

FSC FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD FOR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

FSC-STD-COD-01-2025 EN



Photo credits:

Forest trackers measure Tali, a tropical species native to sub-Saharan Africa ©FSC Africa / Jonathan Perugia

NOTE ON THIS ENGLISH VERSION:

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| Local contact: | Pépé Dungu Nteke SDG Chairman Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Tel.: +243 81 067 13 61 Email: pepedungu@gmail.com Skype: pepedungu12 |
| FSC Policy and Performance Unit contact: | FSC International Center gGmbH – Policy and Performance Unit Adenauerallee 134 53113 Bonn Germany Phone: +49 -(0)228 -36766 -0 Fax: +49 -(0)228 -36766 -65 Email: country_requirements@fsc.org |

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

Version control

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|---------|--|---------------------|
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This standard is subject to the review and revision requirements as described in <FSC-STD-60-006 (V1-2) EN Process Requirements for the Development and Maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards>.

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Contents | 5 |
| A Foreword | 7 |
| A.1 The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) | 7 |
| A.2 The FSC Principles and Criteria | 7 |
| B Preamble | 8 |
| B.1 Objective | 8 |
| B.2 Scope | 8 |
| B.3 Responsibility for conformity | 8 |
| B.4 Note on the use of indicators and other elements in the standard | 9 |
| B.5 Interpretations and disputes | 10 |
| C Context | 11 |
| C.1 General description of the forestry sector | 11 |
| C.2 Members of the Standards Development Group | 13 |
| C.3 Expert advising the Standard Development Group | 14 |
| C.4 Background information on the standard development | 15 |
| D References | 16 |
| E Abbreviations | 17 |
| F <i>Principles*</i>, <i>Criteria*</i> and <i>Indicators*</i> | 20 |
| <i>PRINCIPLE* 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS</i> | 20 |
| <i>PRINCIPLE* 2: WORKERS* RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS</i> | 25 |
| <i>PRINCIPLE* 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES* RIGHTS</i> | 30 |
| <i>PRINCIPLE* 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS</i> | 34 |
| <i>PRINCIPLE* 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST*</i> | 39 |
| <i>PRINCIPLE* 6: ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES* AND IMPACTS</i> | 42 |
| <i>PRINCIPLE* 7: MANAGEMENT PLANNING</i> | 50 |
| <i>PRINCIPLE* 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT</i> | 53 |
| <i>PRINCIPLE* 9: HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES*</i> | 56 |
| <i>PRINCIPLE* 10: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES</i> | 60 |

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| G | Annexes | 66 |
| Annex A | Minimum list of applicable laws, regulations and nationally ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements (Principle 1) | 66 |
| Annex B | Training requirements for workers (Principle 2) | 84 |
| Annex C | Conservation Area Network conceptual diagram (Principle 6) | 85 |
| Annex D | List of rare and threatened species in the country or region | 86 |
| Annex E | Elements of the management plan (Principle 7) | 87 |
| Annex F | Conceptual framework for planning and monitoring (Principle 7) | 89 |
| Annex G | Monitoring requirements (Principle 8) | 91 |
| Annex H | Management strategies to protect Intact Forest Landscapes outside of core areas. (Principle 9) | 93 |
| Annex I | High Conservation Values framework (Principle 9) | 94 |
| Annex J | International Generic Indicators for the use and risk management of highly hazardous pesticides | 124 |
| Annex K | Glossary of Terms | 129 |

A FOREWORD

(Informative section)

A.1 The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

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

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

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

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

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

A.2 The FSC Principles and Criteria

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

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

The FSC Principles and Criteria together with the International Generic Indicators (IGI) provide the basis for the development of FSS and IFSS.

B PREAMBLE

B.1 Objective

(Informative section)

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

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

B.2 Scope

(Normative section)

This standard shall be applied in the following scope:

| | |
|--|---|
| Geographic region | Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| Forest types | All forest types |
| Ownership types | All types of ownerships, including public, private and others |
| Scale and intensity categories (according to section 6 of FSC-STD-60-002) | All categories of Management Units |
| Forest products (according to FSC-STD-40-004a) | Rough wood |

B.3 Responsibility for conformity

(Normative section)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

B.4 Note on the use of indicators and other elements in the standard

(Normative section)

Normative elements in the standard are:

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

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

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

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

Verifiers.

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

SLIMF (small or low-intensity managed forest(s)) are included in the standard however there are no special SLIMF indicators. Moreover, non-timber forest products (NTFP) are not included in the scope of certification of the Forest Stewardship Standard (FSS). This decision was based on two major challenges: the lack of specific implementation regulations for these categories and the absence of forest ownership by the communities. These sectors are not yet well-organized, making it impossible to determine relevant verifiers for the FSS indicators. The Standard Development Group believes in having an appropriate legal framework before addressing these categories.

Verbal forms for the expression of provisions

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

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

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

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

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

The text of the Principles and the Criteria under section F contain terms that are formatted in italics and marked with an *asterisk*^{*}. These terms are defined in the annex of Glossary of terms. The terms that have been marked with an *asterisk*^{*} and formatted in italics in the indicators’ text, are local terms which have been added to apply to the local circumstances for this standard only. These local terms are defined in the annex of Glossary of terms.

B.5 Interpretations and disputes

(Normative section)

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

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

C CONTEXT

(Informative section)

C.1 General description of the forestry sector

The forests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) are part of the great Congo Basin, which represents 18% of the world's tropical forests and stores around 8% of the world's forest carbon (World Bank Group, 2021). According to the FAO Global Forest Assessment Report in 2020, the DRC has about 126 million hectares of forested land (including degraded forests) constituting 67.3% of the total land area. Tropical forests cover about 37% of the land, dry forests 19%, swamp forests 4%, and mountain forests 2%. These forests are incredibly biodiverse and play a crucial socio-economic role for over 40 million people. Additionally, they contribute significantly to global climate regulation and are among the world's most important intact forest landscapes (CIFOR-WB-CIRAD, 2007).

Despite these immense resources, the DRC's economy remains largely dependent on agriculture and mining. As a result, these two sectors have contributed substantially to the country's Global Domestic Products (GDP) for years and continue to do so. The forest cover constitutes almost 67% of the country, 10% of global tropical forest reserves, and 60% of the Congo Basin's forests. Annual forestry production includes industrial logging, small-scale logging, and firewood harvesting.

The DRC harbours a potential of around 11 million hectares of wood production forests, including the area of Forest Concessions of almost 12 million hectares representing about 11% of production forests. (MEDD, 2017). Annual forestry production is about the following volumes: Industrial logging: 500,000 m³, Small-scale Logging: 5,000,000 m³, and Firewood Harvesting: 50,000,000 m³.

In 2009 the DRC government initiated one of Africa's largest REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) programs. This program aimed to monitor changes in the carbon stocks of its forests and ensure sustainable management to help combat climate change. In 2015, the DRC's partial carbon potential was estimated to be over 21 billion metric tons of CO₂. Unfortunately, the country ranks 6th in forest cover loss, losing nearly 8 million hectares between 2001 and 2014 according to the latest satellite data from Global Forest Watch (GFW).

Between 2001 and 2014, the DRC lost a staggering 7,977,009 hectares of forest, with the most significant decline occurring in 2014. While a few forest plantations exist, primarily for agroforestry and charcoal production, initiatives related to REDD+ remain limited and represent only a small proportion compared to the vast natural forests. The primary logging areas are Mai-Ndombe, Equateur, Mongala, and Tshopo, typically located near the Congo River and its major tributaries.

Legal timber production in the DRC has not exceeded 400,000 m³ of roundwood or logs in the past decade. In 2016 the four largest producers harvested 91% of the total volume. The AGEDUFOR project compiled a production database, showing that permits issued in 2018 allowed for a gross volume of 1,760,347 m³, but actual production was 173,384 m³. The DRC currently has 36 forest concessions with management plans. According to the 2002 Forestry Code, forest concession holders must process 70% of harvested logs in processing units. The DRC has limited wood processing capacity, with 15 sawmills and one plywood factory.

China and Europe are the main export markets for DRC timber, with the Asian market growing and the European market declining. The DRC's forests are diverse, with various types of wood harvesting, including industrial, artisanal, community, firewood, and charcoal production.

Industrial timber harvesting is conducted by companies in permanent production forests under forest concession contracts awarded by auction. There are currently, 60 forest concession titles covering over 11

million hectares. About, 20 of the 91 commercially valuable forest species are harvested, accounting for 98% of production over the last four years. Some of these species includes Afromosia (*Pericopsis elata*), Wenge (*Millettia laurentii*), Tali (*Erythrophleum suaveolens*), Khaya (*Khaya grandifoliola*), Sipo (*Entandrophragma utile*), Tola (*Prioria balsamifera*), Tiama (*Entandrophragma angolense*), Padouk (*Pterocarpus soyauxii*), Iroko (*Milicia excelsa*), Kosipo (*Entandrophragma candollei*), Light Bosse (*Guarea cedrata*).

The state owns the forests and manages them through the forestry ministry. Effective forest management requires a concerted approach to balance stakeholders' interests and ensure sustainable development. The Forestry Code established multi-stakeholder consultation platforms to promote a collaborative approach to forest management and prevent conflicts of interest. The Forestry Code emphasizes transparency, participation, and multi-stakeholder consultation. This policy was implemented during awareness campaigns and socio-economic surveys in various provinces.

The Forestry Code in the DRC categorizes forests into three types: Gazetted forests (ecologically focused with restricted use) - These include a) integral nature reserves, b) forests located in national parks, c) botanical and zoological gardens, d) wildlife reserves and game lands, e) biosphere reserves, f) recreational forests, g) arboreta, h) urban forests, and i) protected areas. Protected forests (dedicated to local development and future uses) - serve as land reserves, particularly for rural agriculture and other future uses of forest areas that have not been formally set up or defined. They may also be part of timber harvesting concessions or be granted to local communities and/or Indigenous peoples under the scheme of local community forests, and Permanent production forests (allocated for industrial and semi-industrial use) - forests removed from the protected forests category following public enquiries and consultations. They include forest concessions that have already been allocated and forests that are to be licensed as either industrial and semi-industrial concessions, or forest concessions granted by local governments.

Indigenous peoples in the DRC, estimated at 600,000 to 700,000, depend heavily on forest resources but remain marginalized. About 1% of the population lives in the Equateur, Bandundu, Kivu, Orientale, Katanga, and Kasai provinces. Traditionally, these people have depended heavily on forest resources for food, shelter and health care. Programs funded by the Central African Forest Initiative that engage with non-state actors and communities aim to build Indigenous people's capacity and involve them in forest management activities including participation in National REDD+. Indigenous peoples are involved in forest inventory activities and advisory councils (Central African Forest Initiative database). A law to protect the rights of indigenous Pygmy peoples was adopted in 2022, recognizing their unique status and needs.

The term "Pygmy Indigenous People" is accepted and approved by the government and civil society organizations (CSOs) to designate Indigenous Peoples in the DRC. The term refers to the nomadic and semi-nomadic Mbuti, Baka and Batwa peoples (IWEZIA, 2024).

Another social dimension of forest management includes agreements between concession holders and local communities to improve living conditions. However, challenges in project planning and implementation persist. Accurate project cost assessment is difficult, leading to delays or abandonment of projects. Effective implementation of social provisions requires state support to ensure long-term impact.

Forest certification supports sustainable management, aligning with international commitments and regional plans. Logging companies in the Congo Basin have committed to obtaining forest certification. This initiative aligns with the international community's goals established at the Rio+20 Earth Summit, the Convergence Plan of the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and the 2005 Declaration from the Heads of State of Central Africa.

C.2 Members of the Standards Development Group

| Name | Position | Organization |
|-------------------|---|---|
| DUNGU Pépé | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chariman, Standard Development Group (SDG) Member of the Task Force for SFM Promotion in DRC | National Office for Forest Certification (BNCF- French acronym) in DRC. |

Members of the FSC SDG in the Democratic Republic of Congo:

| Chamber | Name | Organization |
|---------------|---|--|
| Social | KAPUPU DIWA DRC Indigenous People Representative | LINAPYCO National League for Pygmy Indigenous Peoples Associations |
| | KIHELA KIA BAYIYA Hortense Consultant/Facilitator for platforms for forest managers and PACL/ FSC member | BNCF |
| | LIBENGE YONGO Baudouin Chairperson (Fight for the Protection of Vulnerable People, the Environment and Community Development) / FSC Member | NGO LUPPEDEC |
| | LINGBELU TIAPELE Issa Expert | NGO CTIDD/ CSO Member DRC/ Member of DRC APV-FLEGT Platform |
| Environmental | KABAMBA BILONGO Gessel Bill Research Assistant - Climate Modelling | National Office for Forest Certification (BNCF- French acronym) in DRC |
| | Dr. BOLALUEMBE Papy Claude FSC Member / University Lecturer, Forest Governance and Management | National Office for Forest Certification (BNCF) / UNIKIN |
| | NJUMBOKET Inoussa Technical Advisor on Forest Certification / FSC Member | WWF-CARPO, DRC |
| | MAINZANA Néné BNCF/ CSO Member DRC/ Member of DRC APV-FLEGT Platform / Independent | RTNC Environmental Journalist |

| Chamber | Name | Organization |
|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| | Forest Observatory/ FSC Member | |
| Economic | NTENDAYI NTUMBABO Teddy Director - Department for Archives and New Information and Communication Technology / FSC Member | MEDD/ BNCF |
| | KIAMFU Erasme FSC member/ Head of Forest Statistics Development Centre | SODEFOR |
| | ZOLA Emmanuel FSC Member / Forest Operations Manager | SIFORCO/BNCF |
| | MAZO AGWABI Coco Forest Operations Manager | SICOBOIS Forest Concession |

C.3 Expert advising the Standard Development Group

| Name | Organization | Chamber | Expertise |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------|---|
| DISUBI NGALULA Clotilde | MECNT / DIAF | Expert | GIS and Forest management expert |
| KHOMBE Arsène | BNCF | Expert | BNCF/ Expert from the National Institute for Agronomic Research, DRC/ FSC member |
| Guy LANDU | BNCF/ MEDD | Expert | Member BNCF/ Member of Scientific Committee on CITES/ Head of Forest Licensing Office/ MEDD |
| LUKAMBA Peter | BNCF | Expert | REDD+ Consultant/ Member of DRC Environmental Observatory and FSC Environmental South Member |
| KALAU KANIKA Laurent | FAO | Expert | Consultant for FAO National Programme in DRC and Former Forest Concession Manager |
| Dr. Jean SEMEKI | UNIKIN | Expert | Member BNCF / University Lecturer, Integrated Forest Management, Forest Certification / FSC Member. |

| Name | Organization | Chamber | Expertise |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------|--|
| Guy LANDU | BNCF/ MEDD | Expert | Member BNCF/ Member of Scientific Committee on CITES/ Head of Forest Licensing Office/ MEDD |
| NSIMANDA Camille | BNCF | Expert | Lecturer and Specialist Hydrobiology and impact assessments on aquatic ecosystems and FSC Member |
| YANGBA Séraphin | BNCF | Expert | Forest Certification Consultant and FSC Environmental South Member |

C.4 Background information on the standard development

This standard was developed according to the rules and regulations laid out in FSC-STD-60-006 V1-2 in the period from 1 June 2015 to 30 June 2024. Two stakeholder consultation(s) were conducted. The first consultation was conducted from 16 December 2016 to 28 February 2017. The second consultation was conducted from 15 August 2022 to 31 October 2022.

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

D REFERENCES

(Informative section)

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

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

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

E ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---------------|---|
| AAC | Annual Allowable Cut |
| ACE | Agence Congolaise de l'Environnement |
| AOP | Annual Operational Plan |
| CB | Certification body |
| CITES | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora |
| CNAMGS | National Fund for Insurance and Social Security |
| CNSS | National Social Security Fund |
| DGEF | Department General for Environment |
| DGEPN | Directorate General of Nature Protection |
| DGF | Directorate General of Forests |
| DGPAF | Directorate General of Agricultural Production and Training |
| DPEF | Directorate General of Water and Forests |
| ESIA | Environmental and Social Impact Assessment |
| ESIA | Environmental and Social Impact Assessment |
| ESMP | Environmental and Social Management Plan |
| FAO | Food and Agriculture Organization |
| FMP | Five-Year Operational Plan |
| FMU | Forest Management Unit |
| FMU | Forest Management Unit |
| FPIC | Free, Prior and Informed Consent |
| FSC | Forest Stewardship Council |
| FSC | Forest Stewardship Council |

| | |
|----------------|---|
| FSS | Forest Stewardship Standard |
| HCV | High Conservation Values |
| IFSS | Interim Forest Stewardship Standard |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| INSS | National Institute for Social Security |
| IRs | Internal Regulations |
| LDP | Local Development Plan |
| MP | Management Plan |
| NF | Normative Framework |
| NIF | Tax Identification Number |
| NRA | National Risk Assessment |
| NTFP | Non Timber Forest Product |
| OHADA | The Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa |
| P&C | Principles and Criteria |
| P&P | Policy and Performance Unit (formerly known as PSU- Performance and Standards Unit) |
| PIT | Physical Income Tax |
| PPE | Personal Protection Equipment |
| QMS | Quality Management System |
| RCCM | Trade Registry |
| RIL | Reduced Impact Logging |
| SDG | Standard Development Group |
| SLIMF | Small or low intensity managed forest |
| SMP | Streamlined Management Plan |

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| TCS | Payroll Tax Surcharge |
| Word in <i>italic</i>* | Word defined in the FSC Glossary |
| WPP | Wildlife Protection Plan |

F PRINCIPLES*, CRITERIA* AND INDICATORS*

(Normative section)

PRINCIPLE* 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

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

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

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

Verifiers: Forest concession contract (Social clauses); National identification number and tax number; Notarized articles of association; INPP registration certificate, trade register in OHADA terminology (RCCM); Import/export number; CNSS affiliation number.

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

Verifiers: Report on public inquiry (FPIC in accordance with Order 024); Deed of deposit of articles of association with the court clerk (clerk's office of the commercial court, ministry of justice); Notarized articles of association (notary's office of the Ministry of Justice, Commercial Court); Notification of convertibility by the ministry in charge of forests; Forest concession contract signed by the Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development MEDD (containing a schedule of conditions comprising a management plan and social clauses/signed between the communities and the concessionaire and validated by the DGF and notified by the SG-EDD); Receipt with registration number of the entity (Registry of the Commercial Court, ministry of justice); National identification number (Ministry of Economy) and tax identification number (DGI/Ministry of Finance); Notarised articles of association published in the Official Gazette or proof of payment of publication fees in the Official Gazette, trade register (RCCM); Consider OHADA terminology (RCCM signed by the "Direction générale de guichet unique"/Ministry of Justice and all relevant departments); Import/export number (assigned by the Ministry of Foreign Trade); CNSS affiliation number issued by CNSS at central level (large companies) and local level (small companies).

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

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

Verifiers: Notification letter validating the management plan; Provincial governor's order approving the management plan; Annual Operations Plan; Timber industrial cutting permit (PCIBO).

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

Verifiers: Notification letter validating the management plan signed by General Secretariat for the Environment and Sustainable Development (SG-EDD); Provincial governor's order approving the management plan; Annual Operations Plan (PAO) validated by the Forest Inventory and Management Department (DIAF) and notified by SG-EDD; Industrial timber cutting permit (PCIBO) signed by the Minister in charge of forests.

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

Verifiers: Forest concession contract; Forest sampling plan; Attestation of conformity of the forest sampling plan; Notification of acceptance of forest sampling plan; Management inventory report;

Notification of acceptance of management inventory report; Management plan.

- 1.2.4 The boundaries of the annual cutting areas of the management unit are marked and maintained in accordance with national regulations.

Verifiers: Annual operation area boundary maps; field verification.

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

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

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

Verifiers: Applicable laws and regulations (see Annex A); International treaties ratified by the DRC, conventions and agreements (see Annex A); Applicable ILO conventions.

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

Verifiers: Refer to the applicable tax laws and regulations as set out in Annex A; Proof of payment of forest management duties as set out in Annex A.

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

Verifiers: Management documents (approved management plan, approved five-year management plan, approved annual operations plan, approved impact studies, approved socio-economic studies, approved environmental audits); Social clauses in forest concession contract specifications and amendments.

- 1.3.4 The Organization maintains an updated list and copies of laws and regulations and appoints the person responsible for legal monitoring.

Verifiers: Copies of up-to-date laws and regulations (Include documents from the minimum list of laws in force, regulations and international treaties ratified at national level, conventions and agreements. See Annex A); Electronic copies of up-to-date laws and regulations; Letter/note appointing the legal monitoring officer; Job description Legal monitoring officer.

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

- 1.4.1. Measures are implemented to provide protection from unauthorized or illegal harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.

Verifiers: Internal company procedure for monitoring illegal activities (during and after operations); Minutes of awareness-raising meetings with local communities, indigenous peoples and other stakeholders; Company Internal regulation; Posters to raise awareness on illegal activities; Report of findings/surveillance of illegal activities.

- 1.4.2. A system is implemented to work with the government to identify, report, control and discourage unauthorized or illegal activities.

Verifiers: Memorandum of understanding duly signed with the public authorities; Joint mission report on illegal activities detected and/or identified with the public administration; Acknowledgement of receipt of various correspondence between the forest concessionaire and the forest administration; Awareness-raising posters against illegal activities; Joint report on sanctions and measures taken against illegal activities (available from the Administration); Official statements of offence drawn up by the Forestry Administration's Judicial Police Officers (OPJ) in cases where infractions have been observed (available from the Administration); Internal sanctions taken against workers involved in illegal activities.

1.4.3. The Organization collaborates with government authorities to define measures to be taken to fight against the illegal activities identified and to implement such measures.

Verifiers: Duly signed collaboration agreement with forestry authorities; Duly signed collaboration agreement with the forestry administration; Minutes of consultation meetings for action on proven cases; Collaboration agreements with the forestry administration; Attendance list for consultation meetings with the administration.

1.4.4 The Organization marks out and maintains the boundaries of the Management Units and annual cutting areas in accordance with national regulations.

Verifiers: Boundary maps; Boundary opening report.

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

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

Verifiers: Company traceability system (company brand, felling number, concession number, plot number); Relevant documents for transported forest products (waybill, packing list, etc.); authorization to sell and purchase, Transport slip; Harvesting license; Sale contract; Goods export license; CITES license; Phytosanitary certificate; Certificate of origin; Export-ready batch report; Shipment slip; Timber shipment report.

1.5.1.1 The Organization maintains a list and copies of all binding international agreements, treaties and conventions and designates a person responsible for updating them.

Verifiers: Hard copies of all binding international agreements, treaties and conventions; Soft copies of all binding international agreements, treaties and conventions; Letter/ Service note for the appointment of a legal monitoring officer; Job description Legal monitoring officer.

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

Verifiers: Harvesting license; CITES license; Annual export quotas for CITES species.

1.5.2.1 The Organisation maintains a list of all local species recorded in CITES.

Verifiers: List of national species listed in CITES; Approved management plan.

1.5.3 The Organization maintains copies of national legislation and/or administrative requirements relating to the implementation of CITES obligations at the national level and ensures that these requirements are implemented in their forest concession.

Verifiers: CITES convention signed by the Congolese State.

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

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

Verifiers: Dispute management procedure; Minutes and report of consultation meeting/ Meeting attendance list; Letter appointing the person in charge of external social affairs.

1.6.1.1 The dispute resolution procedure elaborated in 1.6.1 is publicly available to the affected stakeholders at no cost.

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

Verifiers: Dispute resolution procedure (timeframe for handling disputes); Monitoring register for dispute handling; Concertation meeting minutes/ Attendance lists.

1.6.3. Up to date records of disputes related to issues of applicable laws or customary law, are held including:

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

Verifiers: Dispute records; Dispute resolution procedure (timeframe for handling disputes); Monitoring register for dispute handling; Concertation meeting minutes/ Attendance lists.

1.6.4. Operations cease in areas where disputes exist:

- 1) Of substantial magnitude (legal and customary rights and usage rights); or
- 2) Of substantial duration (>6 months); or
- 3) Involving a significant number of interests (which concerns more than half of the villages or households affected by the Management Unit activities).

Verifiers: Conflict management monitoring register; Forest Administration mission reports; Minutes and reports of consultation meetings; Information letter to the relevant authorities on the suspension of logging activities.

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

Verifiers: Anti-corruption policy document signed by the company's Managing Director; Commitment signed by company employees, subcontractors and consultants; Internal regulations.

1.7.2. The policy implemented meets or exceeds related legislation.

Verifiers: Anti-corruption policy document signed by the company's Managing Director; Analysis report on the compliance with enforced policy.

1.7.3. The policy is publicly available at no cost.

Verifiers: Policy document available on the company's website; Posted policy documents; Internal regulations.

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

1.7.5. Corrective measures are implemented if corruption does occur.

Verifiers: Scale of sanctions (RI); Internal regulations; Archive of disciplinary action files; Personnel files.

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

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

Verifiers: Commitment document to comply with FSC PCIs signed by the Managing Director

1.8.2. The policy is publicly available at no cost.

Verifiers: Documents available on the company's website, Posted policy documents; Internal regulations.

PRINCIPLE* 2: WORKERS* RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

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

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

2.1.1. The Organization shall not use child labour.

Verifiers: Personnel files; Company employee declarations to the Labor Administration.

2.1.1.1 The Organization shall not use workers under the minimum age of 18, with the exception of the case described in 2.1.1.2.

2.1.1.2 The employment of children aged 15 to 17 in light work should not interfere with school activities or be detrimental to their health or development. In this case, they shall only work outside school hours during normal working hours.

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

2.1.1.4 The Organization shall prohibit worst forms of child labour.

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

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

2.1.2.2 The Organization implements measures to prevent all forms of forced or compulsory labour, and ensures there is no evidence of any of the following practices:

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

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

Verifiers: Job offers; Personnel register; Staff hiring procedure.

2.1.3.1 Employment and occupation practices are non-discriminatory.

Verifiers: Job offers; Personnel register; Staff hiring procedure.

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

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

Verifiers: Membership document for workers to the trade union of their choice, Records of trade union delegate elections; Collective agreements approved by a labour inspector.

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

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

2.1.4.4 Collective bargaining agreements are implemented.

Verifiers: Document analysing compliance of company practices with the collective agreement; Labor inspector's reports (in the event of disputes or conflicts); Applicable collective agreements; Employment contract between the concession-holder and the worker approved by the National Employment Office (ONEM).

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

2.2.1. Systems are implemented that promote gender equality and prevent gender discrimination in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of engagement and management activities. These systems are compliant with the legislation and regulations relating to gender and working conditions for women, children and vulnerable people.

Verifiers: Company internal regulations approved by the Labor Inspectorate; Company hiring policy; Training plan; Vacancy announcements; Company hiring policy; Call for applications; Document analysing compliance with current legislation and regulations on gender and working conditions for women, children and vulnerable persons.

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

Verifiers: Company internal rules approved by a Labour Inspector; Vacancy announcements; Company hiring policy; Call for applications; Company employee files.

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

Verifiers: Training plan; Training attendance lists; Training certificates; Training reports.

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

Verifiers: Employment contract; Pay slip; Quarterly salary declarations (DTS); Salary scale analysis.

2.2.5. Women are paid directly and using mutually agreed methods (e.g. direct bank transfer, direct payment at the cash desk, direct payments for school fees, etc.) to ensure they safely receive and retain their wages.

Verifiers: Pay slip; Written statement of remuneration paid or any document in lieu thereof containing all the information required by the payroll book; Acknowledgement of receipt (In discharge) indicating the pay date and time; Remittance slip; Withdrawal slip.

2.2.6. Maternity leave is no less than six weeks before childbirth, and nine weeks after childbirth.

Verifiers: Letter of notification of maternity leave, stating start and end dates; Letter of resumption after maternity leave; Company internal regulations; Labour code.

2.2.6.1 During the breastfeeding period, women are entitled to two half-hour rest periods a day.

Verifiers: Labor Code; Collective bargaining agreement; Attendance register; Notification letter of a schedule change.

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

Verifiers: Labor Code; Letter of notification of paternity leave (circumstantial leave) with start and end dates specified; Company internal regulations.

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

Verifiers: Minutes of meetings (Attendance lists); Posted press releases (service notes, memos, circulars.)

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

Verifiers: Code of ethics; Anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policy; Anonymous mailboxes; Complaints management register; Policy on safeguarding women and children; Disciplinary Committee Report.

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

2.3.1. Health and safety practices that meet or exceed the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work are developed and implemented.

Verifiers: ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work; Quarterly report of the Safety, Health and Sanitation Committee; Labour inspector's report; Occupational physician's annual report; Procedure manual; Job description sheets.

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

Verifiers: PPE planning and distribution list; PPE; PPE management manual; Supply sheet; PPE stock sheet; Risk assessment report by position; Job description sheet; PPE warning signs.

2.3.3. Use of personal protective equipment is enforced.

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

Verifiers: Records on accident reports and time lost due to accidents; Records of care to patients and for accidents at work; Occupational physician's report; Labour inspector's report; Analysis report on the causes of serious accidents; Sign boards to raise awareness of accidents in the workplace.

2.3.5. The Organization assesses the effectiveness of the health and safety measures implemented, in preventing and reducing the frequency and severity of accidents.

Verifiers: Analysis report on professional accidents; Company's Procedure on safety and health at the workplace; Annual report of the Safety, Health and Sanitation Committee; Job description sheet; RIL procedure.

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

Verifiers: Procedure manuals; Analysis report on the causes of accidents; Adapted job description sheet; Labour inspector's analysis report; Trade union delegation's industrial accident report; Annual report of the Safety, Health and Sanitation Committee on workplaces.

2.3.7. Where The Organization lodges displaced workers in camps, the housing and nutrition conditions, at a minimum, comply with the requirements of applicable law.

Verifiers: Site plan; Workers' life maintenance plan; IRs of workers' camp; Report by the Health, Safety and Sanitation Committee; Labour inspector's report; Camp management procedures.

2.3.7.1 The Organization ensures that an operational emergency care programme exists in the camp, including workers' first aid training and the provision of readily available first aid kits.

Verifiers: Procedure manual for the emergency evacuation of patients to a suitably equipped medical facility; Appropriate means of evacuation; First aid and rescue training certificates; Basic first-aid training certificates; Availability of first aiders; Supply of first-aid kits; First-aid kit management procedure; Emergency evacuation procedure; Medical agreements.

2.3.7.2 The Organization signs and implements an agreement with a specialised medical facility (reference hospital) for the handling of cases beyond the competence of the camp health unit.

Verifiers: Agreement signed between the forestry company and the medical structure; Transfer voucher; Hospital admission voucher.

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

2.4.1. Wages paid by The Organization in all circumstances meet or exceed the legal minimum wage.

Verifiers: Salary scale; Pay slip; Employment contract; Collective agreement; Labour inspector's report.

2.4.2. Wages paid meet or exceed:

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

Verifiers: Collective convention agreement; Labour code; Salary scale; Forest industry wage agreements.

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

Verifiers: Dated pay slips; Payment acknowledgement of receipts; Payroll book; Transfer order; Remittance slip; Payment plan.

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

2.5.1. Workers have job specific training consistent with Annex B and supervision to safely and effectively contribute to the implementation of the management plan and all management activities.

Verifiers: Training plan; Training modules; Training attendance list/sheet; Training certificate/attestation.

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

Verifiers: Up-to-date training records; Training plan; Training reports/ attendance lists.

2.6. The Organization* through engagement* with workers* shall have mechanisms for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation* to workers* for loss or damage to property, occupational diseases*, or occupational injuries* sustained while working for The Organization*.

2.6.1. A dispute resolution process is in place, developed through culturally appropriate engagement with workers.

Verifiers: Dispute resolution procedure manual; Register of complaints; Minutes of planning meetings with General Management.

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

Verifiers: Dispute resolution procedure; Activity report of trade union representatives; Discipline committee's report; Service notes.

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

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

Verifiers: Human Resource (HR) manager's report; Trade union representatives' records; Trade union representatives' reports.

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

Verifiers: Incident reports; HR manager's letter with acknowledgement receipts; Acknowledgement records; Compensation records; Proof of CNSS registration.

PRINCIPLE* 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES'* RIGHTS

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

NOTE: "The term 'Pygmy Indigenous Peoples' is used in DRC legislation that was passed in 2022 ("Loi No22/030 du 15 Juillet 2022 Portant Protection et Promotion des Droits des Peuples Pygmées.") and refers to the nomadic and semi-nomadic Mbuti, Baka and Batwa peoples. (IWGIA, 2024).'

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

3.1.1. Indigenous Peoples that may be affected by management activities are identified in accordance with customs, legal framework and the ratified international conventions/treaties.

Verifiers: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of IPs (UNDRIP); Convention on Biological Diversity; Consultation plan with local communities and IPs (Ministerial Order No 028/07 /2008: on logging concession contract); Agreement on the social clauses in the concession specifications (Ministerial Order 023/06/2010); Appointment records of membership to management and monitoring committees.

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan; Social provisions in concession specifications; Quarterly report from the local management committee; Minutes of quarterly meetings of the local monitoring committee; Reports of various control missions; Independent observer's report; Specific memorandums of understanding; Out-of-court settlement or decision by the forestry dispute settlement commission or court order; Consultation plan for local populations and Ips; FPIC and other agreements; Participatory maps; Socio-economic studies.

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

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

Verifiers: Specific agreements; Out-of-court agreement or decision by the forestry dispute settlement commission or court ruling; Consultation plan for local communities and Indigenous peoples; FPIC and other binding agreements; Participatory maps; Attendance lists.

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

Verifiers: Specific protocols signed with Indigenous populations; FPIC and other binding agreements; Registers of complaints and grievances; Reports of various forestry administration control missions.

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

Verifiers: Framework of national guidelines on FPIC principles; Guide to forestry dispute settlement procedures (law n°011/2002 on the forestry code, Art.103 and 104; Ministerial Order 103/09 of 16 June 2009 on the organisation and operation of the forestry dispute settlement commission, art.3); Conflict management procedure; Register of complaints and grievances.

3.2.4. Free, prior and informed consent is granted by Indigenous Peoples prior to management activities that affect their identified rights through a process that includes:

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

Verifiers: Awareness and training meeting report; Attendance lists for awareness-raising and information activities on natural resources; FPIC agreements; Respect for Information Education and Communications on forestry activities.

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

Verifiers: Reports of awareness and training meetings on concessionaire activities; Attendance lists for awareness-raising and outreach activities on forest management activities; FPIC agreements.

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

3.3.1. Where control over management activities has been granted through Free Prior and Informed Consent based on culturally appropriate engagement, the binding agreement contains the duration, provisions for renegotiation, renewal, termination, economic conditions and other terms and conditions.

Verifiers: Countersigned and sealed memorandum of understanding; FPIC agreements.

3.3.2. Records of binding agreements are maintained.

Verifiers: Countersigned and sealed memorandum of understanding; FPIC agreements.

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

Verifiers: Countersigned and sealed memorandum of understanding; FPIC agreements.

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

3.4.1. The rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples as defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 are not violated by The Organization.

Verifiers: Minutes or report from the labour inspector; Minutes of the trade union delegation; FPIC agreements; Approved participation cards; External social service reports.

3.4.2. Where evidence that rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples, as defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169, have been violated by The Organization, the situation is documented including steps to restore these rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples, to the satisfaction of the rights holders.

Verifiers: Social clauses in the contract specifications; Memo of denunciation of violation of rights; Register of grievances; Violation report from the labour inspector; violation report from the labour union delegation; Minutes of harmonization/ restoration and commitment to repair damage; FPIC agreements; Approved participative cards; External social service reports; FPIC procedure.

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

3.5.1. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance for which Indigenous Peoples hold legal or customary rights are identified through culturally appropriate engagement.

Verifiers: Site location and boundaries map; Socio-economic and environmental study reports; Participatory maps; FPIC agreements.

3.5.2. Measures to protect such sites are agreed, documented and implemented through culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples. When Indigenous Peoples determine that physical identification of sites in documentation or on maps would threaten the value or protection of the sites, then other means will be used.

Verifiers: FPIC procedure; Awareness-raising reports on FPIC and other agreements for Indigenous Peoples; Memoranda of understanding; Site location and demarcation maps; Participatory maps; FPIC agreements; Minutes of negotiation meetings and attendance lists; Photos and videos.

3.5.3. Wherever sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance are newly observed or discovered, management activities cease immediately in the vicinity until protective measures have been agreed to with the Indigenous Peoples, and as directed by local and national laws.

Verifiers: Report on socio-economic and environmental studies; Report of findings and harmonization between the two parties; Legalized minutes of cessation of activities signed by the various parties; Memorandums of understanding; New maps of the sites concerned; Participatory maps; Stakeholder consent report.

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

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

Verifiers: Report on the identification of traditional healers and tradition keepers; List of Indigenous practices and knowledge about nature; Convention and laws on intellectual property.

3.6.2. Indigenous Peoples are compensated according to the binding agreement reached through Free, Prior and Informed Consent for the use of traditional knowledge and intellectual property.

Verifiers: Socio-economic study reports; Report identifying the traditional knowledge and practices of the Indigenous populations concerned; Memorandum of understanding; FPIC agreements.

PRINCIPLE* 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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

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

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

Verifiers: Social and economic assessment report; Consultation plan with local communities and Indigenous Peoples (Ministerial Order No 028/07 /2008: on logging concession contract).

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan; Social clauses in specifications; Quarterly reports from the local management committee; Minutes of quarterly meetings of the local monitoring committee; Reports of various forestry administration inspection missions; Independent observer's report; Specific memorandums of understanding; Out-of-court agreement or decision by the Forestry Dispute Settlement Commission or court ruling; Consultation plan for local populations and Indigenous Peoples; FPIC and other binding agreements; Participatory maps.

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

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

Verifiers: Management Plan; Social provisions in concession specifications; Quarterly reports from the local management committee; Minutes of quarterly meetings of the local monitoring committee; Reports on various forestry administration inspection missions; Independent observer's report; Specific memorandums of understanding; Out-of-court settlement or decision by the Forestry Dispute Settlement Commission or court order; Consultation plan for local populations and Indigenous Peoples; FPIC and other binding agreements; Participatory mapping; Socio-economic studies; Attendance list.

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

Verifiers: Specific protocols signed with local populations; FPIC and other binding agreements; Registers of complaints and grievances; Reports on various forestry administration inspection missions.

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

Verifiers: Guide to forestry dispute settlement procedures (law n°011/2002 on the forestry code, Art.103 and 104; Ministerial Order 103/09 of 16 June 2009 on the organisation and operation of the forestry dispute settlement commission, art.3); Framework of national guidelines on FPIC principles; Conflict management procedure; Register of complaints and grievances.

- 4.2.4. Free, Prior and Informed Consent is granted by traditional peoples prior to management activities that affect their identified rights through a process that includes:

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

Verifiers: Reports of awareness and training meetings on forest management activities; Attendance lists for awareness-raising and training activities on forest management activities; FPIC agreements.

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

Verifiers: Reports of awareness and training meetings on forest management activities; Attendance lists for awareness-raising and training activities on forest management activities; FPIC agreements.

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

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

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

Verifiers: Offers of employment, training and/or services; Memorandum of understanding/agreement; Service contracts; Personnel management procedures; Number of local people hired; Personnel register.

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

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

Verifiers: Engagement report; Social provisions in the concession contract.

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

Verifiers: Socio-economic study reports; Reports on consultation meetings; Social clause in contract specifications; FPIC procedure; Social achievements procedure; FPIC agreements.

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

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

Verifiers: Report of environmental, social and economic impact assessment; Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP); ESMP monitoring / evaluation report; Environmental and social impact study report; Socio-economic study report; Management plan.

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

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

Verifiers: Dispute resolution and management procedure; Minutes of local community consultation validating the procedure manual; Evidence of dissemination of conflict management procedure; Register of complaints/grievances/conflicts; Protocols of agreement; Scale of compensation for site/crop destruction; Minutes of conflict resolution.

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

Verifiers: Conflicts management procedure; Conflict register; Incident report; Consultation report; Report on ongoing conflicts; Protocols of agreement; Minutes of conflict resolution.

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

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

Verifiers: Records of complaints/grievances/conflicts and appeals; Dispute resolution reports; Monitoring report on pending disputes; Acknowledgement receipts; Proof of compensation; Memorandums of understanding; Copies of releases.

4.6.4 Operations cease in areas while disputes exist of:

- 1) Substantial magnitude (affecting essential usage rights); or
- 2) Substantial duration (>6 months); or
- 3) Involving a significant number of interests (which concerns more than half of the villages or households affected by the Management Unit activities).

Verifiers: Records of complaints/grievances/conflicts and appeals; Dispute resolution reports; Monitoring report on pending disputes; Notification letter for stop of activities.

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

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

Verifiers: Social mapping procedure; Participatory mapping report; Participatory social maps approved by the parties; Minutes of local community consultation during participatory mapping and attendance lists.

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

Verifiers: Consultation report; Participatory mapping report; Approved social maps; Consultation minutes; Follow-up reports; FPIC procedure; Community awareness reports on FPIC and other agreements; Memorandums of understanding; FPIC agreements.

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

Verifiers: Participatory mapping reports; Report on findings; Report on corrective/preventive measures implemented; Minutes of cessation of activities; Memorandums of understanding; Maps of affected sites; Participatory maps.

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

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

Verifiers: Socio-economic study reports; Reports on studies of the local populations concerned; Report identifying the traditional knowledge and practices of the local populations concerned; Memorandum of understanding/agreement; Service provision contract; Confidentiality agreement between the two parties (conventions and laws on the intellectual property of Indigenous knowledge); FPIC agreements.

- 4.8.2. Traditional peoples are compensated according to the binding agreement reached through Free, Prior and Informed Consent for the use of traditional knowledge and intellectual property. Such compensation is based on the commercial value of such knowledge.

Verifiers: Memorandum of understanding/agreement; Copy of compensation release; Copies of cheques and/or invoices; FPIC agreements; Study reports from the local populations concerned; Report identifying the traditional knowledge and practices of the local populations concerned.

PRINCIPLE* 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST*

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

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

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

Verifiers: Management inventory report validated by the Administration; Multi-resource inventory report; Environmental and social impact study report, reforestation report; Silvicultural treatment report (see applicable legal requirements); Management plan; High Conservation Value Study Report.

5.1.2. The Organization identifies, maps, and supports local valorization activities of non-timber forest products by interested local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

Verifiers: Management plan; Socio-economic study; Management inventory report; Support program/policy for local communities and Indigenous Peoples; Participatory mapping report; Participatory maps; Protocols of agreement; FPIC agreements.

5.1.3. When The Organization makes FSC claims on its commitment to maintaining and/or improving Ecosystem Services, The Organization shall comply with applicable requirements in FSC-PRO-30-006.

Verifiers: Procedure FSC-PRO-30-006 (sections I, II, III, and IV); Ecosystem services declaration; High Conservation Value Study Report.

5.1.4. The Organization supports the promotional efforts to develop markets for lesser or not known timber species, as well as their sustainable management.

Verifiers: Management plan; Management inventory report; Strategy for promoting little-known or unknown tree species; List of species to be promoted; Orders for species to be promoted; Sales statistics; Marketing/commercial policy for species to be promoted.

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan; Annual operating plan; Annual operation report; Management inventory report; High Conservation Value Study Report; Silvicultural activity reports.

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

Verifiers: Notice of Non-Detrimental Trade in Timber (ACEBO) / Industrial cutting permit / Annual cutting permit; Management plan; Annual operating plan.

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

Verifiers: Management plan; Quarterly production declaration; Annual production statistics; Annual operating plan; Annual operation report; Site register.

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

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan; Five-year management plan; Endorsement to social clauses; Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report; Environmental and Social Management Plan; Budget allocated to forest certification.

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

Verifiers: Management plan; Five-year operational plan; Social provisions agreement in concession contract; Addendum to social provisions.

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

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

Verifiers: Hiring policy; Social provisions in concession agreements; Employment contract with local communities and Indigenous Peoples; Memoranda of understanding

- 5.4.2. The Organization works with local communities to support their initiatives to harvest and process forest products locally in accordance with the regulations in force.

Verifiers: Management plans; Reports Socio-economic studies; Memoranda of understanding; Participatory mapping reports; Participatory maps.

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

- 5.5.1. Sufficient funds are allocated to implement the management plan in order to meet this standard and to ensure long-term economic viability.

Verifiers: Investment plan/ business plan; Management plan/ Annual operations plan; Budget / Financial statements.

- 5.5.1.1 The budget for implementing the management plan covers the costs of social and environmental commitments outlined in the management plan, as well as related policies and planning documents.

Verifiers: Financial report on the management plan; Budget for certification-related activities; Budgets for social and environmental activities.

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

Verifiers: Financial report for remittances and expenditures; Proof of expenditure incurred in implementing management documents; Accounting report on the implementation of the management plan, five-year operational plan, social clauses and/or amendments to social clauses; Report on financial disbursements and expenses incurred.

PRINCIPLE* 6: ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES* AND IMPACTS

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

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

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

Verifiers: Literature review cited in the assessment; Environmental and Social Impact Assessment report validated by Agence Congolaise de l'Environnement (ACE); High Conservation Value study report; Global environmental situation screening report; Proof of expenditure incurred in implementing management documents.

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

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

Verifiers: Environmental impact assessment report produced by a consultancy approved by the competent authority and approved by the ACE; Environmental and social management plan; Management Plan; HCV assessment report.

6.1.3. Assessments of the environmental impacts referred to in Indicators 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 include the potential impacts of management infrastructures, workers' camp and workers' activities.

Verifiers: Approved site plan of workers' camp; ESMP (Environmental and social management plan) approved by ACE; Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report; High Conservation Value Study Report.

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

6.2.1. The Organization carries out and documents an assessment of the potential impacts of its direct/indirect management activities on environmental values, taking into account the size and intensity of the operations carried out, as well as the sensitivity of the sites and landscape to such operations.

Verifiers: Environmental impact assessment (ESIA) report of the Organization approved by the competent authority and endorsed by ACE; Environmental and social management plan validated by ACE.

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

Verifiers: ESIA report produced by a consultancy firm registered with the relevant authority and approved by the ACE; Environmental and social management plan validated by the ACE.

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

6.3.1. Management activities are planned and implemented to prevent negative impacts and to protect environmental values.

Verifiers: Forest management plan (PAF); Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP); Annual Operations Plan (PAO); ESIA report produced by a consulting firm approved by the competent authority and endorsed by ACE.

6.3.2. Management activities prevent negative impacts to environmental values.

Verifiers: Monitoring and evaluation report of management activities (RIL records, forest dynamics surveys, carbon sinking surveys, etc.); Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).

6.3.3. Where negative impacts to environmental values occur, measures are adopted to prevent further damage, and negative impacts are mitigated and/or repaired.

Verifiers: Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP); ESMP implementation monitoring reports; Internal activity monitoring reports; Internal company procedures; PV of corrective and mitigating actions taken.

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

6.4.1. Best Available Information is used to identify rare and threatened species, and their habitats, including CITES species (where applicable) and those listed on national, regional and local lists of rare and threatened species that are present or likely to be present within and adjacent to the Management Unit.

Verifiers: Management inventory report; Multi-resource inventory report; Management plan; HCV study report; National list of protected animals; List of protected animals identified in the Management Unit.

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

Verifiers: Internal procedures for the conservation of rare and endangered species, their conservation status and their habitats; Operating maps; Management plan; High Conservation Value study report; Internal activity monitoring reports; CITES National list of plant and animal species.

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

Verifiers: Management plan (zoning map); Company rules and regulations; Posters and awareness messages; Company procedures for communication with local communities (COLO) and/or Pygmy Indigenous Peoples (PAP); Minutes of communication/awareness-raising meetings (with attendance list); HCV survey report; Internal monitoring and evaluation reports.

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

Verifiers: Company's internal rules; Displayed posters and awareness-raising messages (list of protected species); Company procedures for communicating with local communities; Awareness-raising meeting minutes.

6.4.4.1 Procedures and guidelines for the protection of rare, threatened or endangered species at regional or local level and their habitats are developed by The Organisation and implemented in collaboration with the relevant stakeholders.

Verifiers: Internal wildlife management procedures; Memoranda of understanding/agreements with the Forestry administration and other stakeholders; Minutes of stakeholder consultations (attendance list); Study of High Conservation Values; Report on identification and management of sensitive sites.

6.4.4.2 The Organisation prepares internal rules prohibiting and punishing illegal hunting, fishing, and collection in the forest concession, the transport and trade of bushmeat and firearms in concession vehicles.

Verifiers: Company's internal rules; Displayed posters and awareness-raising messages; Company procedures for communicating with local communities; Communication/sensitisation meeting minutes.

6.4.4.3 The Organisation supports community wildlife management in collaboration with the relevant authorities.

Verifiers: Wildlife management plan; Internal monitoring and evaluation reports; Reports of consultation/activity meetings with relevant authorities.

6.4.4.4 The Organisation provides displaced employees in workers' camps with domestic meat at a price equivalent to or lower than the market price in the nearest reference town.

Verifiers: Company shop food supply records; Monitoring report of company shop; Company shop price list validated by competent authority; Company shop management contract.

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. (C6.4 and 10.5 P&C V4 and Motion 7:2014).

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

Verifiers: Forest management plan; Protection and conservation zone map; Multi-resource inventory report; HCV report.

6.5.2. Representative Sample Areas of native ecosystems identified are protected.

Verifiers: Forest management plan; Protection and conservation zone map; Multi-resource inventory report; HCV report.

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

Verifiers: Forest management plan; Logging maps; Annual operational plan; Internal monitoring and evaluation reports.

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

Verifiers: Management plan; Monitoring / evaluation report; Five-Year Operational Plan; Logging maps

- 6.5.5. Representative Sample Areas in combination with other components of the conservation areas network comprise a minimum 10% area of the Management Unit.

Verifiers: Management plan; HCV report and maps; Logging maps.

- 6.5.6 Conservation areas are identified and marked on maps and on the ground in logging areas.

Verifiers: Management plan (zoning maps); Conservation area mapping report; Conservation zone materialization maps; Annual cutting area boundary acceptance report.

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

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

Verifiers: Post-harvest monitoring report; Harvest report; Forest management plan; Annual operating plan; Harvest analysis report.

- 6.6.2. Where past management has eliminated plant communities or habitat features, management activities aimed at re-establishing such habitats are implemented; these activities are communicated to the authorities, employees, subcontractors and neighbouring populations.

Verifiers: Forest management plan; Company procedures; Five-Year Operational Plan; Correspondence to and from the forestry authorities (central, provincial and local); Company communication plan; Wildlife management plan; Silviculture activity reports; Internal monitoring evaluation reports.

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

Verifiers: Management plan; Management inventory report; Operational inventory report; Ecological dynamics monitoring report; Harvesting maps; Post-exploitation report; Internal activity monitoring and evaluation reports.

- 6.6.4. Effective measures are taken to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting activities to ensure that naturally occurring native species, their diversity within species and their natural distribution are maintained.

Verifiers: Management plan; Company communication plan; Wildlife management procedure/plan; Monitoring and evaluation report on hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting; Service notes; Hunting management plan; Wildlife Protection Plan; Conventions/protocols of agreement with the Forestry Administration; Surveillance mission reports; Anti-poaching mission reports (LAB); Awareness-raising reports for local communities; Internal regulations.

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

Verifiers: Multi-year training plan; Training modules; Training /awareness-raising report; Training certificates

6.6.6. An internal regulation banning and punishing the transportation of and trade in bush meat and firearms in the facilities and vehicles of The Organization.

Verifiers: Management plan; Corporate communication plan; Wildlife management procedure plan/manual; Hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting monitoring and evaluation reports; Service notes; Hunting management plan; Wildlife protection plan; Conventions/protocols of agreement with the Forestry Administration; Surveillance mission reports; Anti-poaching mission reports (LAB); Awareness-raising reports for local communities; Internal regulations.

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

Verifiers: Company procedures on hunting; Internal control reports; Report of joint anti-poaching patrol; Company procedure manual on hunting issues; Agreements/Memoranda of Understanding with the Forestry Administration; Unannounced inspection reports; Internal monitoring and evaluation reports.

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

Verifiers: Wildlife protection procedures; Company shop price list; Internal regulations (IRs); Checkpoints; Alternative activities to hunting.

6.6.9. The Organization monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of control measures to enable improvements to be made to control systems.

Verifiers: Internal monitoring and evaluation procedures; Company's internal control reports; Internal monitoring and evaluation reports; Post-operation monitoring reports.

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

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

Verifiers: RIL procedures; Logging operation report (forest inventory map, logging map); Post harvest control report; Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and monitoring reports on implementation-evaluation of activities.

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

Verifiers: Restoration report of disturbed areas; Procedure for the implementation of corrective actions: Post harvest control report.

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

Verifiers: Management plan; Restoration report of disturbed areas; Procedure for the implementation of corrective actions; Post harvest control report.

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

Verifiers: Management plan; Restoration report of disturbed areas; Procedure for the implementation of corrective actions; Post harvest control report.

6.7.5 The road network within the forest concession is built and maintained in such a way as to avoid erosion and disturbance of the water network.

Verifiers: Road network planning map; Road monitoring and maintenance report; Post-operation inspection report.

6.7.6 Watercourses and their surroundings are clearly identified, mapped and protected in accordance with specific management rules.

Verifiers: Management plan; Water network maps; Procedure on boundary setting of protection areas (water courses); RIL procedures; Post harvest control report; Logging map.

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan (structure and distribution histogram of resources within the concession, management parameters); Post-harvest control report.

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

Verifiers: Management plan; Restoration procedures; Silvicultural operations report (reforestation, enrichment, etc.); Monitoring and evaluation report on restoration activities; Regeneration assessment report; Post-harvest control report.

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

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

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan; Post-harvest report; RIL procedures; ESIA report; ESMP

6.9.2 In relation to Indicator 6.9.1, relevant stakeholders are consulted and they approve plans to convert forested areas to other forms of non-forest land use.

Verifiers: Management plan; Minutes of stakeholder meetings; FPIC document/ FPIC agreements; Forest concession conversion order; Arrêté portant déclassement d'une concession forestière.

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

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

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

Verifiers: Reports on conversions since 1994 in the forest concession; Document review.

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

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

Verifiers: Conversion reports since 1994; Document review; Report on remediation activities.

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

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

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

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

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

PRINCIPLE* 7: MANAGEMENT PLANNING

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

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

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

Verifiers: Company's general policies (environment, social, safety); Internal procedures/rules and regulations.

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

Verifiers: Management plan; Five-year operational plan; Annual operational plan; High Conservation Value study report; Environmental and social impact assessment report; Internal procedures; Job description sheets; Company's internal rules; Social provisions in concession contract; Addendum to social provisions.

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

Verifiers: Management plan summary; Environmental and Social Management Plan; Summary of management policies and objectives; Company website; Posters; Audio-visual publications.

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan; Five-year operational plan; Social provisions in concession specifications; Environmental and social management plan.

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

Verifiers: Management plan; Five-year operational plan; Annual operational plan; Social provisions agreement in concession contract; Addendum to social provisions; PPEs; HCV report.

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

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

Verifiers: Operations monitoring procedures; Monitoring and evaluation programme; Monitoring and evaluation reports; Post-operation monitoring reports.

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

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

- 1) Monitoring results, including results of certification audits;
- 2) Evaluation results;
- 3) Stakeholder engagement results;
- 4) New scientific and technical information, and
- 5) Changing environmental, social, or economic circumstances.

Verifiers: See Annex F; Monitoring and evaluation reports.

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

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

Verifiers: Updated summary of the management plan; Company website; Company Social networks; Acknowledgement receipt for the summary.

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

Verifiers: Updated summary of the management plan; Communication policy; Request records; Acknowledgement of receipt.

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

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

- 1) Dispute resolution processes (Criterion 1.6, Criterion 2.6, Criterion 4.6);
- 2) Definition of Living wages (Criterion 2.4);
- 3) Identification of rights (Criterion 3.1, Criterion 4.1), sites (Criterion 3.5, Criterion 4.7) and impacts (Criterion 4.5);
- 4) Local communities' socio-economic development activities (Criterion 4.4); and
- 5) High Conservation Values assessment, management and monitoring (Criterion 9.1, Criterion 9.2, Criterion 9.4).

Verifiers: FPIC report; FPIC agreement; Reports: monitoring, evaluation, audit, consultation with stakeholders; Wildlife, flora and HCV inventory reports; Social and economic assessment report; Collective agreement; Social provisions agreement in the concession contract; Addendum to social provisions; Report on participatory mapping with Local communities and Indigenous Peoples; Dispute management/resolution procedure.

7.6.2. Culturally appropriate engagement is used to:

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

Verifiers: Social and economic assessment report; FPIC report; Negotiation meeting minutes/records; Social provisions agreement in concession specifications; Addenda to social provisions in concession specifications; Meeting reports of the local management and monitoring committees.

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

Verifiers: Management plan; ESMP; HCV study report; FPIC process report; FPIC agreement; Stakeholders' meeting reports; Meeting attendance list; Letter of request from relevant stakeholders; Monitoring and evaluation procedure; List of planned activities.

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

Verifiers: Management plan; ESMP; HCV study report; FPIC process report; FPIC agreement; Affected stakeholders' request; List of interested stakeholders; Stakeholders' meeting reports; Meeting attendance list; Monitoring procedure; List of planned activities.

PRINCIPLE* 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

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

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan; ESMP; HCV study report; Internal company procedures; Internal control reports; Planning and harvesting maps.

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

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

Verifiers: Report on the implementation of the concession's social and environmental management plan; Follow-up report by ACE (Agence Congolaise de l'Environnement former GEEC); Monitoring report of the implementation of the management plan; Legal compliance checklist (new operational guide); Monitoring and evaluation reports.

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

Verifiers: Report on the implementation of the concession's social and environmental management plan; ESIA report approved by ACE; Monitoring and evaluation reports.

8.2.3. The performance of harvesting methods and their impact on the forest are assessed and documented.

Verifiers: Company's internal evaluation reports; Monitoring report of the implementation of the management plan; Post-harvest monitoring reports.

8.2.4. The Organization collects and updates data on the quantities of each forest product it harvests from the forest concession.

Verifiers: Harvesting site records; Daily operation reports; Traceability system data; Logging map; Verification form.

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

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

Verifiers: Management plan; Updated internal procedures; Internal control reports; Internal monitoring and evaluation reports; Post-harvest monitoring reports.

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

Verifiers: Management plan; Updated internal procedures; Internal control reports; Internal monitoring and evaluation reports; Post-harvest monitoring reports.

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

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

Verifiers: Available internal monitoring and control reports; Annual summary of monitoring results; Company website; Company social networks; Acknowledgement of receipt of the annual summary of monitoring results.

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

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

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

Verifiers: Existence of an operational traceability system; Traceability system records; Sales statistics for FSC-certified products; Sales database; Commercial invoices.

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

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

Verifiers: Existence of an operational traceability system; Traceability system records; Sales statistics for FSC-certified products; Sales database; Commercial invoices.

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

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

Verifier: Archived invoices and other sales documents (for at least 5 years); Commercial invoices.

8.5.4. All relevant personnel are informed and trained to implement the requirements of Criterion 8.5.

Verifiers: Training plan; Training reports / attendance lists; Training certificates.

PRINCIPLE* 9: HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Verifiers: Stakeholders' consultation report; HCV assessment report; HCV maps and HCV framework.

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

Verifiers: Map identifying intact forest landscapes (IFLs) within the MU; HCV assessment report.

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

Verifiers: Stakeholders' consultation report; HCV assessment report; HCV maps.

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

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

Verifiers: HCV assessment report; HCV maps; Participative mapping.

9.2.2. Management strategies and actions are developed to maintain and/or enhance the identified High Conservation Values and to maintain associated High Conservation Value Areas, consistent with Annex I and prior to implementing potentially harmful management activities.

Verifiers: HCV management plan; HCV assessment report; Monitoring and evaluation reports.

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

Verifiers: HCV study report; Minutes of HCV consultation meetings; Report on stakeholder consultation during the HCV study; HCV management plan.

9.2.4. Management strategies are developed to protect Intact Forest Landscapes outside and within core areas while upholding the rights of Indigenous Peoples and those of local communities through FPIC.

Verifiers: HCV study report; Socio-economic study report; HCV monitoring procedures; HCV monitoring-evaluation report; FPIC process report; FPIC agreements

9.2.5. Management strategies are developed to protect Intact Forest Landscapes outside of core areas, consistent with Annex H.

Verifiers: HCV study report; HCV monitoring-evaluation report; HCV monitoring procedure; HCV monitoring-evaluation report; HCV monitoring procedures; Location maps of IFLs in the forest concession

9.2.6. The Organization shall demarcate a core area of the Intact Forest Landscape at the threshold > 50% of the surface area of the Intact Forest Landscape contained in the Management Unit.

Verifiers: HCV study report; Updated Global Forest Watch (GFW) IFL map; IFL map of the country based on GFW data and; Location maps of IFLs in the forest concession.

9.2.7. The core area of an Intact Forest Landscape is identified within the Management Unit that takes into account the nature and distribution of ecological and cultural values, as well as the connectivity with adjacent protected areas and/or surrounding Intact Forest Landscapes.

Verifiers: Multi-resource inventory report; IFL Core Area Designation Report; FPIC agreement with stakeholders; PA (Management Unit Map).

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

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

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

Verifiers: HCV study report; HCV monitoring procedures; HCV monitoring-evaluation report; Location maps of LFI in the forest concession.

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

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

Verifiers: HCV study report; HCV monitoring-evaluation report; HCV national framework.

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

Verifiers: HCV management procedures; HCV monitoring-evaluation report.

9.3.3. Core areas are protected consistent with Criterion 9.2.

Verifiers: HCV management procedures; HCV monitoring-evaluation report

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

Verifiers: HCV study report; HCV monitoring-evaluation report.

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

Verifiers: Minutes / memo to cease activities; Records / reports on corrective or mitigation measures.

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

9.4.1. A program of periodic monitoring assesses:

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

Verifiers: HCV study report; HCV management/monitoring plan; HCV monitoring and evaluation report.

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

Verifiers: HCV study report; HCV management/monitoring plan; HCV monitoring reports; Consultation/ engagement records; Annual HCV monitoring report.

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

Verifiers: HCV management/monitoring plan; HCV monitoring reports.

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

Verifiers: HCV study report; HCV management/monitoring plan; HCV monitoring/evaluation report; Minutes of consultations; Annual HCV monitoring report.

PRINCIPLE* 10: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

Verifiers: Silvicultural activity plan; Post-harvest monitoring reports; Research reports.

10.1.2. Regeneration activities are implemented in a manner that:

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

Verifiers: Silvicultural activity plan; Post-harvest monitoring reports; Research reports.

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

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

Verifiers: Silvicultural activity plan; Ecological studies/research reports; List of local and/or exotic species used.

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

Verifiers: Silvicultural plan; Annual Operation Plan; List of planted species; List of harvested species.

10.2.3 In natural forests, the species selected for regeneration are local native species and are ecologically well adapted to the site.

Verifiers: Annual Operation Plan; Silvicultural activity plan; Activity monitoring and evaluation report; List of species planted; List of species harvested.

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

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

Verifiers: Annual Operation Plan; Silvicultural activity plan; Post-harvest monitoring report; List of planted species; List of used alien tree species used; Approved research results; Certificate of origin & phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin; Scientific publication validated by the affected stakeholders.

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

Verifiers: Annual Operation Plan; Silvicultural activity plan; Post-harvest monitoring report; List of planted species; List of used alien tree species; Report of research results; Approved report by the relevant political and administrative authority; Phytosanitary certificate issued by country of origin; Mitigation procedure for adverse impacts on used species.

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

Verifiers: Annual Operation Plan; Silvicultural activity plan; Post-harvest monitoring report; Organisation's control procedure; Control monitoring by the forestry authorities.

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

Verifiers: Annual Operation Plan; Silvicultural activity plan; Post-harvest monitoring report; Organisation's control procedure; Forestry Administration mission reports; Research results.

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

10.4.1. Genetically modified organisms are not used.

Verifiers: Annual Operation Plan; Silvicultural activity plan; Post-harvest monitoring report; List of exotic species authorized for import; Report from the Office Congolais de Contrôle (OCC) & Service de Quarantaine Animale et Végétale (SQAV).

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

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

Verifiers: Annual Operation Plan; Stand enrichment programme (management plan); Monitoring report of *silvicultural practices*; Sites maps of silvicultural practices; List and procedure for used silvicultural practices; Forestry monitoring and assessment report.

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

10.6.1. The use of fertilizers is minimized or avoided.

Verifiers: Annual Operation Plan; Silvicultural activity plan; Activity monitoring and evaluation report; Opinion of the National Service for Fertilizers and Related Inputs (SENAFIC); Silvicultural treatment analysis report.

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

Verifiers: Monitoring and control requirements by authorities; Analysis report of fertilization methods.

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

Verifiers: Monitoring records for fertilizer handling; Procedure for fertiliser handling; List of approved products.

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

Verifiers: Annual Operation Plan; SENAFIC report; Post-operation monitoring report; Fertilizer use procedure; Environmental and social management plan (ESMP); Control and monitoring report from the administration & other stakeholders; ESMP monitoring report.

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

Verifiers: Damages identification report; Report on used mitigation or repairing measures; Mitigation or repairing measures.

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

10.7.1 Integrated pest management, including selection of silviculture systems, is used to avoid, or aim to eliminate, the frequency, extent and amount of chemical pesticide applications, and result in non-use or overall reductions in applications.

Verifiers: Annual Operation Plan; Silvicultural activity plan; Post-harvest monitoring report; List of approved pesticides; Analysis report of pesticide use methods.

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

Verifiers: Assessment of Social and Environmental Risks (ESRA) associated with the use of chemicals; Follow-up on implementation of ESRA recommendations; FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0 FSC Pesticides Policy clause 4.12.

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

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

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

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

Verifiers: Analysis report of pesticide use methods; Post-operational monitoring reports; Pesticide use reports.

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

Verifiers: Company chemical use procedures; Evidence of awareness of pesticide use; Planned EFIR measures; Administrative inspection reports; Warning signboards.

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

Verifiers: Control report by authorities; Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP); ESMP monitoring report; Procedure for using company chemicals.

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

Verifiers: Assessment of Social and Environmental Risks (ESRA) associated with the use of chemicals; Damages identification report; Report on used mitigation or repairing measures.

10.7.10 When pesticides are used:

- 1) The selected pesticide, application method, timing and pattern of use offers the least risk to humans and non-target species; and
- 2) Objective evidence demonstrates that the pesticide is the only effective, practical and cost effective way to control the pest.

Verifiers: ESRA report for chemicals used; Stakeholders' and experts' consultation report.

10.7.10.1 When highly hazardous pesticides are used, The Organization complies with the instructions and the international generic indicators for the use and risk management of highly hazardous pesticides in Annex J.

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

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

Verifiers: List of biological control agents; Monitoring report by authorities; Procedure for the use of biological control agents; Monitoring and evaluation report on the use of biological control agents; Opinion of relevant bodies and government authorities.

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

Verifiers: Silvicultural activity plan; International expert opinion; International scientific protocol reference.

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

Verifiers: List of biological control agents; Monitoring records on use of biological control agents; Silvicultural activity plan.

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

Verifiers: Damages identification report; Control report by authorities; Environmental and Social Management Plan; ESMP monitoring report; Procedure for the use of biological control agents; Mitigation or repairing measures.

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

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

Verifiers: ESIA report; ESMP monitoring report.

10.9.2. Management activities mitigate these impacts.

Verifiers: Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP); ESMP monitoring report.

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

Verifiers: Environmental and Social Management Plan; ESMP monitoring report.

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

Verifier: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA report); Environmental and Social Management Plan; Monitoring report of the implementation of the ESMP.

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

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

Verifier: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report; ESMP implementation monitoring reports; Planned RIL measures; Monitoring report of RIL implementation.

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

Verifiers: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report; ESMP implementation monitoring reports; Planned RIL measures; Monitoring report of RIL implementation.

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

Verifier: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report; ESMP implementation monitoring reports; Planned RIL measures; Monitoring report of RIL implementation; Incorporating the results of monitoring and evaluation into the revised management plan/procedure.

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

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

Verifier: HCV assessment report; Planned RIL measures; Monitoring report of RIL implementation; Annual operational plan; Monitoring report on the implementation of the annual operational plan.

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

Verifier: Annual operation plan (AOP); Post-harvest activity reports; Post-harvest monitoring reports; Planned RIL measures; RIL implementation monitoring report.

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

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

Verifier: Annual operation plan (AOP); Post-exploitation activity reports; Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA); Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP); Planned RIL measures; RIL implementation monitoring report; Post-harvest monitoring reports.

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

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

Verifiers: Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP); Waste management procedure; ESMP implementation follow-up report; Post-operation monitoring report.

G ANNEXES

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

The following is the minimum list of applicable laws, regulations and nationally ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements, in <FSC-STD-60-004 International Generic Indicators>. This is not an exhaustive list. If additional legislation exists, CHs shall also comply with it.

| Category | Law/ Regulation |
|---|---|
| 1. Legal rights to harvest | |
| 1.1. Land tenure and management rights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interministerial Order No 0100/CAB/MIN/AFF. FONC/2020 and No /CAB/MIN/FINANCES/2020/068 of 02 June 2020 to set duties, taxes and royalties, initiated by the Ministry of Land Tenure. ○ Law No. 73-021 of 20 July 1973 to set up the general property regime, the land and property regime and the securities regime, as amended and supplemented by Law No 80-008 of 18 July 1980. ○ Ordinance-law No. 13/003 of 23 February 2013 to revise procedures related to the assessment, control and collection of non-tax revenues, as amended and completed to date. ○ Ordinance-Law No. 18/003 of 13 March 2018 establishing the nomenclature of central government duties, taxes and fees, as amended and completed to date. ○ Decree No 007/2002 of 02 February 2002 on the method of payment of debts to the State, as amended and completed by Decree No 011 /20 of 14 April 2011. ○ Ordinance-law No 69-006 of 10/02/1969 on actual tax. ○ Order No. 74-148 of 2 July 1974 implementing law No. 73-021 of 20 July 1973 on the general property, land and real estate regime and the system of securities. ○ Law No 011/2002 of 29/08/2002 to set up the Forestry Code. ○ Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. ○ Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. ○ Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa of Hazardous Wastes and on the Control of Transboundary Movements and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa. |
| 1.2. Concession licenses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Law No 011/2002 of 29 August 2002 to set up the Forestry Code; ○ Ministerial order No. 072 on Social clauses; ○ Ministerial Order No 024/CAB/ MIN/ECN-T/15/JEB/ 08 of 07 August 2008 establishing the public enquiry procedure prior to granting forest concessions. |

| Category | Law/ Regulation |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ministerial Order No 028/CAB/ MIN/ECN-T/15/JEB/08 of 07 August 2008 to set out the model contracts for forest product harvesting concession and related specifications. ○ Ministerial Order No 022/CAB/ MIN/ECN-T/15/JEB/ 2008 of 07 August 2008 to set up an authorization procedure for ceding, renting, exchanging or donating forest concessions. ○ Ministerial Order No CAB/MIN/AF.F-E.T/194/MAS/02 of 14 May 2002 to suspend the granting of forestry allowances ○ Decree No. 05/116 of 24 October 2005 to set up the terms and conditions for the conversion of old forest titles into forest concession contracts and extending the moratorium on the granting of forest exploitation titles. ○ Ministerial Order No 034/CAB/Min/ ECN-EF/2006 of 05 October 2006 on the membership, organization and operation of provincial forestry advisory councils. ○ Decree No. 08/02 of 21 January 2008 amending Decree No. 05/116 of 24 October 2005 to lay down the procedures for converting old forestry titles and extending the moratorium on granting forest logging permits. ○ Decree No. 08/03 of 26 January 2008 on the membership, organization and operation of the National Forestry Advisory Council. ○ Decree No. 08/08 of 08 April 2008 to lay down the procedure for gazetting and ungazetting forests ○ Decree No. 08/09 of 08 April 2008 to lay down the procedure for allocating forest concessions. ○ Decree No 011/25 of 20 May 2011 amending Decree n° 08/09 of 08 April 2008 to lay down the procedure for allocating forest concessions. ○ Decree No. 011/26 of 20 May 2011 on the obligation to publish all contracts relating to natural resources. ○ Decree No 011/27 of 20 May 2011 laying down specific rules for allocating conservation forest concessions. ○ Decree No. 14/018 of 02 August 2014 to lay down the terms and conditions for allocating forest concessions to local communities. ○ Ministerial Order No 034/CAB/MIN/EDD/03/03/BLN/2015 of 03 July 2015 to lay down the procedure for drafting, verifying, approving, implementing and monitoring the management plan of a timber production forest concession. ○ Ministerial order no. cab / min af.f.e.t/261/2002 of 03 October 2002 on the organization and operation of the forestry registry ○ Ministerial Order No 020/CAB/MIN/ECN_T/15/JEB/2008 of 07 April 2008 to lay down measures relating to authorizations of recognition and allocation forest inventory. |

| Category | Law/ Regulation |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ministerial order No 035/CAB/MIN/ECN_T/15/JEB/2008 of 22 August 2008 on measures relating to the appraisal of the price of forests to be allocated. ○ Ministerial Order No 037/CAB/MIN/ECN_T/15/JEB/2008 of 18 September 2008 to lay down the selection criteria for bidders of forest concessions. ○ African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources ○ International Plant Protection Convention. ○ Phytosanitary Convention for Africa. ○ Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. ○ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). ○ African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources ○ Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency. ○ Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. ○ Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer. ○ International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) / International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). ○ Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat or « Ramsar ». ○ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). ○ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). ○ Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)/ Chemicals. ○ Conference on Central African Dense and Moist Forest Ecosystems (CEFHDA). ○ Treaty establishing the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC). ○ African Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). |
| 1.3. Management and harvesting planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ministerial decree No CAB / MIN / AF.F-E.T/276/2002 of 05 November 2002 to determine protected forest species. ○ Ordinance-law No. 13/003 of 23 February 2013 to revise procedures related to the assessment, control and collection of non-tax revenues. ○ Interministerial Decree No./CAB/MIN/EDD/2020/005 and No CAB/MIN/FINANCES/2020/066 of 24 July 2020 to lay down rates of duties, taxes and fees to be collected under the initiative of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, with regard to forest management. |

| Category | Law/ Regulation |
|----------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ministerial order No. 072 on Social clauses. ○ Ordinance-law No. 13/002 of 23 February 2013 to establish the nomenclature of central government duties, taxes and fees. ○ Ordinance-law No. 13/001 of 23 February 2013 to establish the nomenclature of taxes, duties, levies and fees of the provinces and decentralised territorial entities and their distribution procedures. ○ Ministerial Order No 028/CAB/ MIN/ECN-T/15/JEB/08 of 07 August 2008 to set out the model contracts for forest product harvesting concession and related specifications. ○ Ministerial Order No 022/CAB/ MIN/ECN-T/15/JEB/ 2008 of 07 August 2008 to set up an authorization procedure for ceding, renting, exchanging or donating forest concessions. ○ Ministerial order No. 104/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/015/JEB/09 of 16 June 2009 to establish the forestry transaction procedure. ○ Ministerial order No. 103 /CAB/MIN/ECN-T/15/JEB/09 of 16 June 2009 on the organization and operation of the forestry dispute settlement commission ○ Ministerial order No CAB/MIN/AF. F-E. T/277/2002 of 05 November 2002 set up rules for the uniform and distinctive insignia of inspectors, civil servants and sworn forestry officers. ○ Ministerial Order No 022/CAB/MIN/EDD/ /09/BLN/015 of 18 April 2015 to lay down appropriation rules for abandoned woods to the benefit of the State and allocating them to the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development. ○ Law No 011/2002 of 29 August 2002 to set up the Forestry Code. ○ Decree of 24 October 2005 on conversion and moratorium ○ Ministerial Order No 034/CAB/Min/ ECN-EF/2006 of 05 October 2006 on the membership, organization and operation of provincial forestry advisory councils. ○ Decree No. 08/03 of 26 January 2008 on the membership, organization and operation of the National Forestry Advisory Council. ○ Decree No. 08/08 of 08 April 2008 to lay down the procedure for gazetting and ungazetting forests ○ Decree No. 09/24 of 21 May 2009 on the creation, organization and operation of the National Forest Fund, abbreviated as "F.F.N.", ○ Ministerial order No. 102/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/JEB/09 of 16 June 2009 to lay down the rules and formalities for forest control in DRC. ○ Ministerial order No 016/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/15/JEB/012 of 26 March 2012 relating to the forest operator's hammer. ○ Ordinance-law No. 13/001 of 23 February 2013 to establish the nomenclature of taxes, duties, levies and fees of the Provinces and Decentralised Territorial Entities and their distribution procedures. ○ Decree No. 14/019 of 02 August 2014 to lay down the operating rules of the procedural mechanisms for environmental protection. ○ Ministerial order No 025 of 9 February 2016 on specific provisions relating to the management and harvesting of local communities' forest concessions. |

| Category | Law/ Regulation |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministerial Order No 034/CAB/MIN/EDD/03/03/BLN/2015 of 03 July 2015 to lay down the procedure for drafting, verifying, approving, implementing and monitoring the management plan of a timber production forest concession. Ministerial order No. cab / min af.f.e.t/261/2002 of 03 October 2002 on the organization and operation of the forest registry. Ministerial order No 032/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/10/BNME/012 of 16 October 2012 amending and completing Ministerial order No. 102/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/15/JEB/09 of 16 June 2009 on the rules and procedures for forest control. Ministerial order No. 84/CAB/MIN/ECN-DD/CJ/00/RBM/2016 of 29 October 2016 on the conditions and rules for timber harvesting. Law No. 11/009 of 09 July 2011 on the fundamental principles of environmental protection. Ministerial Order No 015/CAB/MIN/EDD/AAN/KTT/01/2018 relating to the list of species to be promoted other than TOLA "Gosweilerodendron dalsamiferum" and the measurement of logs/roundwood for the reforestation tax and other duties. African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources International Plant Protection Convention. Phytosanitary Convention for Africa. Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) / International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat or "Ramsar". The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa of Hazardous Wastes and on the Control of Transboundary Movements and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa. Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)/ Chemicals. Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade. Brazzaville declaration, 1996. Treaty establishing the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC). |

| Category | Law/ Regulation |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LUSAKA Agreement (in ZAMBIA) on concerted operations to combat illegal trade in wild fauna and flora of 08 September 1994. ○ Law No. 48-83 of 21 April 1983 to define the conditions for the conservation and use of wild fauna. ○ Law No. 37-2008 of 28 November 2008 on wildlife and protected species. ○ United Nations Convention on biological diversity (1992). ○ Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat or « Ramsar ». ○ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). ○ COMIFAC Convergence Plan - Edition2 (2015-2025) ○ UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (May 8, 1992, New York, United States) ○ Operational guide to the Glossary of common terms ○ Operational guide to the list of forest species in the DRC ○ Operational guide to Standards on Survey Design of forest management inventory ○ Operational guide to Standards on forest management inventory ○ Operational guide to forest stratification standards ○ Operational guide to the Annotated template of the forest management inventory report ○ Operational guide to the Template and guide to carrying out the social and economic assessment. ○ Operational guide to the annotated sample of the six-monthly progress report on the drafting process of the management plan ○ Operational guide to Simulating and planning harvests in the timber production areas. ○ Operational guide to Standards on land-use when drafting management plans. ○ Operational guide on how to take into account wildlife in management plans. ○ Operational guide to the Annotated template of management plan ○ Operational guide to the Protocol for the verification and approval of the interim management plan ○ Operational guide to the Annotated template of interim management plan ○ Operational guide to the Protocol for monitoring the implementation of interim management plan and five-year operational plan. ○ Operational guide to the Annotated template of the five-year operational plan ○ Operational guide to the Principles of logging inventories ○ Operational guide to the Annotated template of annual operational plan |

| Category | Law/ Regulation |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operational guide to the Annotated template of the simplified annual operational plan for implementing the interim management plan. |
| 1.4. Harvesting permits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decree No. 05/116 of 24 October 2005 to set up the terms and conditions for the conversion of old forest titles into forest concession contracts and extending the moratorium on the granting of forest logging titles. ○ Ministerial decree No CAB / MIN / AF. F-E. T/276/2002 of 05 November 2002 to determine protected forest species. ○ Interministerial Decree No./CAB/MIN/EDD/2020/005 and No CAB/MIN/FINANCES/2020/066 of 24 July 2020 to lay down rates of duties, taxes and fees to be collected under the initiative of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, with regard to forest management. ○ Ordinance-law No. 13/002 of 23 February 2013 to establish the nomenclature of central government duties, taxes and fees. ○ Ordinance-law No. 13/001 of 23 February 2013 to establish the nomenclature of taxes, duties, levies and fees of the provinces and decentralised territorial entities and their distribution procedures. ○ Ministerial Order No 034/CAB/MIN/EDD/03/03/BLN/2015 of 03 July 2015 to lay down the procedure for drafting, verifying, approving, implementing and monitoring the management plan of a timber production forest concession. ○ Ministerial order No. 84/CAB/MIN/ECN-DD/CJ/00/RBM/2016 of 29 October 2016 on the conditions and rules for timber harvesting. ○ Operational guide to the Annotated template of the simplified annual operational plan for implementing the interim management plan. ○ Operational guide to Requirements for filling the quarterly report on timber production. ○ Operational guide to the Annotated template of the annual operational report and the AAC closure form ○ Operational guide to the Annotated template of the five-year operational report. |
| 2. Taxes and fees | |
| 2.1. Payment of royalties and harvesting fees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interministerial Decree No 005/CAB/MIN/ENV/2020/2005 and No 107/CAB/MIN/ MIN/FINANCES/2005 of 24 July 2020 to lay down rates of duties, taxes and fees to be collected under the initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation, Water and Forestry ○ Ordinance-law No. 13/001 of 23 February 2013 to establish the nomenclature of taxes, duties, levies and fees of the Provinces and Decentralised Territorial Entities and their distribution procedures. ○ Ordinance-law No. 18/003 of 13 March 2018 to establish the nomenclature of central government duties, taxes and fees. |

| Category | Law/ Regulation |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interministerial Decree No./CAB/MIN/EDD/2020/005 and No CAB/MIN/FINANCES/2020/066 of 24 July 2020 to lay down rates of duties, taxes and fees to be collected under the initiative of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, with regard to forest management ○ Ministerial order No. 072 on Social clauses. ○ Ministerial order No. 104/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/015/JEB/09 of 16 June 2009 to establish the forestry transaction procedure. ○ Ministerial Order No 022/CAB/MIN/EDD/ /09/BLN/015 of 18 April 2015 to lay down appropriation rules for abandoned woods to the benefit of the State and allocate them to the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development ○ Law No 011/2002 of 29 August 2002 to set up the Forestry Code (Article 122) (duties). ○ Decree No. 09/24 of 21 May 2009 on the creation, organisation and operation of the National Forest Fund, abbreviated as "F.F.N.", ○ OHADA Document. |
| 2.2. Value added taxes and other sales taxes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decree No. 011/42 of 22 November 2011 on implementing measures for Ordinance-Law No. 10/001 of 20 August 2010 to levy the value added tax. ○ Ordinance-Law No. 10/001 of 20 August 2010 to levy the value added tax. ○ Law No 011/2002 of 29 August 2002 to set up the Forestry Code. ○ Interministerial Decree No./CAB/MIN/EDD/2020/005 and No CAB/MIN/FINANCES/2020/066 of 24 July 2020 to lay down rates of duties, taxes and fees to be collected under the initiative of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, with regard to forest management; ○ Ministerial order No 035/CAB/MIN/ECN_T/15/JEB/2008 of 22 August 2008 on measures relating to the appraisal of the price of forests to be allocated. |
| 2.3. Income and profit taxes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ordinance-law No. 13/003 of 23 February 2013 to revise procedures related to the assessment, control and collection of non-tax revenues. ○ Ministerial order No. 072 on Social clauses. ○ Ordinance-law No. 13/002 of 23 February 2013 to establish the nomenclature of central government duties, taxes and fees. ○ Ordinance-law No. 13/001 of 23 February 2013 to establish the nomenclature of taxes, duties, levies and fees of the provinces and decentralised territorial entities and their distribution procedures. ○ Law No 011/2002 of 29 August 2002 to set up the Forestry Code. ○ Decree No. 09/24 of 21 May 2009 on the creation, organization and operation of the National Forest Fund, abbreviated as "F.F.N.", |

| Category | Law/ Regulation |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ordinance-law No. 13/001 of 23 February 2013 to establish the nomenclature of taxes, duties, levies and fees of the Provinces and Decentralised Territorial Entities and their distribution procedures. ○ OHADA |
| 3. Timber harvesting activities | |
| 3.1. Timber harvesting regulations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Law No 011/2002 of 29 August 2002 to set up the Forestry Code. ○ Law No. 11/009 of 09 July 2011 on the fundamental principles of environmental protection. ○ Ministerial order No. 84/CAB/MIN/ECN-DD/CJ/00/RBM/2016 of 29 October 2016 on the conditions and rules for timber harvesting. ○ Ministerial Order No 034/CAB/MIN/EDD/03/03/BLN/2015 of 03 July 2015 to lay down the procedure for drafting, verifying, approving, implementing and monitoring the management plan of a timber production forest concession. ○ Ministerial decree No CAB / MIN / AF. F-E. T/276/2002 of 05 November 2002 to determine protected forest species. ○ Ministerial order No. 072 on Social clauses. ○ Ministerial Order No 028/CAB/ MIN/ECN-T/15/JEB/08 of 07 August 2008 to set out the model contracts for forest product harvesting concession and related specifications. ○ Ministerial order No. 103 /CAB/MIN/ECN-T/15/JEB/09 of 16 June 2009 on the organization and operation of the forestry dispute settlement commission. ○ Ministerial Order No 022/CAB/MIN/EDD/ /09/BLN/015 of 18 April 2015 to lay down appropriation rules for abandoned woods to the benefit of the State and allocate them to the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development. ○ Decree No. 09/24 of 21 May 2009 on the creation, organization and operation of the National Forest Fund, abbreviated as "F.F.N.". ○ Ministerial order No. 102/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/JEB/09 of 16 June 2009 to lay down the rules and formalities for forest control in DRC. ○ Ministerial order No 016/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/15/JEB/012 of 26 March 2012 relating to the forest operator's hammer. ○ Decree No. 14/019 of 02 August 2014 to lay down the operating rules of the procedural mechanisms for environmental protection. ○ Ministerial order No 032/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/10/BNME/012 of 16 October 2012 amending and completing Ministerial order No. 102/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/15/JEB/09 of 16 June 2009 on the rules and procedures for forest control. ○ African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Algiers (Algeria) 15 September 1968. |

| Category | Law/ Regulation |
|----------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and their Destruction, Washington (USA) 10 April 1972. ○ International Plant Protection Convention, Italy (Rome), 06 December 1951. ○ Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural, Paris, (France) 23 November 1972. ○ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Washington (United States) 3 March 1973 ○ African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Algiers (Algeria) 15 September 1968. ○ Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, Geneva (Switzerland) 28 February 1978. ○ Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Bonn (Germany) 23 June 1979. ○ International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) / International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Geneva (Switzerland), 18 November 1992. ○ Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat or “Ramsar”, Ramsar (Iran) 02 February 1971. ○ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), 4 June 1992. ○ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (CNUCC), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), 4 June 1992. ○ Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)/ Chemicals, Stockholm (Sweden), 23 March 2005. ○ Phytosanitary Convention for Africa, Kinshasa (DRC), 13 September 1967. ○ Conference on Central African Dense and Moist Forest Ecosystems (CEFHDAC), Brazzaville (Republic of Congo) 1996. ○ Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (CCD), 12 September 1997. ○ Protocol on Climate Change, Kyoto (Japan), 16 February 2005. ○ Protocol on Biosafety, Cartagena (Tunisia). ○ Operational guide to the Glossary of common terms. ○ Operational guide to the list of forest species in the DRC. ○ Operational guide to Standards on Survey Design of forest management inventory. ○ Operational guide to Standards on forest management inventory ○ Operational guide to forest stratification standards. |

| Category | Law/ Regulation |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operational guide to the Annotated template of the forest management inventory report. ○ Operational guide to the Template and guide to carrying out the social and economic assessment. ○ Operational guide to the annotated sample of the six-monthly progress report on the drafting process of the management plan ○ Operational guide to Simulating and planning harvests in the timber production areas. ○ Operational guide to Standards on land-use when drafting management plans. ○ Operational guide on how to take into account wildlife in management plans. ○ Operational guide to the Annotated template of management plan. ○ Operational guide to the Protocol for the verification and approval of the interim management plan. ○ Operational guide to the Annotated template of interim management plan. ○ Operational guide to the Protocol for monitoring the implementation of interim and five-year management plans. ○ Operational guide to the Annotated template of the five-year operational plan. ○ Operational guide to the Principles of logging inventories. ○ Operational guide to the Annotated template of annual operational plan. ○ Operational guide to the Annotated template of the simplified annual operational plan for implementing the interim management plan. ○ Operational guide to Requirements for filling the quarterly report on timber production. ○ Operational guide to the Annotated template of the annual operational report and the AAC closure form. ○ Operational guide to the Annotated template of the five-year operational report. ○ Operational guide to Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) Principles. ○ Operational guide to the bargaining and implementation of social provisions. ○ Operational guide to the monitoring of the implementation of social provisions. |
| 3.2. Protected sites and species | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ministerial decree No CAB / MIN / AF. F-E. T/276/2002 of 05 November 2002 to determine protected forest species. ○ Law No 011/2002 of 29 August 2002 to set up the Forestry Code. |

| Category | Law/ Regulation |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ministerial Order No. 020/CAB/ MIN / ECN-EF / 2006 of 20 May 2006 to approve the list of protected animal species in the Democratic Republic of Congo. ○ Order No. 056 CAB/MIN/AFF-ECNPF/01/00 of 28 March 2000 to lay down the regulations on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). ○ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Washington (United States) 3 March 1973 ○ Operational guide to Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) Principles. ○ Operational guide on how to take into account wildlife in management plans. ○ Operational guide to Standards on land use when drafting management plans. ○ Annotated template of the forest management inventory report. ○ Protocol for monitoring the implementation of interim management plans and five-year operational plans. |
| 3.3. Environmental requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ministerial order No. 102/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/JEB/09 of 16 June 2009 to lay down the rules and formalities for forest control in DRC. ○ Decree No. 14/019 of 02 August 2014 to lay down the operating rules of the procedural mechanisms for environmental protection. ○ Ministerial Order No 034/CAB/MIN/EDD/03/03/BLN/2015 of 03 July 2015 to lay down the procedure for drafting, verifying, approving, implementing and monitoring the management plan of a timber production forest concession. ○ Ministerial order to set up the approval procedure for REDD+ projects ○ Operational guide to Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) Principles. ○ Decree 2006-591 to ratify the Kyoto Protocol. ○ Law No. 22/030 of July 15, 2022, on the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples. ○ African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Algiers (Algeria) 15 September 1968. ○ Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction, Washington (USA) 10 April 1972. ○ International Plant Protection Convention, Italy (Rome), 06 December 1951. ○ Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural, Paris, (France) 23 November 1972. ○ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Washington (United States) 3 March 1973 |

| Category | Law/ Regulation |
|-------------------------------|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Algiers (Algeria) 15 September 1968. ○ Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques, Geneva (Switzerland) 28 February 1978 ○ Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Bonn (Germany) 23 June 1979. ○ International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) / International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Geneva (Switzerland), 18 November 1992. ○ Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat or "Ramsar", Ramsar (Iran) 02 February 1971. ○ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), 4 June 1992. ○ United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (CNUCC), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), 4 June 1992 ○ Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)/ Chemicals, Stockholm (Sweden), 23 March 2005. ○ Phytosanitary Convention for Africa, Kinshasa (DRC), 13 September 1967. ○ Conference on Central African Dense and Moist Forest Ecosystems (CEFHDAC), Brazzaville (Republic of Congo) 1996. ○ Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (CCD), 12 September 1997 ○ Protocol on Climate Change, Kyoto (Japan), 16 February 2005. ○ Protocol on Biosafety, Cartagena (Tunisia). |
| 3.4. Health and safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decree No. 18/041 of 24 November 2018 to define the rates of contributions to the National Social Security Fund, abbreviated as "CNSS". ○ Law No. 16/010 of 15 July 2016 to amend and supplement Law No. 015-2002 on the Labour Code. ○ Decree No. 13/015 of 29 May 2013 to regulate industrial facilities. ○ Ministerial Decree No. 12/CAB.MIN/ETPS/043/2008 of 8 August 2008 to lay down the conditions for the organization and operation of workplace safety, health and beautification committees. ○ Ministerial Order No 028/CAB/ MIN/ECN-T/15/JEB/08 of 07 August 2008 to lay down the template contracts for forest product harvesting concession and related specifications. ○ Law No. 22/030 of July 15, 2022, on the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples. ○ Operational guide to Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) Principles. |

| Category | Law/ Regulation |
|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ILO standards on health and safety at work (ILO Convention 155, 1981). |
| 3.5. Legal employment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Law No. 16/010 of 15 July 2016 to amend and supplement Law No. 015-2002 on the Labour Code ○ Law No 015- 2002 of 16 October 2002 to set up the Forestry Code ○ Explanatory circular note 003/CAB/MINETAT/MTEPS/FBM/01/2018 of 28 June 2018 relating to the application of the minimum wage set by Decree No. 18/017 of 22 May 2018 of the Prime Minister, Head of Government. ○ Ministerial order No. 062/CAB/PVPM/ETPS/2011 of 22 July 2011 to establish the form, proof and visa of the employment contract. ○ Ministerial order No. 063/CAB/PVPM/ETPS/2011 of 22 July 2011 to set the terms and conditions for renewing fixed-term employment contracts. ○ Ministerial Decree No. 12/CAB.MIN/TPS/116/2005 of 26 October 2005 to set the terms and conditions for the dismissal of workers. ○ Ministerial order No. 12/CAB.MIN/TPS/117/2005 of 26 October 2005 to define the duration and conditions of notice periods. ○ Circular note No. 12/CAB.MIN/ETPS/05/09 of 14 August 2009 relating to procedural instructions for the use of the right to the demonstration in the Democratic Republic of Congo to Professional Organizations of Employers and Workers, Enterprises and Establishments of all kinds. ○ Law No. 22/030 of July 15, 2022, on the protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous Peoples. ○ ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998), based on the 8 fundamental ILO conventions. |
| 4. Third parties' rights | |
| 4.1. Customary rights | <p>Law No 011/2002 of 29 August 2002 to set up the Forestry Code.</p> <p>Law No. 22/030 of July 15, 2022, on the protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous Peoples</p> <p>61/ 295 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 13 September 2007.</p> |
| 4.2. Free Prior and Informed Consent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Law No. 22/030 of July 15, 2022, on the protection and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples. ○ Convention on Biological Diversity. ○ African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. ○ Annex 1 of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). ○ Paris agreement on COP 21. |

| Category | Law/ Regulation |
|--|---|
| 4.3. Indigenous Peoples' rights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 61/ 295 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 13 September 2007. ○ Law No. 22/030 of July 15, 2022, on the protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous Peoples |
| 5. Trade and transport NOTE: This section covers requirements for forest management operations as well as processing and trade. | |
| 5.1. Classification of species, quantities, qualities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ministerial Order No 034/CAB/MIN/EDD/03/03/BLN/2015 of 03 July 2015 to lay down the procedure for drafting, verifying, approving, implementing and monitoring the management plan of a timber production forest concession. ○ Operational guide to the list of forest species in the DRC. ○ Operational guide to Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) Principles. |
| 5.2. Trade and transport | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Art.71 of Ministerial order No. 84/CAB/MIN/ECN-DD/CJ/00/RBM/2016 of 29 October 2016 on the conditions and rules for timber harvesting. ○ Ministerial order No. 035/CAB/MIN/FINANCES/2016 and No. 005/CAB/MIN-COM/2016 of 23 March 2016 on the handbook of harmonized procedures applicable to the Foreign Trade One-Stop Shop ○ Ministerial decree No. 006/CAB/MIN-ECONAT & COM/2009 of 17 March 2009 to determine the organization and operation of the National Commission for the Price Schedules of Products exported by the DR Congo. ○ Ordinance-law 88-029 of 15 July 1988 to create a special road traffic tax. ○ Decree on international trade in specimens of endangered species of wild fauna and flora in the Democratic Republic of Congo. ○ Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO), 1994. |
| 5.3. Offshore trading and transfer pricing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applicable finance law. ○ Ordinance-law No. 13/003 of 23 February 2013 to revise procedures related to the assessment, control and collection of non-tax revenues. ○ Ordinance-law No. 13/002 of 23 February 2013 to establish the nomenclature of central government duties, taxes and fees. ○ Ordinance-law No. 13/001 of 23 February 2013 to establish the nomenclature of taxes, duties, levies and fees of the provinces and decentralised territorial entities and their distribution procedures. ○ Interministerial Decree No. /CAB/MIN/EDD/2020/005 and No CAB/MIN/FINANCES/2020/066 of 24 July 2020 to lay down rates of duties, taxes and fees to be collected under the initiative of the Ministry |

| Category | Law/ Regulation |
|--------------------------------|---|
| | <p>of Environment and Sustainable Development, with regard to forest management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministerial order No. 104/CAB/MIN/ECN-T/015/JEB/09 of 16 June 2009 to establish the forestry transaction procedure. OHADA International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) / International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), Geneva (Switzerland), 18 November 1992. The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, Bamako (Mali), 22 March 1989. |
| 5.4. Custom regulations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordinance-Law No. 10/002 of 20 August 2010 on the Customs Code (amended and supplemented several times). Ordinance-law No. 13/002 of 23 February 2013 to establish the nomenclature of central government duties, taxes and fees. Ordinance-law No. 13/001 of 23 February 2013 to establish the nomenclature of taxes, duties, levies and fees of the provinces and decentralised territorial entities and their distribution procedures. Law No. 16/013 the status of career civil servants in the public services of the State, published on: July 15, 2016. Ordinance-Law No 18/002 to lay down excise duties. published: March 13, 2018. Rates of import and export duties and taxes in DRC, published: September 21, 2012. Ordinance-Law No 10/002 to lay down the customs code, published: August 20, 2010. Law 009/03 to lay down customs assessment rules for goods in DRC, Published: March 18, 2003. Decree No 011/06 to lay down an institutional framework and administrative rules for DGDA personnel, Published: 25 January 2011. Decree No 09/43 to create the DGDA, published on: 03 December 2009. Decree No 011/08 to lay down rules for DGDA personnel management, published on: 02 February 2011. Press release No. DGDA/DG/BCO/DG/005/2022 wherein DGDA informs the public that ill-intentioned people have created false accounts on social networks (Facebook, Messenger and Twitter), Published: 14- 02- 2022. Press Release No DGDA/DG/DGA.T/DSTI/DG/003/2022 on the maintenance work scheduled for 12 and 13 February 2022 to inform |

| Category | Law/ Regulation |
|------------------------------------|---|
| | <p>that access to the Customs IT system servers (ASYCUDA) will be temporarily suspended. published: 01-02-2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Press Release No. DGDA/DG/DGA-T/DTRO/2021/013 on printed 2022 rates being sold at the DGDA. published: 28-12-2021. ○ Press release No DGDA/DG/DGA.T/DSTI/DG/012/2021 on updated tariff in SYDONIAWORLD. published: 27-12-2021. ○ List of customs agents of 16 December 2021. published: 16-12-2021 ○ Press release No. DGDA/DG/DGA.T/DAPA/010/2021 of 02 December 2021 on marking and traceability of goods and the monitoring of telecommunications services subject to excise duty. published: 03-12-2021. ○ Press release No DGDA/DG/DEL/2021/835 of 28 September 2021 relating to 2017 tariffs of the Harmonized System of Identification and Coding Goods. published: 28-09-2021. ○ Press release No. DGDA/DG/DGA.T/DAPA/007/2021 of 18 June 2021 on marking and traceability of goods and the monitoring of telecommunications services subject to excise duty. published: 18-06-2021. ○ Procedures for implementing the mechanism for determining and liquidating Value Added Tax. published: 11-06-2021. ○ Instruction on the application by Customs of the provisions of Law 15/005 of 17 March 2015 on the Insurance code. published: 19-04-2021. ○ The procedure for establishing and liquidating the Value Added Tax (VAT) due by mining companies in the operational phase. published: 13-04-2021. ○ National Decision on the classification of nitrate emulsions. published: 17-03-2021. ○ Decision to implement the Customs Code. published: 11-08-2011 ○ Order to rationalise tax audit missions. published: 26-03-2010. |
| 5.5. CITES | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Order No. 056 CAB/MIN/AFF-ECNPF/01/00 of 28 March 2000 to lay down the regulations on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). ○ Ministerial Order No. 021/CAB/MIN/EDD/AAN/WF/05/2017 of 31 August 2017 establishing the CITES Management Body at the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature. ○ Cartagena Protocol on the Prevention of Biotechnological Risks relating to the Convention on Biological Diversity (29 January 2000, Montreal, Canada). ○ Operational guide on how to take into account wildlife in management plans. |
| 6. Due diligence / due care | |

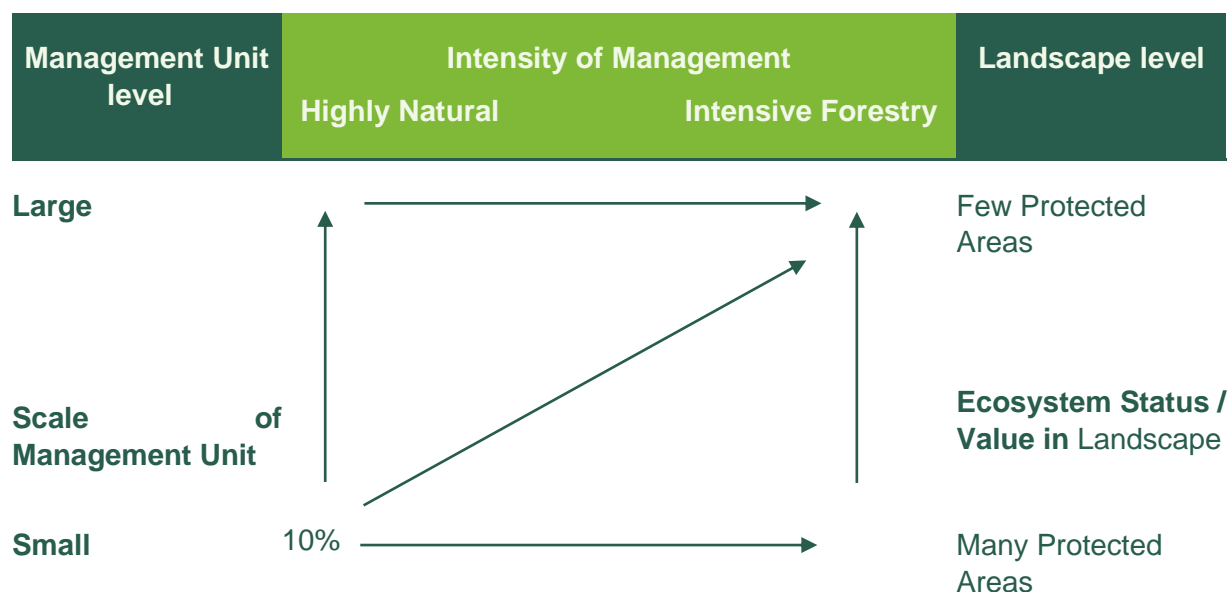
| Category | Law/ Regulation |
|---|--|
| 6.1. Due diligence / due care procedures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Legislation requiring due diligence/due care procedures, including, e.g., due diligence/due care systems, declaration obligations, and/or the keeping of trade-related documents, etc. |
| 7. Ecosystem Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ministerial order to set up the approval procedure for REDD+ projects. ○ Methodical guide to Social and environmental standards for REDD+ projects in DRC |

Annex B Training requirements for workers (Principle 2)

Workers shall be able to:

- 1) Implement forest activities to comply with applicable legal requirements (Criterion 1.5);
- 2) Understand the content, meaning and applicability of the eight ILO Core Labour Conventions (Criterion 2.1);
- 3) Recognize and report on instances of sexual harassment and gender discrimination (Criterion 2.2);
- 4) Safely handle and dispose of hazardous substances to ensure that use does not pose health risks (Criterion 2.3);
- 5) Carry out their responsibilities for particularly dangerous jobs or jobs entailing a special responsibility (Criterion 2.5);
- 6) Identify where Indigenous Peoples have legal and customary rights related to management activities (Criterion 3.2);
- 7) Identify and implement applicable elements of UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 (Criterion 3.4);
- 8) Identify sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to Indigenous Peoples and implement the necessary measures to protect them before the start of forest management activities to avoid negative impacts (Criterion 3.5 and Criterion 4.7);
- 9) Identify where local communities have legal and customary rights related to management activities (Criterion 4.2);
- 10) Carry out social, economic and environmental impact assessments and develop appropriate mitigation measures (Criterion 4.5);
- 11) Implement activities related to the maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services, when FSC Ecosystem Services Claims are used (Criterion 5.1);
- 12) Handle, apply and store pesticides (Criterion 10.7); and
- 13) Implement procedures for cleaning up spills of waste materials (Criterion 10.12).
- 14) implement measures related to collective agreements and ILO international conventions 87 and 98 (criterion 2.1)

Annex C Conservation Area Network conceptual diagram (Principle 6)



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

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

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

Annex D List of rare and threatened species in the country or region

- <https://worldrainforests.com/biodiversity/en/congo - kinshasa/CR.html>
- <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/cng70157.pdf>
- <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/66/E-SC66-28.pdf>

Annex E Elements of the management plan (Principle 7)

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

- iv. Operational impacts, as identified in Principle 10;
- v. High Conservation Values, as identified in Principle 9;
- vi. Monitoring systems based on stakeholder engagement planned or in place, as identified in Principle 2 to Principle 5 and Principle 7;
- vii. Maps describing the natural resources and land use zoning on the Management Unit;
- viii. Description of the methodology to assess and monitor any development and land use options allowed in Intact Forest Landscapes and core areas including their effectiveness in implementing the precautionary approach;
- ix. Description of the methodology to assess and monitor any development and land use options allowed in Intact Forest Landscapes including their effectiveness in implementing the precautionary approach; and
- x. Global Forest Watch map, or more accurate national or regional map, describing the natural resources and land use zoning on the Management Unit, including the Intact Forest Landscapes core areas.

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

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

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

Annex G Monitoring requirements (Principle 8)

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

- xiv. The persistence of cultural and associated values of significance to Indigenous Peoples (Criterion 3.1, Criterion 3.5);
 - xv. The use of traditional knowledge and intellectual property (Criterion 3.6 and Criterion 4.8);
 - xvi. Local economic and social development (Criterion 4.2, Criterion 4.3, Criterion 4.4, Criterion 4.5);
 - xvii. The production of diversified benefits and/or products (Criterion 5.1);
 - xviii. The maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services (Criterion 5.1);
 - xix. Activities to maintain or enhance ecosystem services (Criterion 5.1);
 - xx. Actual compared to projected annual harvests of timber and non-timber forest products (Criterion 5.2);
 - xxi. The use of local processing, local services and local value added manufacturing (Criterion 5.4);
 - xxii. Long term economic viability (Criterion 5.5); and
 - xxiii. High Conservation Values 5 and 6 identified in Criterion 9.1.
- 3) Monitoring procedures in 8.2.2 are sufficient to identify and describe changes in environmental conditions including where applicable:
- i. The maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services (Criterion 5.2) (when The Organization uses FSC ecosystem services claims);
 - ii. Environmental values and ecosystem functions including carbon sequestration and storage (Criterion 6.1); including the effectiveness of actions identified and implemented to prevent, mitigate and repair negative impacts to environmental values (Criterion 6.3);
 - iii. Rare and threatened species, and the effectiveness of actions implemented to protect them and their habitats (Criterion 6.4);
 - iv. Representative Sample Areas and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.5);
 - v. Naturally occurring native species and biological diversity and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.6);
 - vi. Water courses, water bodies, water quantity and water quality and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.7);
 - vii. Landscape values and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or restore them (Criterion 6.8);
 - viii. Conversion of natural forest to plantations or conversion to non-forest (Criterion 6.9);
 - ix. The status of plantations established after 1994 (Criterion 6.10); and
 - x. High Conservation Values 1 to 4 identified in Criterion 9.1 and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or enhance them.

Annex H Management strategies to protect Intact Forest Landscapes outside of core areas. (Principle 9)

- Planning of a forest road network considering the presence of specific High Conservation Values in order to protect them;
- Reduction of road density, particularly at the borders with neighbouring Protected Areas; and creation of buffer zones without roads along the borders with neighbouring Protected Areas
- Introduction of a maximum harvesting density (3 trees/ha or m3/ha);
- Introduction of a maximum harvesting diameter
- Rehabilitation of degraded skidding trails and log yards in the event of compaction and significant rutting;
- Re-use of roads for future rotations, when this is impossible.
- Limitation of road width and matching of the dimensions of the road network to the season and exploitable resource.

| Type | Approximate use duration (period) | Pavement (carriageway) | Sun lighting | Road right-of-way | Comments |
|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Road (dry season) | 4-5 months | 5m | 0 | 5m | |
| Logging roads or temporary roads during rainy seasons | 1-2 months | 5m | 10m (5 m on each side) | 15m | The FSS for the Democratic Republic of Congo maintains these dimensions for safety and environmental reasons (erosion, sedimentation, soil degradation, regrowth of vegetation used as fodder for herbivorous animals, etc.). |
| Important secondary roads | 2-7 years | 5m | 10m (5 m to each side) | 15m | Logging, including the evacuation of forest products, will take place, as far as possible, during the dry season within intact forest landscapes. |
| Permanent road (No new roads created, but <i>rehabilitation</i>* of existing roads where necessary). | - | 8m | 12m (6 m on each side) | 20m | Logging, including the evacuation of forest products, will take place, as far as possible, during the dry season within intact forest landscapes. |

- Closure of secondary roads and control of access to main roads, using appropriate measures, through engagement with the relevant wildlife management entities;
- Monitoring deforestation and other disturbances using satellite images, drones or other tools;
- Strengthening anti-poaching measures;
- Specific monitoring of the impact of logging, particularly on wildlife, plant cover and forest dynamics;
- Monitoring road revegetation and rehabilitation, particularly for secondary roads.

Annex I High Conservation Values framework (Principle 9)

This HCV Framework does not necessarily provide an exhaustive list of HCVs that may exist in management units. HCV assessments must consider all potential HCVs and most especially, apply the precautionary approach.

Overarching Best Available Information

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

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

Best Available Information for Developing Management Strategies for National or Regional HCV Interpretations SLIMF

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| All HCV Categories, All Elements | <p>Identification of threats, using: Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and results of field surveys or consultations with stakeholders that are most credible, accurate, complete, and/or pertinent and that can be obtained through reasonable effort and cost, subject to the scale and intensity of the management activities and the Precautionary Approach.</p> <p>Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, affected rights holders, affected and interested stakeholders, and experts.</p> | X |
| HCV 5, Element 1, and HCV 6, Element 2, Values fundamental to local communities | Culturally appropriate engagement with local communities is the primary BAI for these elements. The “fundamentality” and “critical importance” of the resources should also be determined through engagement. | X |
| HCV 5, Element 2, and HCV 6, Element 3, Values fundamental to Indigenous Peoples | Culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples is the primary BAI for these elements. The “fundamentality” and “critical importance” of the resources should also be determined through engagement. | X |

Best Available Information for Monitoring National or Regional HCV Interpretations SLIMF

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| All HCV Categories, All Elements | <p>BAI includes: Engagement with rights-holders, consistent with Criteria 3.5, 4.5 and 4.7; culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples and affected and interested stakeholders; information on engaging with representatives of the Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities; monitoring conducted by the Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities; and engagement with experts.</p> | X |
|---|--|---|

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

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

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

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 1: | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| Element 1: Concentrations of biological diversity that are significant at global, regional, or national levels: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas within forest concessions all over the Democratic Republic of Congo. Areas protected by national laws. Protected areas by international conventions ratified by the Democratic Republic of Congo. Areas recognized for their biodiversity values by other institutions. Forests in the vicinity of protected areas and proposed protected areas (buffer zone of 1 to 10 km), forests that provide habitats for the same biodiversity and forests that provide habitat connectivity or other supporting values. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of UNESCO and Ramsar sites, biosphere reserves, world heritage sites List of national parks, nature reserves, strict nature reserves, wildlife reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, hunting grounds, elephant sanctuaries, zoos, botanical gardens and scientific reserves. Global database of key biodiversity areas www.keybiodiversityareas.org/home Important Bird Areas (IBAs), Key Biodiversity Areas, Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, Centres of Flora Diversity, etc. http://datazone.birdlife.org/eba Databases and maps: ICCN, Atlas of DRC atlas of DRC forest cover, Article Muyaya et al. AJIRAS 2022, etc IUCN Red list, CITES appendices, OFAC resources : https://www.observatoire-comifac.net/ WWF Wildfinder http://www.worldwildlife.org/science/wildfinder/ Order No. 056 CAB/MIN/AFF-ECNPF/01/00 of 28 March 2000 to lay down the regulations on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Ministerial decree No CAB / MIN / AF. F-E. T/276/2002 of 05 November 2002 to determine protected forest species. Ministerial Order No. 020/CAB/ MIN / ECN-EF / 2006 of 20 May 2006 to approve the list of protected animal species in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Ministerial Order No. 020/CAB/MIN/ ECN-EF/ 2006 of 12 May 2006 to approve the list of protected animal species in the DRC. | Yes |
| Element 2: Concentrations of endemic species that are significant at global, regional, or national levels: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) Endemic Bird Areas (EBA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important Bird Areas (IBAs), Key Biodiversity Areas, Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, Centres of Flora Diversity, etc. http://datazone.birdlife.org/eba CITES Annexes : https://www.cites.org/fra/cms/index.php/component/cp/ | Yes |

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 1: | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Critical temporal concentrations of biodiversity (important areas for migration and wintering sites) | <p><u>country/GA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National or regional biodiversity assessment ○ Consultation with relevant local and regional experts ○ Ministerial decree No CAB / MIN / AF.FAF. F-E.TE. T/276/2002 of 05 November 2002 to determine protected forest species. ○ Ministerial Order No. 020/CAB/ MIN / ECN-EF / 2006 of 20 May 2006 to approve the list of protected animal species in the Democratic Republic of Congo. | |
| Element 3: Concentrations of rare, threatened, or endangered species that are significant at global, regional, or national levels: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DRC's list of protected species ○ 2002 list of protected forest species in the DRC. ○ 2006 list of protected animal species in the Democratic Republic of Congo. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Global database of key biodiversity areas www.keybiodiversityareas.org/home ○ Important Bird Areas (IBAs), Key Biodiversity Areas, Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, Centres of Flora Diversity, etc. http://datazone.birdlife.org/eba ○ Databases and maps: ICCN, Atlas of DRC atlas of DRC forest cover, Article Muyaya et al. AJIRAS 2022, etc. ○ IUCN Red list, CITES appendices, OFAC resources https://www.observatoire-comifac.net/ ○ WWF Wildfinder http://www.worldwildlife.org/science/wildfinder/ ○ See 2012 DRC's draft national assessment of HCV1. | |

B. Assessments for HCV 1

| National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 1 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operational Standards for forest management inventory ○ Operational Measures to account for wildlife in management plans (DIAF, 2017) (French) ○ Operational Land use standards for developing a management plan (DIAF, 2017) (French) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Management inventory report ○ Operational guide: Standards for forest management inventory ○ Operational guide: Measures on how to account for wildlife in management plans (DIAF, 2017) (French) ○ Operational guide: Land use standards for developing a management plan (DIAF, 2017) (French). | Yes |
| <p>Threats to HCV1 areas in the country:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HVC 1.1: Extinction or reduction in population densities of wild species due to hunting by forest workers; Reduction in the diversity of species and ecosystems due to logging activities. ○ HVC 1.2 & 1.3: Extinction or drastic reduction in populations of species of wild flora and fauna | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Management inventory report ○ Operational guide: Standards for forest management inventory ○ Operational guide: Measures on how to account for wildlife in management plans (DIAF, 2017) (French) ○ Operational guide: Land use standards for developing a management plan (DIAF, 2017) (French) | Yes |

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 1

| National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 1 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| <p>1) Measures are put in place to maintain Protection zones, harvest prescriptions, and/or other strategies to protect threatened, endangered, endemic species, or other concentrations of biological diversity and the ecological communities and habitats upon which they depend, sufficient to prevent reductions in the extent, integrity, quality, and viability of the habitats and species occurrences in collaboration with the local experts, research institutes and/ or with relevant NGOs;</p> <p>2) Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to develop, expand, and/or restore habitats for such species are in place, in collaboration with the local experts, research institutes and/ or with relevant NGOs.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Forest Management Plan ○ Five -Year management plan ○ Annual Operational Plan ○ Operational guide: ○ Reduced impact logging principles (DIAF, 2017) (French) | Yes |
| Examples of protection measures: | | Yes |
| HVC1.1: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Control mechanisms put in place to regulate hunting and fight against poaching ○ Raising awareness about national hunting regulations and practices ○ Strengthening the implementation of measures to ensure compliance with national anti-poaching laws ○ Implementing reduced-impact logging techniques (minimising the size of roads, allowing the construction of canopy bridges, avoiding sensitive areas during harvesting, etc.) ○ Planning and building roads far from protected areas ○ Limiting agricultural activities to community development areas ○ Closing logging roads | | |
| HVC 1.2 & 1.3: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Increase in minimum harvesting diameters for rare and threatened tree species | | |

| National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 1 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Setting aside, in the management plan, zones of habitats with a high concentration of biodiversity ○ Using of reduced impact logging techniques to protect future trees, rare tree species, seed trees and fruit trees that are important for wildlife. ○ Implementing regeneration measures for species having regeneration difficulties or gaps ○ Putting in place control mechanisms to regulate hunting and combat poaching (closing logging roads) ○ Limiting agricultural activities to community development areas | | |

D. Monitoring for HCV 1

| National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 1 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| <p>HCV 1 monitoring strategies are carried out in collaboration with local experts, ENGOs and/or research institutions.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operational guide: Protocol for monitoring the implementation of the interim management plan and five-year operational plans (DIAF, 2017) (French) ○ Operational guide: Annotated template of the annual operational report and AAC closure form (DIAF, 2017) (French) ○ Annual logging monitoring and evaluation procedure and reports | Yes |
| <p>Examples of monitoring measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual compilation and analysis of post-harvest data on HCV 1 for each annual allowable cut and comparison every 5 years ○ Compilation and analysis of anti-poaching surveillance data every 3 months and assessment of poaching activity ○ Compilation and analysis of post-harvest data on the status of rare and threatened wild species every T+5 years and T+10 years | | Yes |

| National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 1 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
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- **Compilation and analysis every 3 months of the number of human/hunting clues in the conservation areas.**
- **Examples of monitoring indicators:**
- **Quantity/percentage of trees to be protected (seed trees, parent trees, future trees) preserved during harvesting**
- **Percentage of rare and threatened species damaged during harvesting.**
- **Volume harvested by annual allowable cut**
- **Ratio between the number of poached animals seized and the number of patrols carried out.**
- **Indications of the presence of rare and threatened species.**
- **Number of awareness-raising meetings held**
- **Number of signs of human presence in the conservation areas.**

Description of interested and affected stakeholders:

- Local communities and Indigenous Peoples, logging companies
- Local and regional/ International experts, PTFs
- Environmental NGOs, and research institutes.

Description of culturally appropriate engagement for identifying HCV 1:

- Culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, logging companies, local and regional/ International experts, environmental NGOs, research institutes and relevant government institutions.

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

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

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

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 2: | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| Element 1: Intact forest landscapes: | | |
| Areas within and adjacent to forest concessions in most regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See the IFL map of Global Forest Watch of 2017: https://intactforests.org/world.map.html | No |
| Element 2: Large landscape-level ecosystems that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance: | | |
| CARPE landscapes, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, WWF Global 200 Ecoregions, RAMSAR sites, High Biodiversity Wilderness Area, Biodiversity Hotspots, Connectivity corridors that have been proposed between protected areas and/or other HCV 1 occurrences etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Olson, D. M., Dinerstein, E. 2002. The Global 200: Priority ecoregions for global conservation. <i>Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden</i> 89(2): 199-224. https://www.ramsar.org/fr/zone-humide/congo https://www.ramsar.org/document/the-list-of-wetlands-of-international-importance-the-ramsar-list DRC's Interactive Forest Atlas (MEDD-WRI, 2018); Consultation with local and regional experts, research institutions and/or ENGOs. IUCN classification of wilderness protected areas https://www.worldheritagesite.org/connection/High-Biodiversity+Wilderness+Area Data from IUCN and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF): https://www.cepf.net/our-work/biodiversity-hotspots Quantifying forest cover loss in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2000-2010, with Landsat ETM + data; (Potapov et al, 2012) | Yes |
| Element 3: Ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance: | | |

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 2: | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| Conservation area networks in MUs including adjacent protected areas and reserves. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Olson, D. M., Dinerstein, E. 2002. The Global 200: Priority ecoregions for global conservation. Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden 89(2): 199-224. ○ Quantifying forest cover loss in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2000-2010, with Landsat ETM + data; (Potapov et al, 2012) ○ DRC's Interactive Forest Atlas (MEDD-WRI, 2018); ○ Consultation with local and regional experts, research institutions and/or ENGOs and relevant government institutions. | Yes |

B. Assessments for HCV 2

| National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 2 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operational Standards for forest management inventory ○ Operational Measures to account for wildlife in management plans (DIAF, 2017) (French) ○ Operational Land use standards for developing a management plan (DIAF, 2017) (French) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quantifying forest cover loss in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2000-2010, with Landsat ETM + data; (Potapov et al, 2012) ○ FSC frequently asked questions (FAQ book) on the information note for motion 65-V1-3, July 2018 ○ Operational guide: Land use standards for developing a management plan (DIAF, 2017) (French) ○ Operational guide: Forest stratification standards (DIAF, 2017) (French) ○ Ministerial Order No. 010/CAB/MIN/EDD/AAN/RBR/TNT/05/2017 of 25 July 2017 on the creation, composition and organisation of the peatland Management Unit in the Democratic Republic of Congo (UGT-RDC); ○ National peatland strategy in DRC (French) ○ FSC-GUI-30-010 V1-0 EN IFL Guidance for Managers | Yes |

Threats to HCV2 areas in the country:

- **Deforestation or degradation caused by logging, mining, farming, oil and gas, fuel wood, human settlements, or the abusive exploitation of flora and fauna**

| National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 2 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
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|--|---|----------------------------|

resources.

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 2

| National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 2 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|---|----------------------------|
|---|---|----------------------------|

- | | | |
|--|--|------------|
| <p>1) Strategies that fully maintain the extent and intactness of the forest ecosystems and the viability of their biodiversity concentrations, including plant and animal indicator species, keystone species, and/or guilds associated with large intact natural forest ecosystems, in collaboration with relevant local experts, research institutions, and/or NGOs.</p> <p>2) Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and reconnect forest ecosystems, their intactness, and habitats that support natural biological diversity are drafted, in collaboration with experts, research institutions, and/or relevant NGOs.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FSC-GUI-60-004 Guidance for Standard Developers to Develop a National Threshold for the Core Area of Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) within the Management Unit ○ FSC frequently asked questions (FAQ book) on the information note for motion 65-V1-3, July 2018 ○ Consultation with local and regional experts, research institutions and/or ENGOS. ○ Operational guide: Land use standards for developing a management plan (DIAF, 2017) (French) ○ National peatland strategy in DRC (French) ○ FSC-GUI-30-010 V1-0 EN IFL Guidance for Managers ○ Forest Management Plan ○ Five-year management plan ○ Annual Operational Plan ○ Operational guide: Reduced impact logging principles (DIAF, 2017) (French) | <p>Yes</p> |
|--|--|------------|

Examples of protection measures:

- **Putting to place protection zones and set-aside areas, with no commercial logging.**
- **Zoning community development areas from the management unit as HCV 2 areas.**

Yes

| National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 2 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implementing control measures to regulate hunting and combat poaching. ○ Raising awareness about national hunting and fishing regulations and practices ○ Implementing reduced impact logging techniques (minimising the size of roads, allowing the construction of canopy bridges, avoiding sensitive areas during harvesting, etc.) ○ Demarcate core areas of Intact Forest Landscapes and draft and implement protection measures. ○ Implement stricter techniques to reduce the impact of logging in IFL areas (reduction in road density). | | |

D. Monitoring for HCV 2

| National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 2 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| <p>HCV 2 monitoring strategies are carried out in collaboration with local experts, civil society, local communities, pygmy indigenous peoples, and/ or research institutions.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operational guide: Protocol for monitoring the implementation of interim management plan and five-year operational plans (DIAF, 2017) (French) ○ Operational guide: Annotated template of the annual operational report and AAC closure form (DIAF, 2017) (French) ○ Annual logging monitoring and evaluation procedure and reports ○ Monitoring and research reports done in the concession area. | <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>Examples of monitoring measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wildlife surveys every 5-10 years. ○ Annual monitoring of compliance with conservation and protection area boundaries. ○ Annual analysis of road size monitoring data to check compliance with the minimum stipulated in the management plan and RIL procedures in each annual allowable cut. ○ Annual assessment of damage caused by forestry operations (tree felling, logging roads, road opening, etc.). ○ Biomass inventory on logging roads after 3 and 10 years. ○ Annual analysis of compliance with the boundaries of the various production areas, particularly those of rural development areas. | | <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>Examples of monitoring indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Areas affected by forestry, mining, agriculture, oil and gas, wood energy and human settlements. ○ Average road width. ○ Total surface area affected by logging roads. ○ Percentage of regenerated roads and log yards after harvesting. <p>Description of interested and affected stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local communities and Indigenous Peoples, logging companies ○ Local and regional experts ○ Environmental NGOs, and research institutions. | | |

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

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

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

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 3: | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| Element 1: Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems: | | |
| IUCN Red List of Ecosystems, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, WWF 200 World Ecoregions, Ecosystems described as threatened by logging in national directives (peatlands, wetlands) identified within forest concessions in the Democratic Republic of Congo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consultation with relevant local and regional experts, ENGOs, etc. ○ Culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples and relevant and interested stakeholders. ○ http://www.iucnredlistofecosystems.org/ ○ http://whc.unesco.org/en/list ○ https://databasin.org/ ○ http://www.coforchange.eu/fr ○ Habitat assessments, conservation plans, recovery plans and other reports published by governments, research institutions or conservation organisations. ○ Management inventory report ○ Management plan | Yes |
| Element 2: Rare, threatened, or endangered habitats: | | |
| Rare, threatened or endangered habitats and other habitats and habitat features that are vulnerable and/or important for biodiversity identified within forest concessions in the Democratic Republic of Congo. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Habitat assessments, conservation plans, recovery plans and other reports published by governments, research institutions or conservation organisations. ○ Consultation with relevant local and regional experts, ENGOs, etc. ○ Culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples and relevant and interested stakeholders. ○ Management inventory report ○ Management plan ○ http://whc.unesco.org/en/list ○ https://databasin.org/ ○ http://www.coforchange.eu/fr | Yes |

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 3: | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| Element 3: Refugia: | | |
| Rare, threatened or endangered habitats and other habitats and habitat features that are vulnerable and/or important for biodiversity identified within forest concessions in the Democratic Republic of Congo. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Habitat assessments, conservation plans, recovery plans and other reports published by governments, research institutions or conservation organisations. ○ Consultation with relevant local and regional experts, ENGOs, etc. ○ Culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous peoples and relevant and interested stakeholders ○ Management inventory report ○ Management plan ○ http://whc.unesco.org/en/list ○ https://databasin.org/ ○ http://www.coforchange.eu/fr | Yes |

B. Assessments for HCV 3

| National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 3 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Operational Standards for forest management inventory ○ Operational Measures to account for wildlife in management plans (DIAF, 2017) (French) ○ Operational Land use standards for developing a management plan (DIAF, 2017) (French) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Management inventory report ○ Operational guide: Standards for forest management inventory ○ Operational guide: Measures on how to account for wildlife in management plans (DIAF, 2017) (French) ○ Operational guide: Land use standards for developing a management plan (DIAF, 2017) (French) | Yes |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Threats to HCV3 in the country: mining, agriculture, hydrocarbons, fuel wood, human settlements ○ Significant reduction in rare and threatened habitats/ecosystems due to the negative impacts of forestry activities | | |

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 3

| National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 3 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| <p>1) Strategies that fully maintain the extent and integrity of rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia is done in collaboration with local experts and/ or research institutions.</p> <p>2) Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and/or develop rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia are developed in collaboration with local experts and/ or research institutions.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operational guide: Management Inventory Standards (DIAF, 2017) (French) Operational guide: Land Use Standards (DIAF, 2017) Operational guide: Template and guide to carrying out social and economic assessments (DIAF, 2017) Operational guide: Monitoring and Implementation of Social Clause Agreements (DGF, 2018). Ministerial Order No. 072/CAB/MIN/EDD/DRCE/00/AAN/2018 of 12 November 2018 to lay down the agreement template constituting the social provision of the specifications of the forest concession contract. FSC frequently asked questions (FAQ book) on the information note for motion 65-V1-3, July 2018. | Yes |

Examples of protection measures:

- Separate community development zones from the management unit for HCV 3 zones.
- Conservation of samples of rare and sensitive ecosystems (marking and implementation of protection measures provided for in the management plan).
- Implementation of reduced impact logging techniques in the rest of the management unit (good road planning, reduction of road sizes, controlled felling, authorisation of canopy bridges, avoiding sensitive and wet areas during harvesting, etc.).

D. Monitoring for HCV 3

| National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 3 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| HCV 3 monitoring strategies are carried out in collaboration with local experts and/or research institutions, forestry authorities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Annual logging monitoring and evaluation reports○ Operational guide: Monitoring of implementation of Social Clause Agreements (DGF, 2018)○ Monitoring and research reports done in the concession area.○ Consultation with relevant local and regional experts, ENGOs, etc.○ Culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples and relevant and interested stakeholders. | |

Examples of monitoring measures:

- Monthly compilation and analysis of post-harvest data by the Organization
- Annual compilation and analysis of post-harvest data by the Organization

Examples of monitoring indicators:

- Number of signs of harvesting in sensitive areas.
- Number of signs of human presence in the HCV 3 conservation area per km covered during monitoring operations.
- HCV3 areas affected by encroachment by mining, agriculture, hydrocarbon extraction, fuel wood extraction, other human activities (fishing, etc.) and human settlements.

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

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

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

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 4: | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| Element 1: Water catchments in critical situations: | | |
| Forest-fed rivers, main sources of drinking water, forest protecting rivers critical for community fishing and/or crop irrigation, within forest concessions in the Democratic Republic of Congo. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social and economic assessment report ○ Management inventory report ○ Harvesting inventory report ○ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Reports ○ FPIC report ○ Consultation with relevant local and regional experts. ○ Use of relevant landscape and management unit databases and maps, including the management plan. | Yes |
| Element 2: Control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes in critical situations: | | |
| Fragile soils conducive to gully erosion, steep slopes (>50%), etc., within forest concessions in the Democratic Republic of Congo. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consultation with relevant local and regional experts. ○ Use of relevant landscape and management unit databases and maps, including the management plan ○ Management inventory reports ○ Harvesting inventory reports | Yes |
| Element 3: Other ecosystem services in critical situations: | | |
| Forest protecting water critical to communities for traditional and cultural practices, Forest protecting water critical for research etc., within forest concessions in the Democratic Republic of Congo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social and economic assessment report ○ Management inventory report ○ Harvesting inventory report ○ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Reports ○ FPIC report ○ Consultation with relevant local and regional experts. ○ Use of relevant landscape and management unit databases and maps, including the management plan. | |

B. Assessments for HCV 4

| National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 4 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| Participative Mapping of HCV 4 with affected communities/ IPs, relevant ENGOs and research institutions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social and economic assessment report ○ Management inventory report ○ Harvesting inventory report ○ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Reports ○ FPIC report ○ Consultation with relevant local and regional experts. ○ Use of relevant landscape and management unit databases and maps, including the management plan ○ Relevant research reports | Yes |
| Threats to HCV4 areas in the country: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pollution of water sources used by local populations and Indigenous Peoples. ○ Blocking/polluting water sources feeding major lakes and ponds by forestry operations. ○ Significant erosion of steep slopes. | | |

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 4

| National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 4 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| 1) Strategies that fully maintain the extent and integrity of HCV4 are carried out in collaboration with local experts and/ or research institutions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environmental and Social Management Plan ○ Five-Year Operational Plan ○ Annual Operational Plan ○ Framework of National Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in the context of REDD+ in the Democratic Republic of Congo ○ Ministerial Order 047/CAB/MIN/EDD/AAN/MML/05/2018 of 09 May 2018 to lay down the approval procedure for REDD+ investments in DRC | Yes |

Examples of protection measures:

- Mapping and inclusion in management plans and procedures of measures to protect any catchments and fishing areas of importance to local communities within or downstream of the Management Unit.
- Mapping and inclusion of measures to protect areas of the Management Unit that are particularly unstable or susceptible to erosion (areas with a steep slope or upslope, steep slope (>50%)) into the management plan and procedures.
- Mapping and inclusion of protection measures for moisture-sensitive areas in the management plan and procedures
- Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore water quality and quantity are in place.
- Where HCV 4 ecosystem services include climate regulation, strategies to maintain or enhance carbon sequestration and storage are in place.

D. Monitoring for HCV 4

| National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 4 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| HCV 4 monitoring strategies are carried out in collaboration with local experts, affected communities, relevant ENGOs and/or research institutions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Annual logging operational report○ Environmental and Social Assessment implementation reports○ Company activity monitoring and evaluation reports. | |
| Examples of monitoring measures: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Monthly compilation and analysis of post-harvest data by the Organization○ Annual compilation and analysis of post-harvest data by the Organization | | |
| Examples of monitoring indicators: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Number of trails with significant erosion, number of harvesting areas with significant erosion, number of harvests recorded in the buffer zone of riparian areas, number of polluted water sources used by local populations and indigenous peoples.○ Description of interested and affected stakeholders:○ Local communities and Indigenous Peoples, logging companies○ Local and regional experts○ Environmental NGOs, research institutions and relevant government institutions. | | |

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

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

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

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 5: | Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Element 1: Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.): | | |
| Comprises sites important for local communities for their water, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and wildlife products' needs within forest concessions in the Democratic Republic of Congo. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social and economic assessment report ○ Participative mapping ○ Management inventory report ○ Harvesting inventory report ○ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Reports ○ FPIC report | Yes |
| Element 2: Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of Indigenous Peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.): | | |
| Comprises sites important for IPs, for their drinking water, non-timber forest products (NTFPs), food, hunting and settlement needs within forest concessions in the Democratic Republic of Congo. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social and economic assessment report ○ Participative mapping ○ Management inventory report ○ Harvesting inventory report ○ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Reports ○ FPIC report | Yes |

B. Assessments for HCV 5

| National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 5 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for assessing occurrences: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ HCV 5 sites are assessed through participative mapping with Indigenous peoples and local communities, forestry companies, relevant civil society organisations and environmental NGOs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Social and economic assessment report○ Management inventory report○ Harvesting inventory report○ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Reports○ FPIC report○ Consultation with relevant local and regional experts.○ Use of relevant landscape and management unit databases and maps, including the management plan○ Relevant research reports | Yes |
| <hr/> | | |
| Threats to HCV5 areas in the country: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ There is a risk that the species will become rarer if forest managers and IPs/LCs carry out harvesting without any common regulations.○ Besides, IPs/LCs may over-harvest some species. | | |
| <hr/> | | |

C Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 5

| National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 5 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for management strategies: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| Strategies to protect HCV5 (communities' and/or Indigenous Peoples' needs of to the Management Unit) are developed in collaboration with representatives and members of local communities and Indigenous Peoples. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environmental and Social Management Plan ○ Five-Year Operational Plan ○ Annual Operational Plan ○ Framework of National Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in the context of REDD+ in the Democratic Republic of Congo ○ Ministerial Order 047/CAB/MIN/EDD/AAN/MML/05/2018 of 09 May 2018 to lay down the approval procedure for REDD+ investments in DRC ○ Ministerial Order No. 072/CAB/MIN/EDD/DRCE/00/AAN/2018 of 12 November 2018 to lay down the agreement template constituting the social provision the specifications of the forest concession contract. | Yes |
| Examples of protection measures: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Setting maximum harvest rates for the main HCV 5 resources ○ Mapping of sites identified in management documents and compliance with protection measures for key HCV5 resources ○ Implementation of anti-poaching measures for the key HCV5 resources ○ Supporting and/or promoting the domestication of NTFPs | | |

D Monitoring for HCV 5

| National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 5 Interpretations: | Best Available Information (BAI) for monitoring occurrences: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| <p>Strategies to monitor HCV5 (communities' and/or Indigenous Peoples' needs of the Management Unit) are developed in collaboration with representatives and members of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual logging operational report ○ Environmental and Social Assessment Reports ○ Company activity monitoring reports | <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>Examples of monitoring measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual report on the quantity of collected NTFPs ○ Annual monitoring report on disputes related to HCV5 resources ○ Annual report on bushmeat sales. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ | |
| <p>Examples of monitoring indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quantity of collected NTFPs ○ Type and quantity of hunted bushmeat ○ Number of conflicts related to HCV 5. ○ Description of interested and affected stakeholders: ○ Indigenous Peoples and local communities, forestry companies, civil society organisations, indigenous peoples' associations, environmental NGOs and relevant government institutions. | | |

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

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

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

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 6: | Best Available Information for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Element 1: Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance: | | |
| Examples: Old villages, old slave routes, World heritage villages, old massive tombs, etc., within forest concessions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social and economic assessment report ○ Participative mapping reports ○ Management inventory report ○ Harvesting inventory report ○ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Reports ○ FPIC report ○ Social clause agreement ○ World heritage map of the Democratic Republic of Congo https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/524 | Yes |
| Element 2: Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities: | | |
| Examples: Sacred sites, sacred trees, animal 'totems', burial grounds, etc., important for local communities within forest concessions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social and economic assessment report ○ Participative mapping reports ○ Management inventory report ○ Harvesting inventory report ○ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Reports ○ FPIC report ○ Social clause agreement ○ World heritage map of the Democratic Republic of Congo https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/524 | Yes |

| National or Regional Interpretations of HCV 6: | Best Available Information for identifying occurrences of the Interpretations: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| Element 3: Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of Indigenous Peoples: | | |
| Examples: Sacred sites, sacred trees, animal 'totems', burial grounds, etc., important for IPs within forest concessions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social and economic assessment report ○ Participative mapping reports ○ Management inventory report ○ Harvesting inventory report ○ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Reports ○ FPIC report ○ Social clause agreement ○ World heritage map of the Democratic Republic of Congo https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/524 | Yes |

B. Assessments for HCV 6

| National or Regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 6 Interpretations: | Best Available Information for assessing occurrences: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| HCV 6 sites are assessed through participative mapping with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, forestry companies, relevant civil society organisations and environmental NGOs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social and economic assessment report ○ Participative mapping reports ○ Management inventory report ○ Harvesting inventory report ○ Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Reports ○ FPIC report ○ Social clause agreement ○ World heritage map of the Democratic Republic of Congo https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/524 | Yes |

Threats to HCV6 areas in the country:

- **Destruction or degradation of HCV6 by harvesting activities.**

C. Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 6

| National or Regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 6 Interpretations: | Best Available Information for management strategies: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| Strategies to protect cultural values are developed in collaboration with representatives and members of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report on Indigenous and Community Heritage Areas ○ Operational guide: Monitoring of implementation of Social Clause Agreements ○ Environmental and Social Management Plan ○ Five-Year Operational Plan ○ Annual Operational Plan ○ Framework of National Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in the context of REDD+ in the Democratic Republic of Congo ○ Ministerial Order 047/CAB/MIN/EDD/AAN/MML/05/2018 of 09 May 2018 to lay down the approval procedure for REDD+ investments in DRC. ○ Ministerial Order No. 072/CAB/MIN/EDD/DRCE/00/AAN/2018 of 12 November 2018 to lay down the agreement template constituting the social provision the specifications of the forest concession contract | |
| Examples of protection measures: | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In cooperation with IPs/LCs, developing an engagement process and a dispute resolution mechanism for issues related to HCV6. ○ Mapping the sites identified in the management plan/procedures and ensure compliance with protection measures ○ Marking sites identified in the field and awareness-raising among workers about protection during harvesting activities. | | |

D Monitoring for HCV 6

| National or Regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 6 Interpretations: | Best Available Information for monitoring occurrences: | BAI also applies to SLIMF? |
|--|---|----------------------------|
| Strategies to monitor the cultural values are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Annual logging operational report○ Environmental and Social Assessment Reports.○ Company activity monitoring reports○ Control report by forestry authorities.○ Assessment reports of Observatoire Indépendant (O.I.)○ Quarterly statement forms on the implementation of social clause agreements. | |
| <hr/> | | |
| Examples of monitoring measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Monitoring conducted through procedures developed in cooperation with the communities through culturally appropriate engagement.○ Annual compilation and analysis of post-harvest data for HCV 6 resources.○ Annual compilation and analysis of disputes related to HCV6 resources. | | |
| Examples of monitoring indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Number of destroyed or degraded sites by management activities○ Number of disputes related to HCV 6.○ Description of interested and affected stakeholders:○ Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, forestry companies, civil society organizations, Indigenous Peoples' associations, environmental NGOs and relevant government institutions. <hr/> | | |

Examples of Relevant Stakeholders and Experts

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

Environmental Stakeholders:

- WWF DRC
- ENGO Centre des Technologies Innovatrices et le Développement Durable (CTIDD)
- United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), DRC
- REDD+ Initiative Office DRC
- African Wildlife Foundation
- FSC International Environmental Chamber members from the DRC
- Greenpeace, DRC
- Environmental Management & Systems institution DRC.

Indigenous Peoples Organizations:

- Foyer de Développement pour l'Autopromotion des Pygmées et Indigènes Défavorisés (FDAPYD - Development Foundation for the Self-Promotion of Disadvantaged Pygmies and Indigenous Peoples)
- National Federation of Indigenous Peoples' Associations in Congo (LYNAPICO)
- Pygmy Guidance and Support Organization (OSAPY) The Network of Indigenous Peoples and Local Population for the Sustainable Management of Forest Ecosystems in the DRC (REPALEF)

Government Agencies:

- Congolese Wildlife Authority (ICCN)
- Congolese Environmental Agency (ACE)
- Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism (MENCT)

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

- 10.7.11 A trend of replacement, reduction and/or removal of highly hazardous pesticides over time is demonstrated, or continued use is justified.
- 10.7.12 Control measures are proactively considered and/or implemented based on the likely impacts of the targeted pest, weed or disease and any intervention threshold to avoid unacceptable impacts on economic, environmental or social values.
- 10.7.13 Programmes are in place that have specific actions, timelines, targets and resources allocated to conduct, or support, research to identify and test less hazardous alternatives to replace FSC highly restricted highly hazardous pesticides and restricted highly hazardous pesticides.

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

- 10.7.14 Risk mitigation measures prioritise avoiding exposure of workers, affected stakeholders and/or environmental values to highly hazardous pesticides.
- 10.7.15 Risk mitigation measures for workers include the use of appropriate personal protective equipment consistent with FSC-POL-30-001b Personal Protective Equipment.
- 10.7.16 A pesticides buffer zone is established where a highly hazardous pesticide and/or application method requires one to ensure the protection of environmental values and social values.
- 10.7.17 An exclusion zone is established where a highly hazardous pesticide and/or application method requires one, as instructed by the label or other applicable sources, to avoid workers and affected stakeholders from being exposed to harm.
- 10.7.18 The location and duration of such an exclusion zone is communicated in a culturally appropriate manner.
- 10.7.19 Training programmes (see Criterion 2.5) for the use of highly hazardous pesticides include informing workers of known risks to human health and environmental values, and mitigation measures identified in the Environmental and Social Risk Assessment.
- 10.7.20 The implementation of risk mitigation measures is monitored.
- 10.7.21 The exposure of individual workers to highly hazardous pesticides is monitored.

NOTE: Examples of monitoring approaches can include:

- 1) Records of highly hazardous pesticide applications,
 - 2) Checks on correct personal protective equipment use,
 - 3) Records of reported or observed health effects,
 - 4) Medical biomonitoring.
- 10.7.22 Environmental impacts of highly hazardous pesticide use and changes in environmental condition are monitored.

NOTE: Examples of monitoring approaches can include:

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

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

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

Table. Reference Documents of HHP:

| Reference Document | HC 1 | HC 2 | HC 3 | HC 4 | HC 5 | HC 6 | HC 7 | HC 8 | HC 9 | HC 10 |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------|------|----------------|--------------|
| FSC POL-30-001a <i>FSC Lists of highly hazardous pesticides (FSC)</i> | All | All | All | All | All | All | All | All | All | All |
| Global Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (UN) | Pt. 3 Ch 3.1, 3.5, 3.9 & Pt. 4 Ch. 4.2 | Pt. 3, Ch. 3.1 | Pt. 3, Ch. 3.6 | Pt. 3, Ch. 3.5 | Pt. 3, Ch. 3.7 | Pt. 3, Ch. 3.9 | | | Pt. 3, Ch. 3.8 | Pt. 3, Pt. 4 |
| The WHO Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard and Guidelines to Classification (WHO, IPCS & IOMC) | Tbl. 1, 6, 7 | Tbl. 1, 2, 3, 7 | Tbl. 1, 2, 3, 7 | Tbl. 1, 2, 3, 7 | Tbl. 1, 2, 3, 7 | Tbl. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 | | | | |
| International tools for preventing local pesticide problems: A consolidated guide to chemical codes and conventions (ECSPHR) | Sec. 3, Sec. 5.2.1 | | Ch. 3, Sec. 4.2.5, 4.3.5 & Ch. 6 | Ch. 3, Sec. 4.2.5, 4.3.5 & Ch. 6 | | | | | | |
| International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management. | Pt. 1, Sec. 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 & Annex 6 | Pt. 1, Sec. 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 & Annex 6 | Pt. 1, Sec. 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 & Annex 6 | Pt. 1, Sec. 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 & Annex 6 | Pt. 1, Sec. 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 & Annex 6 | Pt. 1, Sec. 1.1, 1.3, 1.4 & Annex 6 | | | | |

| Reference Document | HC 1 | HC 2 | HC 3 | HC 4 | HC 5 | HC 6 | HC 7 | HC 8 | HC 9 | HC 10 |
|--|------|-------------|------|------|-------------|-------------|-------|-------|------|-------|
| Guidelines for personal protection when handling and applying pesticides (FAO & WHO) | | | | | | | | | | |
| International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management. Guidelines on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (FAO & WHO) | | Ch. 2,3 & 6 | | | Ch. 2,3 & 6 | Ch. 2,3 & 6 | | | | |
| Considerations of assessing the risks of combined exposure to multiple chemicals. Series on testing and assessment. No 296. 2018 (OECD) | | | | | | | Ch. 7 | | | |
| WHO IPCS Integrated Risk Assessment (WHO) | | | | | | | All | Ch. 7 | | |
| Metabolites impact on non – target arthropods and pollinators | | | | | | | | All | | |

| Reference Document | HC 1 | HC 2 | HC 3 | HC 4 | HC 5 | HC 6 | HC 7 | HC 8 | HC 9 | HC 10 |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| International Code of Practice for use of pesticides (WHO) | | | | | | | | | All | All |
| Strategic Approach to International Chemicals management (UNEP) | | | | | | | | | All | All |

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

Annex K Glossary of Terms

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

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

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

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

Additionality:

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

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

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

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

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

- Local communities
- Indigenous Peoples
- Workers
- Forest dwellers
- Neighbours
- Downstream landowners
- Local processors
- Local businesses
- Tenure and use rights holders, including landowners
- Organizations authorized or known to act on behalf of affected stakeholders, for example social and environmental NGOs, labour unions, etc.(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Connectivity: A measure of how connected or spatially continuous a corridor, network, or matrix is. The fewer gaps, the higher the connectivity. Related to the structural connectivity concept; functional or behavioral connectivity refers to how connected an area is for a process, such as an animal moving through different types of landscape elements. Aquatic connectivity deals with the accessibility and transport of materials and organisms, through groundwater and surface water, between different patches

of aquatic ecosystems of all kinds. (Source: Based on R.T.T. Forman. 1995. Land Mosaics. The Ecology of Landscapes and Regions. Cambridge University Press, 632pp).

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTE: Examples of direct intervention include but are not limited to removal of exotic species, physical protection of existing remnant native vegetation, re-wetting of drained soils, reintroduction of appropriate

native species, and reintroduction of High Conservation Value species where suitable habitat remains or is re-established.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Affects the legal or customary rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
- Where the negative impact of management activities is of such a scale that it cannot be reversed or mitigated;
- Physical violence;
- Destruction of property;
- Presence of military bodies;
- Acts of intimidation against forest workers and stakeholders.

This list should be adapted or expanded by Standard Developers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Employment and Occupation: includes access to vocational training, access to employment and to particular occupations, and terms and conditions of employment (ILO Convention 111, Article1.3).

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

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

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

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

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

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Systematic process used to identify potential environmental and social impacts of proposed projects, to evaluate alternative approaches, and to design and incorporate appropriate prevention, mitigation, management and monitoring measures (Source: based on Environmental impact assessment, guidelines for FAO field projects. Food and agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO). Rome,-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Old commercial and non-commercial trees whose age noticeably exceeds the average age of the main canopy;
- Trees with special ecological value;
- Vertical and horizontal complexity;
- Standing dead trees;
- Dead fallen wood;
- Forest openings attributable to natural disturbances;

- Nesting sites;
- Small wetlands, bogs, fens;
- Ponds;
- Areas for procreation;
- Areas for feeding and shelter, including seasonal cycles of breeding;
- Areas for migration;
- Areas for hibernation.

Hazardous work (in the context of child labour): any work which is likely to jeopardize children's physical, mental or moral health, should not be undertaken by anyone under the age of 18 years. Hazardous child labour is work in dangerous, or unhealthy conditions that could result in a child being killed or injured/maimed (often permanently) and/or made ill (often permanently) as a consequence of poor safety and health standards and working arrangements.

In determining the type of hazard child labour referred to under (Article 3(d) of the Convention No 182, and in identifying where they exist, consideration should be given, inter alia, to

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTE: The HCV concept applies to all ecosystems, including HCV areas in savannahs, grasslands, peatlands and wetlands - not only to natural forests and forest plantations.

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

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

Highly hazardous pesticide (HHP): chemical pesticides that are acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health and environment according to internationally accepted classification systems or are listed in relevant binding international agreements or conventions, or contain dioxins, or heavy metals. In addition, pesticides that appear to cause severe or irreversible harm to health or the environment under conditions of use in a country may be considered to be and treated as highly hazardous.

FSC distinguishes between FSC prohibited HHPs, FSC highly restricted HHPs and

FSC restricted HHPs:

- **FSC prohibited HHPs:** chemical pesticides that: a) are listed or recommended for listing under Annex A (elimination) of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants or Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure or listed under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, or b) are acutely toxic and that can induce cancer (carcinogenic and likely to be carcinogenic), or c) contain dioxins or d) contain heavy metals).
- **FSC highly restricted HHPs:** chemical pesticide presenting two or three out of the following hazards: acute toxicity, chronic toxicity and environmental toxicity.
- **FSC restricted HHPs:** chemical pesticide presenting one out of three of the following hazards: acute toxicity, chronic toxicity and environmental toxicity.

(Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0).

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

ILO Core (Fundamental) Conventions: these are labour standards that cover fundamental principles and rights at work: freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the

elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

The eight Fundamental Conventions are:

- Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)
- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)
- Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)

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

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

- Freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- The elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour;
- The effective abolition of child labour; and
- The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

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

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

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

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

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

- The key characteristic or Criterion is self-identification as Indigenous Peoples at the individual level and acceptance by the community as their member;
- Historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies;

- Strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources;
- Distinct social, economic or political systems;
- Distinct language, culture and beliefs;
- Form non-dominant groups of society;
- Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities.

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

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

Industrial activity: Industrial forest and resource management activities such as road building, mining, dams, urban development and timber harvesting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Conservation organizations, for example environmental NGOs;
- Labor (rights) organizations, for example labor unions;
- Human rights organizations, for example social NGOs;

- Local development projects;
- Local governments;
- National government departments functioning in the region;
- FSC National Offices;
- Experts on particular issues, for example High Conservation Values.

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

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

Intervention threshold: Population density level where the controlling measures of the targeted pest should start. It is determined in the IPM system and it is usually lower than the critical population density level.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Legal status: The way in which the Management Unit is classified according to law. In terms of tenure, it means the category of tenure, such as communal land or leasehold or freehold or State land or government land, etc. If the Management Unit is being converted from one category to another (for example, from State

land to communal indigenous land) the status includes the current position in the transition process. In terms of administration, legal status could mean that the land is owned by the nation as a whole, is administered on behalf of the nation by a government department, and is leased by a government Ministry to a private sector operator through a concession (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- all facilities and area(s) within or adjacent to this spatial area or areas under legal title or management control of, or operated by or on behalf of The Organization, for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives; and

- all facilities and area(s) outside, and not adjacent to this spatial area or areas and operated by or on behalf of The Organization, solely for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives. (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

Medical Biomonitoring: Analysis of a chemical pesticide or one of its metabolites in the human body, using samples of substances such as blood, urine or breastmilk (Source: Based on FAO and WHO (2016). International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management: Guidelines on Highly Hazardous Pesticides. FAO & WHO, Rome).

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

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

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

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

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

'Natural forest' includes the following categories:

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

- The definition of 'natural forest' may include areas described as wooded ecosystems, woodland and savannah.

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

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

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

Thresholds and guidelines may cover areas such as:

- Other vegetation types and non-forest communities and ecosystems included in the Management Unit, including grassland, bushland, wetlands, and open woodlands;
- Very young pioneer or colonizing regeneration in a primary succession on new open sites or abandoned farmland, which does not yet contain many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems. This may be considered as natural forest through ecological progression after the passage of years;
- Young natural regeneration growing in natural forest areas may be considered as natural forest, even after logging, clear-felling or other disturbances, since many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems remain, above-ground and below-ground;

Areas where deforestation and forest degradation have been so severe that they are no longer 'dominated by trees' may be considered as non-forest, when they have very few of the principal above-ground and below-ground characteristics and key elements of natural forests. Such extreme degradation is typically the result of combinations of repeated and excessively heavy logging, grazing, farming, fuelwood collection, hunting, fire, erosion, mining, settlements, infrastructure, etc. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may help to decide when such areas should be excised from the Management Unit, should be restored towards more natural conditions, or may be converted to other land uses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pesticide: Any substance or mixture of substances of chemical or biological ingredients intended for repelling, destroying or controlling any pest, or regulating plant growth. This definition includes insecticides, rodenticides, acaricides, molluscicides, larvaecides, nematocides, fungicides and herbicides (Source: FSC-POL-30-001).

Pesticide Buffer zone: Area established around environmental and/or social values to protect them from damage, within which pesticides are not used or are used only with additional risk mitigation measures.

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

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

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

Precautionary approach: An approach requiring that when the available information indicates that management activities pose a threat of severe or irreversible damage to the environment or a threat to human welfare, The Organization will take explicit and effective measures to prevent the damage and avoid the risks to welfare, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of environmental values are uncertain (Source: Based on Principle 15 of

Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992, and Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle of the Wingspread Conference, 23–25 January 1998).

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

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

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

Protection: See definition of Conservation.

Protection Area: See definition of Conservation Zone.

Proportionate: A 1:1 ratio: The area to be restored or conserved is the same as the area of natural forest and/or High Conservation Value destroyed (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- For environmental harms this includes actions taken to remedy deforestation, conversion degradation, or other harms to natural forest and High Conservation Value areas. Environmental remedy actions may include but are not limited to: conservation of standing forests, habitats, ecosystems and species; restoration and protection of degraded ecosystems.
- For social harms this includes providing redress for identified social harms through agreements made during an FPIC-based process with the affected rights holders, and facilitating a transition to the position before such harms occurred; or developing alternative measures to ameliorate harms by providing gains recognized by the affected stakeholders as equivalent to the harms, through

consultation and agreement. Remedy may be achieved through a combination of apologies, restitution, rehabilitation, financial or non-financial compensation, satisfaction, punitive sanctions, injunctions, and guarantees of non-repetition (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

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

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

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

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

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

Restoration /Ecological Restoration: Process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem, and its associated conservation values, that have been degraded, damaged, or destroyed (Source: adapted from 'International principles and standards for the practice of ecological restoration'. Gann et al 2019. Second edition. Society for Ecological Restoration) (shortened version – refer to the FSC Remedy Framework for full definition).

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

The Organization is also not obliged to restore environmental values that may have existed at some time in the historic or pre-historic past, or that have been negatively affected by previous owners or organizations – with the exception of those values negatively affected through instances of conversion and whose restoration form part of a Remedy Plan which The Organization is required to follow. In all instances, however, The Organization is expected to take reasonable measures to mitigate, control and prevent environmental degradation which is continuing in the Management Unit as a result of such previous impacts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Small-scale smallholder: Any person that is depending on the land for most of their livelihood; and/or employs labor mostly from family or neighboring communities and has land-use rights on a Management Unit of less than 50 hectares. Standard developers may define this to less than 50 hectares (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

Social harms: Negative impacts on persons or communities, perpetrated by individuals, corporations or states, which include, but may go beyond, criminal acts by legal persons. Such harms include negative impacts on persons' or groups' rights, livelihoods and well-being, such as property (including forests, lands, waters), health, food security, healthy environment, cultural repertoire and happiness, as well as physical injury, detention, dispossession and expulsion (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

- **Ongoing social harms:** social harms which have not been remedied.
- **Priority social harms:** social harms prioritized by an FPIC-based process with affected rights-holders or identified in consultation with affected stakeholders (Source: FSC-PRO-01-007 V1-0. Shortened version - refer to the FSC Remedy Framework for full definition).

Stakeholder: See definitions for 'affected stakeholder' and 'interested stakeholder'.

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).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Trigger Value: Trigger values are expressed as the value of toxicity exposure ratio (TER) above which exposure is considered to be an unacceptable risk. The TER is calculated based on the acute toxicity value and exposure for each pesticide. Its value will be local and will be based on exposure parameters.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wetlands: Transitional areas between terrestrial and aquatic systems in which the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water (Source: Cowarding, L.M., Carter, V., Golet, F.C., Laroe, E.T. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. DC US Department: Washington). Under the Ramsar Convention, wetlands can include tidal mudflats, natural ponds, marshes, potholes, wet meadows, bogs, peatlands, freshwater swamps, mangroves, lakes, rivers and even some coral reefs (Source: IUCN, No Date, IUCN Definitions – English).

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

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

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



FSC International Center gGmbH – Policy and Performance Unit

Adenauerallee 134

53113 Bonn

Germany

Phone: +49 -(0)228 -36766 -0

Fax: +49 -(0)228 -36766 -65

Email : country_requirements@fsc.org