

Forest Stewardship Council®







The FSC Interim Forest Stewardship Standard for Non-Timber Forest Products for Vietnam

FSC-STD-VN-NTFP-01-2023



Photo credit

From left to right:

- Photo 1: Rubber tapping, © Gerhard Kuske (GFA Certification GmbH).
- Photo 2: Ganoderma growing under *Erythrophleum fordii* FSC certified natural forest, Huong Son, Ha Tinh, Vietnam, © Vu Que Anh (FSC Vietnam) .
- Photo 3: Rattan in FSC certified natural forest, Huong Son, Ha Tinh, Vietnam, © Vu Que Anh (FSC Vietnam) .

NOTE ON THIS VERSION:

This is the official version of the FSC Interim Forest Stewardship Standard (IFSS) for Non-Timber Forest Products for Vietnam that is approved by FSC International, and it is available at connect.fsc.org. Any translation of this version is not an official translation approved by FSC International. If there is any conflict or inconsistency between the approved English version and any translated version, the English version shall prevail.

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Standard developed by	GFA Certification GmbH info@gfa-cert.com
FSC Performance and Standards Unit contact	FSC International Center gGmbH - Performance and Standards Unit - Adenauerallee 134 53113 Bonn, Germany +49-(0)228-36766-0 +49-(0)228-36766-65 psu@fsc.org

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

FSC's vision is that true value of forests is recognized and fully incorporated into society worldwide. FSC is the leading catalyst and defining force for improved forest management and market transformation, shifting the global forest trend toward sustainable use, conservation, restoration, and respect for all.

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.

Foreword

(Informative section)

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 National Forest Stewardship Standards and Interim National Standards which are based on the FSC Principles and Criteria. In addition, FSC sets standards for the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (also known as certification bodies) that certify conformance with FSC's standards.

Environmentally appropriate forest management ensures that the production of timber, non-timber forest 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.

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 Forest Stewardship Standards (FSS) and Interim Forest Stewardship Standards (IFSS).

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A Preamble

A.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 for the production of Non-Timber Forest Products within their Management Unit and to demonstrate conformance, in conjunction with FSC-STD-VN-01-2018.
- 2. FSC accredited certification bodies (CBs) to determine conformity against this standard as the basis for granting, maintaining or renewing forest management certification with NTFPs included in the scope.

A.2 Scope

(Normative section)

This standard shall be applied in the following scope:

Geographic region	Vietnam
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)	Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs): Mushrooms, honey, cones and seeds, fruits, vines and medicine plants, lichens, mosses and ferns, cinnamon, rattan, bamboo, natural rubber, natural resins and latex.

This IFSS shall not be used as a stand-alone standard. This standard includes specific requirements for NTFPs and shall only be used in conjunction with the FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018 (hereafter also referred to as 'NFSS Vietnam'. For this reason, the sections of Principles, Criteria and Indicators, as well as Annexes and Glossary of Terms in this IFSS follow the same structure as in NFSS Vietnam.

A.3 Responsibility for Conformance

(Normative section)

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

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

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

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

Responsibility for ensuring conformity with the requirements in this standard lies with the person(s) or entities that is/are the certification applicant or holder. For the purpose of FSC certification these persons(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.

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

(Normative section)

Normative elements in the standard are:

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

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

Notes and examples which are attached to some of the indicators

Organizations including NTFPs in their certification scope shall conform with all NTFP indicators in the standard (marked as e.g. "NTFP 1.2.1"), these Organizations shall conform with them in addition to the indicators of the NFSS Vietnam.

Verbal forms for the expression of provisions

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

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

The text of the Principles and the Criteria under section D 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 Annex I Glossary of Terms.

This document is subject to the review and revision cycle as described in FSC-PRO-60-007 EN *Structure, Content and Development of Interim National Standards*. At the next regular revision of the NFSS FSC-STD-VN-01-2018, the SDG will be required to integrate this IFSS for NTFPs into their national standard

A.5 Interpretations and Disputes

(Normative section)

Interpretation requests regarding Interim Forest Stewardship Standards are submitted directly to FSC for processing and approval. Approved interpretations are published 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).

B Context

B.1 General description of the forestry sector

(Informative section)

Please refer to the NFSS Vietnam

B.2 Background information on the standard development

(Informative section)

The first version of the NFSS Vietnam does not contain specific Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) related indicators. This IFSS for NTFPs has been developed following INT-DIR-20-007_13 to enable The Organization to certify NTFPs in their Management Units.

One public consultation was held between 24 June and 24 July 2022, allowing stakeholders to comment on the draft standard.

C References

(Informative section)

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

FSC-STD-VN-01-2018 The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Vietnam

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

D 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.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

- 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.
 - NTFP 1.2.1 Legal tenure to manage and use resources including harvesting and processing of non-timber forest products within the scope of the certificate is documented.
- 1.3 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.
 - NTFP 1.3.1 All activities including harvesting and processing of non-timber forest products 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.
 - 4) Applicable legal and administrative requirements for hygiene and food safety (only applicable where NTFPs are used for human or animal consumption).
- 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.

- 1.5 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.
 - NTFP 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 NTFPs up to the point of first sale is demonstrated.
 - NTFP 1.5.2 Compliance with CITES provisions is demonstrated, including through possession of certificates for harvest and trade in any NTFP species.
- 1.6 The Organization* shall identify, prevent and resolve disputes* over issues of statutory or customary law*, which can be settled out of court in a timely manner*, through engagement* with affected stakeholders*.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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.

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.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

- 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.
 - NTFP 2.3.1 Health and safety practices are developed and implemented for all workers including workers harvesting and processing of non-timber forest products that meet or exceed the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.
 - NTFP 2.3.2 Workers, including workers harvesting and processing of non-timber forest products, have personal protective equipment appropriate to their assigned tasks.
- 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*.

- 2.5 The Organization* shall demonstrate that workers* have job-specific training and supervision to safely and effectively implement the Management Plan* and all management activities.
 - NTFP 2.5.1 Workers, including workers harvesting and processing of non-timber forest products, have job specific training and supervision to safely and effectively contribute to the implementation of the management plan and all management activities.

2.6	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*.
	Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

PRINCIPLE* 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES'* RIGHTS

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

- 3.1 The Organization* shall identify the Indigenous Peoples* that exist within the Management Unit* or those that are affected by management activities. The Organization* shall then, through engagement* with these Indigenous Peoples*, identify their rights of tenure*, their rights of access to and use of forest* resources and ecosystem services*, their customary rights* and legal* rights and obligations, that apply within the Management Unit*. The Organization* shall also identify areas where these rights are contested.
 - NTFP 3.1.2 Through culturally appropriate engagement with the Ethnic Peoples identified in 3.1.1, the following issues 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, non-timber forest products 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 Ethnic 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;
 - 7) The aspirations and goals of Ethnic Peoples related to management activities.
- 3.2 The Organization* shall recognize and uphold* the legal* and customary rights* of Indigenous Peoples* to maintain control over management activities within or related to the Management Unit* to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources and lands and territories*. Delegation by Indigenous Peoples* of control over management activities to third parties requires Free, Prior and Informed Consent*.

3.3 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.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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).

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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*.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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.

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*.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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 socioeconomic impact of its management activities.

- 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.
 - NTFP 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 including impacts on non-timber forest products.

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*.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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*.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFP.

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

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.
 - NTFP 5.1.1 The range of resources and non-timber forest products that could strengthen and diversify the local economy are identified.
 - NTFP 5.1.2 Consistent with management objectives, the identified benefits, non-timber forest products and products are produced by The Organization and/or made available for others to produce, to strengthen and diversify the local economy.
- 5.2 The Organization* shall normally harvest products and services from the Management Unit* at or below a level which can be permanently sustained.
 - NTFP 5.2.4.1 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, ensuring that the level of use does not exceed the capacity of production of the individual and/or the population of the species.
 - NTFP 5.2.4.2 Sustainable harvest levels are based on Best Available Information.
 - NTFP 5.2.4.3 Records are kept of the level of annual use of each NTFP harvested.
- 5.3 The Organization* shall demonstrate that the positive and negative externalities* of operations are included in the management plan*.

- 5.4 The Organization* shall use local processing, local services, and local value adding to meet the requirements of The Organization* where these are available, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk*. If these are not locally available, The Organization* shall make reasonable* attempts to help establish these services.
 - NTFP 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 for NTFPs.
 - NTFP 5.4.2 Reasonable attempts are made to establish and encourage capacity where local goods, services, processing, and value-added facilities are not available.

5.5	The Organization* shall demonstrate through its planning and expenditures proportionate to scale, intensity and risk*, its commitment to long-term* economic viability*.
	Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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.
 - NTFP 6.1.1 Best Available Information is used to identify environmental values within, and, where potentially affected by NTFPs management activities, outside of the Management Unit.
 - NTFP 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.
- 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**.
 - NTFP 6.2.1 An environmental impact assessment identifies potential present and future impacts of management activities on environmental values and non-timber forest products, from the stand level to the landscape level.
- 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.
 - NTFP 6.3.1 Management activities are planned and implemented to prevent negative impacts and to protect environmental values and non-timber forest products.
 - NTFP 6.3.2 Management activities prevent negative impacts to environmental values and non-timber forest products.
 - NTFP 6.3.3 Where negative impacts to environmental values and non-timber forest products occur, measures are adopted to prevent further damage, and negative impacts are mitigated and/or repaired.

- 6.4 The Organization* shall protect rare species* and threatened species* and their habitats* in the Management Unit* through conservation zones*, Protection Areas*, connectivity* and/or (where necessary) other direct measures for their survival and viability. These measures shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk* of management activities and to the conservation* status and ecological requirements of the rare and threatened species*. The Organization* shall take into account the geographic range and ecological requirements of rare and threatened species* beyond the boundary of the Management Unit*, when determining the measures to be taken inside the Management Unit*.
 - NTFP 6.4.4 Hunting, fishing, trapping and collection of rare or threatened species including non-timber forest products is prevented.
- 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.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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

6.8 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*.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

- 6.9 The Organization* shall not convert natural forest* to plantations*, nor natural forests* or plantations* on sites directly converted from natural forest* to non-forest* land use, except when the conversion:
 - a) Affects a Very Limited portion* of the area of the Management Unit*, and
 - b) Will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation* benefits in the *Management Unit**, and
 - c) Does not damage or threaten *High Conservation Values**, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those *High Conservation Values**.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

- 6.10 Management Units* containing plantations* that were established on areas converted from natural forest* after November 1994 shall not qualify for certification, except where:
 - a) Clear and sufficient evidence is provided that *The Organization** was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion, or
 - b) The conversion affected a *Very Limited portion** of the area of the *Management Unit** and is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term *conservation** benefits in the *Management Unit**.

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.
 - NTFP 7.1.1 Policies (vision and values related to NTFPs) that contribute to meeting the requirements of this standard are defined.
 - NTFP 7.1.2 Specific, operational management objectives for NTFPs that address the requirements of this standard are defined.
 - NTFP 7.1.3 Summaries of the defined policies and management objectives for the NTFPs are included in the management plan and publicized.
- 7.2 The Organization* shall have and implement a management plan* for the Management Unit* which is fully consistent with the policies and management objectives* as established according to Criterion* 7.1. The management plan* shall describe the natural resources that exist in the Management Unit* and explain how the plan will meet the FSC certification requirements. The management plan* shall cover forest* management planning and social management planning proportionate to scale, intensity and risk* of the planned activities.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

- 7.3 The management plan* shall include verifiable targets* by which progress towards each of the prescribed management objectives* can be assessed.
 - NTFP 7.3.1 Verifiable targets for NTFPs, and the frequency that they are assessed, are established for monitoring the progress towards each management objective.
- 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.

7.5 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.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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.

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*

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

- 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.
 - NTFP 8.2.1 The social and environmental impacts of NTFP management activities are monitored consistent with Annex D of the NFSS Vietnam.
- 8.3 *The Organization** shall analyze the results of monitoring and evaluation and feed the outcomes of this analysis back into the planning process.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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

- 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.
 - NTFP 8.5.2.1 (For honey only) It is demonstrated based on best available information or pollen analysis that at least 50% of the collected pollen originates from within the FSC certified Management Unit before honey can be sold with the FSC claim: FSC 100%.

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*.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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.

9.4	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.
	Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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**.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

- 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.
 - NTFP 10.2.1 Species chosen for regeneration, including non-timber forest products, are ecologically well adapted to the site, are native species and are of local provenance, unless clear and convincing justification is provided for using non-local genotypes or non-native species.
- 10.3 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.
 - NTFP 10.3.1 Alien species, including non-timber forest products, are used only when direct experience and/or the results of scientific research demonstrate that invasive impacts can be controlled.
- 10.4 The Organization* shall not use genetically modified organisms* in the Management Unit*.

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

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

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

Note: No additional indicators for NTFPs.

- 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.
 - NTFP 10.7.1 (For honey only): Sickness of the bees is treated physically such as with steam or fire to disinfect the beehives. For treatment of varroa mites, the following substances are used:
 - 1) formic acid, lactic acid, acetic acid and oxalic acid.
 - 2) menthol, eucalyptol and camphor.
 - NTFP 10.7.6 Damage to environmental values, NTFPs and human health from pesticide use is prevented and mitigated or repaired where damage occurs.
- 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*.

- 10.9 The Organization* shall assess risks* and implement activities that reduce potential negative impacts from Natural Hazards* proportionate to scale, intensity, and risk*.
 - NTFP 10.9.2 (For honey only) Feeding of bees only takes place in cases of lack of natural food sources, due to climatic conditions or alike, e.g., during winter periods. When bee families are fed, a logbook is kept for each bee family/beehive, including:
 - 1) food product fed, e.g. sugar
 - 2) amount fed
 - 3) date/period fed.

- 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.
 - NTFP 10.10.1 Development, maintenance, and use of infrastructure, as well as transport activities, are managed to protect environmental values and non-timber forest products identified in Criterion 6.1.
 - NTFP 10.10.2 Silviculture activities are managed to ensure protection of the environmental values and non-timber forest products identified in Criterion 6.1.
 - NTFP 10.10.3 Disturbance or damages to water courses, water bodies, soils, rare and threatened species, habitats, ecosystems, non-timber forest products and landscape values are prevented, mitigated and repaired in a timely manner, and management activities modified to prevent further damage.
- 10.11 The Organization* shall manage activities associated with harvesting and extraction of timber and non-timber forest products* so that environmental values* are conserved, merchantable waste is reduced, and damage to other products and services is avoided.

- 10.12 The Organization* shall dispose of waste materials* in an environmentally appropriate manner.
 - NTFP 10.12.1 Collection, clean up, transportation and disposal of all waste materials is done in an environmentally appropriate way that conserves environmental values and non-timber forest products as identified in Criterion 6.1.

E 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).

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

1. Legal rights to harvest		
1.1 Land tenure and management rights	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018	
1.2 Concession licenses	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018	
1.3 Management and harvesting planning	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018 In addition, the Organization shall also comply with the	
	following legislation: • Circular No. 28/2018/TT-BNNPTNT, dated November 16, 2018 from MARD on Regulations on sustainable forest management.	
1.4 Harvesting permits	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018	
2. Taxes and fees		
2.1 Payment of royalties and harvesting fees	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018	
2.2 Value added taxes and other sales taxes	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018	
2.3 Income and profit taxes	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018	
3. Timber harvesting activities		
3.1 Timber harvesting regulations	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018	
3.2 Protected sites and species	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018	
3.3 Environmental requirements	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018	

3.4 Health and safety	 Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018 In addition, the Organization shall also comply with the following legislation:Law no. 45/2019/QH14, Labor Code is approved by the National Assembly on November 20,
	2019 and takes effect from January 1, 2021,
3.5 Legal employment	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018
4. Third parties' rights	
4.1 Customary rights	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018
4.2 Free Prior and Informed Consent	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018
4.3 Indigenous Peoples' rights	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018
5. Trade and transport	
•	requirements for forest management operations as well as
5.1 Classification of species, quantities, qualities	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018
5.2 Trade and transport	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018
5.3 Offshore trading and transfer pricing	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018
5.4 Custom regulations	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018
5.5 CITES	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018
	 In addition, the Organization shall also comply with the following legislation:84/2021/ND-CP dated September 22, 2021 of the Government on amending and supplementing a number of articles of the Government's Decree No. 06/2019/ND-CP dated January 22, 2019 on management Endangered, precious and rare forest plants and animals and implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora List of forest products according to Circular 27/2018/TT-BNNPTNT

6. Due diligence / due care	
6.1 Due diligence / due care procedures	Please refer to Annex A of the NFSS Vietnam FSC-STD-VN-01-2018
7. NTFP	
	 Law No. 55/2010/QH12 adopted by the National Assembly on 17 June, 2010 on food safety Law No. 05/2007/QH12 adopted by the National Assembly on 21 November, 2007 on the quality of products and goods Law on Standards and Technical Specifications 68/2006/QH11 dated 29 June 2006 Law on animal husbandry No. 32/2018/QH14 dated 19 November 2018. The Government's Decree 38/2012/ND-CP dated 25 April 2012, providing detailed regulations implementing some articles of the LoFS ("Decree 38") The Government's Decree 15/2018/ND-CP dated 2 February 2018, providing detailed regulations implementing some articles of the LoFS ("Decree 15"), art 4. Circular No. 17/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated 31 October 2018 on provisions method of management of food safety conditions for agricultural forestry business manufacturing facilities not benefited for certificate of facilities certificate industrial and rural development. Circular No. 38/2018/TT-BNNPTNT dated 25 December 2018 on prescribing assessment and certification of compliance with food safety regulations of agro-forestry-fishery food manufacturing and trading businesses under the management of ministry of agriculture and rural development. Circular No. 27/2018/TT-BNNPTNT, dated 16 November 2018 about Management and tracing of forest products. Directive No. 08/CT-TTg dated 28 March 2019 on a number of rapid and sustainable development tasks and solutions for processing industry of timber and non-timber forest products for export Circular No. 21/2016/TT-BNNPTNT dated on 28/06/2016, provinding for the main exploitation, full utilization and full collection of forest products. Decision No. 4689/QĐ-BNN-TT dated on 1/12/2021 Technical procedure on rubber planting

Annex B Training requirements for workers (Principle 2)

Please refer to Annex B of the NFSS Vietnam.

In addition to the training requirements therein stated, NTFP producers shall provide training on the following NTFP-related requirements:

- 14) Implement the rubber tapping guidelines set out in the management plan of natural rubber and any other guidelines set out for the management of NTFPs included in the scope of certification.
- 15) Where NTFPs are produced for consumption: Awareness and knowledge of applicable requirements for food safety (hygiene) and related requirements for production, harvesting, handling, storage and processing of NTFPs.

Annex C	Elements of the management plan (Principle 7)	
Please refer	to Annex C of the NFSS Vietnam.	

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Annex D	Monitoring requirements (Principle 8)
Please refer	to Annex D of the NFSS Vietnam.

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	HCV Framework
Please refer t	o Annex E of the NFSS Vietnam.

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Annex F Strategies for maintaining High Conservation Values (Principle 9) Please refer to Annex F of the NFSS Vietnam.	
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Annex G List of endangered species

List of endangered species specified in the Vietnam High Conservation Value Forest Toolkit Version 1.4, pages 36-70 shall be used until the ongoing species assessment has passed the IUCN formal process for approving the national red lists. Once the updated red list becomes published in the IUCN website, it will replace the Vietnam HCV Toolkit.

Annex H Glossary of terms	
Please refer to Section 9 of the NFSS Vietnam	



Forest Stewardship Council®

fsc.org

FSC International Center gGmbH Adenauerallee 134-53113 Bonn · Germany



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