



Forest Stewardship Council®



High Conservation Value Guidance for Forest Managers


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High Conservation Value Guidance for Forest Managers

FSC-GUI-30-009 V1-0 EN

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

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

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	3
List of Figures.....	4
1 Preamble	5
1.1 Context and Objective.....	5
1.2 Scope.....	5
1.3 The HCV Normative Frameworks.....	6
1.4 FSC Network Roles and Responsibilities	6
1.5 Normative Aspects of HCV Guidance.....	8
1.6 Effective Date and Validity Dates	9
2 HCV Background for Managers	10
2.1 Support for HCV Protection Throughout the FSC's Principles and Criteria.....	10
2.2 HCV Elements	11
2.3 Experts.....	11
2.4 Scale Intensity and Risk: Background for Managers	12
2.5 Precautionary Approach.....	14
2.6 Free Prior and Informed Consent	14
2.7 Intact Forest Landscapes	15
3 HCV Methodology: Guidance for Managers	16
3.1 HCV Assessment.....	17
3.2 Engagement.....	19
3.3 Management Strategies	22
3.4 Monitoring	23
Annex 1: Notes on development of this guide	27

List of Figures

Figure 1. FSC Normative Framework aligned with the HCV Framework	6
Figure 2: HCV Guidance and supporting documents.....	7
Figure 3. Complementary roles in developing and using HCV Frameworks	8
Figure 4. Support for HCV Protection throughout FSC's Principles and Criteria	10
Figure 5: Key Elements of the HCV methodology	11
Figure 6: Relative Protection required for Conservation Values	13
Figure 7: Risk Based Approach to HCV Assessments	14
Figure 8. The HCV methodology	16
Figure 9. HCV Assessment Steps	19
Figure 10. HCV Engagement Steps with Indigenous Peoples and local communities	20
Figure 11. Engagement to Support Protection and Enhancement of HCVs	21
Figure 12: HCV Monitoring Steps.....	25

1 Preamble

1.1 Context and Objective

Principle 9 requires extra safeguards and extra levels of protection, additional to those already provided under other FSC's Principles and Criteria, by requiring:

- Greater efforts to identify and assess High Conservation Values (HCVs) including environmental and social values not covered elsewhere in the FSC's Principles and Criteria;
- Respect the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of affected rights holders;
- Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, stakeholders and experts;
- Management strategies that include, at times, full protection; and
- Rigorous monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the management strategies and the maintenance, enhancement and / or restoration of HCVs.

This guide describes how forest managers of FSC certified Management Units should:

- Assess the presence of each HCV;
- Engage with Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other stakeholders;
- Develop and implement strategies and action plans for maintaining and/or enhancing HCVs;
- Monitor the impacts of forest operations on HCVs;
- Ensure these strategies and monitoring are consistent with a risk-based approach; and
- Consider how payment for ecosystem services could support the protection of HCVs.

In addition, this guide identifies how HCVs can best be maintained with a number of recent changes in the FSC system, specifically:

- Free Prior and Informed Consent with Indigenous Peoples and local communities with legal and customary rights and as described in FSC-GUI-60-002 *Guidelines for the Implementation of the Right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (2012)* (FPIC);
- Intact Forest Landscapes, as defined in FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0 *International Generic Indicators*;
- Scale Intensity and Risk (SIR), as described in FSC-GUI-60-002 *Scale, Intensity and Risk Guideline for Standard Developers (2016)*;
- Payments for Ecosystem Services, as described in FSC-PRO-30-006 *Procedure for Ecosystem Services*; and
- Controlled Wood Category 3 requirements, as described in FSC-STD-30-010 *Controlled Wood Standard for Forest Management Enterprises*.

1.2 Scope

This guide is written for forest managers and aims to clarify the specific requirements for the identification, management planning, operations monitoring of HCVs in FSC certified forests.

1.3 The HCV Normative Frameworks

This Guidance is part of a broader HCV Normative Framework that includes FSC-GUI-60-009 *Guidance for Standard Development Groups: Developing National High Conservation Value Frameworks*, FSC-GUI-60-009a *Template for National High Conservation Value Frameworks* and FSC-GUI-30-010 *Intact Forest Landscapes Guidance for Forest Managers*. Once completed, National HCV Frameworks are normative documents where they exist.

This Guidance is part of the broader normative framework as follows:

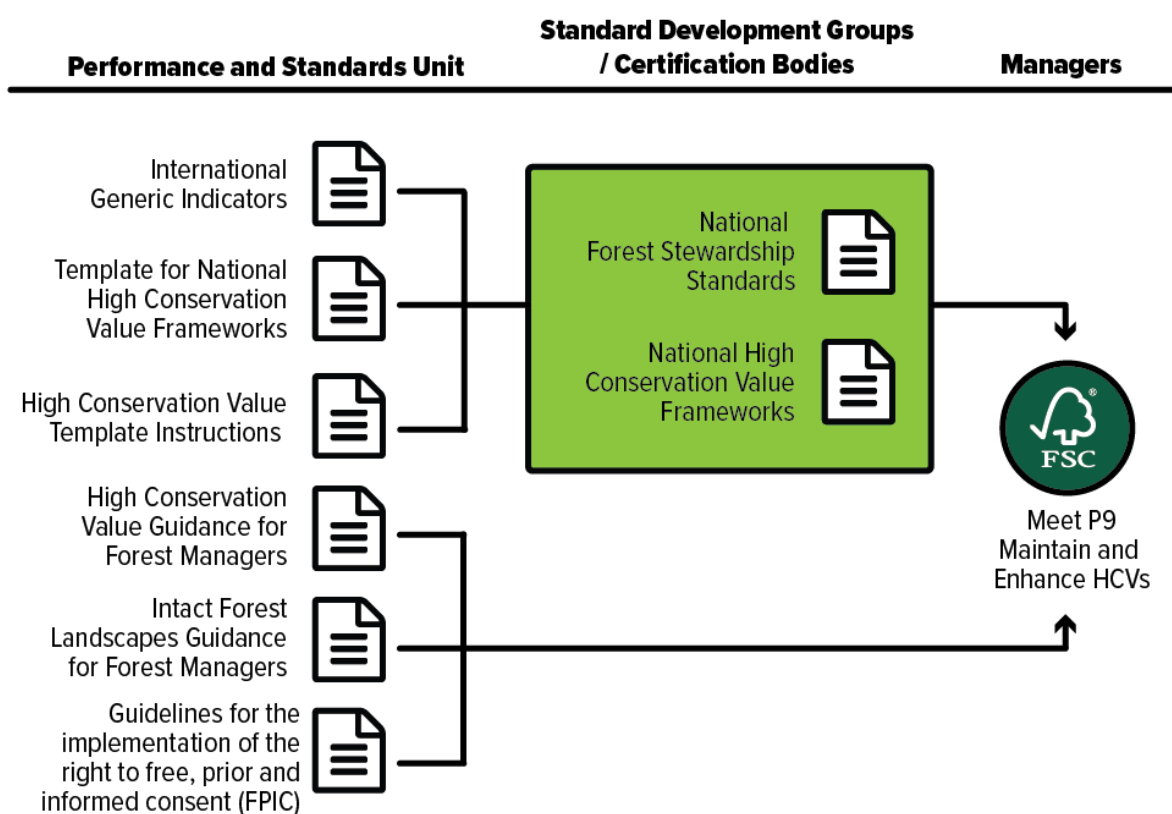


Figure 1. FSC Normative Framework aligned with the HCV Framework

1.4 FSC Network Roles and Responsibilities

A number of different documents are used to provide Guidance across the FSC Network on the effective implementation of Principle 9, including the development of National HCV Frameworks, as follows:






Author	Document	Audience	Purpose
HCV Technical Working Group	 Template for National High Conservation Value Frameworks	SDGs/CBs	Provides structure for SDGs to develop national HCV Frameworks
	 High Conservation Value Template Instructions	SDGs/CBs	Describes how to use the HCV Template to produce the national HCV Framework Introduces risk based approach, empowers SDGs to set thresholds and links directly to existing tools as examples Provides a cross reference to HCV Guidance for Forest Managers and IFL Guidance for Forest Managers
	 High Conservation Value Guidance for Forest Managers	Managers	Tells Managers how to identify, assess, maintain and/or enhance and monitor HCVs Includes specific Guidance for Small, Medium and Large Managers developed in collaboration with Smallholder / New Approaches / Motion 83 Working Groups.
	 Intact Forest Landscapes Guidance for Forest Managers	Managers	Tells Managers how to implement FSC-STD-60-004 International Generic Indicators to protect Intact Forest Landscapes
SDGs / CBs	 National High Conservation Value Frameworks	Managers / Stakeholders Certification Bodies	Tells Managers how to conduct HCV Assessment to maintain and/or enhance HCVs Provides the basis for conformity assessments

Figure 2: HCV Guidance and supporting documents

The identification, protection and enhancement of HCVs are shared responsibilities across the FSC Network. Table 3 summarizes the complementary roles and responsibilities in developing and using the HCV Frameworks:

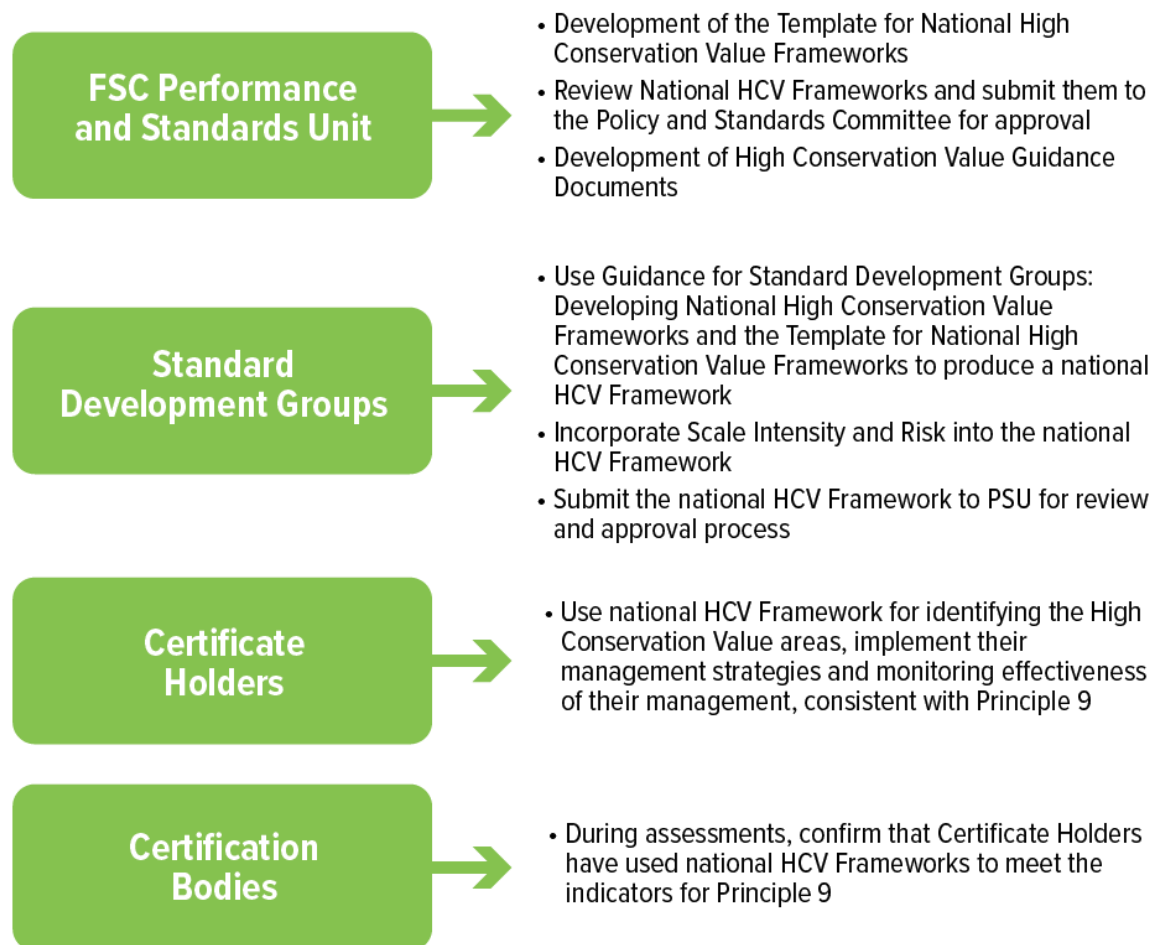


Figure 3. Complementary roles in developing and using HCV Frameworks

1.5 Normative Aspects of HCV Guidance

FSC frequently produces guidance material in support of its Standards, Policies and Procedures, often referencing or even quoting those sources. For the sake of clarity, any FSC Policy, Standard or Procedural requirement referenced or quoted in a guidance document retains its normative status.

Orange boxes contain normative language from FSC’s Principles and Criteria and International Generic Indicators

This guidance is, by definition, informative and not normative. However, in order to maintain consistency across the global network, and to ensure that Standard Developers and Managers understand their respective responsibilities, in the context of HCVs the following elements are normative:

- Standard Developers shall complete National HCV Frameworks;
- Standard Developers shall consider FSC's HCV Guidance when developing their National HCV Framework; and
- Forest Managers shall meet the requirements of the approved National HCV Framework, as included in the approved national standard.

1.6 Effective Date and Validity Dates

Approval date	6 th August 2019
Publication date	10 th January 2020
Effective date	10 th January 2020
Period of validity	Until replaced or withdrawn

2 HCV Background for Managers

2.1 Support for HCV Protection Throughout the FSC's Principles and Criteria

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*.

The HCV methodology is set out in Criteria 9.1 to 9.4. Support for the identification, assessment, management and monitoring of ecological and cultural HCVs are established throughout FSC's Principles and Criteria, as summarized in Figure 4.

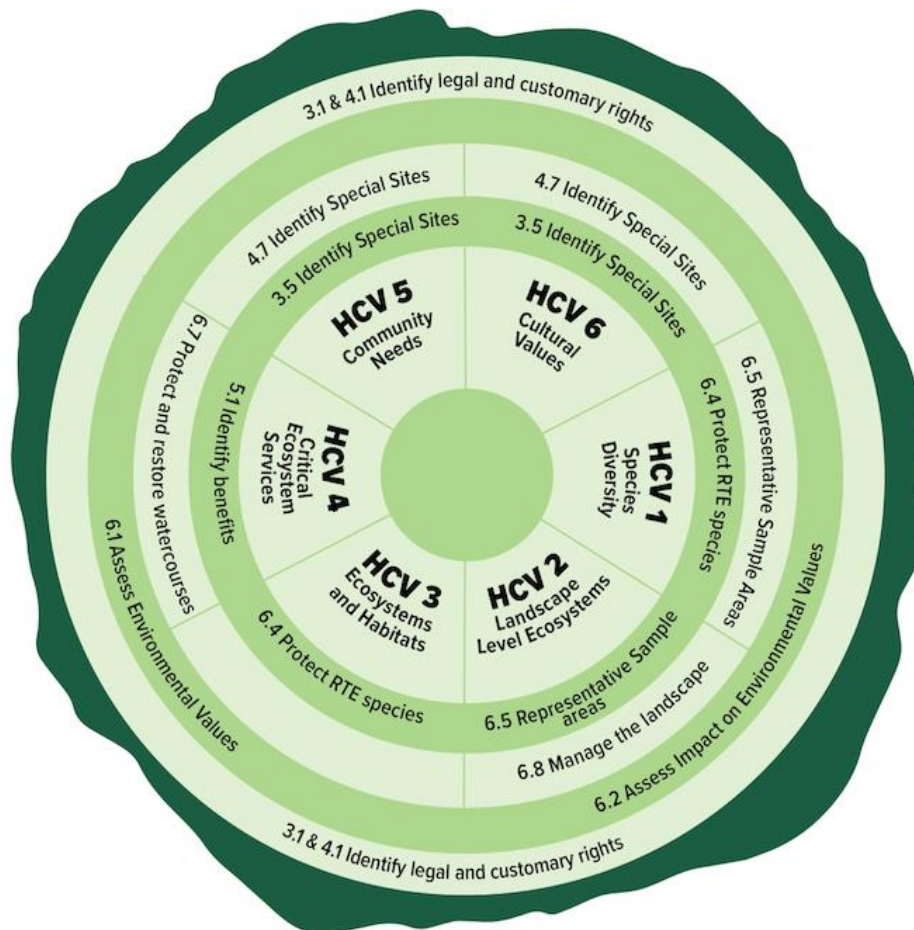


Figure 4. Support for HCV Protection throughout FSC's Principles and Criteria

2.2 HCV Elements

The key elements of the HCV methodology are well established in the Criteria for Principle 9 and are comprised of:

- The precautionary approach,
- The use of experts,
- Engagement, and
- Scale, intensity and risk (SIR).

Figure 5 illustrates how these elements are shared between the Criteria in Principle 9.

Elements	Experts	Engagement	Precautionary Approach	SIR
9.1 Assess and Record • HCV status and presence according to SIR • Impacts of management activities on HCVs		✓		✓
9.2 Develop Management Strategies	✓	✓		
9.3 Implement Management Strategies			✓	✓
9.4 Monitor Effectiveness	✓	✓		✓

Figure 5: Key Elements of the HCV methodology

2.3 Experts

The use of experts to assist with developing management strategies and monitoring of effectiveness is unique to Principle 9. The characteristics of experts are as follows:

- Independent;
- Professional and adequately trained; and

- Guided by performance monitoring with quality control.

Specific to Principle 9, the following characteristics of expert exists:

An expert:

- Has knowledge or skill that is specialized and profound as the result of substantial practical or academic experience; and / or
- Is a recognized authority on a topic by virtue of published material on this topic, their stature within the professional community, and the broadly recognized related experience; and / or
- Possesses a wealth of experience on a topic, possibly through practical means, including the accumulation of traditional knowledge.

These characteristics of 'Expert' for Principle 9 expand on the FSC Glossary definition and the Standard Development Groups may further modify them for the national context.

The level of trust and acceptability to other stakeholders can be a measure of the expert's independence from the organization.

2.4 Scale Intensity and Risk: Background for Managers

The risk-based approach is built into the FSC's Principles and Criteria, particularly in how ecological values are assessed in Principle 6 and cultural and social values are assessed through culturally appropriate engagement in Principles 3 and 4.

Criteria 6.1 to 6.8 require ecological values to be assessed, threats identified, and management strategies developed and implemented to prevent unacceptable negative impacts from management activities. Likewise, Criteria 3.1 to 3.6 require engagement with Indigenous Peoples to identify legal and customary rights, establish FPIC agreements and identify and protect special cultural sites. Similar requirements exist for Principle 4 related to local communities. Conformance with the requirements of these Principles provides the forest manager with much of the information required to meet the requirements of Principle 9.

Risks to HCVs

Forest management activities, especially harvesting, road building and ditching are threats that may cause damage to HCVs. The risk of damage depends on the scale and intensity of those activities.

Central to the risk-based approach is the notion that as conservation values become more concentrated, threatened or rare, the strength of HCV management strategies must also increase. As the concentration of, threat to, or rarity of, conservation values increase these management strategies must provide greater conservation, leading to outright protection. Intact Forest Landscape core areas are an example of values that require strong protection. Figure 6 provides a conceptual diagram to illustrate this continuum for conservation values.

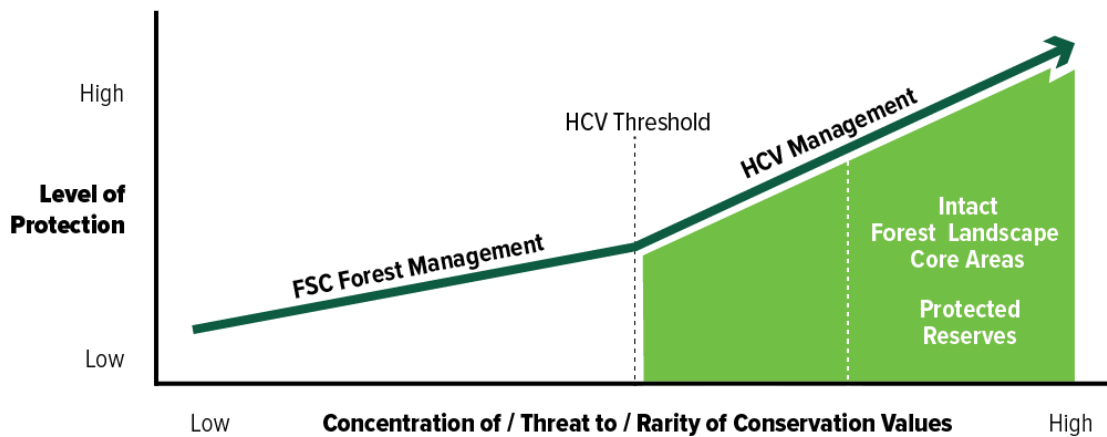


Figure 6: Relative Protection required for Conservation Values

Figure 6 shows the relationship between the level of effort of management required to protect and maintain cultural and ecological values and the concentration of, threat to or rarity of those values. As the threat to conservation values increases, so too must the level of protection of these values. This level and type of protection can elevate from management activities as set out in Principle 9 right up to excluding human activities in the form of protective reserves. The Intact Forest Landscape Core Areas are shown as an example, and reserves may need to be used to protect other HCVs.

Fundamental to reducing the potential unacceptable negative impact of management activities is incorporating a risk-based approach to management. FSC-GUI-60-002 *Guideline for Standard Developers for Addressing Risk of Unacceptable Activities in Regards to Scale and Intensity* contains several default assumptions:

- Activities with low potential of an unacceptable negative impact will require a reduced administrative burden to demonstrate conformance. This includes a reduced requirement for documenting engagement, conducting and documenting certain assessments, developing complex management plans and conducting and documenting monitoring.
- Activities with standard potential of an unacceptable negative impact must meet the requirements listed in the IGI, or as adapted in national standards through the transfer process;
- Activities with high potential of an unacceptable negative impact will be required to demonstrate their compliance with a higher level of effort and/or more robust management strategies; and

The variable levels of performance required under different circumstances shall be specified in FSC National Standards. These assumptions are summarized in Figure 7.

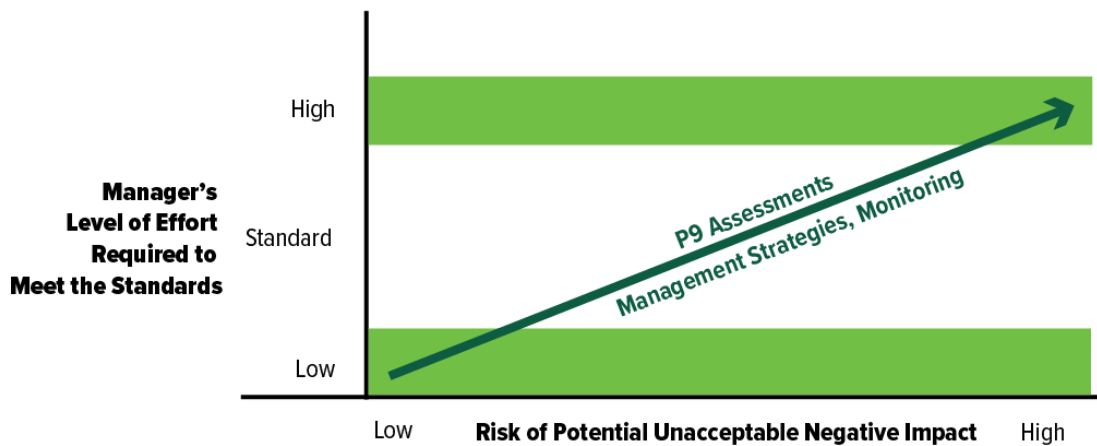


Figure 7: Risk Based Approach to HCV Assessments

2.5 Precautionary Approach

The precautionary approach is unique to Principle 9, specifically Criterion 9.3 for the implementation of management strategies. Avoiding risks when scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive is appropriate for Principle 9, especially given the vulnerability and sensitivity of the values in question.

When implementing the precautionary approach, HCVs are understood to be critical, fundamental or significant and therefore any threat to a HCV is considered to be a threat of severe or irreversible damage.

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.

HCVs are understood to be critical, fundamental or significant and therefore any threat to a HCV is considered to be a threat of severe or irreversible damage

2.6 Free Prior and Informed Consent

The right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) is seen as one of the key principles of international human rights law to protect Indigenous Peoples and local communities from destruction of their lives, cultures and livelihoods.

Increasingly it is also seen as a right for Indigenous Peoples and local communities to protect themselves from significant impact on the resources and territories for

Free Prior and Informed Consent

The right to participate in decision-making and to give, modify, withhold or withdraw consent to an activity affecting the holder of this right. Consent must be freely given, obtained prior to implementation of such activities and be founded upon an understanding of the full range of issues implicated by the activity or decision in question; hence the formulation: free, prior and informed consent.

which they can make a justified claim of long and established use. Obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, before undertaking forestry operations on lands they legally or customarily own and/or use, is therefore an important requirement in the revised FSC's Principles and Criteria for Forest Management.

FPIC is about building good and mutually beneficial relationships with the communities whose legal and customary rights are affected by the forest management activities. This requires a long-term approach to engagement. A successful FPIC process involves building and maintaining trust, which includes asking the communities what FPIC means to them and allowing them to develop their capacities. It is important to recognize and respect the protocols and values of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the FPIC process. FPIC is a two-way dialogue and learning process that requires an investment of time, resources and continuous improvement. FSC is currently developing revised Guidance for FPIC. To help guide the implementation of FPIC until its release, please see FSC-GUI-60-002 *Guidelines for the Implementation of the Right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent* (2012).

2.7 Intact Forest Landscapes

A key component of managing for HCV 2 is addressing Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs) – the remaining large unfragmented areas of forest, undisturbed by roads or other significant human infrastructure. IFL patches are defined as unbroken expanses of natural forest ecosystems greater than 500 km². Ninety percent of the world's remaining IFLs are concentrated in only 11 countries. Just three of these – Canada, Russia and Brazil – contain approximately 65% of the world's entire IFL area. In response to the declining abundance of IFLs, the FSC membership widely supported Policy Motion 65 at the 2014 General Assembly, aiming to protect vast majorities of the remaining IFLs within Management Units.

IFL Core Area

The portion of an Intact Forest Landscape that contains the most important ecological and cultural values and where harvesting and road building are generally not permitted.

A companion guidance document to this one, FSC-GUI-30-010 *Intact Forest Landscapes Guidance for Forest Managers* provides direction to forest managers in the identification, assessment and maintenance of IFLs and cores areas to ensure consistency with Policy Motion 65 (2014) and Motion 65 expectations for Standards. Recognizing that many of the remaining IFLs occur within forests of tremendous interest to or occupied by Indigenous Peoples', the IFL Guidance also addresses Indigenous Cultural Landscapes.

3 HCV Methodology: Guidance for Managers

The HCV methodology includes identification, assessment, management strategies, implementation and Monitoring. These management activities are supported by requirements in other FSC's Principles and Criteria as described below.

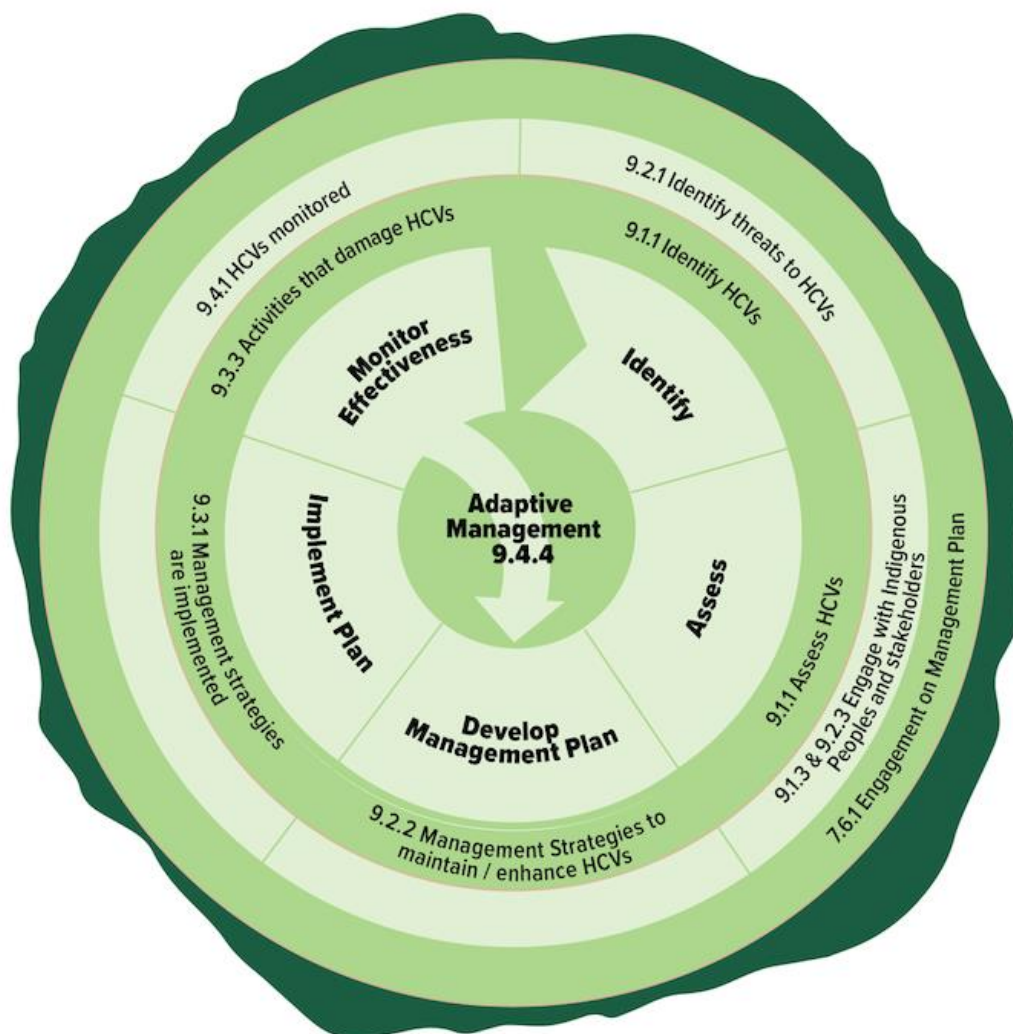


Figure 8. The HCV methodology

The following HCV methodology is provided as an overview only. For additional information, please refer to the applicable National Standard, the applicable National HCV Framework (where available), FSC-GUI-30-010 *Intact Forest Landscapes Guidance for Forest Managers*, FSC-GUI-60-002 *Guideline for Standard Developers for addressing risk of*

unacceptable activities in regards to scale and intensity; and FSC-GUI-60-002 FSC guidelines for the implementation of the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).

3.1 HCV Assessment

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*

The assessment process includes identifying HCVs that may exist in the management unit. HCV Frameworks play an important role here, by providing forest managers with more nationally specific and user-friendly interpretations and Best Available Information for each of the six HCV categories. Forest managers then assess, through both scientific assessments and through engagement with affected and interested stakeholders, whether those HCVs and any others are actually present in the management unit. The results are recorded and mapped.

Proportionate to the scale intensity and risk of impacts of management activities, and likelihood of the occurrence of HCVs, field surveys or evaluations for medium and large organizations should be performed by qualified experts and / or other suitably trained individuals. This should be done in accordance with scientifically rigorous methods and should identify:

- Locations of individuals or populations of single or multiple species, or
- Habitats likely to be suitable for individuals or populations of single or multiple species.

These surveys or evaluations may be undertaken in order to calibrate desktop assessments, inform landscape planning, inform operational management responses, monitor the effectiveness of management measures, or other purposes. Assessment procedures may be adapted for small organizations

The analysis of threats to HCVs should be based on Best Available Information and be informed through culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples, local communities, experts and affected and interested stakeholders. Threats include:

- Those posed by management activities such as road building and logging and
- Those posed by non-forestry activities, such as climate change, poaching, slash and burn agriculture, and *invasive species*

Field surveys and assessments can be important for both environmental and social HCVs, and Frameworks should indicate where they are likely to be valuable for different HCV designations. Frameworks should also indicate any standard techniques that should be used for the field surveys and assessments for these HCV designations.

Specific assessment actions include:

- 1 Define the scope of the assessment**
Discuss the reasons for assessments, types of outcomes it needs to provide, and thus begin to introduce topic of how much effort to spend, types of effort to spend, etc

- 2 Identify relevant Best Available Information**
This includes BAI listed in the National Frameworks

- 3 Identify rights holders, affected and interested stakeholders, and communities and Indigenous Peoples**
This may include informing stakeholders of their rights, what HCVs are, and other contextual information. Uses culturally appropriate methods.

- 4 Engage experts, rights holders, affected and interested stakeholders, local communities and Indigenous Peoples**
Engagement is a required part of identifying and assessing HCVs, especially but not only for HCV 5 and HCV 6. See also Step 7 below

- 5 Identify HCVs in management unit**
Assess the presence, location, status, and condition of HCVs and HCV Areas
Use National HCV Framework and BAI, including regional and local experts. This includes databases, other existing knowledge.

- 6 Conduct surveys of the management unit**
Further assess the status and condition of the HCVs. Status refers to protected area status or other information on current management context. Condition refers to the ecological integrity, health, and such.
Assess threats to HCVs

- 7 Review assessment results with independent experts, rights holders, affected and interested stakeholders, and communities and Indigenous Peoples**
To review assessment results

- 8 Record the assessment results.**
This includes maps of HCV Areas.

Figure 9. HCV Assessment Steps

3.2 Engagement

Engagement with interested and affected stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and experts is central to the HCV methodology. Culturally appropriate engagement is the most effective way of ensuring that diverse and relevant knowledge, expertise, concerns, desires, expectations, needs, rights and opportunities are considered in the HCV assessment process.

Proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of impacts of management activities, and the likelihood of the occurrence of HCVs, engagement should include those people and communities who might be interested in or affected by the management strategy and actions, such as Indigenous Peoples, forest dwellers, local or traditional communities that may rely on resources from the forest, neighbouring landowners, local processors, local businesses, forest workers, land use right holders, social and environmental NGOs with an interest in the management unit and its resources, organizations comprising or acting on behalf of interested and affected stakeholders, for example other social and environmental NGOs, labour unions, etc.

Interested and affected stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and expert advice should be sought through a participatory engagement process to make sure their aspirations and goals related to management activities are identified and addressed as per IGI 3.1.2(7) and 4.1.2(7). Methods for engagement for each of these groups may differ based on culturally appropriate requirements

Meaningful engagement processes acknowledge that communities are never homogenous. For example, perceptions of resources and cultural values, rules of use and their importance can vary within and between Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The specific steps to engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities are outlined in Figure 10 below:

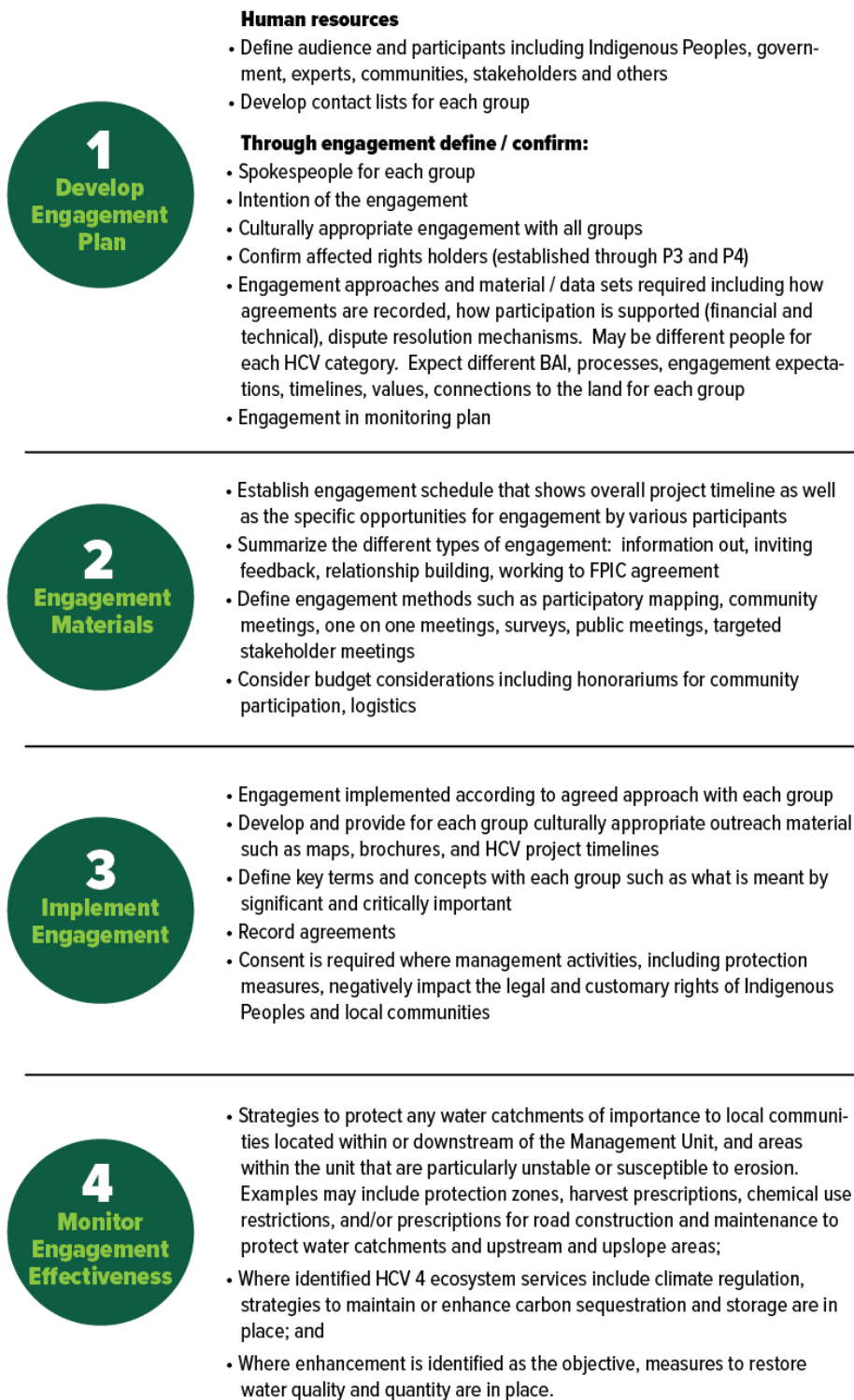


Figure 10. HCV Engagement Steps with Indigenous Peoples and local communities

Along with field visits and surveys, engagement with relevant rights holders, stakeholders, communities, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and experts are an important part of HCV assessments, consistent with Criteria 3.2, 3.5, 4.5, 4.7, and 9.1. Culturally appropriate engagement is a requirement throughout the FSC's Principles and Criteria, as set out in Figure 11.

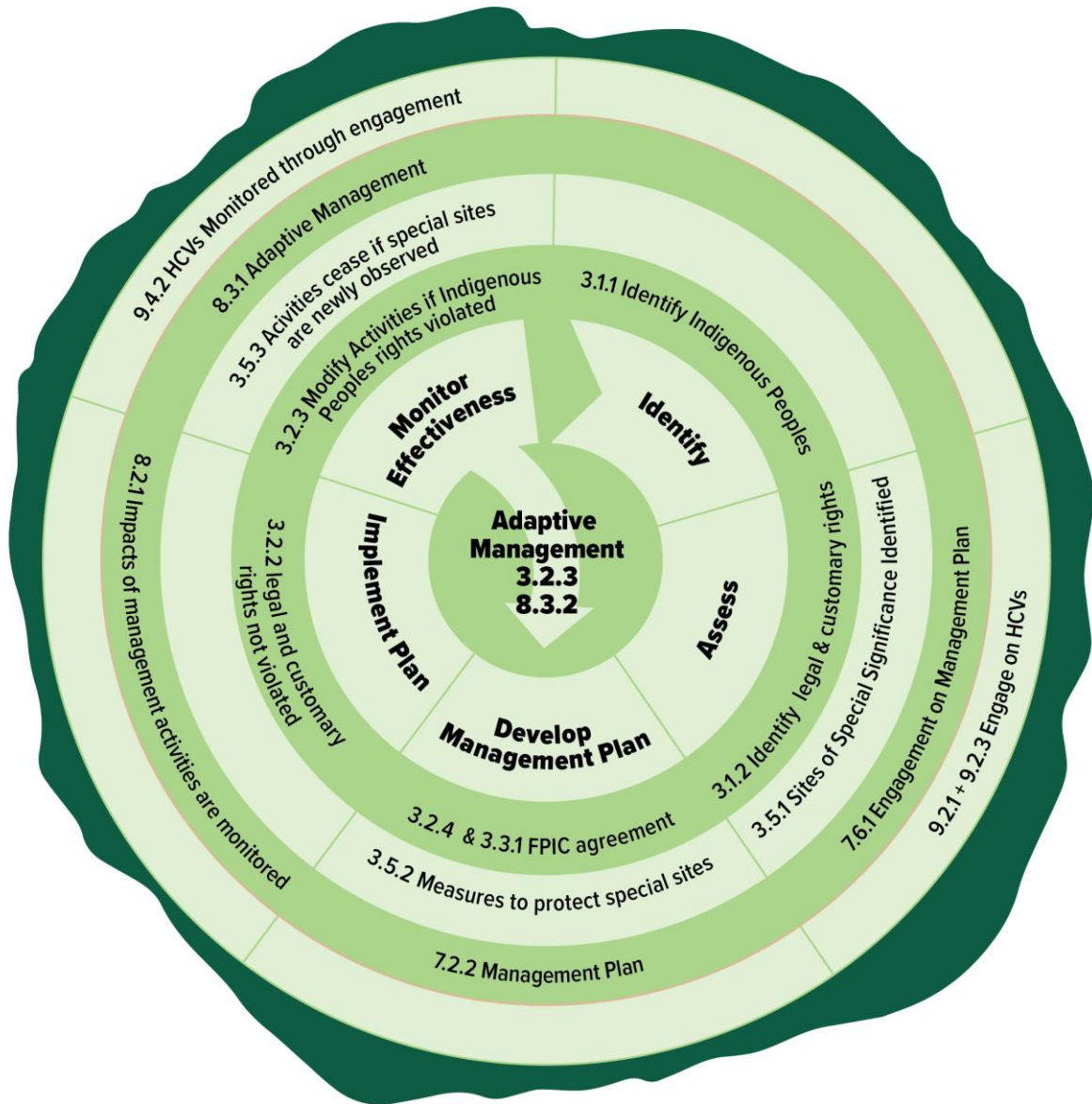


Figure 11. Engagement to Support Protection and Enhancement of HCVs

Through engagement stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and experts may identify additional HCVs in the management unit. When additional HCVs are identified, they must also be evaluated, maintained and/or enhanced by management strategies, and monitored as required by the applicable National Forest Stewardship Standard and National HCV Framework.

3.3 Management Strategies

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

Based on HCV assessment, forest managers develop strategies to maintain and/or enhance HCVs wherever they exist in the management unit. National Standards and associated HCV Frameworks can include direction on specific management practices suitable for the national interpretations of the six HCV categories, and on Best Available Information that can assist forest managers in developing or implementing HCV management strategies.

As with HCV assessments, HCV strategies are to be informed by engagement with relevant rights holders, stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and experts. Management strategies must also address threats identified during the HCV assessment. HCV Frameworks can potentially support managers by providing nationally or regionally specific Best Available Information.

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

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

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.

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.

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

Managers shall use the precautionary approach by implementing management strategies to maintain and/or enhance HCVs prior to implementing potentially harmful management activities. In practice, this may also have implications for HCV assessments. For example, if it is uncertain whether an HCV exists in the management unit, then this HCV should probably be considered to be present.

In addition, implementation of these strategies and actions shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities.

Management strategies and actions shall be modified immediately to address the results of monitoring to ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of HCVs. In keeping with IGI

Criterion 9.3, if monitoring indicates that activities are harming HCVs then these shall cease immediately and actions shall be taken to restore and protect the HCVs.

While enhancement is not otherwise mandatory, managers shall consider how enhancement will improve the resilience of an HCV or the probability of HCVs maintained.

3.4 Monitoring

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.

Monitoring shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities and must be sufficient to detect changes in the HCVs. Managers shall adapt their management strategies when monitoring shows that HCVs are not being effectively maintained and/or enhanced.

The requirements for monitoring of HCVs under the HCV pathways encompass three broad types of monitoring:

- Compliance monitoring is used to determine whether prescribed management is actually conducted;
- Effectiveness monitoring is used to determine whether the management specified has achieved its objective and whether the outcome was actually a consequence of management; and
- Threats monitoring is used to determine changes in internal and external threats identified during the assessment process and to assess whether new threats have developed.

There are a wide range of options for effectiveness and threats monitoring, including systematic field survey programs; pre-harvest survey data collation; forest health monitoring; remote sensing; statistical modeling; and qualitative and expert assessments.

Monitoring must include engagement with relevant rights holders, stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and experts. Participatory monitoring with Indigenous Peoples and local communities will be especially important for HCV occurrences involving rights-holders and also for HCV5 and HCV6.

Monitoring the engagement process should also be participatory. An external party should not determine the project outcome. Rather, the evaluation must be participatory, with organizational staff, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and stakeholders having a voice. In general, the engagement process should be designed and based on the interests

Adaptive Management

The systematic process of continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of existing measures (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and stakeholders. When monitoring actions and results are shared in a transparent manner, the successful communication of different parties understandings and views will be more likely.

The appropriate effectiveness monitoring methods can be determined by a number of factors, including management objectives and metrics; HCV scale, threat, risk, and vulnerability; ability to monitor multiple HCVs; cost and efficiency; and availability of existing programs and data.

This means that the identification, assessment, maintenance and monitoring of HCVs is framed within the adaptive management framework,

Monitoring methods must be adequate to detect changes in HCVs and to allow data to be clearly reported and interpreted. The following list describes characteristics that contribute to appropriately designed and fit-for-purpose monitoring methods and programs:

- Systematic, transparent, credible and repeatable;
- Has clear targets linked to management objectives;
- Sufficiently sensitive to detect change and whether impacts are within acceptable ranges, or require intervention;
- Demonstrated suitability for the value being measured;
- Applied with due consideration of risk and the precautionary approach; and
- Time frames and spatial scales are explicit and relevant to the value being monitored.

Monitoring Steps are as follows:

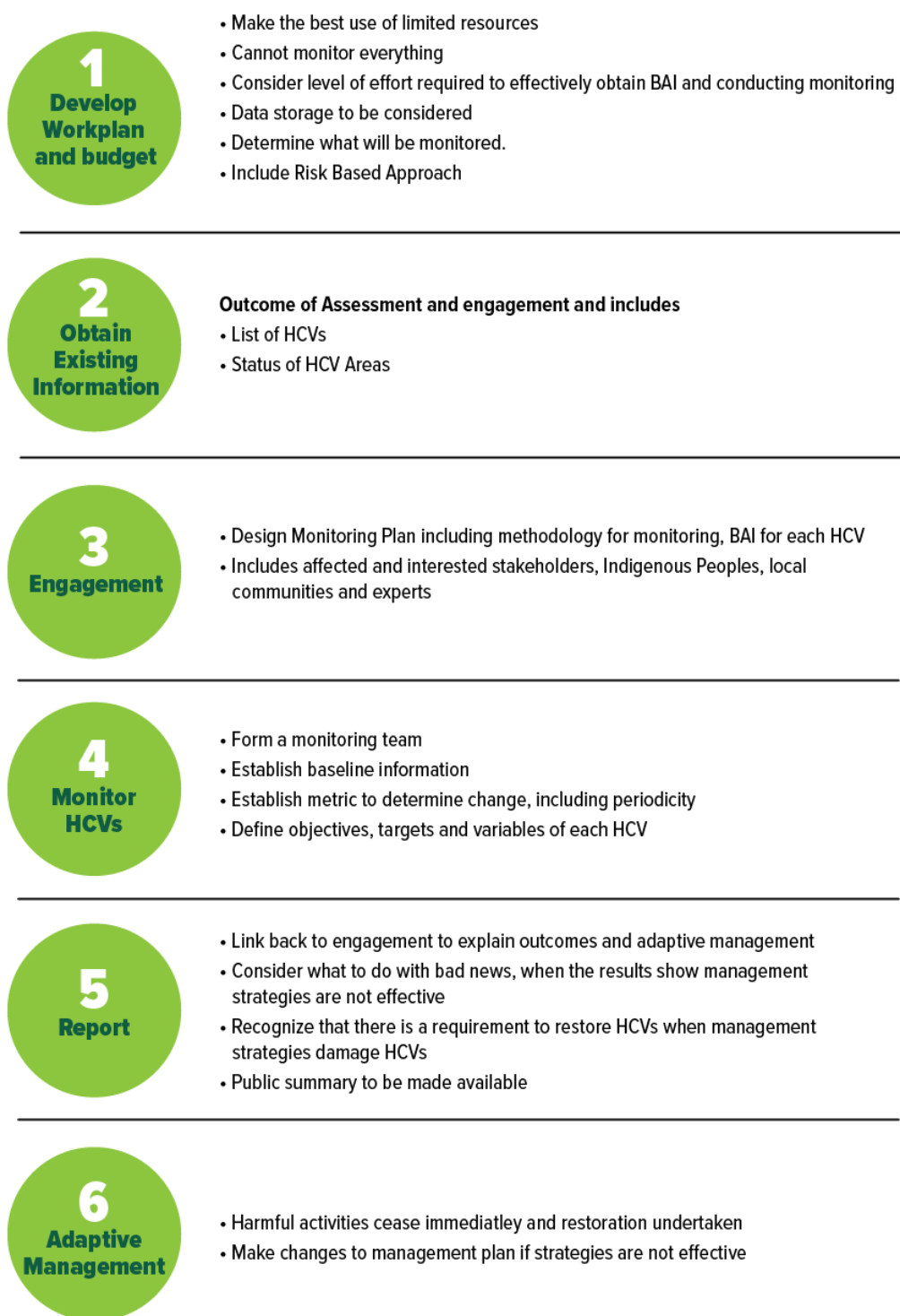


Figure 12: HCV Monitoring Steps

Indigenous Peoples, local communities, affected and interested stakeholders, and experts must be involved in the design and implementation of the monitoring program. These groups should be provided the opportunity to review monitoring results, conduct field inspections to check the quality of the monitoring program and suggest improvements to the monitoring system.

The effectiveness of the engagement process should also be monitored and adjusted when improvements can be made. Monitoring the engagement process itself should be an integral part of the implementation of forest management strategies and this monitoring should be maintained at a steady and continuous pace in order to ensure continuity in the data and information collected

Annex 1: Notes on development of this guide

This document has been developed for FSC purposes and is based on the document discussed at the FSC HCV2 / IFL Workshop in Bonn, in October 2012 and revised according to the participants' feedback at 2013 by FSC IC Performance and Standards Unit. Subsequently, FSC formed the HCV Technical Working Group in June 2015 to revise existing HCV Guidance, develop International Generic Indicators consistent with Motion 65 for Intact Forest Landscapes and develop an HCV template to support the development of National HCV Frameworks by Standard Development Groups

Parallel to this, the HCV Resource Network has produced Common Guidance for the Identification of HCVs (2013), intended to provide a holistic identification of High Conservation Values, both for FSC stakeholders as well as for the wider audience.



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HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE GUIDANCE FOR FOREST MANAGERS

– 28 of 28 –