev. Fabaceae Lô
Terminalia ivorensis A. Chev. Combretaceae Framiré
Tieghemella and A. Chev. Sapotaceae Makoré
Triplochiton scleroxylon Schumann Malvaceae Samba
Turraeanthus africanus (Welw.) Pellegr. Meliaceae Avodiré
<https://www.iucnredlist.org/>

A complete, updated list of CITES species relevant to Côte d'Ivoire can be found at the official CITES checklist: <https://checklist.cites.org>.

Law No. 94-442 of 16 August 1994 amending Law No. 65-255 of 4 August 1965 on the protection of wildlife and the practice of hunting.

Appendix I: Fully Protected Species

Fully protected wild animals whose capture and hunting (including those of their young or eggs) are prohibited except for holders of scientific permits within the limits and with the means indicated in the permit.

Mammals: Eléphant (*Loxodonta africana africana*, *Loxodonta africana cyclotis*); Hippopotame nain (*Choeropsis liberiensis*); Lamatin (*Trichechus senegalensis*); Chimpanzé (*Pan troglodytes*); Chevrotain aquatique (*Hyemesenus aquaticus*); Colobe magistrat (*Colobus polykomos*); Céphalophe zèbre (*Cephalophus zebra*); Pangolin terrestre géant (*Manis gigantea*); Microprotamogale (*Microprotamogale lamottei*); Antilope royale (*Neotragus pygmeus*); Hylochère (*Hylochoerus meinerzhageni*); Potto de Bosman (*Perodicticus potto*); Galago de Demidof (*Galago demidovii*); Bongo (*Tragelaphus euryceros*); Léopard (*Panthera pardus*); Lion (*Panthera leo*); Cercopithèque Diane (*Cercopithecus diana*); Colobe Bai (*Colobus badius badius*); Oryctérope (*Orycteropus afer*); Céphalophe de Jentink (*Cephalophus jentinki*); Céphalophe à dos jaune (*Cephalophus sylvicultor*).

Reptiles: Nile crocodiles (*Crocodylus niloticus*); Long-snouted crocodiles (*Crocodylus cataphractus*); Forest or marsh crocodiles (*Osteolaemus tetraspis*); Sea turtles (Cheloniidae).

Birds: Lesser Serpent-Eagle (*Polyboroides radiatus*); White-breasted guinea fowl (*Agelastes meleagrides*); All vultures; Great Abyssinian hornbill (*Bucorvus abyssinicus*); Marabout (*Leptoptilos crumeniferus*); Great Egret (*Egretta alba*); Little egret white form (*Egretta garzetta*); Little egret, grey form (*Egretta gularis*); Crowned Crane (*Balearica pavonina*); Jabiru (*Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis*); All the Herons, Storks and Ibises; All the Eagles.

Appendix II: List of partially protected animals whose hunting and capture are authorized to holders of sport hunting permits or capture permits within the limits indicated in the permits:

Mammals: Pangolin à écailles tricuspides (*Manis tricuspis*); Pangolin à longue queue (*Manis tetradactyla*); Anomalie naïve (*Idiurus macrotis*); Buffle (*Syncerus caffer*); Hippotrague (*Hippotragus equinus*); Cobe defassa (*Kobus ellipsiprymnus defassa*); Bubale (*Alcephalus buselaphus*); Lycaon (*Lycaon pictus*); Hyène tachetée (*Crocuta crocuta*); Chacal à flans rayés (*Canis adustus*); Serval (*Leptairus serval liposticta*); Loutre à joues blanches (*Aonyx capensis*); Ratel (*Meilivora capensis*); Zorile commun (*Ictonyx striatus*); Nandinie (*Nandinia binotata*); Mone (*Cercopithecus mona*); Cercopithecus aethiops (*Cercopithecus aethiops*); Céphalophe noir (*Cephalophus niger*); Potamochère (*Potamochoerus porcus*).

Reptiles: Python de Séba (*Python sebae*); Python royal (*Python regius*).

Birds: Moorhen (*Porphyrio porphyrio*); Jacana (*Actophilomis africana*); All diurnal raptors except Serpent-eagles, Vultures, Eagles, Accipitriformes; Nocturnal raptors: all strigiformes. Parrots: all Psittaciformes; Touracus, Musophagi, Cuckoos; Green-cheeked Courkuckoo (*Apaloderma narina*); All Woodpeckers and Bearded ones; All Kingfishers, Rollers, Hornbills (except the Great Hornbill and Bee-eaters); Merie metallic, Oriole and Sunbirds.

Appendix III: Wild animals whose hunting is authorized for customary users, for holders of small-scale hunting permits and special sporting permits within the limits of the general hunting latitudes authorized by law.

Mammals: Guib harnaché (*Tragelaphus scriptus*); Cobe de buffon (*Kobus kob*); Redunca (*Redunca redunca*); Céphalophe de grimm ou biche cochon (*Cephalophus grimmia*); Céphalophe à bande dorsale noire (*Cephalophus niger*); Céphalophe à flanc roux (*Cephalophus rufilatus*); Céphalophe de maxwell (*Cephalophus maxwelli*); Ourébi (*Ourebia ourebi*); Phacochère (*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*); Daman d'arbre (*Dendrohyrax arboreus*); Lièvre (*Lepus whytei*); Aulacode (*Tryonomis swinderianus*); Porc-épic (*Hystrix cristata*); Atherure (*Atherurus africanus*); All squirrels; Hérisson à ventre blanc (*Erinaceus aibiventris*); Chat doré (*Profelis aurata*); Chat sauvage (*Felis silvestris*); Civette (*Viverra civetta*); Genettes (*Genette pardina*, *Genetta tigrina*); Poiane (*Poiana richardsoni*); Mangouste ichneumon (*Herpestes ichneumon*); Mangouste rouge (*Herpestes sanguineus*); Mangouste brune (*Mungos obscurus*); Mangue (*Mungos gambianus*); Cynocéphale (*Papio cynocephalus*); Patas (*Erythrocebus patas*); Hocheur (*Cercopithecus petaurista*); Potamogale (*Potamogale velox*).

Reptiles: All Turtles (except Chelonidae); Savannah monitor lizard (*Varanus exanthematicus*).

Birds: All: Ducks, Birds, Teals; All: Francolins, Guinea Fowl, Quail, Rock Hen; All: Plovers, Lapwings, Sandpipers, Curlews, Oedicnemes, Snipes.

Annex E Elements of the management plan (Principle 7)

- 1) The results of assessments, including:
 - i. Natural resources and environmental values, as identified in Principle 6 and Principle 9;
 - ii. Social, economic and cultural resources and condition, as identified in Principle 6, Principle 2 to Principle 5 and Principle 9;
 - iii. Intact Forest Landscapes and core areas, as identified in Principle 9;
 - iv. Major social and environmental risks in the area, as identified in Principle 6, Principle 2 to Principle 5 and Principle 9; and
 - v. The maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services for which promotional claims are made as identified in Criterion 5.1.
- 2) Programmes and activities regarding:
 - i. Workers' rights, occupational health and safety, gender equality, as identified in Principle 2;
 - ii. Indigenous Peoples*, community relations, local economic and social development, as identified in Principle* 3, Principle* 4 and Principle* 5;
 - iii. Stakeholder engagement and the resolution of disputes and grievances, as identified in Principle 1, Principle 2 and Principle 7;
 - iv. Planned management activities and timelines, silvicultural systems used, typical harvesting methods and equipment, as identified in Principle 10;
 - v. The rationale for harvesting rates of timber and other natural resources, as identified in Principle 5.
- 3) Measures to conserve and/or restore:
 - i. Rare and threatened species and habitats;
 - ii. Water bodies and riparian zones;
 - iii. Landscape connectivity, including wildlife corridors;
 - iv. Ecosystem services when FSC Ecosystem Services Claims are used as identified in Criterion 5.1;
 - v. Representative Sample Areas, as identified in Principle 6; and
 - vi. High Conservation Values, as identified in Principle 9.
- 4) Measures to assess, prevent, and mitigate negative impacts of management activities on:
 - i. Environmental values, as identified in Principle 6 and Principle 9;
 - ii. Ecosystem services when FSC Ecosystem Services Claims are used as identified in Criterion 5.1;
 - iii. Social Values and Indigenous cultural landscapes, as identified in Principle 2 to Principle 5 and Principle 9; and
 - iv. Intact Forest Landscapes and core areas, as identified in Principle 9.
- 5) A description of the monitoring programme, as identified in Principle 8, including:
 - i. Growth and yield, as identified in Principle 5;
 - ii. Ecosystem services when FSC Ecosystem Services Claims are used as identified in Criterion 5.1;
 - iii. Environmental values, as identified in Principle 6;
 - iv. Operational impacts, as identified in Principle 10;

- v. High Conservation Values, as identified in Principle 9;
- vi. Monitoring systems based on stakeholder engagement planned or in place, as identified in Principle 2 to Principle 5 and Principle 7;
- vii. Maps describing the natural resources and land use zoning on the Management Unit;
- viii. Description of the methodology to assess and monitor any development and land use options allowed in Intact Forest Landscapes and core areas including their effectiveness in implementing the precautionary approach;
- ix. Description of the methodology to assess and monitor any development and land use options allowed in Indigenous cultural landscapes including their effectiveness in implementing the precautionary approach; and
- x. Global Forest Watch map, or more accurate national or regional map, describing the natural resources and land use zoning on the Management Unit, including the Intact Forest Landscapes core areas.

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

Sample Management Plan Document	Management Plan Revision Periodicity	Element Being Monitored (Partial List)	Monitoring Periodicity	Who Monitors This Element? (Note: These will vary with SIR and jurisdiction)	FSC Principle/ Criterion
Site Plan (Harvest Plan)	Annual	Creek crossings	When in the field and annually	Operational staff	P10
		Roads	When in the field and annually	Operational staff	P10
		Retention patches	When in the field, sample annually	Operational staff	P6, P10
		Rare, threatened and endangered species	When in the field, sample annually	Consulting Biologist / Ministry of Forestry	P6
		Annual harvest levels	Annually	Woodlands Manager	C5.2
		Insect disease outbreaks	Annually, sample	Consulting Biologist / Ministry of Forests	
		Budgeting	Annual	Expenditures	Annually
Contribution to local economy	Annually	General Manager		P5	

Engagement Plan	Annual	Employment statistics	Annually	General Manager	P3, P4
		Social agreements	Annually, or as agreed in <i>Engagement Plan</i>	Social Coordinator	P3, P4
		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 or at the request of the Ministry of Forestry	Age class distribution	Five years	Ministry of Forestry	P6
		Size class distribution			
		10-year Allowable Annual Cut	Annually, ten years	Ministry of Forests / Woodlands manager	C5.2
Ecosystem Services Certification Document	5 years	Prior to validation and verification	Prior to validation and verification	General Manager	FSC-PRO-30-006

Annex G Monitoring requirements (Principle 8)

- 1) Monitoring in 8.2.1 is sufficient to identify and describe the environmental impacts of management activities, including where applicable:
 - i. The results of regeneration activities (Criterion 10.1);
 - ii. The use of ecologically well adapted species for regeneration (Criterion 10.2);
 - iii. Invasiveness or other adverse impacts associated with any alien species within and outside the Management Unit (Criterion 10.3);
 - iv. The use of genetically modified organisms to confirm that they are not being used (Criterion 10.4);
 - v. The results of silvicultural activities (Criterion 10.5);
 - vi. Adverse impacts to environmental values from fertilizers (Criterion 10.6);
 - vii. Adverse impacts from the use of pesticides (Criterion 10.7);
 - viii. Adverse impacts from the use of biological control agents (Criterion 10.8);
 - ix. The impacts from natural hazards (Criterion 10.9);
 - x. The impacts of infrastructural development, transport activities and silviculture to rare and threatened species, habitats, ecosystems, landscape values, water and soils (Criterion 10.10);
 - xi. The impacts of harvesting and extraction of timber on non-timber forest products, environmental values, merchantable wood waste and other products and services (Criterion 10.11); and
 - xii. Environmentally appropriate disposal of waste materials (Criterion 10.12).
- 2) Monitoring in 8.2.1 is sufficient to identify and describe social impacts of management activities, including where applicable:
 - i. Evidence of illegal or unauthorized activities (Criterion 1.4);
 - ii. Compliance with applicable laws, local laws, ratified international conventions and obligatory codes of practice (Criterion 1.5);
 - iii. Resolution of disputes and grievances (Criterion 1.6, Criterion 2.6, Criterion 4.6);
 - iv. Programmes and activities regarding workers' rights (Criterion 2.1);
 - v. Gender equality, sexual harassment and gender discrimination (Criterion 2.2);
 - vi. Programmes and activities regarding occupational health and safety (Criterion 2.3);
 - vii. Payment of wages (Criterion 2.4);
 - viii. Workers' training (Criterion 2.5);
 - ix. Where pesticides are used, the health of workers exposed to pesticides (Criterion 2.5 and Criterion 10.7);
 - x. The identification of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and their legal and customary rights (Criterion 3.1 and Criterion 4.1);
 - xi. Full implementation of the terms in binding agreements (Criterion 4.2);
 - xii. Indigenous Peoples and community relations (Criterion 3.2, Criterion 3.3 and Criterion 4.2);
 - xiii. Protection of sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to Indigenous Peoples and local communities (Criterion 3.5 and Criterion 4.7);
 - xiv. The persistence of Indigenous cultural landscapes and associated values of significance to Indigenous Peoples (Criterion 3.1, Criterion 3.5);

- xv. Local economic and social development (Criterion 4.2, Criterion 4.3, Criterion 4.4, Criterion 4.5);
 - xvi. The production of diversified benefits and/or products (Criterion 5.1);
 - xvii. The maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services (Criterion 5.1);
 - xviii. Activities to maintain or enhance ecosystem services (Criterion 5.1);
 - xix. Actual compared to projected annual harvests of timber and non-timber forest products (Criterion 5.2);
 - xx. The use of local processing, local services and local value-added manufacturing (Criterion 5.4);
 - xxi. Long-term economic viability (Criterion 5.5); and
 - 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), including the effectiveness of actions identified and implemented to prevent, mitigate and repair negative impacts to environmental values (Criterion 6.3);
 - iii. Rare and threatened species, and the effectiveness of actions implemented to protect them and their habitats (Criterion 6.4);
 - iv. Representative Sample Areas and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.5);
 - v. Naturally occurring native species and biological diversity and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.6);
 - vi. Water courses, water bodies, water quantity and water quality, and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.7);
 - vii. Landscape values and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or restore them (Criterion 6.8);
 - viii. Conversion of natural forest to plantations or conversion to non-forest (Criterion 6.9);
 - ix. The status of plantations established after 1994 (Criterion 6.10); and
 - x. High Conservation Values 1 to 4 identified in Criterion 9.1 and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or enhance them.

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

A. Threshold for vast majority

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

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

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

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

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

B. Developing Indicators for Assessing and Protecting Intact Forest Landscapes

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

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

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

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

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

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

HCV 1 – Protection zones, harvest prescriptions, and/or other strategies to protect threatened, endangered, endemic species, or other concentrations of biological diversity and the ecological communities and habitats upon which they depend, sufficient to prevent reductions in the extent, integrity, quality, and viability of the habitats and species occurrences. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to develop, expand, and/or restore habitats for such species are in place.

HCV 2 – Strategies that fully maintain the extent and intactness of the forest ecosystems and the viability of their biodiversity concentrations, including plant and animal indicator species, keystone species, and/or guilds associated with large intact natural forest ecosystems. Examples include protection zones and set-aside areas, with any commercial activity in areas that are not set-aside being limited to low-intensity operations that fully maintain forest structure, composition, regeneration, and disturbance patterns at all times. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and reconnect forest ecosystems, their intactness, and habitats that support natural biological diversity are in place.

HCV 3 – Strategies that fully maintain the extent and integrity of rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and/or develop rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia are in place.

HCV 4 – Strategies to protect any water catchments of importance to local communities located within or downstream of the Management Unit, and areas within the unit that are particularly unstable or susceptible to erosion. Examples may include protection zones, harvest prescriptions, chemical use restrictions, and/or prescriptions for road construction and maintenance, to protect water catchments and upstream and upslope areas. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore water quality and quantity are in place. Where identified HCV 4 ecosystem services include climate regulation, strategies to maintain or enhance carbon sequestration and storage are in place.

HCV 5 – Strategies to protect the community's and/or Indigenous Peoples' needs in relation to the Management Unit are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

HCV 6 – Strategies to protect the cultural values are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

Annex J High Conservation Values framework (Principle 9)

Overarching Best Available Information

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

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

	<p>effort and cost, subject to the scale and intensity of the management activities and the precautionary approach.</p> <p>Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, affected rights holders, affected and interested stakeholders, and experts.</p>	
HCV 5, Element 1, and HCV 6, Element 2, Values fundamental to local communities	Culturally appropriate engagement with local communities is the primary BAI for these elements. The ‘fundamentality’ and ‘critical ... importance’ of the resources should also be determined through engagement.	X
HCV 5, Element 2, and HCV 6, Element 3, Values fundamental to local communities	Culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples is the primary BAI for these elements. The “fundamentality” and ‘critical ... importance’ of the resources should also be determined through engagement.	X

Best Available Information for Monitoring National or Regional HCV Interpretations **SLIMF**

All HCV Categories, All Elements	BAI includes: engagement with rights holders, consistent with Criteria 3.5, 4.5 and 4.7; culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples and affected and interested stakeholders; information on engaging with representatives of the Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities; monitoring conducted by the Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities; and engagement with experts.	X
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HCV 1 – Species diversity. Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.

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

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

National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 1	Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Element 1: Concentrations of biological diversity that are significant at global, regional, or national levels		
Protected areas, including national parks, wildlife reserves, scientific reserves, strict reserves, nature reserves, and voluntary nature	For lists and maps, see Protected Areas in <i>References</i> . See also references for World Heritage sites and Ramsar.	N

<p>reserves. (Note that Comoé National Park, Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve and Taï National Park are also World Heritage Sites. For Ramsar sites, whose biodiversity and forest components are also known, see HCV 2 and 4.) (As per: MINEDD, 2016)</p>		N
<p>Proposed protected areas, e.g.: Forêt des Marais Tanoé-Ehy; Parc archéologique d'Ahouakro (proposed World Heritage site); and Classified Forests/Forest Reserves that have significant remaining forest cover and biodiversity values, that are important for habitat connectivity or the recovery of rare, threatened and endangered species, or that are Key Biodiversity Areas/Important Bird Areas. (As per: MINEF, 2018; Mongabay, 2011 and 2021; Zadou et al, 2011; Gonedele et al, 2008)</p>	<p>For d'Ahouakro, see World Heritage Sites and Protected Areas in <i>References</i>. See the overarching BAI for types of potentially relevant information sources.</p>	N
<p>Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Important Bird Areas (IBAs), i.e.: Adiopodoume; Azagny, Banco, Comoe, Marahoue, Peko Mountain, and Sangbe Mountain National Parks; Bossematie, Cavally and Goin-Debe, Gueoule and Glo Mountain, Mabi, Mopri, Yapo, and Mambo Classified Forests/Forest Reserves; Lamto Ecological Research Station; Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve; Parc National de Taï et Réserve de faune du N'Zo; and Tanoé Swamp Forest.</p>	<p>For maps and other information, see Key Biodiversity Areas and Important Bird Areas, in <i>References</i>.</p>	N
<p>As per the precautionary approach and pending further assessment: sacred forests of local communities. (As per: MINEDD, 2016; Adou Yao et al. 2013; UNSDG, 2022)</p>	<p>Local communities. Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MINEDD).</p>	Y
<p>As per the precautionary approach and pending further assessment: 1 km buffer zones adjacent to protected areas and proposed protected areas. (As per: Mongabay, 2022)</p>	<p>See the BAI for protected areas above.</p>	N
<p>Migratory staging areas, breeding areas, hibernation areas, and other significant seasonal concentrations of</p>	<p>See the overarching BAI.</p>	Y

species. Examples likely include mangrove swamps, water holes in the dry season, and flowering and fruit bearing native trees. (As per: *Fauna & Flora et al, 2012*)

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

As per the precautionary approach and pending further assessment, any remaining sites with significant natural forest cover in the Upper Guinea Forest ecosystem. (As per: *Endemic Bird Areas*)

For information on the Upper Guinea Forest EBA, see Endemic Bird Areas, in *References*.

N

Other significant concentrations of endemic plant or animal species, e.g. populations of an endemic species that is Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, or Near Threatened, and/or populations of multiple endemic species.

For lists of endemic animal species, see IUCN Red List and any applicable national species lists. See also overarching BAI.

Y

(Note: the Element 1 Interpretations are also likely to harbour endemic species.)

See the BAI for Element 1.

Y

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

Significant occurrences of terrestrial and freshwater plant or animal species listed in the IUCN Red List, CITES, or national species listed as Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, or Near Threatened, including occurrences of: any Critically Endangered species; more than 1% of a listed species' population; several or more listed species; and/or listed species in special ecological niches, e.g. wide-ranging carnivores, keystone species, umbrella species, species with very small populations or ranges, and other conservation priority species. Examples of priority RTE species include elephants, chimpanzees, and many monkeys. (As per: *Kouakou et al, 2020; Mongabay, 2021*)

For lists of rare, threatened, and endangered species, see the IUCN Red List, and any relevant national species lists. While dated, Aké-Assi (1998) may be helpful. See also the overarching BAI.

Y

<p>Sites with CITES listed animal or plant species. Examples of CITES listed species include: <i>Cycas revoluta</i>, <i>Euphorbia</i>, <i>Varanus spp.</i>, <i>Chamaeleo spp.</i>, <i>Python spp.</i>, <i>Crocodylus cataphratus</i> and <i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>, <i>Gyps africanus</i>, <i>Cercopithecus spp.</i>, <i>Heterobranchus spp.</i>, <i>Laxodonta africana</i>, <i>Laxodonta cyclotis</i>. (As per: <i>MINEDD, 2016</i>)</p>	CITES (see References)	N
<p>Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites, i.e.: Parc National de Taï et Réserve de faune du N'Zo (for <i>Hyperolius nienokouensis</i>), Mount Nimba (for <i>Hipposideros lamottei</i>, <i>Hyperolius nimbae</i>, and <i>Nimbaphrynoides occidentalis</i>), Parc National du Banco (for <i>Crocidura wimmeri</i>), and Forêt marécageuse de la Tanoé (for <i>Piliocolobus waldroneae</i>).</p>	For a map of the sites, see Alliance for Zero Extinction in the <i>References</i> below.	N
<p>(Note: the Element 1 Interpretations are also likely to harbour RTE species.)</p>	See the BAI for Element 1.	Y

B. Assessments for HCV 1

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 1 Interpretations	Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
<p>For all HCV 1 Interpretations: identifying occurrences of the HCV 1 Interpretations listed above, along with any other HCV 1 occurrences, is the first, essential part of assessments.</p>	See the BAI in Section A and the overarching BAI, including re. engagement with Indigenous Peoples and rights holders, and stakeholders interested in HCV conservation.	Y
<p>For all HCV 1: other assessment elements include identifying HCV areas, the condition of the HCVs, and threats to the HCVs.</p>	See the BAI in Section A and the overarching BAI.	Y
<p>For protected areas: confirm whether policies and practices effectively protect the area and its HCVs.</p>	See the overarching BAI.	Y

For protected areas and some other areas.	For studies of biodiversity values of some areas, consider Biodiversity Clearinghouse (<i>References</i>).	N
For KBAs.	For discussion of where rare ecosystems occur in some KBAs, see Senterre et al (2020), including Table 3.	N
For endemic species: 'significant concentrations' include occurrences of species that are Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, or Near Threatened, and/or populations of multiple endemic species.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
For rare, threatened, or endangered species: note that RTE plants include some tree species.	While dated, Ake (1988) may have useful information.	N
For AZE sites: note that the Tai/N'Zo, Mount Nimba, and Tanoe sites extend beyond protected areas. For the RTE species of concern, see Section A above.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
For additional guidance in identifying and assessing HCV 1 that may exist in the management unit, see FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.1, Identification of HCV 1).		

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 1

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 1 Interpretations	Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 1 Interpretations: protection zones, harvest prescriptions, and/or other strategies to protect threatened, endangered, endemic species, or other concentrations of biological diversity and the ecological communities and habitats upon which they depend, sufficient to prevent reductions in the extent, integrity, quality, and viability of the habitats and species occurrences.	See the overarching BAI, including re. engagement with Indigenous Peoples, rights holders, stakeholders, and experts. Also consider relevant conservation plans, species recovery plans, and other published information.	Y

<p>For all HCV 1: where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to develop, expand, and/or restore habitats for such species.</p>	<p>See the overarching BAI, including re. engagement with Indigenous Peoples, rights-holders, stakeholders, and experts.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>For protected areas (including Abokouamékro, Marahoue, and Mont Peko National Parks), proposed protected areas, and other Classified Forests/Forest Reserves: prioritize protection of remaining relatively natural forest sites, sites with significant forest cover, areas used by primates, elephants, or with other biodiversity values, including by increasing the protection status of more intact Classified Forests as per MINEF (2018). Also adopt and implement plans to reforest and restore natural forest sites impacted by conversion, except in Classified Forests that are those most irretrievably lost to conversion as per MINEF (2018) and that are not KBAs/IBAs or a priority for habitat connectivity or the recovery of RTE species. Address threats from agricultural conversion (palm, cocoa, cashew, etc.), mining, illegal logging, fuelwood cutting, livestock grazing, bushmeat hunting, squatting, etc., including by improving monitoring and enforcement, and exploring alternative income and food sources for local communities. Consider co-management with local communities, based on experience at Banco National Park and the Tanoé-Ehy wetland forest. (As per: MINEDD, 2016; MINEF, 2018; GFV, 2023; Mongabay, 2011, 2019, and 2022; Kramoko et al, 2017)</p>	<p>See the overarching BAI.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>For sacred forests: protect from gold panning, agricultural conversion, and other threats. Consider local training in conservation and use of medicinal plants, and support for alternative livelihoods, e.g., beekeeping, gardening, local value-added economies, etc. (As per: UNSDG, 2022)</p>	<p>See the overarching BAI.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>For rare, threatened, and endangered (RTE) wildlife: adopt controls to prevent habitat fragmentation and loss, poaching, illegal harvest, and overharvest, including in cooperation with authorities, and including for rare insects and other species threatened by collectors, e.g. Goliath beetle. Work with local communities to ensure any traditional harvest is sustainable or substituted with</p>	<p>See the overarching BAI.</p>	<p>Y</p>

other species. (As per: MINEEDD, 2016; Mongabay, 2018, 2019, and 2022)

For primates: work with local communities to establish alternative food sources, end hunting of RTE primates, and limit any hunting of non-RTE primates to sustainable levels. Protect priority habitat areas, e.g. the Tanoé forest and the Dassioko Sud Classified Forest, including by limiting roads and other access points for poachers. For chimpanzees, also protect food and water sources, including kapok trees, trees with hollows in savannah woodland habitats, and honey trees. (As per: Mongabay, 2008, 2019, and 2022; Lapuente et al, 2016 and 2020)

See the overarching BAI.

Y

For elephants.

See the Action Plan for Conservation of Elephants.

Y

For additional guidance, consider: FSC (2020a), including re. engaging Indigenous Peoples and communities, and HCVRN (2018) (e.g. Part 2), including re. the overall process for developing strategies.

D. Monitoring for HCV 1

National or regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 1 Interpretations	Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 1 Interpretations: monitoring that addresses Criterion 9.4 and its indicators. Also consider monitoring for changes in internal and external threats to the HCVs.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
For some HCV Interpretations and occurrences, direct indicators should be used, e.g. field surveys of flora and fauna, or surveillance with drones. For others, indirect indicators may be sufficient and more efficient, e.g. changes in the quantity and quality of habitats for RTE species.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
OIPR (2017) may provide useful monitoring guidance for biodiversity and ecosystem values.	Where relevant, consider the types of information in OIPR (2017).	N

For additional guidance on monitoring programmes, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g. Part 3, the resources in Annex 1, and the example monitoring techniques in Annex 2).

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.

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

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

National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 2	Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Element 1: Intact forest landscapes		
Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs), i.e. Tai National Park.	IFL maps for 2017; see Global Forest Watch (GFW) – IFL in <i>References</i> .	Y
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		
Important wetlands, including Ramsar sites, i.e. Parc National d’Azagny, Fresco, Complexe Sassandra-Dagbego, N’Ganda N’Ganda, Grand Bassam, and Iles Ehotilé-Essouman.	For a map of sites and basic information on each, see Ramsar Sites in <i>References</i> .	N
Native forests that, in the context of Côte d’Ivoire, are relatively large, relatively unaffected by industrial activity, and have successional stages, forest structure, and species composition similar in distribution to native forests that have experienced minimal human disturbance (traditional Indigenous management regimes notwithstanding). Not all species need be present for areas to qualify. In the context of Côte d’Ivoire, ‘large’ may be on the order of 5,000 to 10,000 ha.	Mapping and other data on forest cover, age, succession, structure, species composition, anthropogenic disturbance, etc. See also the Overarching BAI for potentially relevant information sources.	N

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

Connectivity corridors proposed between protected areas and/or other HCV 1, HCV 2 or HCV 3 occurrences, including corridors. Examples include the Marahoué-Taï corridor for elephants and the Banco-Azagny corridor for primates. Connectivity may also be a priority in the Mount Nimba Complex, Cestos-Sapo-Grebo-Tai-Cavally, Bandama River Catchment, and Forest Reserves of Southeastern Côte d'Ivoire and Southwest Ghana, as shown in IUCN (2015). (As per: SCBD, no date; MINEDD, 2016)

For the Marahoué-Taï and Banco-Azagny corridors, see the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MINEDD). For a map of other priority areas, see Figure 4.1.4 of IUCN (2015). Other sources may include regional conservation organizations and academic literature.

Y for MINEDD.

B. Assessments for HCV 2

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 2 Interpretations	Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
<p>For all HCV 2: identifying occurrences of the HCV 2 Interpretations listed above, along with any other HCV 2 occurrences, is the first, essential part of assessments.</p>	<p>See the BAI in Section A and the overarching BAI, including re. engagement with Indigenous Peoples and rights holders, and stakeholders interested in HCV conservation. Also consider HCV assessors with local experience.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>For all HCV 2: other assessment elements include identifying HCV areas, the condition of the HCVs, and threats to the HCVs.</p>	<p>See the BAI in Section A and the overarching BAI.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>For <i>Intact Forest Landscapes</i>: within each IFL, identify any areas that are especially intact or important for RTE species, other species dependent on large intact forest, or connectivity to other IFLs. For additional guidance, see FSC (2020b).</p>	<p>See the overarching BAI.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>For additional guidance in identifying and assessing HCV 2 that may exist in the management unit, see FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.2, Identification of HCV 2).</p>		

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 2

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 2 Interpretations	Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
<p>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 species, keystone species, and/or guilds associated with large intact <i>natural forest ecosystems</i>. Examples include <i>protection zones</i> and <i>set-aside areas</i>, with any commercial activity in areas that are not set-aside being limited to <i>low-intensity</i> operations that fully maintain <i>forest structure, composition, regeneration, and disturbance patterns</i> at all times.</p>	<p>See the overarching BAI, including re. engagement with Indigenous Peoples, rights holders, stakeholders, and experts.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>For all HCV 2: where enhancement is identified as the <i>objective</i>, measures to <i>restore</i> and <i>reconnect forest ecosystems</i>, their intactness, and <i>habitats</i> that support natural <i>biological diversity</i> are in place.</p>	<p>See the overarching BAI, including re. engagement with Indigenous Peoples, rights holders, stakeholders, and experts.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>For IFLs: the core area of each IFL is protected, comprising at least 80% of the IFLs present in the Management Unit as of 2017, with each core area being no less than 50,000 ha; see Indicators 9.2.5 and 9.2.7 for more detail. Core areas should include areas that are especially intact or important for RTE species, other species dependent on large intact forest, or connectivity to other IFLs. For additional guidance, see FSC (2020b).</p>	<p>See the overarching BAI.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>For IFL areas not designated as core areas: see the strategies for all HCV 2. Locate road construction and industrial activity to minimize fragmentation and to prevent edge impacts on core areas. Manage access points to prevent impacts on core areas. For additional guidance, see FSC (2020b).</p>	<p>See the overarching BAI.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>For Ramsar sites: consider co-management with local communities, based on experience at Banco National Park and the Tanoé-Ehy wetland forest.</p>	<p>See the overarching BAI.</p>	<p>Y</p>

For connectivity corridors: maintain and/or restore natural vegetation in corridors wide enough to allow movement of animals and plant dispersal.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
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For additional guidance, consider FSC (2020a), including re. engaging Indigenous Peoples and communities, and HCVRN (2018) (e.g. Part 2), including with regard to the overall process for developing strategies.

D. Monitoring for HCV 2

National or regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 2 Interpretations	Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
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For all HCV 2 Interpretations: monitoring that addresses Criterion 9.4 and its indicators. Also consider monitoring for changes in internal and external threats to the HCVs.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
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For some HCV 2 occurrences, remote surveillance with drones or satellite imagery may be helpful. If satellite imagery is used, it should be of sufficient resolution to detect below-the-canopy conditions where relevant.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
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For additional guidance on monitoring IFLs, consider FSC (2020b).

For additional guidance on monitoring programmes, consider FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g. Part 3, the resources in Annex 1, and the example monitoring techniques in Annex 2).

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

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

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

National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 3	Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Element 1: Rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems		
UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, i.e. Taï Biosphere Reserve and Comoé Biosphere Reserve.	See Biosphere Reserves in <i>References</i> .	N
As per the precautionary approach and pending further assessment: sacred forests of local communities. (As per: MINEDD, 2016; Adou Yao et al, 2013)	See the overarching BAI.	Y
As per the precautionary approach and pending further assessment: all other remaining sites with significant natural forest cover, including in Classified Forests and Rural Domain Forests, in moist forests, montane forests, dry forests, and savannah ecosystems. (As per: MINEF, 2018; Mongabay, 2021 and 2022; Fauna & Flora et al, 2012)	MINEF (2019) may provide useful information on natural forest composition. See also the overarching BAI.	N
Mangroves and other coastal ecosystems. (As per: SCBD, no date; Fauna & Flora et al, 2012)	See the overarching BAI.	Y
As per the precautionary approach and pending further assessment: freshwater swamps, seasonal marshes, and riparian forest on alluvial soils. Also mesic forest, over-drained forest, ravine forest, and dwarf forest and other vegetation on rock outcrops. (As per: Senterre et al, 2020; Fauna & Flora et al, 2012)	For discussion on where rare ecosystems occur in many KBAs, see Senterre et al (2020), including Table 3.	N
Ecosystems on the IUCN Red List, if any are designated in the future. (An assessment may be pending.)	IUCN Red List of Ecosystems, in <i>References</i> .	N
Element 2: Rare, threatened, or endangered habitats		
As per the precautionary approach and pending further assessment: protected areas, proposed new/expanded protected	See the overarching BAI.	Y

areas, and KBAs/IBAs should be considered to include RTE habitats (see HCV 1 above).		
Other habitats and habitat features that are vulnerable and/or important to HCV 1 biodiversity or species.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
(Note that RTE ecosystems listed above are also likely to include RTE habitats.)	See the BAI for Element 1.	Y
Element 3: Refugia		
Isolated or inaccessible areas or features (e.g. inselbergs) where significant human disturbance has been precluded, or that are especially resilient to climate change, enabling the survival of native biodiversity.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
(Note that protected areas listed in HCV 1 may also be refugia.)	See HCV 1 above.	Y
B. Assessments for HCV 3		
National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 3 Interpretations	Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 3: identifying occurrences of the HCV 3 Interpretations listed above, along with any other HCV 3 occurrences, is the first, essential part of assessments.	See the BAI in Section A and the overarching BAI, including re. engagement with Indigenous Peoples and rights holders, and stakeholders interested in HCV conservation. Also consider HCV assessors with local experience.	Y
For all HCV 3: other assessment elements include identifying HCV areas, the condition of the HCVs, and threats to the HCVs.	See the BAI in Section A and the overarching BAI.	Y
For additional guidance in identifying and assessing HCV 3 that may exist in the management unit, see FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.3, Identification of HCV 3).		

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 3

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 3 Interpretations	Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
<p>For all HCV 3 Interpretations: strategies that fully maintain the extent and integrity of rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats or refugia.</p>	<p>See the overarching BAI, including re. engagement with Indigenous Peoples, rights holders, stakeholders, and experts.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>For all HCV 3: where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and/or develop rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats or refugia are in place. Note that restoration of native forests is likely to be a priority for most forest ecosystems.</p>	<p>See the overarching BAI, including re. engagement with Indigenous Peoples, rights holders, stakeholders, and experts.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>For Classified Forests: adopt management plans, and improve monitoring and enforcement to address illegal logging, agricultural conversion, and other threats. See also the strategies for proposed protected areas at HCV 1. (As per: MINEEDD, 2016)</p>	<p>See the overarching BAI.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>For Biosphere Reserves: consider co-management with local communities, based on experience at Banco National Park and the Tanoé-Ehy wetland forest.</p>	<p>See the overarching BAI.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>In dry forests and savannahs: address threats from conversion to cashew plantations. (As per: Mongabay, 2021)</p>	<p>See the overarching BAI.</p>	<p>Y</p>
<p>For additional guidance, consider FSC (2020a), including re. engaging Indigenous Peoples and communities, and HCVRN (2018) (e.g. Part 2), including re. the overall process for developing strategies.</p>		

D. Monitoring for HCV 3

National or regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 3 Interpretations	Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 3 Interpretations: monitoring that addresses Criterion 9.4 and its indicators. Also consider monitoring for changes in internal and external threats to the HCVs.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
For some HCV Interpretations and occurrences, direct indicators should be used, e.g. field surveys of the extent and condition of ecosystems and habitats. For others, indirect indicators may be sufficient and more efficient, e.g. monitoring of indicator species.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
OIPR (2017) may provide useful monitoring guidance for biodiversity and ecosystem values.	Where relevant, consider the types of information in OIPR (2017).	N
If satellite imagery is used, it should be of sufficient resolution to detect below-the-canopy conditions and forest degradation.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
For additional guidance on monitoring programmes, consider FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g. Part 3, the resources in Annex 1 and the example monitoring techniques in Annex 2).		

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

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

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

National or regional Interpretations of HCV 4	Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Element 1: Water catchments in critical situations		
<p>The Bandama Rouge Mountain Range and watershed (headwaters of Bandama River). <i>(As per: IUCN, 2015)</i></p>	See the overarching BAI.	Y
<p>Ramsar sites (see HCV 2 for a list).</p>	See Ramsar sites in <i>References</i> .	N
<p>Watersheds, streams, rivers, and other water sources relied upon by Indigenous Peoples and other communities for drinking water, irrigation or other daily uses, or that are otherwise a priority for water provisioning, including for any communities that rely on watercourses as backups for boreholes (see also HCV 5).</p>	See the BAI for HCV 5.	Y
<p>Forests that comprise more than 50% of a major watershed, or more than 25% of a watershed critical for collection of potable water and/or regulating water flow to urban areas or Ramsar sites.</p>	See the overarching BAI for potentially relevant types of information sources.	Y
<p>Riparian vegetation. <i>(As per: Fauna & Flora et al, 2012)</i></p>	See the overarching BAI.	Y
Element 2: Control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes in critical situations		
<p>Communities in low-lying areas susceptible to flooding, and upstream and upslope areas whose management affects flood risk. <i>(As per: WWF WARPO, 2006)</i></p>	Maps of steep and/or unstable soils, flood risk maps. Field observations/surveys of steep slopes, vulnerable soils, etc. Consultation with geologists or other local experts, authorities, and communities.	N
<p>Riparian vegetation. Also erosion-prone slopes and areas important to landslide prevention, e.g. slopes of 30% or greater. <i>(As per: Fauna & Flora et al, 2012; WWF WARPO, 2006)</i></p>	Soil maps, maps of erodible soils. Field observations/surveys of steep slopes, vulnerable soils, etc. Consultation with geologists or local experts, authorities, and communities.	N

Shelter belts that protect local agriculture or settlements from wind erosion and dust. (As per: Fauna & Flora et al, 2012; WWF WARPO, 2006)	See the overarching BAI.	Y
Element 3: Other ecosystem services in critical situations		
Provision of food, water, and shelter to local communities and Indigenous Peoples (see also HCV 5).	See the BAI for HCV 5.	Y
Mangroves and other alluvial and wetland forests, including for their role in supporting fisheries and other wildlife, buffering against storms and seawater intrusion, and storing carbon. (As per: GFW, 2023; IUCN, 2015)	See the overarching BAI.	Y
As per the precautionary approach and pending further assessment: peatlands along the coast, rivers, and lakes, including for their potential carbon regulation function. (As per: GFW, 2023)	See the overarching BAI.	Y
In areas threatened by anthropogenic fire risk beyond natural levels, buffers that protect human life, property, or protected areas or other HCVs, e.g. intact natural riparian/gallery forest in the savannah zone. (As per: WWF WARPO, 2006)	See the overarching BAI.	Y
Low-impact tourism that benefits local communities, e.g. chimpanzee viewing in National Parks. (As per: IUCN, 2015)	See the overarching BAI.	Y

B. Assessments for HCV 4

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 4 Interpretations	Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 4: identifying occurrences of the HCV 4 Interpretations listed above, along with any other HCV 4 occurrences, is the first, essential part of assessments.	See the BAI in Section A and the overarching BAI, including re. engagement with Indigenous Peoples and rights holders, and stakeholders interested in HCV conservation.	Y

For all HCV 4: other assessment elements include identifying HCV areas, the condition of the HCVs, and threats to the HCVs.	See the BAI in Section A and the overarching BAI.	Y
For water catchments and other ecosystem services critical to local communities or Indigenous Peoples.	See the BAI for HCV 5.	Y
For Ramsar sites.	For a summary of some of the sites' features and values, see Ramsar Sites in <i>References</i> .	N
For various ecosystem services.	The studies at Biodiversity Clearinghouse (in <i>References</i>).	N
For water quality and quantity, soils, and other ecosystem services: see FSC (2021b), Annex B for basic factors to consider monitoring.		
For additional guidance in identifying and assessing HCV 4 that may exist in the management unit, see FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.4, Identification of HCV 4).		

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 4

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 4 Interpretations	Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For water catchments of importance to local communities located within or downstream of the Management Unit, and areas within the unit that are particularly unstable or susceptible to erosion: protection zones, harvest prescriptions, chemical use restrictions, and/or prescriptions for road construction and maintenance, to protect water catchments and upstream and upslope areas. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore water quality and quantity are in place.	See the overarching BAI, including re. engagement with Indigenous Peoples, rights holders, stakeholders, and experts. For additional considerations, see FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g. Part 2, including section 2.3.4).	Y

For water catchments, watersheds, riparian areas, and unstable slopes: maintain forest cover. (As per: IUCN, 2015; WWF WARPO, 2006)	See the overarching BAI.	Y
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For additional guidance, consider: FSC (2020a), including re. engaging Indigenous Peoples and communities, and HCVRN (2018) (e.g. Part 2), including re. the overall process for developing strategies.

D. Monitoring for HCV 4

National or regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 4 Interpretations	Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
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For all HCV 4 Interpretations: monitoring that addresses Criterion 9.4 and its indicators. Also consider monitoring for changes in internal and external threats to the HCVs.

See the overarching BAI.

Y

For water quality and quantity, soils, and other ecosystem services: see Annex B of FSC (2021b) for basic factors to consider monitoring.

See the overarching BAI.

Y

For additional guidance on monitoring programmes, consider FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g. Part 3, the resources in Annex 1, and the example monitoring techniques in Annex 2).

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

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

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

National or regional Interpretations of HCV 5	Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Element 1: Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.)		
Watersheds, rivers, streams, and other water sources relied upon for drinking, other daily use, or irrigation.	Culturally appropriate engagement with the local communities.	Y
Hunting grounds, fisheries, fuelwood, plants used for dyeing, medicinal plants, and plants and growing areas used for subsistence in local communities (not inclusive of poaching, illegal harvest, wildlife hunting for non-local trade, unsustainable harvest levels, or harvest that harms RTEs or other HCVs). <i>(As per: SCBD, no date)</i>	Culturally appropriate engagement with the local communities.	Y
Other sites and resources from which local communities satisfy basic needs.	Culturally appropriate engagement with the local communities.	Y
For information on medicinal plants and other resources for traditional healing.	Also consider any Dozobebe, other local traditional healing centres, and the National Programme for the Promotion of Traditional Medicine (PNPMT), called ECOTPS.	Y
Plants that may be locally important for crafts, hunting and fishing by trap and/or poison, cosmetics, etc. include: <i>Aeollanthus pubescens</i> (Lamiaceae), <i>Afraegle paniculata</i> (Rubiaceae), <i>Elaeis guineensis</i> (Arecaceae), <i>Elaeophorbia grandifolia</i> (Euphorbiaceae), <i>Calpocalyx aubrevillei</i> (Mimosaceae), <i>Calycobolus africanus</i> (Mimosaceae), <i>Grewia mollis</i> (Tiliaceae), <i>Guarea cedrata</i> (Meliaceae), <i>Heisteria parvifolia</i> (Olacaceae), <i>Hibiscus owariensis</i> (Malvaceae), <i>Parkia biglobosa</i> (Mimosaceae) and <i>Phoenix reclinata</i> (Arecaceae). <i>(As per: MINEDD, 2016)</i>	See the overarching BAI.	Y
For all HCV Interpretations.	Supplementary BAI may include: databases and maps; community development organizations and	N

	professionals; sociologists and other experts. See also the overarching BAI.	
Element 2: Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of Indigenous Peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.)		
Watersheds, rivers, streams, and other water sources relied upon for drinking, other daily use, or irrigation.	Culturally appropriate engagement with the Indigenous Peoples.	Y
Hunting grounds, fisheries, fuelwood, plants, and growing areas used for subsistence in local communities (not inclusive of poaching, illegal harvest, wildlife hunting for non-local trade, unsustainable harvest levels, or harvest that harms RTEs or other HCVs).	Culturally appropriate engagement with the Indigenous Peoples.	Y
Other sites and resources used by Indigenous Peoples to satisfy basic, traditional needs.	Culturally appropriate engagement with the Indigenous Peoples.	Y
For all HCV Interpretations.	Supplementary BAI may include: databases and maps; organizations that represent or provide services for Indigenous Peoples; anthropologists and other experts. See also the overarching BAI.	N

B. Assessments for HCV 5

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 5 Interpretations	Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 5: identifying occurrences of the HCV 5 Interpretations listed above, along with any other HCV 5 occurrences, is the first, essential part of assessments.	Culturally appropriate engagement with local communities and Indigenous Peoples is the primary BAI. For supplementary BAI, see Section A and the overarching BAI.	Y
For all HCV 5: other assessment elements include engaging with stakeholders interested in HCV conservation, and identifying HCV areas, the condition of the HCVs, and threats to the HCVs.	Culturally appropriate engagement with local communities and Indigenous Peoples is the primary BAI. For supplementary BAI, see Section A and the overarching BAI.	Y

For all HCV 5 Interpretations: consider conducting participatory mapping with the local communities or Indigenous Peoples. Consider doing the mapping early in the overall HCV and management planning process, to avoid disturbing culturally sensitive sites. Also consider initiating FPIC conversations before the mapping and assessment process.	The local communities and Indigenous Peoples.	Y
Consider whether specific levels and practices of hunting, fishing, fuelwood harvest, and other forest utilization are sustaining the resource, and also avoiding harm to biodiversity and other HCVs.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
For additional guidance in identifying and assessing HCV 5, see FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.5, Identification of HCV 5).		

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 5

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 5 Interpretations	Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 5 Interpretations: strategies to protect the communities' and/or Indigenous Peoples' needs in relation to the Management Unit are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.	Culturally appropriate engagement with local communities and Indigenous Peoples is the primary BAI; see the overarching BAI for more detail. For supplementary BAI, see Section A and the overarching BAI.	Y
Where fuelwood harvest is a concern: consider outreach and joint efforts with communities, e.g. to support use of more efficient stoves, to establish more sustainable harvest parameters, etc.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
Note that strategies should not include utilization that does not sustain the resource, or that harms other HCVs.	See the overarching BAI.	Y

For additional guidance, consider FSC (2020a), including re. engaging Indigenous Peoples and communities, and HCVRN (2018) (e.g. Part 2).

D. Monitoring for HCV 5

National or regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 5 Interpretations	Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 5 Interpretations: monitoring that addresses Criterion 9.4 and its indicators. Also consider monitoring for changes in internal and external threats to the HCVs.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
For all HCV 5 Interpretations: consider monitoring conducted by or with the local communities or Indigenous Peoples, or using methodologies developed in cooperation with them through culturally appropriate engagement.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
For all HCV 5 Interpretations: factors to consider monitoring include the condition of the sites and resources, whether access is sufficient, whether use levels are sustainable, and the extent and nature of any conflicts regarding the HCV occurrences.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
For additional guidance, consider FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g. Part 3 and the resources in Annex 1).		

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

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

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

National or regional Interpretations of HCV 6	Best Available Information for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
Element 1: Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance		
Designated and proposed World Heritage sites, i.e. the proposed Parc Archéologique d’Ahouakro.	See World Heritage Sites in <i>References</i> .	N
Other internationally or nationally important cultural, archaeological or historical sites, resources, habitats or landscapes.	Databases and expert organizations, e.g. Ministry of Culture, faculty at Félix Houphouët-Boigny University and University of San Pedro, and Min-dja Mon Heritage. See also the overarching BAI.	N
Element 2: Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities		
Sacred forests of local communities. (<i>As per: UNHCR, 2023b; UNSDG, 2022</i>)	See the overarching BAI.	Y
Ancestral burial grounds, shrines, river or mountain deities, ritual grounds, plants or animals considered totems, plants or animals used for rituals. (<i>As per: Fauna & Flora et al, 2012</i>)	See the overarching BAI.	Y
Other sites, resources, habitats, or landscapes of cultural, ecological, economic, or religious/sacred importance to local communities.	Culturally appropriate engagement with the local communities.	Y
For all Interpretations.	Supplementary BAI may include databases and maps, community development organizations and other experts. See also the overarching BAI.	N

B. Assessments for HCV 6

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 6 Interpretations	Best Available Information for assessing occurrences	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
<p>For all HCV 6: identifying occurrences of the HCV 6 Interpretations listed above, along with any other HCV 6 occurrences, is the first, essential part of assessments.</p>	<p>For Elements 2 and 3, HCVs important to local communities and Indigenous Peoples, culturally appropriate engagement with the communities and Indigenous Peoples is the primary BAI. For Element 1 and supplementary BAI for Elements 2 and 3, see Section A and the overarching BAI.</p>	Y
<p>For all HCV 6: other assessment elements include engaging with stakeholders interested in HCV conservation, and identifying HCV areas, the condition of the HCVs, and threats to the HCVs.</p>	<p>The BAI in Section A and the overarching BAI.</p>	Y
<p>For Elements 2 and 3, HCVs important to communities: consider interactive mapping with the local communities. Consider doing the mapping early in the overall HCV and management planning process, to avoid disturbing culturally sensitive sites. Also consider initiating FPIC conversations before the mapping and assessment process.</p>	<p>The communities, including elders or other members who may have knowledge of sites whose secrecy is to be guarded, e.g. grave sites, sacred sites, etc.</p>	Y
<p>For additional guidance in identifying and assessing HCV 6, see FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.6, Identification of HCV 6).</p>		

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 6

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 6 Interpretations	Best Available Information for management strategies	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
<p>For HCV occurrences related to local communities: strategies to protect the cultural values are developed in cooperation</p>	<p>Culturally appropriate engagement with local communities is the primary BAI; see the overarching BAI for more</p>	Y

with representatives and members of the local communities.	detail. For supplementary BAI, see Section A and the overarching BAI.	
For other HCV occurrences identified primarily due to historical or archaeological significance: strategies are based on Best Available Information and considered effective for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
For sacred forests: see also the strategies for HCV 1.	See the BAI for HCV 1.	Y
For additional guidance, consider FSC (2020a), including re. engaging communities, and HCVRN (2018) (e.g. Part 2).		

D. Monitoring for HCV 6

National or regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 6 Interpretations	Best Available Information for monitoring occurrences	BAI also applies to SLIMF?
For all HCV 6 Interpretations: monitoring that addresses Criterion 9.4 and its indicators. Also consider monitoring for changes in internal and external threats to the HCVs.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
For HCV occurrences related to local communities or Indigenous Peoples: consider monitoring conducted by or with the local communities or Indigenous Peoples, or using methodologies developed in cooperation with them through culturally appropriate engagement.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
For all HCV 6 Interpretations: factors to consider monitoring include the condition of the sites and resources, whether access is sufficient where appropriate, whether the secrecy of the sites is protected where appropriate, and the extent and nature of any conflicts regarding the HCV occurrences.	See the overarching BAI.	Y
For additional guidance, consider FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g. Part 3), and the resources in Annex 1.		

Examples of Relevant Stakeholders and Experts

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

Environmental Stakeholders:

- Action pour la Conservation de la Biodiversité en Côte d'Ivoire
- Conservation des espèces et des populations animales (CEPA)
- Initiatives pour le Développement Communautaire et la Conservation de la Forêt (IDEF)
- Observatoire ivoirien pour la gestion durable des ressources naturelles / Ivorian Observatory for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
- Recherche et Actions pour la Sauvegarde des Primates en Côte d'Ivoire (RASAP-CI)
- SOS Forêts
- Sauvons la Forêt Ivoirienne / Save the Ivorian Forest
- West African Primate Conservation Action (WAPCA)
- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

Social Stakeholders and Community Development Organizations:

- Association Global Action for Sustainable Development
- Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Food Security Assembly
- Group of Medicinal Plant Operators of Côte d'Ivoire (GEPMCI)
- Initiatives pour le Développement Communautaire et la Conservation de la Forêt (IDEF)
- Observatoire ivoirien pour la gestion durable des ressources naturelles / Ivorian Observatory for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
- Local territorial communities
- Local traditional healing centres
- Conseil Universel en Agriculture, Qualité et Environnement / Universal Council in Agriculture, Quality and Environment
- West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI)

Traditional Peoples Organizations:

- Chambre des Rois et Chefs Traditionnels de Cote d'Ivoire

Other Expert Organizations – Environmental and Social:

- African Primatological Society
- Aké-Assi Botanical Institute of Andokoi (IBAAN)
- Botanical Garden of Bingerville / Jardin Botanique de Bingerville
- Centre National de Floristique (CNF), Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny
- Ecology Research Centre / Centre de Recherche en Ecologie (CRE), Université Nangui Abrogoua
- Foundation for the Parks and Reserves of Côte d'Ivoire (FPRCI)
- Institut de Géographie Tropicale (IGT), Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny
- National Programme for the Promotion of Traditional Medicine
- Parc Zoologique d'Abidjan
- Swiss Center for Scientific Research in Côte d'Ivoire / Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifique en Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS), Abidjan
- Taï Chimpanzee Project
- Université d'Abobo-Adjamé
- Université Alassane Ouattara (UAO)
- Université de Cocody
- Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny

- Université Jean Lorougnon Guédé (UJLoG)
- Université Nangui Abrogoua
- Université Peleforo Gon Coulibaly
- West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL)
- Wild Chimpanzee Foundation (WCF), West African Office, Abidjan

Experts and Stakeholders – Archaeological and Historical Resources:

- Min-dja Mon Heritage
- Ministry of Culture and Francophonie of Côte d'Ivoire
- Musée des Civilisations de Côte d'Ivoire
- Université Félix Houphouët-Boigny, faculty and other resources
- Université de San Pedro, faculty and other resources

Government Agencies:

- Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MINEDD)
- Department of Ecology and Nature Protection / Direction de l'Ecologie et de la Protection de la Nature (DEPN), MINEDD
- Department of Environmental Quality and Risk Prevention, MINEDD
- National Park Authority / Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR), MINEDD
- National Environment Agency / Agence Nationale de l'Environnement (ANDE), MINEDD
- General Directorate for Sustainable Development, MINEDD
- Regional Directorates, MINEDD
- Ministry of Water and Forests (MINEF)
- General Directorate of Forests and Wildlife, MINEF
- Department of Reforestation and Forest Cadastre, MINEF
- Department of Wildlife and Hunting Resource / Ministère des Ressources Animales et Halieutiques (MIRAH), MINEF
- Directorate of Forestry and Water Police (DPFE), MINEF
- Special Surveillance and Intervention Brigade, MINEF
- Department of Informatics, Statistics, Archives and Documentation, MINEF
- National Office of Technical Studies and Development / Bureau National d'Etudes Techniques et de Développement (BNETD)
- Côte d'Ivoire Geographic and Digital Information Centre (CIGN), BNETD
- Society for the Development of Forests / Société de Développement des Forêts (SODEFOR)

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Zadou et al. 2011. Valeur de la Forêt des Marais Tanoé-Ehy (sud-est de la COTE D'IVOIRE) pour la conservation : dimension socio-anthropologique. Zadou D., Koné I., Mouroufié V., Adou Yao C., Gléanou K., Kablan Y., Coulibaly D., and Ibo, J. Tropical Conservation Science Vol. 4(4). 2011.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10.7.20 The implementation of risk mitigation measures is monitored.

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

NOTE: Examples of monitoring approaches can include:

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

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

NOTE: Examples of monitoring approaches can include:

- Records of highly hazardous pesticide applications,
- Records of reported or observed environmental impacts,
- Environmental biomonitoring, e.g. using trigger values for particular organisms or groups of organisms.

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

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

Table: Reference Documents on HHP

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

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

Annex L Glossary of terms

Normative definitions for terms 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 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Invasive Alien Species Programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity. When other sources have been used, they are referenced accordingly.

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

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

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

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

Additionality:

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

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

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

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

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

- Local communities
- Indigenous Peoples
- Traditions Peoples
- Workers
- Forest dwellers
- Neighbours
- Downstream landowners
- Local processors
- Local businesses
- Tenure and use rights holders, including landowners

- Organizations authorized or known to act on behalf of affected stakeholders, for example social and environmental NGOs, labour unions, etc.

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

Affirmative action: A policy or a programme 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; it 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. International Union for Conservation of Nature [IUCN]).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Connectivity: A measure of how connected or spatially continuous a corridor, network, or matrix is. The fewer gaps, the higher the connectivity. Related to the structural connectivity concept, functional or behavioural connectivity refers to how connected an area is for a process, such as an animal moving

through different types of landscape elements. Aquatic connectivity deals with the accessibility and transport of materials and organisms, through groundwater and surface water, between different patches of aquatic ecosystems of all kinds (Source: based on R.T.T. Forman. 1995. Land Mosaics. The Ecology of Landscapes and Regions. Cambridge University Press, 632 pp.).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Discrimination: includes: a) any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction, social origin, sexual orientation, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation; b) such other distinction, exclusion or preference which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation as may be determined by the Member concerned after consultation with representative employers' and workers' organizations 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 IGI, 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. Priority ecoregions for global conservation](#)).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Systematic process used to identify potential environmental and social impacts of proposed projects, to evaluate alternative approaches, and to design and incorporate appropriate prevention, mitigation, management and monitoring measures (Source: based on Environmental impact assessment, guidelines for FAO field projects. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Rome; FSC-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 male and female workers for work of equal value: Refers to rates of remuneration established without discrimination based on sex (ILO Convention 100, Article 1b).

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

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

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

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

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

Fertilizer: A mineral or organic substance, most commonly N, P₂O₅ and K₂O, which is 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 themselves 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 of representing 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, James R. Strittholt, Nicholas C. Slosser, Dominick A. Dellasala, BioScience (2002) 52 (5):411-422).

Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC): A legal condition whereby a person or community can be said to have given consent to an action prior to its commencement, based upon a clear appreciation and understanding of the facts, implications and future consequences of that action, and the possession of all relevant facts at the time when consent is given. Free, prior, and informed consent includes the right to grant, modify, withhold or withdraw approval (Source: based on the Preliminary working paper on the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples [...] [E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2004/4 8

July 2004] of the 22nd Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 19–23 July 2004).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- old commercial and non-commercial trees whose age noticeably exceeds the average age of the main canopy;
- trees with special ecological value;
- vertical and horizontal complexity;
- standing dead trees;
- dead fallen wood;
- forest openings attributable to natural disturbances;
- nesting sites;
- small wetlands, bogs, fens;
- ponds;
- areas for procreation;
- areas for feeding and shelter, including seasonal cycles of breeding;
- areas for migration;
- areas for hibernation.

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

In determining the type of hazardous child labour referred to under Article 3(d) of 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 and ILO Handbook on hazardous child labour, 2011).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The eight Fundamental Conventions are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Conservation organizations, for example environmental NGOs;
- Labour (rights) organizations, for example labour unions;
- Human rights organizations, for example social NGOs;
- 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 that is referenced frequently in the international scientific literature (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

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

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

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

Landscape values: Landscape values can be visualized as layers of human perceptions overlaid on the physical landscape. Some landscape values, like economic, recreation, subsistence value or visual quality are closely related to physical landscape attributes. Other landscape values, such as intrinsic or spiritual values, are more symbolic in character and are influenced more by individual perception or social construction than physical landscape attributes (Source: based on the 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 the 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 of 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, Article7).

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 their 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).

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

Minimum age (of employment): Not less than the age of finishing compulsory education and, in any case, not 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-to-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 (past or present) range 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’ and ‘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 a 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. The 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 which 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' and which 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. The FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may help to decide when such areas should be excised from the Management Unit, should be restored towards more natural conditions, or may be converted to other land uses.

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

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

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

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

Objective: The basic purpose laid down by The Organization for the forest enterprise, including the decision of policy and the choice of means for attaining the purpose (Source: based on F.C. Osmaston. 1968. The Management of Forests. Hafner, New York; 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 injury: Any personal injury, disease or death resulting from an occupational accident (Source: International Labour Organization [ILO]. Bureau of Library and Information Services. ILO Thesaurus as provided on ILO website).

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

Peatland: 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 colour (Source: Aguilar, L. 2001. About Fishermen, Fisherwomen, Oceans and tides. IUCN. San Jose [Costa Rica]).

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

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

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

Plantation: A forest area established by planting or sowing by 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 the 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 the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992, and on the Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle of the Wingspread Conference, 23–25 January 1998).

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

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

Priority social harms: See definition of social harm (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

Protection: See definition of Conservation.

Protection Area: See definition of Conservation Zone.

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

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

Rare species: Species that are uncommon or scarce, but not classified as threatened. These species are located in geographically restricted areas or specific habitats, or are scantily scattered on a large scale. They are approximately equivalent to the IUCN (2001) category of Near Threatened (NT), including species that are close to qualifying for, or are likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future. They are also approximately equivalent to 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 achieve the same legal effect (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resilience: The ability of a system to maintain key functions and processes in the face of stresses or pressures by either resisting or adapting to change. Resilience can be applied to both ecological systems and social systems (Source: IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas [IUCN-WCPA]). 2008.

Establishing Resilient Marine Protected Area Networks – Making it Happen. Washington D.C.: IUCN-WCPA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and The Nature Conservancy).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- A designation, classification or recognized conservation status, assigned by an international agency such as IUCN or Birdlife International.
- A designation by national or regional authorities, or by a responsible national conservation organization, on the basis of its concentration of biodiversity.
- A voluntary recognition by the manager, owner or Organization, on the basis of available information or based on 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 HCV 1, 2 or 6. Many regions of the world have received recognition for their biodiversity importance, measured in many different ways. Existing maps and classifications of priority areas for biodiversity conservation play an essential role in identifying the potential presence of HCVs 1, 2 and 6 (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Timber harvesting level: The actual harvest quantity executed on the Management Unit, tracked by either volume metrics (e.g. cubic metres or board feet) or area metrics (e.g. hectares or acres) 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: Social groups or peoples who do not self-identify as indigenous and who affirm rights to their lands, forests and other resources based on long established custom or traditional occupation and use (Source: Forest Peoples Programme [Marcus Colchester, 7 October 2009]).

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

Trigger Value: The value of toxicity exposure ratio (TER) above which exposure is considered to be an unacceptable risk. The TER is calculated based on the acute toxicity value and exposure for each pesticide. Its value will be local and will be based on exposure parameters.

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

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

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

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

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

Very limited portion of core area: The area affected shall not exceed 0.5% of the core area in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% 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 metres 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 labourers, 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 interests of workers (adapted from ILO Convention 87, Article 10). It is important to note that rules and guidance on composition of workers' organizations vary from country to country, especially in relation to those who are considered as rank and file members, as well those who are deemed to have power to 'hire and fire'. Workers' organizations tend to separate association between those who can 'hire and fire' and those who cannot (Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017).

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



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