



Forest Stewardship Council®



The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard for Metropolitan France



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

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1. Preface

1.1. Descriptive statement of 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 held in Rio de Janeiro, 1992) with the mission of promoting environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

Environmentally appropriate forest management ensures that the production of timber, non-timber products and ecosystem services maintains the forest's biodiversity, productivity, and ecological processes. Socially beneficial forest management helps both local people and society at large to enjoy long-term benefits and also provides strong incentives to local people to sustain 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 forest resources, 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 (FSC A.C. By-Laws, ratified September 1994; last revision in June 2011).

FSC is an international organization that 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 FSC 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 compliance with FSC's standards. Based on these standards, FSC provides a system of certification for organizations seeking to market their products as FSC certified.

1.2. Descriptive statement of FSC France

FSC has been represented in France since 2006 by a non-for-profit organization, FSC France. Its governance and procedures reflect the FSC's international rules.

The objectives of FSC France are the following:

- To develop FSC certification for Forest Management and Chain of Custody
- To develop the use of FSC products by companies, public entities and consumers
- To develop FSC brand awareness



- To ensure the correct use of the FSC trademark

FSC France is also responsible for the development of the National Forest Stewardship Standard through a national adaptation of the FSC Principles and Criteria.

2. Preamble

2.1. Purpose of the Standard

This Standard sets out the requirements to be applied by FSC accredited Certification Bodies in evaluating all forest management practices that fall within the scope (see 2.2.below) of the Standard.

The FSC Principles and Criteria (P&C) for Forest Stewardship provide an internationally recognized standard for responsible forest management. However, any international standard for forest management needs to be adapted at the regional or national level in order to reflect the diverse legal, social and geographical conditions of forests in different parts of the world. The FSC Principles and Criteria therefore require the addition of indicators adapted to regional or national conditions in order to be implemented at the Forest Management Unit (FMU) level. The FSC Principles and Criteria together with a set of national indicators approved by the FSC Policy and Standards Committee (PSC) constitute an FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS).

2.2. The scope of the Standard

This Standard is applicable to all forest operations seeking FSC certification within the French metropolitan area. The Standard applies to all types of forests.

2.3. Version of the Standard

Document reference code:	FSC-STD-FRA-01-2016 Metropolitan France - All forest types and scales
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Validity Period	Five (5) years starting from the effective date.

Note: For any interpretation of the requirements of this Standard, the English version approved by FSC International shall prevail.



3. Background information on the development of the Standard

3.1 Normative framework for the development of National Forest Stewardship Standards

The development of this NFSS has been based on *FSC-STD-60-004 V1-0 EN*, the *FSC International Generic Indicators (IGI)* approved by FSC to facilitate national adaptation and ensure the consistent implementation of the P&C across the globe; to improve the quality of National Forest Stewardship Standards and strengthen the credibility of the FSC system.

The development of NFSS follows the requirements set out in the following FSC normative documents:

- *FSC-PRO-60-006 V2-0 EN Development and Transfer of National Forest Stewardship Standards to the FSC Principles and Criteria Version 5-1;*
- *FSC-STD-60-002 (V1-0) EN Structure and Content of National Forest Stewardship Standards; and*
- *FSC-STD-60-006 (V1-2) EN Process requirements for the development and maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards.*

The above documents have been developed by the FSC Policy and Standards Unit (PSU) to improve consistency and transparency in certification decisions between different Certification Bodies in the region/nation and in different parts of the world, and thereby to enhance the credibility of the FSC certification structure as a whole.

In conformity with these requirements, the present NFSS has been submitted to two public consultations (in 2014 and 2015) and has been forest tested by certification bodies and managers of certified forests.

3.2. Working group

This national adaptation has been developed by a chamber-balanced working group. The working-group decisions have been made by consensus, ensuring that each chamber had the same weight in the decision-making process, regardless of the number of its representatives.



The stakeholders that have participated continuously or partially as members of this working group are:

Environmental Chamber	WWF France France Nature Environnement
Social Chamber	SNUPFEN Solidaires Familles de France
Economic Chamber	COPACEL – Union Française des Industries des Cartons, Papiers et Celluloses International Paper – France Société forestière – Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations EFF – Experts Forestiers de France (ex-CNIEFEB) and Pro Silva France

The working group has been assisted by representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Agri-business and Forests, and the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy. It has also received input from experts and certification bodies, particularly representatives of FCBA, Bureau Veritas Certification and SGS, as well as independent experts.

4. References

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-01-004	Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC
FSC-POL-20-003	The Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification
FSC-POL-30-001	FSC Pesticides Policy
FSC-POL-30-401	FSC Certification and the ILO Conventions
FSC-POL-30-602	FSC Interpretation on GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms)
FSC-STD-01-002	Glossary of Terms
FSC-STD-01-003	SLIMF Eligibility Criteria
FSC-STD-20-007	Forest Management Evaluations
FSC-STD-30-005	FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups
FSC-PRO-01-005	Processing Appeals
FSC-PRO-01-008	Processing Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme
FSC-PRO-01-009	Processing Policy for Association Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme
FSC-DIR-20-007	FSC Directive on Forest Management Evaluations



5. Note on the interpretation of indicators

5.1 The scope of implementation of the Standard

This Standard is written for the entity applying for certification and implementing it, which is called “the Organization”. This term is precisely defined in the section 7 Glossary of Terms.

This Standard is to be implemented by the Organization both:

- with reference to a scope of activities: all activities implemented by the Organization with the aim of fulfilling the management objectives;
- with reference to a geographical scope: all Management Units applying for FSC certification (see the Glossary for a precise definition of the term “Management Unit”).

5.2 Interpretation of the requirements by forest owners and managers

French forests present a wide range of variations in terms of ecosystem, type of forest ownership and type of management structure. Furthermore, the forest owners and managers are the ones responsible for identifying and taking decisions on the best strategies and management measures to be implemented in the local context. The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard offers them both a framework and guidance for collecting adequate information, defining appropriate tools and taking decisions to achieve responsible management of their forests.

Forest owners and managers therefore have to interpret FSC requirements and define the best way of addressing them in their local context. During audits, the Certification Bodies verify the conformity of these interpretations – the tools developed and the decisions taken – with the NFSS.

5.3 Precisions on the intention and applicability of the requirements

In order to facilitate interpretation by forest owners and managers, notes have been added to some criteria and indicators. There are two types of notes:

- Intention notes: they give further clarification of the objective of the requirements in the French Metropolitan context;
- Applicability notes: they provide guidance regarding the concrete implementation of the requirements on the ground;

5.4 The FSC Group Certification

Fragmentation of land ownership is an important issue for the sustainable management of natural resources in French forests. On the one hand, management and harvesting costs are high



and, on the other, some elements essential for responsible ecosystem management are not easily assessed at the scale of a property extending to just a few hectares. There are many initiatives being taken to foster clusters of forest smallholders in order to improve forest management, streamline harvesting, and facilitate product commercialization.

FSC Group Certification is fully aligned with this approach. While it is not realistic for a smallholder to seek individual certification, group certification offers numerous advantages and a flexibility that allows for adaptation in a wide range of contexts, for improvement of forest management and reduction of certification costs.

In group certification, the main responsibility falls to the group manager, who has to ensure that all group members are in conformity with the requirements of the Standard. Group certification characteristics are detailed in FSC-STD-30-005: FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups.

Group certification offers flexibility as to the territorial scale on which the requirements of the Standard have to be verified. In some cases, the scale is already mentioned in the indicators (forest plot, Management Unit). In others, the intention and applicability notes specify that the requirement can be fulfilled at the group level. When no scale is specified, the group manager can propose the most adequate scale for implementing the requirements in its context (group, eco-region, forest patch/massif). This will be validated by the Certification Body during the audit.

5.5. Adaptation of the requirements to the scale, intensity and risks of management activities

As a new concept introduced by the Principles and Criteria Version 5-2 (P&C V5), Scale, Intensity and Risk (SIR) goes beyond the notion of SLIMF (Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests). The concept of SIR is based on the assumption that these factors determine the likelihood of unacceptable economic, environmental and social impacts and therefore non-compliance with the P&C. SIR should therefore determine the manager's level of effort to be in compliance with the P&C. These factors are addressed in two ways in this Standard:

- Definition of specific scale thresholds for Management Units or groups of Management Units: Some requirements vary depending on the area of the Management Unit or group of Management Units (25ha, 500ha, 1000ha). If no threshold is mentioned, the requirements apply for all Management Units, regardless of their scale.
- Assessment of the risk of impact derived from management activities: Indicator 6.2.1



requires that the risk of impact resulting from management activities be assessed. Taking into account the scale and intensity of the management activities, this assessment will allow for adaptation of the measures and procedures to be developed and implemented in order to address the requirements of the Standard.

This adaptation to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities can be integrated into group management. For example, the probability of some impacts varies depending on whether the group members are clustered or scattered in the landscape.

5.6 SLIMF national threshold

For Metropolitan France, the SLIMF threshold is set at **500 ha**.

As the scale and intensity of management activities are taken into account as described in the preceding section, the SLIMF threshold will be used only to define the sample of Management Units to be audited.



6. Principles, Criteria and National Indicators

<p align="center">PRINCIPLE 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS</p> <p>The Organization* shall comply with all applicable laws*, regulations and nationally ratified* international treaties, conventions and agreements.</p>
<p>Criterion 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 the specific activities.</p>
<p>1.1.1 Official articles of association and a valid registration number prove entry in a register or membership of an official structure covering all activities falling within the scope of the certificate.</p> <p>Applicability: The following documents delivered by competent authorities serve to prove compliance with this indicator*:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) In the case of private property, the document used as proof is the individual title deed; 2) In the case of public ownership, the document used as proof is the management order; 3) In the case of a group certificate, the group entity has official articles of association, as well as a valid registration number and its relationship with the group members is covered by a contract.
<p>Criterion 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.</p>
<p>Applicability: The usages and customs relating to forests* are established in written law. The use rights mentioned in this Criterion* therefore relate either to legal rights or agreements under private law. The few exceptions relating to rights of customary use that may continue to exist in Metropolitan France will be treated on a case by case basis by the certificate holder and the certification body through engagement* with the stakeholders*.</p>
<p>1.2.1 Documents demonstrate the legal status of the Management Unit* and describe the land rights and use rights.</p>
<p>1.2.2 The land registry documents describe the limits of all Management Units, rights of way and current leases and rental agreements.</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>Criterion 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.</p>



1.3.1 All legislation governing the field of activities are known and complied with (list for information purposes in Appendix A).
1.3.2 The Organization holds the documents demonstrating that it has the legal right to operate in the Management Unit and that this is in keeping with its legal status and the legal status of the Management Unit.
1.3.3 The payment of taxes, fees and other charges that are legally due are paid in time. The receipts certifying payment thereof are available.
Criterion 1.4. The Organization* shall develop and implement measures, and/or shall engage with regulatory agencies, to systematically protect the Management Unit* from unauthorized or illegal resource use, settlement and other illegal activities.
1.4.1. The authorities competent for policing forests are informed of forest-related offences and the reports drafted for this purpose are retained.
1.4.2 In the event of offences being detected, measures are taken in conjunction with the legally competent* authorities, commensurate with the issues and resources available, to prevent, restrict and stop them.
Criterion 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, international conventions and existing codes of practice relating to the transportation and trade of forest products up to the point of first sale is demonstrated.
1.5.2 Any complaint received concerning the requirements relating to the transportation and trade of forest products within and from the Management Unit and/or up to the first point of sale is recorded, as well as the solutions adopted.
Criterion 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*.
Applicability: These indicators include compliance with the requirements of Criteria 1.6 and 4.6.
1.6.1 A procedure for dealing with complaints and resolving disputes is developed and validated through engagement with the affected stakeholders.
1.6.2 The procedure for dealing with complaints and resolving disputes is publicly available* at no cost.
1.6.3 With a view to facilitating communication, the prevention of complaints and the resolution of disputes, this procedure in all cases comprises identification of the Organization and a contact person in all the Management Units covered by the certificate.



1.6.4 Conflicts relating to the use of forest resources and complaints relating to the impact of management activities are dealt with out of court promptly and are either settled or in the process of being resolved.
1.6.5 Up-to-date records of all disputes and complaints relating to the impact of management activities are kept, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. steps taken to address and resolve disputes; 2. outcomes of all dispute and complaint resolution processes, including fair compensation* measures, if applicable; and 3. unresolved disputes and complaints, and the reasons why they have not been resolved.
1.6.6 Operations cease in areas where a dispute or complaints involving a significant number of interests have not been resolved after 6 months.
Applicability : This indicator focuses on disputes that scale up to a national level due to the number or dimension of the stakeholders involved
1.6.7 If a dispute cannot be resolved out of court, the corresponding court decision prevails.
Criterion 1.7. The Organization* shall publicize a commitment not to offer or receive bribes in money or any other form of corruption, and shall comply with anti-corruption legislation where this exists. In the absence of anti-corruption legislation, the Organization shall implement other anti-corruption measures proportionate to the scale* and intensity* of management activities and the risk of corruption.
1.7.1. A statement showing a commitment to comply with anti-corruption legislation is publicly available* at no cost.
1.7.2 Within the framework of all legal procedures for the award of contracts, the legal principles relating to the disclosure requirement, competition and transparency in the award of contracts are complied with.
1.7.3 Bribery, coercion and other acts of corruption do not occur.
1.7.4 If corruption is detected, all possible means are adopted to bring it to an end.
Criterion 1.8. The Organization* shall demonstrate a long-term* commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles* and Criteria* in the Management Unit*, and to related FSC Policies and Standards. A statement of this commitment shall be contained in a publicly available* document made freely available.
1.8.1 A statement, endorsed by the forest owner and/or manager, and if applicable the group entity, includes a long-term commitment to responsible forest* management practices consistent with FSC Principles and Criteria and related Policies and Standards.
1.8.2 The statement is publicly available at no cost.

[Go to Annex A.](#)



PRINCIPLE 2: WORKERS' RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

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

Criterion 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 Labour Code is applied in compliance with the eight ILO core conventions ratified by France.



2.1.2 Staff representative elections are organized as per the Labour Code and the related documents are available to all staff members.
2.1.3 Any complaint regarding employment rights is recorded and responses comply with the law and are documented.
2.1.4. Contracts with contractors* include a clause requiring their compliance with the French Labour Code.
2.1.5 In the case of European contractors or the use of workers seconded by contractors, the clause in 2.1.4 concerns compliance with the legislation of the country of origin, as well as compliance with the legislation and regulations relating to postings.
Criterion 2.2. The Organization* shall promote gender equality* in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of engagement* and management activities.
2.2.1 There is a gender equality plan promoting the equal opportunity measures set forth in the Labour Code. It is applied and regularly monitored.
2.2.2 There is no direct or indirect discrimination on the grounds of gender or family circumstances in connection with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. recruitment and training, 2. wages and working conditions, 3. engagement with stakeholders*.
2.2.3 As per the Labour Code, all necessary steps are taken, including legal mediation procedures, to prevent and deal with cases of psychological or sexual harassment.
Criterion 2.3. The Organization* shall implement health and safety practices to protect workers* from occupational safety and health hazards. These practices shall, proportionate to scale*, intensity* and risk* of management activities, meet or exceed the recommendations of the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.
2.3.1. The risks run by staff members, as well as all preventative measures, are recorded in a written document and accessible to all staff members, as provided for by the Labour Code (Single Risk Assessment Document, French acronym: DUER).
2.3.2 All safety gear and equipment used on site is appropriate, compliant with current legal regulations and regularly inspected.
2.3.3 In the case of management activities presenting risks for the parties involved on the Management Unit*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They endorse in their contracts a specific clause requiring the use of appropriate* safety gear. 2. The use of appropriate safety gear is monitored in the field. 3. They have received training and/or implement best practices as regards safety at work.



<p>4. Evidence of the training is provided in the form of a qualification, certificate or attestation.</p> <p>5. They have attended a first-aid awareness programme.</p> <p>6. Evidence of participation in a first-aid awareness programme is documented.</p>
<p>Applicability: The scope of application of the indicator expand beyond the contractors to include subcontractors and other parties involved without contract (e.g. holders of estover rights).</p>
<p>2.3.4. An up-to-date record of accidents at work is kept, including their frequency and seriousness.</p>
<p>2.3.5 The Single Risk Assessment Document (French acronym: DUER) is updated as required by the French Labour Code, based on analysis of the accident register referred to in 2.3.4.</p>
<p>2.3.6 If employees are housed, even temporarily, on the Management Unit, their working conditions and the condition of their accommodation and food complies with International Labour Organization and employment rights directives, as a minimum requirement.</p>
<p>Criterion 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 wage. When none of these exist, the Organization shall, through engagement* with workers develop mechanisms for determining living wages.</p>
<p>2.4.1. Members of staff of the Organization and its subcontractors* are registered for the functions performed with the administrative body responsible for recording workers.</p>
<p>2.4.2. Legislation and collective agreements relating to wages or, otherwise, the minimum wage in France (SMIC) are complied with.</p>
<p>Criterion 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.</p>
<p>2.5.1. When the Organization employs staff:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the list of such staff and their job descriptions are kept up to date; 2. there is a training manager; 3. a training plan identifies awareness-raising and/or training necessary for effective and safe implementation of the management plan.
<p>2.5.2 The training plan takes the following topics into account for the staff members concerned:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. detection of and dealing with cases of psychological or sexual harassment and discrimination (C2.2); 2. performance of work that is dangerous or involves a particular responsibility (C2.5); 3. safety at work and first aid (C2.3); 4. management of logging operations and identification of their ecological and social impact (C4.5; C6.2); 5. identification of High Conservation Values* and environmental values* (C6.1 and C9.1); 6. knowledge of the areas affected by the use rights* identified in C1.2;



7. the handling, use, storage and/or elimination of wastes*, dangerous substances, pesticides* and/or fertilizers* (C2.3; C10.7; C10.12).				
2.5.3 Certificates or attestations of awareness and training are available.				
2.5.4 When these concern the topics listed in 2.5.2, contractors* and their employees hold valid qualifications, certificates or attestations of awareness and/or training.				
Criterion 2.6 The Organization*, through engagement* with workers*, shall have mechanisms for resolving grievances and providing fair compensation* to workers for loss or damage to property, occupational diseases*, or occupational injuries* sustained while working for the Organization.				
2.6.1. The Organization and its contractors*: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. are registered with the social security regime as per French law or that of the country of origin in the case of workers on secondment, and; 2. have civil liability insurance enabling them to compensate employees in the event of the loss of their property or damage caused to their property, and; 3. have insurance to cover material damage in the event of accidents or work-related illnesses. 				
2.6.2 The Organization is compliant in establishing and running social dialogue bodies as provided for by the Labour Code and, if applicable, by collective procedures for the representation of staff members.				
2.6.3 Measures taken within the framework of social dialogue are recorded.				
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. (P3 P&C V4)				
Applicability: According to the United Nation definition, there are no indigenous people in Metropolitan France. This principle therefore does not apply.				
PRINCIPLE 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS				
The Organization* shall contribute to maintaining or enhancing the social and economic wellbeing of local communities*.				
Intention: Local communities are identified as groups of rights-holders and users. These groups differ depending on the ownership of the forest, as follows:				
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>All forests</td> <td>Hunters with hunting rights (all hunting types)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All forests</td> <td> Holders of a mushrooms-picking licence granted by the forest owner or its representative</td> </tr> </table>	All forests	Hunters with hunting rights (all hunting types)	All forests	Holders of a mushrooms-picking licence granted by the forest owner or its representative
All forests	Hunters with hunting rights (all hunting types)			
All forests	Holders of a mushrooms-picking licence granted by the forest owner or its representative			



All forests	Farmers or farmers' associations making use of the forest as a grazing area (extensive sylvo-pastoralism of any type). Special case of the management of mountain forests (summer pasture).
Private forests	Licensed Communal Hunting Association (ACCA).
Private forests	Hunters engaged in a traditional and locally recognized form of hunting (no legal rights, but customary right* upheld, e.g. shooting wood pigeons)
Municipality owned forests	Inhabitants of the municipality and holders of estover rights.
State forests and other public forests	Users associations (hikers, riders, cyclists, etc.) insofar as the social functions of public forests are recognized.
All forests	Other relevant specific cases to be identified by the Organization if applicable.
<p>Criterion 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 their legal rights and obligations that apply within the Management Unit.</p>	
4.1.1 Local communities that may be affected by management activities are identified.	
4.1.2 Customary use rights are identified through engagement with the local communities affected.	
<p>Applicability: The usages and customs relating to forests are established in written law. The few exceptions relating to rights of customary use that still exist in Metropolitan France will be treated on a case-by-case basis by the certificate holder and the certification body through engagement with the stakeholders*.</p>	
<p>Criterion 4.2. The Organization* shall recognize and uphold the legal and customary rights* of local communities* to maintain control over management activities within or related to the Management Unit* to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, lands and territories. Delegation by local communities of control over management activities to third parties requires free, prior and informed consent*.</p>	
4.2.1 When management activities have an impact on the rights identified (4.1), the local communities grant their free, prior and informed consent before the start of management operations.	



4.2.2 The legal and customary rights of local communities are not violated by the Organization.
Criterion 4.3. The Organization* shall provide reasonable* opportunities for employment, training and other services to local communities*, contractors and suppliers proportionate to the scale* and intensity* of its management activities.
4.3.1. Offers of employment, services and traineeships are published locally and, in particular, in training centres.
4.3.2 Local communities are informed of their rights and responsibilities, in particular regarding safety and the impacts of their use of the forest as identified in Criterion 4.5.
Criterion 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.
Applicability: Relevant actions for local/regional economic development are considered under indicator 5.4.3
Criterion 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.
Applicability: In the case of hunting, this Criterion will be dealt with via Indicator 6.6.4.
4.5.1. When drafting or revising its management plan*, the Organization identifies significant impacts*: 1) of its management activities on the uses of local communities; 2) of local community uses on its management activities, environmental values* and High Conservation Values*, including conflicts of use (1.6).
4.5.2. Measures are defined and implemented through stakeholder* engagement to avoid or attenuate each significant* negative impact identified.
Criterion 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.
Applicability: The requirements of this criterion have been combined with those of Criterion 1.6.
Criterion 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. (new)
Intention: For this criterion, the notion of heritage applies to cultural and social sites (archaeological areas, places of remembrance or worship, small-scale built heritage, tourist and recreational sites,



etc.).
4.7.1 Sites of heritage significance are identified and conserved, if applicable through engagement with the local communities.
Criterion 4.8 The Organization* shall uphold* the right of local communities* to protect and utilize their traditional knowledge* and shall compensate local communities for the utilization of such knowledge and of their intellectual property*. A binding agreement* as per Criterion 3.3 shall be concluded between the Organization and the local communities for such utilization through free, prior and informed consent* before utilization takes place, and shall be consistent with the protection of intellectual property rights.
Applicability: In Metropolitan France, there is no traditional knowledge specific to local communities in the forest domain that could be considered intellectual property. This criterion has no application.
PRINCIPLE 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST
The Organization* shall efficiently manage the range of multiple products and services of the Management Unit* to maintain or enhance long-term* economic viability* and the range of social and environmental benefits.



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

5.1.1 Resources and ecosystem services that could strengthen and diversify the local economy are identified.

5.1.2 Consistent with management objectives*, the benefits and products identified are supplied and/or made available in order to enable others to produce them.

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

Intention: Indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 must not be interpreted as an additional source of work over and above current cases of best practice. It will therefore be addressed comprehensively, in particular in keeping with the size of the Management Unit.

5.2.1 Silvicultural* activities (in particular, rates, methods and frequency of harvesting) are based on an analysis that takes the following into account:

1. Updated information relating to the standing capital, the growth and the renewal of stands;
2. Silvicultural management guidelines and objectives (exploitable diameter in particular) drafted by the competent authorities (Regional Development Directives or Regional Development Scheme for public forests, Regional Silvicultural Management Scheme for private forests and Green Appendices);
3. Adaptation of the precision of data to the scale and intensity of management;
4. A precautionary approach* reflecting the quality of the information used.

5.2.2. Silvicultural activities ensure the sustainability of the forest resource, its capacity for regeneration and the maintenance of ecosystem functions in the long term.

Intention: Indicator 5.2.2 does not exclude the possibility of a temporary increase in harvesting. It may therefore be considered necessary to decapitalize to reach a level deemed normal in relation to the management objective pursued. This decapitalization therefore relates to a specific period of life of the stand and is not intended to become the harvesting standard.

5.2.3. When the management document is revised, data relating to the standing capital and/or the increase, as well as the renewal, of stands and volumes of wood products harvested are updated and compared with the forecasts.

Management Unit <500ha: Not applicable



<p>Applicability: In the case of Management Units of less than 500ha, the silvicultural management guidelines drafted by the competent authorities mentioned in 5.2.1 make it possible to respond to this indicator.</p>
<p>5.2.4 For the extraction of non-timber forest products* managed by the Organization*, a sustainable harvesting level is estimated based on the best available information* and respected.</p>
<p>Criterion 5.3. The Organization* shall demonstrate that the positive and negative externalities* of operations are included in the management plan*.</p>
<p>Intention: The purpose of this Criterion is to help the Organization to consider and view in perspective all of the types of benefits that it may be able to draw from its management activities, along with the costs it allows for their implementation. This analysis is connected with Criterion 5.5.</p>
<p>Applicability: This reflection is conducted globally for the entire certified area and the activities implemented.</p>
<p>5.3.1 Costs related to preventing, mitigating or compensating for the negative social and environment impacts of management activities are identified.</p>
<p>5.3.2 Benefits related to the positive social and environment impacts of management activities are identified</p>
<p>Criterion 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.</p>
<p>Applicability: For this Criterion, the notions of “local” or “locally” take into account the administrative region in which the Organization operates.</p>
<p>5.4.1 Where cost and quality are equivalent, local products, services and industries are given priority.</p>
<p>5.4.2 The modalities, including the magnitude, of invitations to tender and other mechanisms for marketing products or requests for services do not exclude local service providers.</p>
<p>5.4.3 In keeping with its management objectives*, the Organization takes part in local social and economic development initiatives (e.g. sectoral contracts, local forest charters, massif development plans, etc.).</p>
<p>Criterion 5.5. The Organization* shall demonstrate through its planning and expenditures proportionate to scale*, intensity* and risk*, its commitment to long-term economic viability*.</p>
<p>5.5.1 The Organization’s development strategy demonstrates a commitment to ensuring the long-term economic viability of its forest management.</p>
<p>5.5.2 This strategy includes the cost-benefit analysis conducted as per Criterion 5.3.</p>



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.

Criterion 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.

Applicability: The sources of best available information* for this Criterion include:

- Field surveys (e.g. using tools such as the Potential Biodiversity Index, PBI)
- Information from Representative Sample Areas* (Criterion 6.5)
- Databases or studies pertaining to the scale in question
- Engagement* with stakeholders*
- Consultation with other experts*

6.1.1 The best available information is used to identify and assess the environmental values within and, where potentially affected by the management activities, outside of the Management Unit.

Intention: A first level of assessment based on the expertise of the forest owner and/or manager will identify environmental values presenting challenges in the Management Unit. A second level of assessment will examine in more detail and document the challenges thus identified.

The assessment of values outside the Management Unit will be limited to the landscape* and will concern other environmental values only where a pre-existing framework already exists (e.g. a regional ecological coherence scheme).

6.1.2 Environmental value* assessments are conducted at scales at which it is possible to identify and/or implement the following:

1. the impacts of management activities (Criterion* 6.2);
2. the risks run by environmental values (Criterion* 6.2);
3. the conservation measures* necessary to protect the values (Criterion 6.3); and
4. the monitoring of environmental impacts or changes (Principle 8).

Criterion 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*.

Intention: The impact risk assessment* takes into account the scale and intensity of the management activities. The risk of impacts can be assessed on different levels (group, Management Unit* or plot*)



<p>when this is pertinent. This assessment makes it possible to adapt and justify the measures and procedures that need to be put in place to fulfil the requirements of the Standard.</p>
<p>6.2.1 The risk of impacts deriving from silvicultural* choices and management activities on environmental values is assessed before operations begin.</p>
<p>Criterion 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.</p>
<p>6.3.1 Management activities are planned and implemented to prevent negative impacts and protect environmental values. They systematically take account of soil fertility and erosion, and may also consider the following measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. diversification of the vertical and horizontal structure of forest timber stands, 2. diversification of the structure of forest timber stands within the Management Unit*, 3. diversification of species composition.
<p>6.3.2 Negative impacts on environmental values caused by silvicultural* decisions are avoided.</p>
<p>6.3.3 If the prevention of impacts fails, measures are adopted to prevent further damage, and negative impacts on environmental values are mitigated and/or repaired.</p>
<p>Criterion 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.</p>
<p>Applicability: For this Criterion, best available information can be sourced from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - regional and national UICN Red Lists, - list of species from the Natura 2000 directive and other documents on the Natura 2000 network (studies, regional guides, management plans of the sites, etc.), - list of key species for the ZNIEFF areas and other related documents (studies, national and regional guides, etc.), - lists of protected species at the departmental, regional or national scale (source: National Museum of Natural History), - lists and regional and national studies on key habitats, - engagement with stakeholders.



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

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

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

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

Management Unit ≤ 25ha: Appropriate* protection measures are identified and implemented. If the size of the Management Unit does not allow for conservation or protected areas to be established, other measures are implemented relating to the key species or habitats known to be or potentially present, for example but not limited to:

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

6.4.3 When key species or habitats are identified, appropriate* clauses are defined in the specifications for forestry operations, including specifications for subcontractors*, operators and their subcontractors.

Criterion 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.

Intention: The representative sample areas mentioned in the Criterion are meant to participate in the preservation and restoration of the ecological dynamics of naturally occurring ecosystems in the Management Unit*. In the French context, they therefore correspond to a retention system of unmanaged



and ageing areas*. Indicators 6.5.2 and 6.5.3 encourage owners and managers to define and preserve these different types of areas, which are of great value to forest biodiversity.

Applicability: Compliance with the requirements of this Criterion can be verified at group level.

6.5.1 A conservation area network* covering a minimum of 10% of the area of either the Management Unit or the entire group of Management Units is established. This network includes:

1. retention system of unmanaged and ageing areas,
2. areas of High Conservation Value* from categories 1, 3 and 4 (Principle 9),
3. semi-natural forest* areas greater than 1 ha,
4. other elements of habitats and protection areas* defined and mapped in 6.4, 6.6 and 6.7 (key habitats, riparian* forest, buffer zones, forest associated habitats, etc.), as well as diversified forest edges (vertical structure and composition), the areas of which must be estimated and verifiable in the field.

6.5.2 The unmanaged and ageing areas are defined and mapped, and the commitment to preserve or restore them is included in the management document when revised. Their minimum size is 0.5 ha.

Applicability: The selection of unmanaged and ageing areas will take into account the criterion of representativity of ecosystems at the eco-regional level. It will also take into account other criteria, such as stand maturity, users safety, the economic value of the stand and connectivity* between the different areas.

6.5.3 The portions designated as unmanaged and ageing areas shall account for 3% of the total area as a minimum requirement, of which a minimum of 1% shall be unmanaged areas*.

Management Unit ≤ 500 ha (or groups of Management Units ≤ 500 ha): The portions designated as unmanaged and ageing areas are not subject to a minimum threshold of the total area.

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

6.6.1 Management measures maintain the various indigenous species and their genetic diversity consistent with the characteristics of the sites. This involves the following as a minimum requirement:

1. the promotion of stands adapted to the site;
2. in semi-natural forest* stands, the promotion of a composition, dynamic and structure that is close to that of natural forest associations;
3. in semi-natural forest* stands, increasing the proportion of alien/exotic species* by natural regeneration or enrichment shall not under any circumstances lead to the de facto



conversion of a semi-natural forest into a cultivated forest*;

4. in Management Units comprising mostly or exclusively cultivated forest, the promotion of methods of management and stand renewal that will take the proportion of indigenous species within the Management Unit to a minimum of 10% of the surface area.

6.6.2 Management measures allow the maintenance of habitats associated with the forest (pools and ponds, moors and meadows, wet grasslands*, bogs and forest edges, etc.) or the improvement of their condition when significantly degraded.

6.6.3 Habitat-trees of particular ecological value must be maintained in order to host the flora and fauna that depend on them:

1. a minimum average of 2 living habitat-trees*/ha with a long term objective of 5 living habitat-trees/ha;
2. all dead trees standing or on the ground.

Applicability: Habitat-tree designation for biodiversity conservation purposes depends on the silvicultural practices applied and on the maturity of the stands concerned. Two cases may arise:

1. stands whose maturity is sufficient for there to be existing habitat-trees or to favour their natural emergence in the short term (within the management plan period);
2. stands whose actual age and/or harvest age is less than 75 years, which compromises the presence or natural emergence of habitat-trees in the short term.

In the first case, habitat-trees are designated gradually over successive interventions (inventory, marking of trees for felling, definitive cutting or thinning). The targeted average density (minimum 2 trees/ha) is calculated on stands where maturity is sufficient for there to be habitat-trees present.

In the second case, a realistic strategy for habitat-tree designation is defined and the targeted average density to be reached is revised in the medium term (longer than the management plan period).

In any case, habitat-tree designation will focus on maximizing the impact for biodiversity and will take into account risks related to the safety of property and people, any phytosanitary risks identified, collective dieback and natural disasters. In the case of living trees of high economic value, a decision to harvest them is justified if the minimum average of 2 trees/ha is not reached.

6.6.4 The forest-game balance is assessed. In the event of an imbalance:

1. a notice concerning hunting is sent to the Departmental Commission on Hunting and Wild Animal Life (CDCFS);
2. engagement* is conducted with the physical or moral person holding the hunting right;
3. measures are taken within the framework of management objectives to reduce the impact of fauna on stands, key habitats and associated environments.



Intention: Although the problems associated with the forest-game balance are a major issue for forest management in France, it is clear that in many cases forest owners and managers have only partial control of the regulation of game populations. The FSC may not under any circumstances oppose current regulations by redistributing the roles assigned to each stakeholder* in the management of this problem. Indicator 6.6.4. is intended to encourage owners and managers to maximize the opportunities for intervention afforded them within the regulatory framework.

6.6.5 Control measures are taken regarding the collect of non-forest timber products* when it threatens the species distribution and the conservation of biodiversity.

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

6.7.1 Natural watercourses and water bodies, wetlands and riparian zones are identified and mapped, and are the subject of protection measures.

Management Unit ≤ 25 ha: Mapping is not mandatory.

6.7.2 A minimum 10-meter-wide buffer zone is maintained along the banks of natural water bodies and watercourses. No clear-cutting* is performed there.

6.7.3 Measures for the restoration of natural water bodies and watercourses, wetlands and riparian zones are implemented, if they have been damaged by management activities.

6.7.4 No obstacle to water flow and fish movement is created.

6.7.5 Existing artificial blockages are removed or eliminated when the Organization has the authority to do so.

6.7.6 Management and harvesting activities for which notification must be served or for which permission must be applied are identified. The associated documentation is available. Recommendations are implemented if applicable.

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

6.8.1 A varying mosaic of stands in terms of species, size, age class, spatial distribution and dynamic stages is maintained in accordance with the functional processes sustaining the ecological landscape in which the Management Unit* is situated.

6.8.2 When the current mix does not allow for the optimum ecological functionality of the landscape, measures are taken within the Management Unit to contribute to restoring it.



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

The actions contained in other criteria and guidelines set forth in the Standard also make a contribution and attest to the positive impact on the landscape of management practiced as per the FSC Standard. This is particularly true of Criterion 6.1., for environmental values* in general (including the cultural values of the landscape); Criterion 6.5, for the green corridor (conservation network and representative areas guaranteeing connectivity for forest biodiversity); Criterion 6.6, for the diversity of forest species; Criterion 6.7, specifically for the connectivity of hydro-systems (blue corridor); Criterion 6.9, for the maintenance of a minimum naturalness; and Principle 9, for guaranteeing the preservation of High Conservation Values* identified in the Management Unit. All of these requirements therefore fulfil this Criterion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

6.9.2 There is no conversion of natural forests to plantations or natural forests or plantations to non-forestry uses except in circumstances where the conversion:



1. will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation* benefits in the Management Unit; and
2. does not damage or threaten High Conservation Values nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those High Conservation Values; and
3. one of the following three options:
 - a) It does not affect more than 0.5% of the area of the Management Unit in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% of the area of the Management Unit; or
 - b) It is carried out in order to restore High Value for Conservation areas or areas of recognized social or ecological value; or
 - c) It is performed within the framework of conversion to another use that is the subject of compensatory afforestation enshrined in French law.

Management Units < 1000 ha: 6.9.2.3.a) is modified as follows: It does not affect more than 5 ha of the total surface area of the Management Unit in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% of the area of the Management Unit.

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

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

6.10.1 For each stand with the status of plantation*:

1. the date of assumption of responsibility by the Organization is known;
2. when the Organization is directly or indirectly responsible for the creation of the stand, its previous status is known.

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

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



[Go to Annex B.](#)

PRINCIPLE 7: MANAGEMENT PLANNING	
<p>The Organization* shall have a management plan* consistent with its policies and objectives and proportionate to scale*, intensity* and risks* of its management activities. The management plan shall be implemented and kept up to date based on monitoring information in order to promote adaptive management*. The associated planning and procedural documentation shall be sufficient to guide staff, inform affected stakeholders* and interested stakeholders* and to justify management decisions.</p>	
<p>Intention: In the glossary of terms, the management plan is defined as 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. This notion therefore covers both the management framework and the management plan at the Management Unit level.</p>	
<p>Criterion 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.</p>	
7.1.1	Policies (vision and values) that contribute to meeting the requirements of this Standard are defined.
7.1.2	Specific, operational management objectives* that collectively address the requirements of this Standard are defined.
7.1.3	A summary of the policies and management objectives is publicized.
<p>Criterion 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.</p>	
7.2.1	The management framework and associated documentation set forth a plan for the management actions, procedures, strategies and measures required to achieve the management objectives over a minimum period of 10 to 20 years.
7.2.2	The management plan at Management Unit level is implemented and addresses the following elements:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A summary of the policies and management objectives



2. Administrative information
3. Land-tenure* and forest types description
4. Legal review
5. Equipment and roads
6. Environmental challenges, as mentioned in Principles 6 and 9
7. Social challenges, as mentioned in Principles 2, 4, 5 and 9
8. Measures taken to meet environmental and social challenges
9. Forest management analysis, as mentioned in Principle 5
10. Forest management measures, as mentioned in Principles 5 and 10, and a programme of operations (annual cuts and interventions per forest plot*)
11. Low-impact logging measures
12. Stand and conservation area* maps
13. Description of the monitoring programme, as mentioned in Principle 8

Management Unit ≤ 25ha: The legal management framework (CBPS, RTG, voluntary PSG) will be supplemented by the elements listed in 7.2.2 necessary for achieving the requirements of this Standard in relation to the challenges identified in the Management Unit and the risk assessment carried out as per 6.2.

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

7.3.1 The verifiable targets, as well as the frequency and scale* at which they are evaluated, are established in order to monitor progress towards achievement of each management objective. They serve as a basis for the monitoring required as per Principle 8.

7.3.2 The verifiable targets, as well as the frequency and level at which they are evaluated, are established in accordance with the challenges identified and the risk assessment as per 6.2. The variables for which targets are established may, for example, include (non-exhaustive list):

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



<p>10. Number of occupational accidents*; and/or</p> <p>11. Overall economic viability* of the Management Unit*.</p>
<p>Criterion 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.</p>
<p>7.4.1 The management framework is periodically revised to include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the results of monitoring* and internal evaluation; 2. the result of stakeholder engagement*; 3. new scientific and technical information, and 4. changes in the ecological, social and economic context.
<p>7.4.2 The management plan* at Management Unit* level is periodically revised (every 10 to 20 years). Between these revisions, major new developments, arising from the sources defined in 7.4.1 or the results of verification audits, give rise, where necessary, to the drafting of amendments.</p> <p><u>Management Unit ≤ 25ha:</u> The drafting of amendments between periodic revisions is not required.</p>
<p>Criterion 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.</p>
<p>7.5.1 The management framework, or summary thereof, is publicly available in electronic format at no cost. It must contain the following elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A summary of the policies and management objectives* (7.1); 2. Pertinent information concerning the silvicultural* guidelines and methods adopted; 3. Pertinent cartographic information; 4. A summary of the results of monitoring (8.4); 5. Public summaries of internal and external audit reports.
<p>7.5.2 The management plan at Management Unit level, excluding confidential information, is available to stakeholders on request at the actual cost of reproduction and handling.</p>
<p>Criterion 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.</p>
<p>Intention: When engagement* has already taken place satisfactorily beforehand with all stakeholders in the framework of other regulatory or contractual mechanisms, the implementation of a new engage-</p>



ment process is not mandatory for aspects already dealt with by these mechanisms (e.g. CFT, DO-COB Natura 2000). This does not release the Organization from its obligation to respond to stakeholders' requests (7.6.3). Additionally, if a significant number of stakeholders are dissatisfied with the conditions in which the former engagement process took place, a new process must be conducted.

Applicability: The stakeholders identified may differ, depending on the level concerned: management framework document or Management Unit* level.

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

7.6.2 Stakeholders* are provided with an opportunity for engagement concerning:

1. Management activity monitoring and planning processes that affect their interests, and
2. Identification of the means of avoiding or reducing such impact.

7.6.3 The engagement process is planned (mechanisms, content, etc.) in keeping with the circumstances and issues in order to ensure the quality of the dialogue and to maximize stakeholder participation.

7.6.4 An up-to-date record is kept of the engagement processes carried out, the requests received from stakeholders and the responses given to them.

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*.

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

8.1.1 Monitoring procedures are put in place for periodic monitoring of the implementation of the management plan (including its policies and management objectives) and the achievement of the verifiable targets defined in 7.3.

8.1.2 The monitoring procedures are adapted for:

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

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



8.2.1 Monitoring procedures are put in place for periodic monitoring of the social and environmental impacts of management activities, as well as changes in environmental conditions.
8.2.2 The monitoring procedures are adapted for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the level (management framework or Management Unit level document) and activities concerned, 2. the challenges identified, and 3. the results of the impact risk assessment* conducted as per 6.2.
Criterion 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 The results of monitoring and assessment are analysed and activities adapted in a timely manner* to ensure that the requirements of this Standard are complied with.
8.3.2 Analysis of the results of monitoring and assessment is integrated into the periodic review of the management plan* (see 7.4).
8.3.3 If monitoring results show non-conformities with this Standard then the management objectives*, verifiable targets* and/or management activities are revised.
Criterion 8.4. The Organization* shall make publicly available* a summary of the results of monitoring free of charge, excluding confidential information*.
8.4.1 A summary of the monitoring results, excluding confidential information, is made publicly available at no cost (see 7.5).
Criterion 8.5. The Organization* shall have and implement a tracking and tracing system, proportionate to scale*, intensity* and risk* of its management activities, for demonstrating the source and volume in proportion to projected output for each year, of all products from the Management Unit* that are marketed as FSC certified.
8.5.1 A system is implemented to track and trace all products marketed as FSC certified.
8.5.2 Information about all products sold is compiled and documented, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. species name; 2. product type; 3. volume (or quantity) of product; 4. information for tracing materials to the logging block of origin; 5. logging or production date; and 6. whether or not the material was sold as FSC certified.
8.5.3 Sales invoices are kept for a minimum of five years for all products sold with an FSC citation, specifying at least the following information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. name and address of purchaser; 2. date of sale;



3. species names;
4. product description;
5. volume (or quantity) sold;
6. Forest Management / Control Chain Certificate code;
7. the FSC "FSC 100%" citation identifying products sold as FSC certified.



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

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

Applicability: FSC standards relating to the traceability and use of the brand can be downloaded from the FSC France website.

PRINCIPLE 9: HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES

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

Criterion 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.

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



9.1.1 An assessment (location, condition, challenges) of High Conservation Values (HCV) is conducted in accordance with the Annex E “HCV National Framework”.
9.1.2 The assessment incorporates the results of stakeholder engagement.
9.1.3 High Conservation Values are mapped, as far as available information allows.
Criterion 9.2. The Organization* shall develop effective strategies that maintain and/or enhance the identified High Conservation Values*, through engagement* with affected stakeholders*, interested stakeholders* and experts*.
9.2.1 Before forest management operations begin, management strategies and actions are defined and implemented to guarantee the maintenance and/or enhancement of the state of the High Conservation Values identified.
9.2.2 The management strategies and actions incorporate the best available information* and the results of engagement with stakeholders and other experts. When this information and the results of stakeholder engagement are not sufficient for defining an effective strategy, complementary studies are carried out.
9.2.3 The results of engagement are made available to stakeholders upon request.
Criterion 9.3. The Organization* shall implement strategies and actions that maintain and/or enhance the identified High Conservation Values*. These strategies and actions shall implement the precautionary approach* and be proportionate to the scale*, intensity* and risk* of management activities.
9.3.1 The state of High Conservation Values and zones necessary for their maintenance is preserved and/or enhanced.
9.3.2 The strategies and management actions defined prevent damage and avoid risk, based on a precautionary approach* and commensurate with the challenges and results of the risk assessment performed as per 6.2.
9.3.3 Activities that harm High Conservation Values cease immediately and actions are taken to restore* and protect the High Conservation Values concerned.
Criterion 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 is carried out to assess: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. strategy implementation; 2. the state of High Conservation Values, including the High Conservation Value Areas* on which they depend; and



3. the effectiveness of the management strategies and actions to ensure maintenance and/or enhancement of the High Conservation Values.

9.4.2 The monitoring programme includes engagement with stakeholders and other experts.

9.4.3 The monitoring programme has a scope, level, detail and frequency that are sufficient to detect changes in High Conservation Values, relative to the initial assessment.



<p>9.4.4 Management strategies and actions are adapted when monitoring programme results or other new information show these strategies and actions to be insufficient to ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of High Conservation Values.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">PRINCIPLE 10: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Criterion 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*.</p>
<p>10.1.1 Natural regeneration or planting after harvesting is carried out in order to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. protect environmental values*; 2. recover the composition, structure, productivity, standing capital and optimum growth rates of the species globally, as per the requirements of 6.6.1; and 3. diversify the target species as far as possible for the site.
<p>10.1.2 Natural regeneration is preferred over planting in semi-natural forests*. In all cases, decisions are justified.</p>
<p>10.1.3 In the case of planting, plant or seed certificates of origin are kept.</p>
<p>Criterion 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.</p>
<p>10.2.1 The species selected for regeneration are always adapted to the site and fulfil the management objectives set out in 7.1.</p>
<p>10.2.2 Species chosen for regeneration are native and from local genotypes, unless clear and convincing justification is provided for using non-local genotypes or exotic species*.</p>
<p>10.2.3 When non-local genotypes of indigenous species are used, this is justified on the basis of the latest recommendations made by forest research bodies, particularly where climate change is concerned.</p>
<p>10.2.4 When exotic species are chosen, their impact is identified and minimized. This is documented on the basis of the latest recommendations made by forest research bodies, particularly where climate change is concerned. The following impacts in particular are studied:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impacts on soil structure and fertility; 2. Impacts on the quality and quantity of water resources; 3. Impacts on landscapes* at relevant scales;



<p>4. Impacts on vegetation dynamics and habitat* conservation;</p> <p>4. Local socio-economic impacts (employment, recreational use, etc.).</p> <p>Applicability: These impacts will be assessed at the most pertinent level for the Organization (Management Unit, massif, forest-ecoregion, group, etc.).</p>
<p>Criterion 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.</p>
<p>Intention: The invasive nature of red oak may vary from one site to another (for example, in certain cases, its invasive nature is more notable on plains below 500m). This species is therefore a priori considered invasive in this Standard, although this is not yet the case under French legislation. Its use in the context of responsible FSC management is regulated as stipulated in Indicator 10.3.1.</p> <p>10.3.1 The introduction of invasive alien species (Appendix E) is prohibited. In the specific case of red oak, it may be authorized on the basis of reasoning concerning the intensity of its invasive character and its impact in the local context.</p>
<p>10.3.2 In the case of existing stands of invasive alien species, the impacts of their invasive character are monitored. In the event of negative impact, management measures are implemented to reduce and eliminate these impacts.</p>
<p>Criterion 10.4 The Organization* shall not use genetically modified organisms* in the Management Unit*.</p>
<p>10.4.1 Genetically modified organisms* are not used.</p>
<p>Criterion 10.5 The Organization* shall use silvicultural* practices that are ecologically appropriate for the vegetation, species, sites and management objectives*.</p>
<p>10.5.1 Continuous cover forestry practices are preferred wherever possible. In all cases, the choice of silvicultural practices is justified on the basis of the ecological, social and economic impacts expected.</p>
<p>10.5.2 Low-impact harvesting specifications are drafted and implemented, including by subcontractors*. They are in compliance with existing technical guidelines and standards, and cover the following points as a minimum requirement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. protection of the environmental values* identified in 6.1 2. soil protection; 3. protection of natural water bodies* and watercourses, wetlands, buffer zones and riparian* forest; 4. protection of forest habitats* and associated environments, and of flora and fauna.



<p>10.5.3 The maximum size of clear-cuts* is set at 10 ha (25 ha in the forest-ecoregion of the Landes de Gascogne) and limited to 2 ha on steep slopes (gradients of over 40%).</p> <p>Applicability: As with all other silvicultural methods, the choice of clear-cutting and the associated procedures has to be made in conformity with the rest of the requirements of this Standard, in particular the protection of environmental values such as biodiversity, soils and landscape (see criteria 6.1, 6.2 and 6.3).</p> <p>The thresholds stipulated in 10.5.3 do not apply in the event of natural disasters, pest management or sanitary problems, when the urgency of the situation is recognized by a competent authority (Forest Health Agency (DSF), prefecture, etc.).</p>
<p>Criterion 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.</p>
<p>10.6.1 No fertilizer is used in semi-natural forests*.</p>
<p>10.6.2 The use of fertilizer is avoided in cultivated forests*. Its long term elimination is planned, including by recourse to silvicultural practices that make it possible to avoid or reduce the need for fertilizer. In all cases, it is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. justified, documented and limited to one application per rotation; 2. prohibited less than 10m from the edge of watercourses, water bodies*, ditches, permanent or intermittent water sources and wetlands.
<p>10.6.3 When fertilizers are used, the types of fertilizers, dosages, areas covered, frequency and method of application are recorded.</p>
<p>10.6.4 Soil amendments* are only used occasionally and provided their sole objective is to permanently restore damaged production capacity. This is documented.</p>
<p>10.6.5 When fertilizers or soil amendments are used, environmental values* are protected, including through implementation of measures to prevent damage.</p>
<p>10.6.6 If damage resulting from the use of fertilizers or soil amendments occurs, their use ceases immediately and the management activities are modified to prevent and mitigate or repair damage.</p>
<p>10.6.7 Sewage sludge is not used.</p>
<p>Criterion 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.</p>
<p>10.7.1 Integrated pest management, including selection of silvicultural systems, is used to avoid or</p>



<p>aim to eliminate the frequency, extent and amount of chemical pesticide applications, and results in the non-use of chemical pesticides.</p>
<p>10.7.2 FSC's Policy on Pesticides, including the list of chemical pesticides prohibited by the FSC, is known and complied with.</p>
<p>10.7.3 Pesticides are only used, and justified and documented, in the following circumstances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The need for them is recognized by an expert* with authority (DSF, adviser holding a regulatory certificate for the use of pesticides), 2. The vitality and future of target species are compromised, 3. No effective or economically viable alternative exists, and 4. The method and schedule of application present the least possible risk to human health, environmental values and populations of non-targeted species
<p>10.7.4 The application, storage and transport of pesticides, as well as the handling of residues and accidental spillage, are covered by a regulatory certificate for the use of pesticides.</p>
<p>10.7.5 When pesticides are used, the types of pesticide used, dosages, surface areas and frequency and method of application are recorded.</p>
<p>10.7.6 If damage to environmental values or human health resulting from the use of pesticides occurs, their use ceases immediately and the management activities are modified to prevent and mitigate or repair damage.</p>
<p>10.7.7 The use of pesticides is prohibited:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. in High Conservation Values* (HCV) types 1, 3 and in HCV type 5 associated with water catchment areas; 2. less than 10m from the edge of watercourses, water bodies*, ditches and permanent or intermittent water sources and wetlands. Beyond this limit, the specific non-treatment area for each product is complied with. <p>Applicability: Further information on the FSC Pesticides Policy, as well as the list of pesticides whose use is banned, is available on the dedicated website http://pesticides.fsc.org/ .</p>
<p>Criterion 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.</p>
<p>10.8.1 The use of biological control agents is minimized, monitored and controlled.</p>
<p>10.8.2 The use of biological control agents complies with national legislation and the scientific protocols accepted at national level.</p>
<p>10.8.3 The use of biological control agents is recorded, including the type, amount used, date, place</p>



and reason for use.
10.8.4 Environmental values* are protected from any impact caused by the use of biological control agents.
10.8.5 If damage resulting from the use of biological control agents occurs, their use ceases immediately and the management activities are modified to prevent and mitigate or repair damage.
Criterion 10.9 The Organization* shall assess risks and implement activities that reduce potential negative impacts from natural hazards*, proportionate to scale*, intensity* and risk*.
10.9.1 Management activities are planned and implemented to reduce risks to assets and people, and include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. consideration of and compliance with the Departmental Dossier on Major Risks (DDRM) and the Natural Risk Prevention Plan (PPRN), where one exists, 2. compliance with Forest Defence Against Fires (DFCI) practices and current local regulations.
10.9.2 Management activities are defined and implemented to increase the resilience* of stands and ecosystems* to exceptional climatic events (in particular, storms and droughts).
Criterion 10.10 The Organization* shall manage infrastructural* development, transport activities and silviculture* so that water resources and soils are protected, and disturbance of and damage to rare* and threatened* species, habitats*, ecosystems* and landscape* values are prevented, mitigated and/or repaired.
10.10.1 Measures are identified and implemented for the development, maintenance and use of infrastructure to guarantee: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. protection of the environmental values* identified in Criteria 6.1; 2. protection of the species and habitats identified in Criteria 6.4; 3. protection of the water bodies* and watercourses, wetlands and riparian* forest identified in Criteria 6.7; 4. soil protection, particularly in relation to the risk of compaction; 5. the integrity of existing roads and pathways to the Management Unit*. <p>Applicability: In the event of the development of new infrastructures, Indicator 10.10.1 applies both inside and outside of the Management Unit, i.e. to the entire layout of the infrastructure, whether or not included in an FSC certified Management Unit.</p>
10.10.2 When disturbance or damage to values listed under 10.10.1 occur, they are mitigated and repaired in a timely manner*, and management activities are modified to prevent further damage.
10.10.3 All infrastructure projects are justified and their viability demonstrated, in terms of the service life of the investment, by the products derived from the plots* served and/or by objectives that



are not economic (for example, reception of the public).
10.10.4 Soil preparations are minimized. They are limited to low impact preparations, particularly regarding soil compaction, and impact only the superficial horizons of the soil.
10.10.5 Grubbing is prohibited except for sanitary reasons (soil pathogens) justified by an expert* authority (Forest Health Agency (DSF), adviser holding a regulatory certificate for the use of pesticides).
Criterion 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. 5.3 and C6.5 P&C V4)
10.11.1 Harvesting and extraction practices for timber and non-timber forest products are implemented so as to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. preserve the environmental values identified as per Criterion 6.1., 2. prevent or reduce damage caused to other products and services.
10.11.2 Harvesting and extraction practices do not concern trees* that are dead or decomposing, whether standing or on the ground, with the exception of cases justified on sanitary grounds or due to storms or collective dieback.
10.11.3 Extraction of forest residue is limited to small-end diameter of 7cm. Two exceptions are possible: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Extraction is possible to small-end diameter of 4cm, subject to demonstration that such practices do not decrease soil fertility. This is documented. 2. Entire trees may be extracted in the case of declining coppice stands. This is documented.
Criterion 10.12. The Organization* shall dispose of waste materials* in an environmentally appropriate manner.
10.12.1. Non-organic waste generated during management activities is collected and processed in appropriate facilities away from forest operations and in compliance with environmental safety methods and legal requirements. This is documented.
10.12.2. Operators, subcontractors*, loggers and their subcontractors are aware of and implement the waste management policy. The training or information process is documented
10.12.3. An environmentally responsible policy concerning accidental oil leaks is implemented.
10.12.4 A procedure for plant-based lubricant usage by employees and subcontractors is implemented and annual progress targets are set in terms of harvested volume.



7. FSC Glossary of Terms

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

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

Some terms have been added or modified according to the French context.

Words used in the NFSS for Metropolitan France, if not defined in this Glossary of Terms or other normative FSC documents, are used as defined in the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary or the Concise Oxford Dictionary.

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

Affected stakeholder: See "stakeholder" definition.

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

[Go to Annex C.](#)

Ageing area: area where the forest manager lets the trees grow for twice as long the normal rotation period, while maintaining production objectives. Those stands offer both habitats for species specific from old forests and production of large timber of potential high economic value.

Amendment: input of mineral or organic substances to the soil to permanently restore its damaged production capacity

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 V5-0).

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

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

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

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

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

Clear cut: cut of the totality of the forest stand – exception made of trees maintained for landscape or biodiversity objectives - in one single operation, with no natural regeneration already established.

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. Examples of Confidential Information* include data and content:

- related to investment decisions;
- which is client confidential;
- which is, by law, confidential;
- whose dissemination could put at risk* the protection* of wildlife species and habitats*, water (in particular drinkable water), archeological sites, etc.

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 V5-0).

Connectivity: a measure of how connected or spatially continuous a corridor, network, or matrix is. The fewer gaps, the higher the connectivity. Related to the structural connectivity concept, functional or 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, 632pp).

Conservation/Protection: These words are used interchangeably when referring to management activities designed to maintain the identified environmental or cultural values in existence long-term. Management activities may range from zero or minimal interventions to a specified range of appropriate interventions and activities designed to maintain, or compatible with maintaining, these identified values (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

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

Conservation zones and protection areas: defined areas that are designated and managed primarily to safeguard species, habitats, ecosystems, natural features or other site-specific values because of their natural environmental or cultural values, or for purposes of monitoring, evaluation or research, not necessarily excluding other management activities. For the purposes of the Principles and Criteria, these terms are used interchangeably, without implying that one always has a higher degree of conservation or protection than the other. The term 'protected area' is not used for these areas, because this term implies *legal** or official status, covered by national regulations in many countries. In the context of the Principles and Criteria, management of these areas should involve active conservation, not passive protection' (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

Contractor: any person or entity carrying on activities in the Management Unit through a direct contractual relationship with the Organization. This includes, for example, logging companies, forest contractors, etc.

Critical: The concept of criticality or fundamentality in Principal 9 and HCVs relates to irreplaceability and to cases where loss or major damage to this HCV would cause serious prejudice or suffering to affected stakeholders. An ecosystem service is considered to be critical (HCV 4) where a disruption of that service is likely to cause, or poses a threat of, severe negative impacts on the welfare, health or survival of local communities, on the environment, on HCVs, or on the functioning of significant infrastructure (roads, dams, buildings etc.). The notion of criticality here refers to the importance and risk for natural resources and environmental and socio-economic values (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

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).



Cultivated forest (see **Plantation** for international definition): a forest area established by planting, sowing or coppicing 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 native ecosystems and semi-natural forests.

The stand is drastically modified for at least two of the main characteristics of native forest ecosystems. The main parameters defining the semi-natural forest category are:

- diversity: basal area of the main species >80%; the stand is mono-specific.
- native status: basal area of native species <75%; exotic species are present to a significant extent.
- maturity: rotation period of main stand <75 years; the longevity and maturity of the species are drastically shortened.

At least two of these parameters need to be verified (see annex B for more information on the implementation of this definition). Taking into account the local stand's diversity, other stands' parameters can be defined through engagement with stakeholders in order to streamline the identification of ambiguous cases.

Lands that do not fulfil the definition of forested area, nor are habitats associated with the forest* can be considered as cultivated forests.

Regeneration – natural or artificial – of a stand is not of itself considered as conversion to "cultivated forest".

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.

Culturally appropriate [mechanisms]: means/approaches for reaching out 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 V4-0).

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

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

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

Ecosystem function: an intrinsic ecosystem characteristic related to the set of conditions and processes whereby an ecosystem maintains its integrity (such as primary productivity, food chain, biogeochemical cycles). Ecosystem functions include such processes as decomposition, production, nutrient cycling, and fluxes of nutrients and energy. For FSC purposes, this definition includes ecological and evolutionary processes such as gene flow and disturbance regimes, regeneration cycles and ecological serial 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).

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 rights and expectations are considered in the establishment, implementation and updating of the *management plan** (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

Environmental impact assessment (EIA): systematic process used to identify potential environmental and social impacts of proposed projects, to evaluate alternative approaches, and to design and incorporate appropriate prevention, mitigation, management and monitoring measures (Source: based on Environmental impact assessment, guidelines for FAO field projects. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Rome,-STD-01-001 V5-0).

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

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

The actual worth attributed to these elements depends on human and societal perceptions (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

Expert: person, from or external to the Organization, whose capacity and knowledge on a given subject can be proven.

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 V5-0).

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

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

Forest: A tract of land dominated by forest trees and shrubs if their crown cover reaches at least 10 percent and area and their height a minimum of 5 meters (m) at maturity (Source: FAO and FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0. - 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 representing *workers** in dealings with *the Organization**, particularly regarding working conditions and remuneration.



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).

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 V5-0).

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

- open habitats
- rocky habitats
- wetland and aquatic habitats

Habitat features: *Fores** 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 clearings 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.

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 V5-0).

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

Indicator: A quantitative or qualitative variable which can be measured or described, and which provides a means of judging whether a *Management Unit** complies with the requirements of an FSC Criterion. Indicators and the associated thresholds thereby define the requirements for responsible forest management at the level of the *Management Unit** and are the primary basis



of forest evaluation (Source: FSC-STD-01-002 V1-0 FSC Glossary of Terms (2009)).

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

- The key characteristic or criterion is self-identification as an indigenous people at the individual level and acceptance by the community and its members;
- 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 social groups;
- Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities.

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

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: global approach to pest management which aims to reduce the use of external inputs (energy, pesticides) by taking advantage of self-regulating natural processes.

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

Intensity: A measure of the force, severity or strength of a management activity or other occurrence affecting the nature of the activity's impacts (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

Interested stakeholder: See "stakeholder" definition.

Internationally accepted scientific protocol: A predefined science-based procedure which is either published by an international scientific network or union, or referenced frequently in the international scientific literature (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).



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

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

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

Landscape values: Landscape values can be visualized as layers of human perceptions overlaid on the physical landscape. Some landscape values, such as economic, recreational, subsistence or visual quality values, 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 by physical landscape attributes (Source: based on website of the Landscape Value Institute).

Legal: in accordance with primary legislation (national or local laws) or secondary legislation (subsidiary regulations, decrees, orders, etc.). 'Legal' also includes rule-based decisions made by legally competent agencies where such decisions derive directly and logically from the laws and regulations. Decisions made by legally competent agencies may not be legal if they do not derive directly and logically from the laws and regulations and if they are not rule-based but involve administrative discretion (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

Legally competent: mandated in law to perform a certain function (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

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 V5-0).

Legal status: the way in which the Management Unit is classified according to law. In terms of



tenure, it means the category of tenure, such as communal land, leasehold or freehold, State 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 V5-0).

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

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

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

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

In the French context local communities have been identified as groups of rights-holders and users. These groups differ depending on the ownership of the forest, as follows:

All forests	Hunters with hunting rights (all hunting types)
All forests	Holders of mushroom picking licences granted by the forest owner or its representative
All forests	Farmers or farmers' associations making use of the forest as a grazing area (extensive sylvo-pastoralism of any type). Special case of the management of mountain forests (summer pasture)



Private forests	Licensed Communal Hunting Association (ACCA)
Private forests	Hunters engaged in a traditional and locally recognized form of hunting (no legal rights, but customary right upheld, e.g. shooting wood pigeons)
Municipality owned forests	Inhabitants of the municipality and holders of estover rights
State forests and other public forests	Users' associations (hikers, riders, cyclists, etc.) insofar as the social functions of public forests are recognized
All forests	Other relevant specific cases to be identified by the Organization, if applicable.

Local laws: the whole suite of primary and secondary laws (acts, ordinances, statutes, decrees) which are 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 V5-0).

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

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

Management plan: the collection of documents, reports, records and maps that describe, justify and regulate the activities carried out by any manager, staff or organization within or in relation to the Management Unit, including statements of objectives and policies (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

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 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 V5-0).

National laws: the whole suite of primary and secondary laws (acts, ordinances, statutes, decrees) which are 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 V5-0).

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

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Natural conditions/native ecosystem: For the purposes of the Principles and Criteria, and any applications of restoration techniques, terms such as 'more natural conditions', 'native ecosystem' provide for managing sites to favour or restore native species and associations of native species that are typical of the locality, and for managing these associations and other environmental values so that they form ecosystems typical of the locality. Further guidelines may be provided in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

Natural forest (National adaptation see **Semi-natural forest**):

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

'Natural forest' includes the following categories:

- Forest affected by harvesting or other disturbances, in which trees are being or have been regenerated by a combination of natural and artificial regeneration with species typical of natural forests in that site, and where many of the above-ground and below-ground characteristics of the natural forest are still present. In boreal and north temperate forests which are naturally composed of only one or few tree species, a combination of natural and artificial regeneration to regenerate forest of



the same native species, with most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems of that site, is not by itself considered as conversion to plantations;

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

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

'Natural forest' does not include land which is not dominated by trees, was previously not forest, and which does not yet contain many of the characteristics and elements of native ecosystems. Young regeneration may be considered as natural forest after some years of ecological progression. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may indicate when such areas may be excised from the Management Unit, should be restored towards more natural conditions, or may be converted to other land uses. (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

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

Non-timber forest products (NTFP): all products other than timber derived from the Management Unit (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

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

Obligatory code of practice: a manual or handbook or other source of technical instruction which the Organization must implement by law (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

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).

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

The Organization: the person or entity holding or applying for certification and therefore responsible for demonstrating compliance with the requirements upon which FSC certification is



based (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

Other parties (refers specifically to criteria 2.3 translation of the French "intervenant"): any person or entity carrying on activities in the Management Unit, whether or not it has any direct contractual relationship with the Organization. This includes, for example, sub-subcontractors and logging companies.

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

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

- o 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.

- o 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.

- o 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 V5-0).

Plot (forest plot): relatively homogeneous stand on which will be applied a set of silvicultural activities in conformity with the requirements of this Standard.

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

Pre-harvest [condition]: the diversity, composition, and structure of the *forest** or plantation



prior to felling timber and appurtenant activities such as road building.

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

Protection: See definition of "Conservation".

Protection Area: See definition of "Conservation Zone".

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

Rare species: species that are uncommon or scarce, but not classified as threatened. These species are located in geographically restricted areas or specific habitats, or are scantily scattered on a large scale. They are approximately equivalent to the IUCN (2001) category of Near Threatened (NT), including species that are close to qualifying for, or are likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future. They are also approximately equivalent to imperilled species (Source: based on IUCN. (2001). IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK).

Ratified: the process by which an international law, convention or agreement (including multi-lateral environmental agreements) is legally approved by a national legislature or equivalent *legal** mechanism, such that the international law, convention or agreement becomes automatically part of national law or sets in motion the development of national law to give the same *legal** effect (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

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 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 the Glen Canyon Dam website).

Representative sample areas: Portions of the Management Unit* delineated for the purpose of preserving and restoring of the ecological dynamics of naturally occurring ecosystems in that geographical region. In the French context they therefore correspond to a retention system of unmanaged* and ageing areas* (see corresponding definitions).

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



Washington D.C.: IUCN-WCPA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and The Nature Conservancy.).

Restore / Restoration: These words are used in different senses according to the context and in everyday speech. In some cases 'restore' means to repair the damage done to environmental values that resulted from management activities or other causes. In other cases 'restore' means the formation of more natural conditions in sites which have been heavily degraded or converted to other land uses. In the Principles and Criteria, the word 'restore' is not used to imply the recreation of any particular previous, pre-historic, pre-industrial or other pre-existing ecosystem (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

*The Organization** is not necessarily obliged to restore environmental values that have been affected by factors beyond its control, for example by natural disasters, climate change or 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. Neither is the Organization obliged to restore environmental values that may have existed at some time in the historic or pre-historic past, or that have been negatively affected by previous owners or organizations. However, the Organization is expected to take reasonable measures to mitigate, control and prevent environmental degradation which is continuing in the Management Unit as a result of such previous impacts.

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

Risk: the probability of an unacceptable negative impact arising from any activity in the Management Unit combined with its seriousness in terms of consequences (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

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 V5-0).

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

Semi-natural forest (See **Natural forest** for international definition): A natural forest is 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 cultivated forest*. The main parameters defining the semi-natural forest category are:

- diversity: basal area of the main species <80%. As a general rule, several species are mixed in significant proportions.



- native status: basal area of native species >75%.
- maturity: rotation period of main stand >75 years. The longevity of main species is often above 200 years and can exceed 500 years in some cases. Maturity is a key element in improving the carrying capacity for biodiversity.

At least two of these parameters need to be verified (see annex B for more information on the implementation of this definition). Taking into account the local stands' diversity, other stand parameters can be defined through engagement with stakeholders in order to streamline the identification of ambiguous cases.

However, the category "semi-natural forest" can also include areas considered to be associated with forest ecosystems (wetlands, open areas, rocky outcrops, etc.) if they fulfil the definition of forest.

Significant: For the purposes of Principle 9, HCVs 1, 2 and 6, there are three main forms of recognition of a significant aspect:

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

Any one of these forms will justify designation as HCVs 1, 2 and 6. Many regions of the world have received recognition for their importance in terms of biodiversity, 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 V5-0).

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

Stakeholder: Any person, group of persons or entity that:

- is or is likely to be subject to the effects of the activities of one or several Management Units, (use right holders, local communities, neighbouring landowners, etc.), or
- has shown an interest, or is known to have an interest, in the activities of one or several Management Units (environmental associations, Regional Natural Parks, inter-branch organizations, etc.), or



- whose legal scope of responsibility is concerned by the activities of one or several Management Units (administrations of forest and environmental sectors).

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: World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions provided on IUCN website).

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tree: Woody plant that can grow higher than 7 meters in optimum conditions and can form one or several trunks.

Unmanaged area: Area voluntarily abandoned to natural evolution until total collapse of trees



and resumption of the silvo-génétique cycle. Those stands offer habitats that increase the "natu-
rality" of the forest: large and old trees can be found as in a natural forest, allowing shelter to
specific species. This "non-management" is a key element of a management plan.

Uphold: to acknowledge, respect, sustain and support (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

Use rights: Rights for the use of resources of the Management Unit that can be defined by
local custom or 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 V5-0).

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

Very limited portion: The area affected *shall** not exceed 0.5% of the area of the *Management
Unit** in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% of the area of the *Management Unit**
(Source: based on FSC-STD-01-002 V1-0 FSC Glossary of Terms (2009)).

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

- hazardous wastes, including chemical wastes 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.

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



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8. Annexes to the Forest Stewardship Standard for France (metropolitan area)

Annex A

List of applicable laws, regulations and nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements – Indicative list only.

1. Legal* rights to harvest	
<p>1.1 Land-tenure* and management rights</p>	<p>Legislation covering land-tenure* rights, including customary rights* and management rights, that includes the use of legal* methods to obtain tenure* rights and management rights. It also covers the legal* registration of businesses and tax registration, including relevant legally required licenses.</p> <p>Code civil : Art 516 à 543 ; Art. 537, 543, 544; Art.544 à 577; Art.625 à 636; Art. 625 à 636; Livre 3.</p> <p>Code de la propriété des personnes publiques: L2212-1 ; partie 2 Livres 2 et 3 ; partie 3 livre 2; partie 1 Livres 1 et 2.</p> <p>Décret n° 2012-59 du 18 janvier 2012 relatif à la délivrance au public de certaines informations cadastrales.</p> <p>L107 A du livre des procédures fiscales.</p> <p>Code forestier : Art. L122-3 ; L124-1 à L124-6.</p> <p>Arrêté du 19/07/2012 déterminant les éléments obligatoires du plan de simple gestion des forêts privées et des documents annexes.</p>
<p>1.2 Concession licenses</p>	<p>Legislation regulating procedures for issuing forest* concession licenses, including the use of legal* methods to obtain concession licenses. Bribery, corruption and nepotism are well-known issues connected with concession licenses.</p> <p>Loi no 2001-1168 du 11 décembre 2001 portant mesures urgentes de réformes à caractère économique et financier (Loi MURCEF), notamment article 3 définissant la délégation de service public.</p> <p>Loi n° 85-704 du 12 juillet 1985 relative à la maîtrise d'ouvrage publique et à ses rapports avec la maîtrise d'œuvre privée.</p>



	<p>Articles 537, 543 et 544 du code civil.</p> <p>Code forestier: L331-1 à L331-7; L315-1; L315-2 ; L231-1 à L231-6; L232-1 à L232-3; L233-1 à L233-10; L332-1 à L332-4; L332-5; L332-6.</p> <p>Code de la propriété des personnes publiques Partie 4.</p> <p>Ensemble des directives européennes « travaux ».</p> <p>Loi du 3/01/1991 relative à la transparence et à la régularité des procédures de marchés ainsi que ses deux décrets d'application du 18/09/90 et 31/03/92.</p> <p>Code des marchés publics</p> <p>Loi du 29/01/1993 relative à la prévention de la corruption et à la transparence dans la vie économique et des procédures publiques.</p> <p>Ordonnance n° 2004-559 du 17 juin 2004 sur les contrats de partenariat.</p>
<p>1.3 Management and harvesting planning</p>	<p>Any national or sub-national legal* requirements for management planning, including conducting forest* inventories, having a forest* management plan* and related planning and monitoring, impact assessments, consultation with other entities, as well as approval of these by legally competent* authorities.</p> <p>Code forestier : L212-1 à L212-3, L213-5 et L214-5, L122-5 et L212-4 ; L312-1 à L312-12, L313-1 à L313-2, L313-3 ; L312-9 à L312-10; R312-20.</p> <p>Loi n°2010-874 du 27/07/2010 de modernisation de l'agriculture et de la pêche ;</p> <p>Circulaire DGPAAT/SDFB/C2010-3111 du 15/12/2010 sur l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre des plans pluriannuels régionaux de développement forestier ;</p> <p>Circulaire DGPAAT/SDFB/C2010-3079 du 9/08/2010 sur les stratégies locales de développement forestier ;</p> <p>Circulaire DPAAT/SDFB/C2010-3100 du 16/11/2010 sur la simplification de la procédure administrative d'instruction et de contrôle pour l'établissement des plans de simple gestion ;</p> <p>Loi n°2012-357 22/03/2013 relative à la simplification du droit et à l'allègement des démarches administratives ;</p> <p>Décret n°2011-587 relatif aux conditions d'établissement d'un plan de simple</p>



	<p>gestion ;</p> <p>Décret n°2012-616 du 2/05/2012 relatif à l'évaluation et de certains plans et documents ayant une incidence sur l'environnement ;</p> <p>Décret n°2013-194 du 5/03/2013 relatif aux opérations de protection de l'environnement dans les espaces ruraux.</p>
1.4 Harvesting permits	<p>National or sub-national laws and regulations regulating procedures for issuing harvesting permits, licenses or other legal* documents required for specific harvesting operations. This includes the use of legal* methods to obtain the permits. Corruption is a well-known issue connected with the issuing of harvesting permits.</p> <p>Code forestier: L212-2 et L213-5 à L213-23; L214-6 à L214-11; L-312-2, L312-4, L312-5 ; L312-9, L312-10 ; L312-11 et L312-12; L362-1 à L362-3.</p> <p>Arrêté du 19/07/2012 déterminant les éléments obligatoires du plan de simple gestion des forêts privées et des documents annexes, version en vigueur au 28/07/2012.</p>
2. Taxes and fees	
2.1 Payment of royalties and harvesting fees	<p>Legislation covering payment of all legally required specific forest* harvesting fees, such as royalties, stumpage fees and other volume-based fees. This includes payments of the fees based on the correct classification of quantities, qualities and species. Incorrect classification of forest* products is a well-known problem, often combined with bribery of officials in charge of controlling such classification.</p> <p>Does not apply.</p>
2.2 Value added taxes and other sales taxes	<p>Legislation covering different types of sales taxes which apply to the material being sold, including the sale of material as growing forest* (standing stock sales).</p> <p>Code général des Impôts : Partie 1, titre 4, chapitre 1, section 2, VI, voir Art. 777 ; Partie 1, titre 4, chapitre 1, section 2, II, voir Art. 682-717; Art. 150U et suivants.</p> <p>TVA: partie 1, titre 2, chapitre 1, Art. 293B.</p>



<p>2.3 Income and profit taxes</p>	<p>Legislation covering income and profit taxes related to profit derived from the sale of forest* products and harvesting activities. This category is also related to income from the sale of timber. It does not include other taxes generally applicable to companies and is not related to salary payments.</p> <p>Code général des Impôts :</p> <p>L'impôt sur le revenu: partie 1- titre 1-chapitre 1 Art.206.</p> <p>L'impôt sur la société: partie 1- titre 1-chapitre 2 Art.197.</p>
<p>3. Timber harvesting activities</p>	
<p>3.1 Timber harvesting regulations</p>	<p>All legal* requirements for harvesting techniques and technology, including selective cutting, shelter wood regeneration, clear felling, transport of timber from the felling site, seasonal limitations, etc. Typically this includes regulations on the size of felling areas, minimum age and/or diameter for felling activities, and elements that must be preserved during felling, etc. Establishment of sledging or hauling trails, road construction, drainage systems and bridges, etc., must also be considered, as well as the planning and monitoring of harvesting activities. All legally binding codes for harvesting practices must be considered.</p> <p>Règlement national d'exploitation forestière (RNEF) ;</p> <p>Décret n°2009-1424 du 19/11/2009 portant dérogation aux dispositions relatives aux délais de paiement dans le secteur des bois ronds pour l'approvisionnement des entreprises d'exploitations forestières et de première transformation du bois ;</p> <p>L153-1 à L156-3 du code forestier ;</p> <p>Arrêté du 24 octobre 2003 portant fixation des régions de provenance des essences forestières ;</p> <p>Arrêté du 29/06/2009 modifiant l'arrêté du 24/10/2003 modifié portant fixation des régions de provenance des essences forestières ;</p> <p>Arrêté du 9 avril 2014 modifiant l'arrêté du 24 octobre 2003 modifié portant fixation des régions de provenance des essences forestières ;</p>



	<p>Arrêté du 24 octobre 2003 portant admission sur le territoire français de matériels de base des essences forestières ;</p> <p>Arrêté du 20/11/2008 modifiant l'arrêté du 24/10/2003 modifié portant admission sur le territoire français de matériel de base des essences forestières ;</p> <p>Arrêté du 29/06/2009 modifiant l'arrêté du 24/10/2003 modifié portant admission sur le territoire français de matériels de base des essences forestières;</p>
<p>3.2 Protected sites and species</p>	<p>International, national, and sub-national treaties, laws, and regulations related to protected areas, allowable forest* uses and activities, and/or rare, threatened, or endangered species, including their habitats* and potential habitats*.</p> <p>Convention sur la diversité biologique -1992 ;</p> <p>Convention sur les changements climatiques -1992 ;</p> <p>Convention de Ramsar du 2/02/1971 relative aux zones humides d'importance internationale ;</p> <p>Convention UNESCO pour la protection du patrimoine mondial, culturel et naturel du 16/11/1972.</p> <p>Critères d'Helsinki de 1993 et de Vienne de 2002 ;</p> <p>Convention relative à la conservation de la vie sauvage et du milieu naturel en Europe de 1979 ;</p> <p>Directive oiseaux de 1979 ;</p> <p>Directive habitats de 1992 ;</p> <p>Règlement (CE) n°401-2009 du parlement européen et du conseil du 23/04/2009 relatif à l'agence européenne pour l'environnement et au réseau européen d'information et d'observation pour l'environnement.</p> <p>Arrêté du 27/05/2009 fixant la liste des espèces de vertébrés protégées menacées d'extinction en France et dont l'aire de répartition excède le territoire d'un département;</p> <p>Décret n° 2011-966 du 16/08/2011 relatif au régime d'autorisation administrative propre à Natura 2000;</p>



	<p>Décret n°2010-365 du 9/04/2010 relatif à l'évaluation des incidences Natura 2000 ;</p> <p>Protocole d'application de la convention alpine dans le domaine de la protection de la nature et de l'entretien des paysages (1991) ;</p> <p>Code de l'environnement : L411-1 and L411-2.</p> <p>Code de l'environnement livre 3 complet sur les espaces naturels ;</p> <p>Décret n° 2009-377 du 3/04/09 relatif aux parcs nationaux.</p> <p>Code forestier livre 4, L411-1, régime du classement des forêts de protection.</p>
<p>3.3 Environmental requirements</p>	<p>National and sub-national laws and regulations related to the identification and/or protection* of environmental values*, including but not limited to those relating to or affected by harvesting, acceptable levels for soil damage, establishment of buffer zones (e.g., along water courses, open areas and breeding sites), maintenance of retention trees on the felling site, seasonal limitations of harvesting time, environmental requirements for forest* machinery, use of pesticides* and other chemicals, biodiversity conservation*, air quality, protection* and restoration* of water quality, operation of recreational equipment, development of non-forestry infrastructure*, mineral exploration and extraction, etc.</p> <p>Code de l'Environnement L122-1 à L122-12 ; L160-1 à 165-2 ; Art. L.214-3, L. 215-9, L. 215-14 et L. 432-2 ;</p> <p>Décret n ° 2011-2018 du 29/12/2011 portant réforme de l'enquête publique relative aux opérations susceptibles d'affecter l'environnement ;</p> <p>Décret n °2011-2019 du 29/11/2011 portant réforme des études d'impact des projets de travaux, d'ouvrages ou d'aménagement ;</p> <p>Ordonnance n°2012-34 du 11/01/2012 portant simplification, réforme et harmonisation des dispositions de police administrative et de police judiciaire du code de l'environnement ;</p> <p>Décret n° 2009-468 du 23/04/2009 relatif à la prévention et à la réparation de certains dommages causés à l'environnement ;</p>



	<p>Code forestier : L212-1 à L212-3, L213-5 et L214-5, L122-5 et L212-4 ; L312-1 à L312-12, L313-1 à L313-2, L313-3.</p> <p>Règlement national d'exploitation forestière (RNEF) ;</p> <p>Arrêté du 20/05/2009 fixant la barrière d'indemnisation des dégâts causés par les espèces de grand gibier soumis à plan de chasse</p>
<p>3.4 Health and safety</p>	<p>Legally required personal protection* equipment for persons involved in harvesting activities, implementation of safe felling and transport practices, establishment of protection* zones around harvesting sites, safety requirements for the machinery used, and legally required safety requirements in relation to the use of chemicals. The health and safety requirements that must be considered in relation to forestry operations (not office work or other activities less related to actual forest* operations).</p> <p>Code du travail : Partie 4 entière ; Partie 4 livre VII dont Titre II, section 1 Art. R4121-1 to R4121-4 ; Partie 8, L8112-1 à L8123-6</p> <p>Arrêté du 31/03/2011 relatif à la fiche de chantier prévue à l'article R.717-78-1 du code rural ;</p> <p>Décret n° 2010-1603 du 17/12/2010 relatif aux règles d'hygiène et de sécurité sur les chantiers forestiers et sylvicoles ;</p> <p>Note de service DGPAAT/SDFB/N2012-3019 DU 9/05/2012 sur la mise en œuvre de la réglementation relative aux règles d'hygiène et de sécurité sur les chantiers forestiers et sylvicoles ;</p> <p>Code de l'environnement, L511-1 à 523-8;</p> <p>Code rural, L 251-1 à 258-2;</p> <p>Règlement national d'exploitation forestière (RNEF): chapitre 2.3.</p>
<p>3.5 Legal* employment</p>	<p>Legal* requirements for the employment of personnel involved in harvesting activities, including requirements for contracts and working permits, requirements for obligatory insurance, requirements for competence certificates and other training requirements, and the payment of social-security contributions</p>



	<p>and income taxes deducted by the employer. Also covered are the observance of minimum working age and minimum age for personnel involved in hazardous work, legislation to combat forced and compulsory labour, and discrimination and freedom of association.</p> <p>Code du Travail : Partie 1, titre III art L1131-1 à L1134-5 ; Livre 2 : Partie 2 et 3 ; Partie 4 titre V ; Partie 6 ; Partie 8 dont L8112-1 à L8123-6 ; Partie 8 livre 2 entier dont L8211-1 à 8272-4.</p> <p>Levée de présomption de salariat des personnes occupées dans les exploitations ou entreprises de travaux forestiers :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Décret n°2009-99 du 28/01/2009 ; - Circulaire DGPAAT/SDFR/C2009-3077 du 1/07/2009 ; - Décret n° 2010-1066 du 7/09/2010 ; - Arrêté du 7/06/2013. <p>Décret 2012-1042 de la 11/09/2012 portant application de l'article L315-1 du code forestier relatif au gestionnaire forestier professionnel ;</p> <p>Arrêté du 29/11/2012 relatif au dossier à établir pour obtenir l'attestation reconnaissant la qualité de gestionnaire forestier professionnel ;</p> <p>Circulaire DGPAAT/SDFB/C 2013-3004 du 9/01/2013 ayant pour objet la mise en place du dispositif de gestionnaire forestier professionnel ;</p> <p>Décret n°2010-959 du 25/08/2010 portant diverses dispositions relatives à l'exercice de la profession d'expert forestier et agricole et d'expert forestier dans le cadre d'une société ;</p> <p>Décret n°2013-340 du 22/04/2013 portant codification des dispositions réglementaires relatives à l'exercice sous forme de société de la profession d'expert foncier et agricole et d'expert forestier.</p>
<p>4. Third parties' rights</p>	
<p>4.1 Customary rights*</p>	<p>Legislation covering customary rights* relevant to forest* harvesting activities, including requirements covering the sharing of benefits and indigenous rights.</p> <p>Code forestier : L122-9 à L122-11 ; L241-1 à L241-19; L242-1 à L244-1; L213-24 à L213-26, L261-9 à L261-11; R241-1 à R243-3 et R261-9 à R261-17 ;</p>



	<p>L314-1 à L314-3 ; R213-45 à R213-68 ;</p> <p>Code de l'environnement L420-1 à L429-40 et R421-1 à R429-21.</p>
<p>4.2 Free, Prior and Informed Consent*</p>	<p>Legislation covering “free, prior and informed consent” in connection with the transfer of forest* management rights and customary rights* to the Organization* in charge of the harvesting operation.</p> <p>Does not apply.</p>
<p>4.3 Indigenous Peoples** rights</p>	<p>Legislation that regulates the rights of Indigenous Peoples*, insofar as it is related to forestry activities. Possible aspects to consider are land tenure*, as well as rights to use certain forest* related resources and practice traditional activities, which may involve forest* lands.</p> <p>Does not apply.</p>
<p>5. Trade and transport</p> <p>NOTE: This section covers requirements for forest* management operations, as well as processing and trade.</p>	
<p>5.1 Classification of species, quantities, qualities</p>	<p>Legislation regulating how harvested material is classified in terms of species, volumes and qualities in connection with trade and transport. Incorrect classification of harvested material is a well-known way of reducing or avoiding payment of legally prescribed taxes and fees.</p> <p>Arrêté du 9 novembre 1999 relatif aux documents de transport ou de location devant se trouver à bord des véhicules de transport routier de marchandises, art. 2, 4, 7, 8, 9</p> <p>Arrêté du 22 avril 2010 relatif aux documents de transport routier de marchandises et au transport combiné de marchandises modifiant les art. 4 et 7 du texte cité ci-dessus</p> <p>Décret n° 99-752 du 30 août 1999 relatif aux transports routiers de marchandises, art. 12, 17 et 19</p> <p>Arrêté du 25 septembre 1991 relatif à l'exécution des transports combinés de marchandises entre les Etats membres de la Communauté économique européenne modifié par le texte suivant: arrêté du 21 février 1995 ;</p>



	Décret n° 2009-780 du 23 juin 2009 relatif au transport de bois ronds et complétant le code de la route
5.2 Trade and transport	<p>All necessary trading and transport permits must be established, as well as the legally required transport documents which accompany the transport of wood from forest* operations.</p> <p>Arrêté du 9 novembre 1999 relatif aux documents de transport ou de location devant se trouver à bord des véhicules de transport routier de marchandises, art. 2, 4, 7, 8, 9</p> <p>Arrêté du 22 avril 2010 relatif aux documents de transport routier de marchandises et au transport combiné de marchandises modifiant les art. 4 et 7 du texte cité ci-dessus</p> <p>Décret n° 99-752 du 30 août 1999 relatif aux transports routiers de marchandises, art. 12, 17 et 19</p> <p>Arrêté du 25 septembre 1991 relatif à l'exécution des transports combinés de marchandises entre les Etats membres de la Communauté économique européenne modifié par le texte suivant: arrêté du 21 février 1995 ;</p> <p>Décret n° 2009-780 du 23 juin 2009 relatif au transport de bois ronds et complétant le code de la route</p>
5.3 Offshore trading and transfer pricing	<p>Legislation regulating offshore trading. Offshore trading with related companies based in tax havens, combined with artificial transfer prices, is a well-known way of avoiding payment of legally prescribed taxes and fees to the country of harvest. This practice is considered to be an important source of funds for the payment of bribes and the obtaining of "dirty money" for forest* operations and the personnel involved in harvesting. Many countries have established legislation covering transfer pricing and offshore trading. It should be noted that only transfer pricing and offshore trading, as far as it is legally prohibited in the country, can be included here.</p> <p>Does not apply.</p>
5.4 Customs regulations	<p>Customs legislation covering areas such as export/import licenses and product classification (codes, quantities, qualities and species).</p> <p>Code des douanes: Art. 23 bis, 68 à 82 ; Art. 22 et 23, 83 ; Art. 28</p>



	<p>RÈGLEMENT (CE) No 2173/2005 DU CONSEIL du 20 décembre 2005 concernant la mise en place d'un régime d'autorisation FLEGT relatif aux importations de bois dans la Communauté européenne</p> <p>Règlement No 1024/2008 de la commission du 17 octobre 2008 arrêtant les modalités de mise en œuvre du règlement N° 2173/2005 du Conseil concernant la mise en place d'un régime d'autorisation FLEGT relatif aux importations de bois dans la Communauté européenne</p>
5.5 CITES	<p>CITES permits (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Washington Convention).</p> <p>RÈGLEMENT (CE) N o 338/97 DU CONSEIL du 9 décembre 1996 relatif à la protection des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages par le contrôle de leur commerce</p> <p>Règlement (CE) no 1497-2003 de la commission du 18 août 2003 modifiant le règlement (CE) no 338-97 du Conseil relatif à la protection des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages par la réglementation de leur commerce</p> <p>Règlement (CE) no 1808/2001 de la Commission du 30 août 2001 portant modalités d'application du règlement (CE) no 338/97 du Conseil relatif à la protection des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages par le contrôle de leur commerce.</p>
6. Due diligence / due care	
6.1 Due diligence / due care procedures	Legislation requiring due diligence/due care procedures, e.g. due diligence/due care systems, the obligation to make declarations and/or keep trade-related documents, etc.
7. Ecosystem Services	
	Legislation covering ecosystem services* rights, including customary rights*, management rights that include the use of legal* methods to make claims and obtain benefits, and management rights relating to ecosystem services*. National and sub-national laws and regulations relating to the identification, protection and payment for ecosystem services*. Also includes legal* business registration and tax registration, including legally required licenses for exploitation, payment and claims relating to ecosystem services* (including tourism).



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

a) Implementation

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

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

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

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

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

Criteria	Diversity	Native status	Maturity	Sum	Qualification
Parameters Yes=1/No=0	Basal area of main species < 80%.	Basal area of native species > 75%	Rotation period for the main stand >75 years.		
Sub-natural forest	1	1	None ; 1	3	SNF
Regular stand of Oak in the Centre-West region	0	1	1	2	SNF
Regular stand of <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> in the Massif Central region	0	1	1	2	SNF
Irregular stand of de <i>Pinus maritimus</i> in the Landes de Gascogne region	0	1	1	2	SNF
Regular stand of broadleaves or mixed	0 or 1	0 or 1	1	1 or 2	CF ou SNF
Mediterranean scrubland	1	1	None ; 1	3	SNF
Coppice stand of Oak or Beech	1 or 0	1	0	2 or 1	CF ou SNF
Coppice stand of <i>Castanea sativa</i>	0	1	0	1	CF
Coppice stand of <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	0	0	0	0	CF



Regular stand of <i>Pinus maritimus</i> with short rotation in the Landes de Gascogne region	0	1	0	1	CF
Regular stand of Douglas fir or Spruce in lowlands	0	0	0 or 1	0 or 1	CF
Poplar grove (clones)	0	1	0	1	CF

Annex C - Interpretation of the notions of native and exotic species for France

a) Typology of species

Species are classified following a simple and historical typology:

- **Native species:** species whose presence in the silvo-ecoregion¹ is due only to natural processes (colonization, competition) ;
- **Archeophyte species:** species introduced by human activity in the silvo-ecoregion before 1500 AD, sometimes as long ago as the Middle Ages or Gallo-Roman times (*Catanea sativa* for example). Archeophyte species will be considered as native for the purposes of this Standard.
- **Neophyte species:** species introduced after 1500 AD. Neophyte species are considered exotic for the purposes of this Standard.

b) Definition

The native status of a forest plot* is assessed in terms of the proportion (%) of native species in the overall basal area. The silvo-ecoregion is the biogeographic scale chosen to define the native status of tree species. To identify a specie's status in a silvo-ecoregion, consult the distribution maps drawn up by Rameau *et al.* (2008) or those of EUFORGEN (http://www.euforgen.org/distribution_maps).

c) Justification

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

¹ Since 2011, France has been subdivided in 86 silvo-ecoregions by the National Institute for Geographic and Forest Information (IGN). They correspond to areas combining biogeographical factors significant for forest production and distribution of the main forest habitats. For further information : <http://inventaire-forestier.ign.fr/spip/spip.php?article773>



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



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

a) Definition (FSC Terms and Glossary)

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

b) Justification

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

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

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

c) Implementation

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

France:

<http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/listeEspeces/statut/metropole/J>

Bio Intelligence Service, 2010, Recensement des actions de lutte menées en France métropolitaine contre les espèces exotiques envahissantes, MEEDDM / MEDDTL

Europe :

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

Worldwide :



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

d) List of the main invasive forest species

Scientific name	Common name	Bibliographic reference
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Robinier faux-acacia (False acacia / Black locust)	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle : http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/listeEspeces/statut/metropole/J Bio Intelligence Service, 2010, Recensement des actions de lutte menées en France métropolitaine contre les espèces exotiques envahissantes, MEEDDM / MEDDTL
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Chêne rouge (Red oak)	Forum Belge sur les Espèces Invasives http://ias.biodiversity.be/species/show/87 Evaluation des indicateurs nationaux de biodiversité forestière – Hamza et. Al 2007 - Inventaire Forestier National (p.69)

e) Indicative list of other invasive tree, shrub and plant species

Scientific name	Common name	Bibliographic reference
<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Mimosa argenté, Mimosa des fleuristes, Mimosa de Bormes (Silver wattle / Mimosa)	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle : http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/listeEspeces/statut/metropole/J
<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Acacia à bois dur, Acacia à bois noir (Australian blackwood)	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle : http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/listeEspeces/statut/metropole/J



<i>Acer negundo</i>	Érable negundo, Érable frêne, Érable Négondo (Box elder / Ash-leaved maple)	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle : http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/listeEspecies/statut/metropole/J
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i>	Faux-verniss du Japon, Verniss du Japon, Ailanthé (Tree of heaven)	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle : http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/listeEspecies/statut/metropole/J
<i>Cytisus multiflorus</i>	Cytise blanc, Cytise à fleurs nombreuses (White broom)	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle : http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/listeEspecies/statut/metropole/J
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Rhododendron pontique (Common or Pontic rhododendron)	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle : http://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/listeEspecies/statut/metropole/J
<i>Phytolacca americana</i>	Raisin d'Amérique (American pokeweed)	Bio Intelligence Service, 2010, Recensement des actions de lutte menées en France métropolitaine contre les espèces exotiques envahissantes, MEEDDM / MEDDTL
<i>Prunus serotina</i>	Cerisier tardif (Black cherry)	Bio Intelligence Service, 2010, Recensement des actions de lutte menées en France métropolitaine contre les espèces exotiques envahissantes, MEEDDM / MEDDTL

Annex E High Conservation Value Framework (metropolitan area)

Methodology

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

The discussions with three groups of experts consisting of scientists, naturalists, managers of forests or nature reserves, representatives of institutions and local authorities, independent auditors; feedback from public consultation; and work already done in other European countries (Romania, Slovakia, Portugal, Spain) provided the Standard Development Group (SDG – see its composition in the NFSS) with a working base. The actors who have participated, intermittently or continuously, in the expert groups the groups of experts are listed in Table 1. The final version of this framework has been approved by the SGD.

Table 1. Groups of experts who have participated in the work of developing this framework

Group of experts meeting in Paris	Pierre Beaudesson (CNPF) ; Fabienne Benest (IGN) ; Nicolas Debaive (RNF) ; Vincent Fidon (CBB) ; Romain Gamelon (CEN Bourgogne) ; Michel Hermeline (ONF) ; Claire Collomb-Dupuy, Claire Nowak (AEV) ; Yoan Paillet (IRSTEA) ; Paul Rouveyrol (MNHN) ; Marie Thomas (PNF) ; Julien Touroult (MNHN) ; Daniel Vallauri (WWF).
Group of experts meeting in Lyon	Christophe Chauvin (IRSTEA) ; Fabrice Coq, Laurent Lathuillière (ONF) ; Benoit Courbaud (IRSTEA) ; Laurent Charnay, Chantal Faure (DRAAF) ; Hélène Foglar (FRAPNA) ; Kévin Harang (CFT Sud-Isère) ; Ornella Kristo (CBNA) ; Pierre Paccard (PNR Bauges) ; Benoît Renaux (CBN MC) ; Arthur Vernet (LPO Rhône-Alpes).
Group of experts meeting in Lille	Fanny Cadoret (Nord Picardie Bois), Thierry Cornier (CBN Bailleul), Marie Delcourte (University of Valenciennes), Laurent Dupayage (COFNOR) ; Fanny Floriani (DREAL Hauts de France), William Glorie (Conseil Régional Hauts de France), Pauline Pecquet (Maison du Bois)
Independent experts/auditors	Nicolas Perthuisot, Stéphane Rivain

High Conservation Values in FSC certification

A distinction needs to be made between High Conservation Values and the environmental and cultural values considered in Principles 4, 6 and 10 of the forest management standard (FSC-STD-FRA-01-2016 Metropolitan France).

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

Principle 9 in practice

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

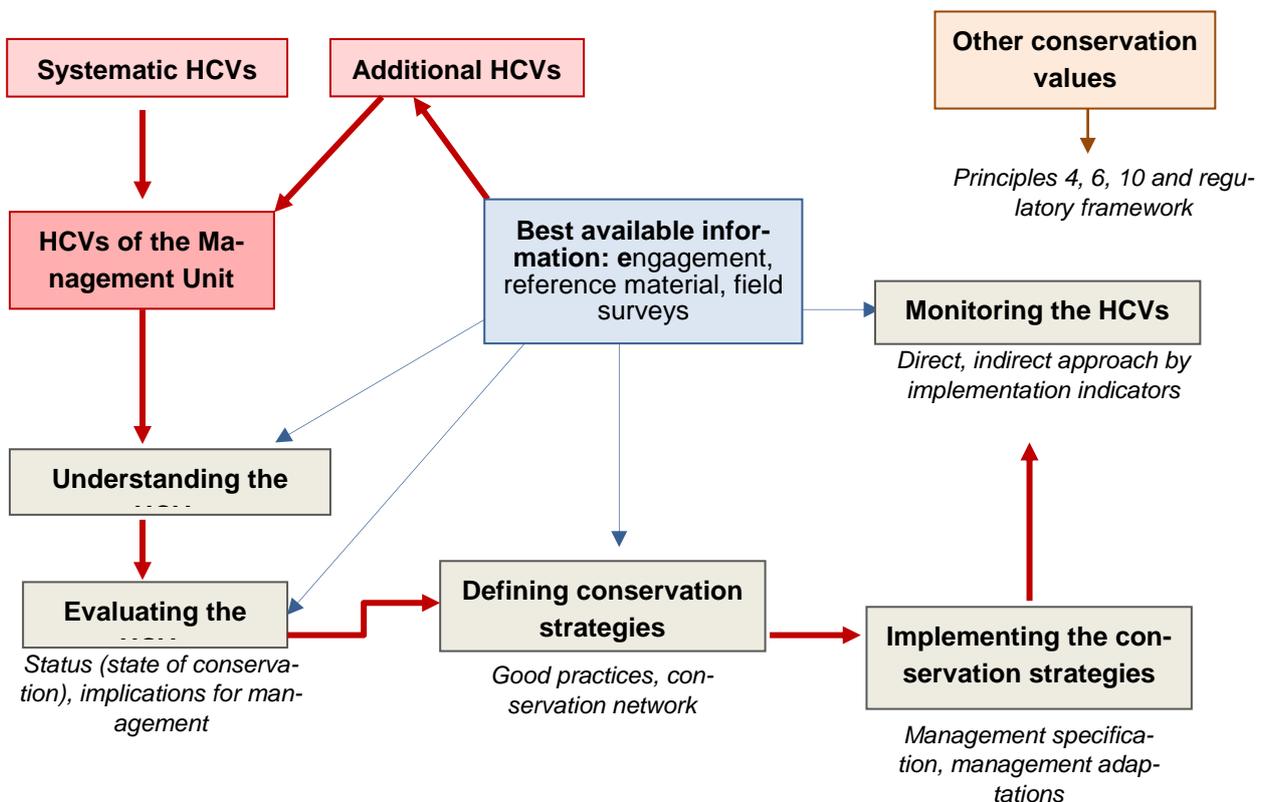


Figure 1. Stages in the process of identification, assessment (Criterion 9.1), adaptation of management (Criteria 9.2 and 9.3) and monitoring (Criterion 9.4) of High Conservation Values

Note: This sequence also applies to Criterion 6.4, since, where regulation is concerned, the species and habits covered by this criterion are taken into account via Principle 9 or Principle 1.

Defining HCVs in a Management Unit

It is proposed that HCVs be defined using two processes:

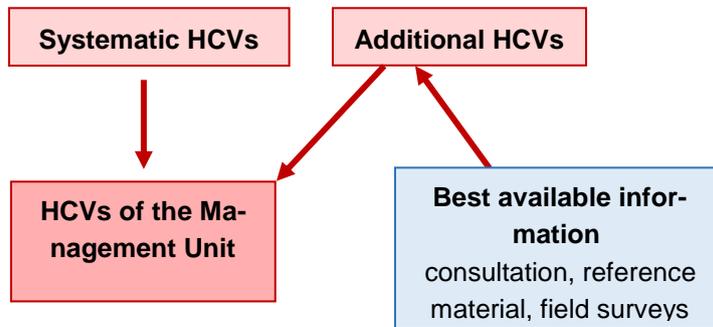


Table 2 sums up the definition of HCVs for metropolitan France. The other nationally defined areas that may facilitate the definition of HCVs at local level are listed in the standard implementation guide.

Table 2. Summary of definitions of HCVs in metropolitan France

Type of HCV	Systematic HCVs	Additional HCVs classified at local level on the basis of <u>best available information</u>
1 or 3	Type-1 ZNIEFFs, Natura 2000 sites (ZSC, ZPS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other areas defined on a national scale (in particular nature reserves, core areas of national parks, Prefectoral Biotope Protection Orders) • Other species/habitats defined by the Organization
2	No type-2 HCVs in France	
4	Protection forest (other than peri-	Other forests with a protective role



	urban)	
5	Immediate and proximate water catchment protection areas	-
6	Peri-urban protection forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other areas defined on a national scale (in particular archaeological sites managed by Regional Cultural Affairs Departments, ancient forests) • Other areas defined by the Organization

“Systematic” HCVs are defined on a **national scale**. These areas shall be defined as HCV areas by the Organization.

They are as follows:

- **Type-1 ZNIEFFs** (Zones naturelles d'intérêt écologique faunistique et floristique / Natural Areas of Ecological Fauna and Flora Interest). Defined as “*Sectors of generally limited area, defined by the presence of species, associations of species or environments which are rare, remarkable or characteristic of the national or regional natural heritage*”, on the basis of lists of species and ‘determining’ habitats, at the regional level, approved by Regional Scientific Natural Heritage Councils (more information available at INPN web[site](#)). They may give rise to **type-1 or type-3 HCV** areas.
- **Natura 2000 sites (Special Conservation Area and Special Protection Area)**. Defined at national level, and included in the European network, on the basis of lists of species/habitats of priority interest (more information available at INPN web[site](#)). They may give rise to **type-1 or type-2 HCV** areas.
- **Immediate and proximate water catchment protection areas**. Sites with the purpose of preventing the deterioration of man-made works and avoiding the spillage of polluting substances in the immediate vicinity of the water catchment, subject to regulation (more information available at eau.france.fr). They may give rise to **type-5 HCVs**.
- **Protection forests (in the regulatory sense)**. Subject to regulation, these are *woods and forests whose conservation is recognized as necessary for retaining soil on mountains and slopes, as a defence against avalanches, erosion and invasions of water and sand* (regarded for this reason as **type-4 HCV** areas). They may also be peri-urban (*woods and forests located on the periphery of large conurbations, or in areas where their maintenance is essential, whether for ecological reasons or for the wellbeing of the population*). They are then regarded as **type-6 HCVs** (more information is available from the Ministry of Agriculture web[site](#)).



In the case of additional HCVs, the classification is established **locally** on the basis of the **best available information**. This information may be derived from various sources:

- **Naturalist knowledge, field data**

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

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

- **Engagement with stakeholders**

This process is described in Criterion 7.6. The procedures for instigating such engagement are set out in the guide to applying the terms of reference.

- **Bibliography/Scientific literature**

Bibliographical research into the studies, reports, naturalist data and management plans which concern the Management Unit are to be carried out by the Organization. Such research prepares the ground for and/or helps to complete the engagement process and the field description phase.

- **Existing areas**

In France, there are a large number of national and regional tools for identifying and managing HCVs (these tools are described in the standard implementation guide). Using these tools, it is possible to classify some areas directly as HCVs (*e.g. type-1 ZNIEFFs and Natura 2000 sites*), and more easily identify management and/or monitoring measures appropriate to their effective conservation.

Some regulatory areas need to be analysed as a matter of priority by the Organization, particularly if they are not covered by areas giving rise to a systematic HCV classification.

The areas concerned are **nature reserves, core areas of national parks, Prefectoral Biotope Protection Orders, and archaeological sites managed by Regional Cultural Affairs Departments.**

Other types of area do not benefit from regulatory status but still merit analysis by the



Organization:

- **Forests playing a protective role** are not all listed as protection forests in the regulatory sense. When a regional inventory is available (see *the IRSTEA research work in the Rhône-Alpes region, for example*), the Organization shall refer to them. In the absence of such works, these forests are to be identified in the MU (a method will be proposed in the standard implementation guide).
- **Ancient forests** are a remarkable historical legacy and can be easily identified using old maps freely accessible on the Internet ([IGN website](#)).

If these areas are not regarded as systematic HCVs, and the Organization decides not to classify them as such, **the decision must be justified to the assessor, in particular on the basis of engagement with the stakeholders.**

Understanding HCVs

Whether dealing with systematic HCVs or HCVs defined locally on the basis of the best available information, the Organization should reflect at this stage on two principal questions:

1. For exactly which species, habitats, ecosystem services or cultural values has the HCV zone been designated?

It is fairly easy to answer this question for HCV areas which concern ecosystem services or cultural values. On the other hand, in the case of some HCV areas featuring type-1 or type-3 species/habitats (e.g. *ZNIEFF 1s and Natura 2000 sites*), the Organization is able to **identify which species/habitats determine the classification**. The information sheets describing these sites are available on line on the INPN website.

2. What do the HCVs need in order to be kept in a good state of conservation?

This question requires bibliographical research and/or discussion with the stakeholders. It concerns ecosystem services and cultural values, as well as forest and non-forest species/habitats.

Identification of the needs of HCVs serves as a basis for the following stages, making it possible to construct relevant assessment and monitoring indicators (variables to be analysed, frequency of monitoring).

For the species/habitats concerned, priority should be given, in the case of Natura 200 sites, to **species/habitats of priority interest**. Species regarded as **threatened in the national Red List** should also be studied as a matter of priority.



Assessing the conservation status of HCVs

The Organization must be able to answer two main questions:

1. If my HCV area concerns a type-1 or type-3 HCV, is it really present in the Management Unit?

The Organization seeks out the **best available information** in order to answer this question. This is obtainable from the same sources as the information required at the type-1 or type-3 HCV identification stage (field surveys; engagement with stakeholders; bibliography, in particular habitat maps and naturalist databases) and is detailed in the guide to applying the system of reference.

If there is no available information, the Organization is not required to pay for additional experts' reports.

2. How can I assess the state of conservation of my HCVs?

Assessment of the state of the HCVs will depend on the type of HCV involved. The protocols put in place should be based on the analysis made at the preceding stage.

This assessment is to be carried out prior to the initial audit in the case of an individual certificate or a fixed-group certificate; at the entry of each member for an evolving-group certificate. Adapting management in order to maintain HCVs

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

Other effects are likely to have a negative impact on HCVs. These impacts need to be identified and strategies defined and implemented to avoid and/or limit them. The Organization must be able to answer the following question:

What good management practices maintain the HCVs of my Management Unit?

The answers should be drawn from the three sources of information described earlier.

The measures referred to in Principles 6 and 10 and Criterion 4.7 are sufficient to avoid and mitigate most of the impacts that HCVs may suffer. Nevertheless, special attention needs to be paid to species/habitats which require supplementary management measures, especially endangered species and critically endangered species on national Red Lists. These measures are defined by the Organization using the best available information, in particular engagement with stakeholders.



The Principle 6 measures which contribute to the good conservation of Type-1 and Type-3 HCVs are set out below:

- **Definition of a network of unmanaged and ageing areas*** (minimum 0.5 ha) (at the level of the MU or group of MUs; if the MU or group of MUs is > 500 ha, the network must be $\geq 3\%$ of the total surface area, with at least 1% of unmanaged areas), [6.4, 6.5]. This network should take into account the preservation of HCVs. Type-1 and type-3 HCVs (species habitats and heritage habitats) are to be included in the network as a matter of priority. The Organization may extend the non-intervention areas to spaces more extensive than the “islands” (reserves) themselves;
- Maintenance of **habitat-trees** (≥ 2 living habitat-trees /ha, with a long-term objective of 5/ha at the end of the management plan) and of **dead timber** (maintenance of all dead trees, standing or on the ground), [6.4, 6.6] ;
- Introduction of specific management measures (e.g. **extensive silvicultural rules**, areas and/or periods of **temporary exclusion** of certain activities) to ensure the survival and sustainability of species and habitats identified as being of environmental value [6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4];
- Definition of **appropriate clauses in the specifications for forestry operations** [6.4]
- **Diversification of the vertical and horizontal structure** of stands, and the **mixing of tree species** and genotypes, [6.6, 6.8, 10.1]
- Diversification of the **stand structures** within the MU or group of MUs [6.3].

These measures are detailed in the standard implementation guide.

The case of natural habitats associated with forest ecosystems

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

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

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



available information and the character of the environment.

This document will be more concerned with describing the High Conservation Values associated with forest ecosystems (forest habitats, species dependent on the forest for all or part of their life cycle.)

Practical information sheets concerning other natural habitats associated with forest habitats are available in the guide to applying the system of reference.

Monitoring of High Conservation Values

Monitoring measures will vary depending on the type of HCV. They will depend on the analysis made at stage 5 “Understanding HCVs”. The variables to be recorded must be focused on monitoring the maintenance of the functional potentialities of habitats. The protocols proposed for assessing an area’s status may be reused, so as to compare its initial state with the situation at the end of the certification period.

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

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

There will be an information sheet covering this topic in the standard implementation guide.