

FSC INTERIM FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD FOR POLAND

FSC-STD-POL-02-2024 EN



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

Version	Description	Approval date
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A FOREWORD

(Informative section)

A.1 The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

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

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

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

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

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

A.2 The FSC Principles and Criteria

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

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

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

B PREAMBLE

B.1 Objective

(Informative section)

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

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

B.2 Scope

(Normative section)

This standard shall be applied in the following scope:

Geographic region	The Republic of Poland
Forest types	All forest types
Ownership types	All types of ownerships, including public, private and others
Scale and intensity categories (According to section 6 of FSC-STD-60-002)	All categories of Management Units, including provisions for small or low intensity managed forests (SLIMFs)
Forest products (According to FSC-STD-40-004a)	Rough wood; Wood chips

B.3 Responsibility for Conformance

(Normative section)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Normative section)

Normative elements in the standard are:

Scope, effective date, validity period, Glossary of Terms, Principles, Criteria, indicators, tables and Annexes.

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

Sub-indicators listed in an Annex affect the conformity assessment at the Criterion level in the same way as sub-indicators listed in an indicator within the main body of the Standard.

Not normative elements in the standard that can be used for guidance only, are:

Notes and examples which accompany some of the indicators (as well as other guidance/applicability notes which might be produced in connection with this Standard).

In the case of the IFSS of Poland, Notes following Indicators include important requirements for the implementation of this Standard.

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

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

For each Criterion, several indicators are listed. Some indicators were generated considering the Scale, Intensity and Risk of the operations, whose combination defines and differentiates the type of operations carried out in the country.

Organizations managing Management Units qualifying as SLIMF (small or low-intensity managed forest(s)) shall conform with all indicators under this Standard. Where specific SLIMF indicators exist (marked as e.g. "SLIMF 1.6.1"), the Organizations shall conform with those instead. Indicators, which apply to all categories of management units, are denoted with numbers only.

In some cases, additional requirements are specified that are applicable only to large- and medium-scale Management Units. Indicators applicable in such cases are denoted with numbers followed by "Non-SLIMF" annotation.

National threshold for Non-SLIMF entities:

- Large Scale: Management Units with an area of more than 10,000 ha (sole or joint ownership – community ownership);
- Medium Scale: Management Units with an area of 500 to 10,000 ha (sole or joint ownership – community ownership);

SLIMF eligibility criteria	National threshold
Small Management Units	Up to 500 hectares
Low intensity Management Units	<p>The rate of timber harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI) within the total production forest area of the unit; AND</p> <p>EITHER the annual timber harvest from the total production forest area is less than 5000 cubic meters,</p> <p>OR the average annual harvest from the total production forest is less than 5000 m³ / year during the period of validity of the certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits.</p>

Due to the fact that the current Polish civil law includes reference to *common land**, or real estate subject to joint ownership with certain specific features, the TWG decided that certain selected indicators (4.2.4. and 4.2.5) would apply only to them. The status of *common land** is regulated by a special Act (Act of June 29, 1963 on the development of common lands)). This is a form of ownership with approximately 600 years of tradition.

Verbal forms for the expression of provisions [Adapted from ISO/IEC Directives Part 2: Rules for the structure and drafting of International Standards]	
“shall”	: indicates requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform with the standard; ‘shall not’ indicates a prohibition.
“should”	: indicates that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily re-quired. The Organization can meet these requirements in an equivalent way provided this can be demonstrated and justified.
“may”	: indicates a course of action permissible within the limits of the standard; ‘need not’ indicates that a specified course of action is not a requirement.
“can”	: is used for statements of possibility and capability, whether mate-rial, physical or causal.

The text of the Principles and the Criteria as well as indicators contains terms that are *formatted in italics and marked with an asterisk**. These terms are defined in Annex K ("Glossary of Terms"), and they include local and international FSC definitions. Terms in Annex K that are in faded grey are not applicable in Poland, but are kept in the text of the Standard for transparency.

This standard is based on <FSC-STD-01-001 EN FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship> (V5-2). It is subject to the review and revision cycle as described in <FSC-PRO-60-007 EN Structure, Content and Development of Interim National Standards>.

B.5 Interpretations and Disputes

(Normative section)

Interpretation requests regarding Interim Forests 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-Processing Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme Procedure>).

C CONTEXT

C.1 General description of the forestry sector

(Informative section)

Currently, the area of forests in Poland is 9265 thousand hectares (according to the Central Statistical Office - as of 31.12.2021), which corresponds to a forest cover of 29,6%. The forest ownership structure in Poland is dominated by public forests (80,7%). Forests under the management of the State Forest Holding (Państwowe Gospodarstwo Leśne Lasy Państwowe) account for 76,9%.

In Poland, approximately 94,1% of private forests belong to private persons (about 0,9 million owners). The total area of private forests - as of 1 January 2022 - was 1,8 million ha, and the volume of wood resources was 468 million m³, with the average age of the stands being approximately 54 years. The average wood volume per ha was 262 m³. The dominant species with the largest share in private forests are: pine (55,3%), birch (9,9%) and alder (8,3%).²

In Poland, forests are mainly found in areas with the weakest soils, which is reflected in the distribution of forest habitat types. The habitat structure of forests is slightly dominated by broadleaves habitats, occurring in 50,3% of the forest area, with the coniferous habitats occupying 49,7%. In both groups, upland habitats comprise a total of 6,7% of forested area, and mountain habitats 8,5% of the area.

The spatial location of the habitats largely influences the distribution of the trees of the dominant species. Apart from mountain areas, where a higher proportion of spruce, fir and beech is observed in the species composition, stands with pine as the dominant species prevail in most of the country. Coniferous species dominate in 68,6% of Poland's forest area. The primary source of information on the volume structure of forest timber resources in Poland in recent years is the National Forest Inventory, which allows for an analysis of results in any five-year period. According to the measurements carried out in 2017-2021 and related to the forest area at the end of 2020, the timber resources reached a volume of 2669 million m³ of gross merchantable timber, of which the State Forests account for 2070 million m³ and private forests 468 million m³.

Forests perform a variety of functions, either naturally or as a result of human activities. The most important of these are:

- natural (protective) functions, which are expressed, *inter alia*, in the beneficial influence of forests on the global and local climate and the regulation of the water cycle in nature, the prevention of floods, avalanches and landslides, the protection of soils from erosion and the landscape from steppe formation, and the absorption of CO₂;
- social functions, including the shaping of favourable health and recreational conditions for the public, providing a place for work and public environmental education;
- production (economic) functions, which largely includes the capacity to produce renewable biomass, including primarily timber and by-products, as well as game management.

It is the statutory obligation of forest owners to continuously conduct sustainable forest management aimed at maintaining the durability of forests, the continuity of their multifunctional use, and the expansion of forest resources. In 2021, 42,244 thousand m³ of timber was harvested in Poland, including 40,692 thousand m³ of net merchantable timber (2,623 thousand m³ more than in 2020) and 1,552 thousand m³ of small wood. Private forests harvested 1,032 thousand m³ of net merchantable timber (257 thousand m³ more than in 2020), while national parks harvested 161 thousand m³.

² Source: Central Statistical Office Forestry 2022, National Forest Inventory - results for the period 2018-2022

The threat to the forest environment in Poland is one of the most severe in Europe. This is mainly due to the location of our country on the border of two climates, continental and maritime, and, as a consequence, the constant and simultaneous impact of many factors causing adverse phenomena and changes in the health of forests. Negative factors, often referred to as stress factors, can be categorized according to:

- origin - abiotic, biotic, and anthropogenic;
- nature of impact - physiological, mechanical and chemical;
- duration of impact - chronic and periodic; and the role they play in disease process – e.g. predisposing, initiating and contributing.³

C.2 Background information on the standard development

(Informative section)

The general FSC guidelines are adapted in individual countries to local conditions so that the requirements in the FSS take into account the legal, environmental, social and economic aspects of forest management in a given country. For this purpose, where possible, national Standard Development Groups (SDGs) are established, consisting of experts independent from FSC, representing various interest groups. In Poland, an SDG began work on a locally-adapted FSS in January 2018. The Group consisted of 10 people representing various organizations, organized by three chambers: social, environmental and economic. The Group included representatives of the State Forests, non-governmental organizations, forest entrepreneurs, and the wood industry.

In 2018, the SDG developed the first draft of the locally-adapted FSS. At the beginning of 2019, Draft 1 was subject to public consultations. Over 300 stakeholders took part in the consultations, submitting about 2000 unique comments. The great interest and involvement of stakeholders in the consultation process is also evidenced by the presence of over 60 people at an open consultation meeting held in February 2019 in Warsaw. The SDG analyzed the comments which were received, initiated further discussions on the individual provisions of the FSS, and developed a consensus over a period from March 2019 to March 2021.

In the course of work, at the request of the SDG, four experts shared their knowledge during the SDG meetings. From the very beginning of the work of the SDG, FSC engaged an external facilitator who assisted the SDG in building consensus and providing a platform for dialogue. In addition, FSC obtained a written legal opinion, an opinion from a linguist, and an opinion from the Consultative Forum and technical experts. This effort was necessary for the SDG to reliably analyze all the comments and proposals for changes.

In the course of work, the SDG agreed on most of the provisions of Draft 2 of the locally adapted FSS; however, it failed to reach consensus on the content of several requirements of the standard. These issues were discussed many times by the SDG over the period of two years (March 2019 - March 2021) and obtaining the opinions of the consultative forum and technical experts did not result in agreeing on the above provisions of Draft 2 by SDG. As a result, in line with point 10.3 of FSC-STD-60-006 (V1-2) Process Requirements for the Development and Maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards, FSC International, as the owner of the FSS and its revision process, temporarily suspended the work of the Group and took appropriate steps to proceed to public consultation and field testing of Draft 2 of the locally-adapted FSS (detailed information is available at www.fsc.pl). Between July 1 and September 1 of 2021, Draft 2 of the FSS was subject to public consultations, and, at the same time, to field tests in three different locations - Wyszaków Forest District, Ujsoły Forest District and Forest Experimental Station in Siemianice.

³ Based on Report on the Condition of Forests in Poland 2021 (2022)

The tests were carried out independently by three certification bodies, each in a different location. 112 stakeholders took part in the public consultation of Draft 2, and over 900 unique comments were received.

In October 2021, the SDG resumed work on the FSS. In total, during the four years of work on the FSS, the SDG held 54 meetings. Unfortunately, the SDG failed to reach an agreement on the final content of the FSS, or to present to FSC International a proposal for a work plan to finalise the said document.

On 11 February 2022, due to the lack of agreement within the SDG regarding the final draft of the locally-adapted FSS and its failure to present a plan to finalise the FSS, FSC International decided to dissolve the SDG and finalise the FSS based on alternative standard revision procedures as approved by the FSC Board of Directors.

In April 2022, FSC International established a Technical Working Group (TWG). It was composed of experts from all three certification bodies conducting forest management certification in Poland (Bureau Veritas Polska, Preferred by Nature (NEPCon Polska) and SGS Polska).

Based on Draft 2 of the locally-adapted FSS and comments received during the consultations, the TWG finalised its work on Draft 3 of FSS (the so-called Interim Forest Stewardship Standard). As a result, Draft 3 of the locally-adapted FSS was subject to public consultations (29 July – 8 September 2022) attended by 117 stakeholders. TWG members analyzed the comments sent by the stakeholders and, in accordance with the procedures, took them into account in preparing the final draft of the IFSS of Poland. In addition, between 12 December 2022 and 9 January 2023, FSC conducted additional, targeted consultations on 12 selected indicators from the draft IFSS which received the largest number of extremely different comments in the previous consultations. The targeted consultations were attended by 26 stakeholders. Based on the comments received, the TWG made final changes to the content of the selected indicators.

The final draft of the FSC Interim Forest Stewardship Standard of Poland was finalised by the TWG on 4 March 2023, and sent to the PSU for review.

D REFERENCES

(Informative section)

The following referenced documents are 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-POL-20-003 *FSC Policy on the Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification*

FSC-POL-30-001 *FSC Pesticides Policy*

FSC-POL-30-602 *FSC Interpretation on GMOs: Genetically Modified Organisms*

FSC-STD-20-007 *Forest Management Evaluations*

FSC-STD-30-005 *FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups*

FSC-PRO-01-008 *Processing Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme*

FSC-PRO-30-006 *Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools*

FSC-DIR-20-007 *FSC Directive on FSC Forest Management Evaluations*

FSC-GUI-30-003 *FSC Guidelines for the implementation of the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)*

FSC-GUI-60-005 *Promoting Gender Equality in National Forest Stewardship Standards*

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

E PRINCIPLES*, CRITERIA* AND INDICATORS*

(Normative section)

PRINCIPLE* 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

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

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

1.1.1 *The Organization** is registered in the National Official Business Register (REGON), with forest management indicated as an activity or the ownership right and/or the use right of the certified forest documented.

1.1.2 [IGI 1.1.2 adapted into 1.1.1] *Legal registration** is granted by a *legally competent** authority according to legally prescribed processes.

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

1.2.1 The *tenure**, management and use rights of the *forest resources** subject to certified forest management are documented.

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

1.2.3 The boundaries of all *Management Units** within the scope of the certificate are documented and identifiable in the field.

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

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

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

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

1.3.3 Activities covered by the *management plan** are designed to comply with all legal provisions and applicable administrative requirements.

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

- 1.4.1 Measures are implemented to provide *protection** from unauthorized or *illegal harvesting**, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.
- 1.4.2 Where *protection** is the *legal** responsibility of regulatory bodies, a system is implemented to work with these regulatory bodies to identify, report, control and discourage unauthorized or illegal activities.
- 1.4.3 If illegal or unauthorised activities are detected, appropriate measures are implemented to stop them and to prevent similar activities in the future.

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

- 1.5.1 The Organization* is aware of and complies with the applicable regulations relating to the trade and transport of forest products to the *point of first sale**. If it becomes aware of non-compliance with such regulations by a purchaser of timber within the Management Unit*, The Organisation* makes efforts to prevent such violations.
- 1.5.2 The Organization* is aware of and complies with the applicable CITES regulations.

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*.

Non-SLIMF 1.6.1 A *publicly available** mechanism for resolving *disputes** is in place, developed through the *engagement** of stakeholders who may be affected by the activities of the Management Unit* involved in the *disputes**.

SLIMF 1.6.1 The Organization* has mechanisms in place for resolving *disputes** through the *engagement** of the parties affected by these disputes.

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

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

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

1.6.4 Operations cease in areas where *disputes** exist:

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

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.**

Non-SLIMF 1.7.1 Documented rules of conduct are in place that include a commitment to avoid corrupt behaviours in any form.

SLIMF 1.7.1 Rules of conduct are in place that include a commitment to avoid corrupt behaviours in any form.

1.7.2 Anti-corruption rules meet or exceed the related legislation.

Non-SLIMF 1.7.3 Anti-corruption rules are *publicly available** at no cost.

SLIMF 1.7.3 Anti-corruption rules are available.

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

1.7.5 Corrective measures are implemented if corruption does occur.

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

1.8.1 *The Organization** demonstrates in writing a *long-term** commitment to manage forests consistently with the FSC *Principles** and *Criteria** and related Policies and Standards.

1.8.2 This commitment is *publicly available** at no cost.

PRINCIPLE* 2: WORKERS* RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

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

NOTE: Annex B, which contains the required training for **workers***, can be found further in this document.

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

2.1.1 *The Organization** shall not use *child labour**.

NOTE: The one exception relates to educational activities under the supervision of qualified staff (e.g. Forestry technical school).

2.1.1.1 *The Organization** shall not employ *workers** below the *minimum age**, except in the cases listed in 2.1.1.2.

2.1.1.2 Persons between the age of 13 to 15 shall only be employed for *light work** for the purpose of vocational preparation. Such employment must not interfere with schooling, nor be harmful to their health or development.

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

2.1.1.4 *The Organization** shall prohibit *worst forms of child labour**.

2.1.2 *The Organization** shall not allow any form of forced and compulsory labour within the meaning of ILO Convention No. 29 ratified by Poland in 1958.

2.1.2.1 Employment relationships are voluntary and based on mutual consent, without threat of a penalty (after ILO Convention No 29 ratified by Poland in 1958).

2.1.2.2 There is no evidence of any practices indicative of forced or compulsory labour, including, but not limited to, the following:

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

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

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

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

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

2.1.4.3 *The Organization** negotiates with legally established workers' organizations, in *good faith** and with best efforts to reach a *collective bargaining** agreement.

2.1.4.4 *Collective bargaining** agreements are implemented where they exist.

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

- 2.2.1 Procedures are implemented that ensure *gender equality** and prevent gender discrimination in the practices of employment, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of *engagement**, and management activities.
- 2.2.2 Job opportunities are open to both women and men under the same conditions in all positions in accordance with applicable national legislation.
- 2.2.3 Regardless of gender, workers have the same access to vocational training and programs related to occupational health and safety, in accordance with national law.
- 2.2.4 Women and men are paid the same level of wage when they do the same work.
- 2.2.5 *Workers** are paid directly and using mutually agreed methods (e.g. direct bank transfer, direct person payments, etc.) to ensure they safely receive and retain their wages.
- 2.2.6 Maternity leave lasts in accordance with the applicable *national law**.
- 2.2.7 Paternity leave is available in accordance with applicable *national law** and the use of paternity leave has no negative consequences for the *worker**.
- 2.2.8 Meetings, management committees and decision-making forums are organized to include women and men, and to facilitate the active participation of both.
- 2.2.9 *Workers** are aware of their rights and have easy access to confidential, safe and non-retaliatory procedures for reporting violence, sexual harassment, discrimination and mobbing.

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

- 2.3.1 Health and safety practices are developed and implemented that meet or exceed the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.
- 2.3.2 *Workers** have personal protective equipment appropriate to their assigned tasks.
- 2.3.3 The use of personal protective equipment is mandatory and enforced.
- 2.3.4 Records are kept of *The Organization's** own workers with regard to health and safety at work, including in particular types of accidents and lost time due to accidents. Information on severe and fatal accidents among subcontractor employees is collected.
- 2.3.5 Remedial measures to improve work safety are implemented and monitored by *The Organization** to minimize the risk of accidents.
- 2.3.6 The health and safety practices are reviewed and revised as required after major incidents or accidents.
- 2.3.7 Forest management work is organised in such a way as to minimise risks to *workers**.

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

2.4.1 Wages paid by *The Organization** always meet or exceed the statutory minimum wages.

Non-SLIMF 2.4.2 Wages paid are based on the following:

- 1) When commissioning forestry work, *The Organization** estimates the value of the contract on the basis of the *Best Available Information** that is commonly used in forest industry standards. The *Best Available Information** includes at least: labor law requirements, inflation rate, minimum wage requirements, average prices of fuel and consumables, costs for use and depreciation of equipment, information from state institutions responsible for occupational safety, universities, scientific institutes, industry organizations, and information on labor intensity and costs directly resulting from *The Organization's** experience.
- 2) When selecting a contractor for forestry work, *The Organization** analyses, in accordance with the possibilities set out in the law, whether the tenders do not contain an abnormally low price. *The Organization** does not commission forestry work at an abnormally low price.

2.4.3 [Not Applicable for Poland] When no minimum wage levels exist, wages are established through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *workers** and/or *formal and informal workers organizations**.

2.4.4 Wages, salaries and contracts are paid on time.

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

2.5.1 *Workers** receive job-specific training, are supervised in relation to their responsibilities and contribute safely and effectively to the implementation of the *management plan**. A minimum list of the required training can be found in Annex B.

2.5.2 Up-to-date *workers'** training records are kept according to the place of employment.

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

2.6.1 A *dispute** resolution system is in place, for disputes raised by own *workers** of *The Organization**. These *workers** have the opportunity for *culturally appropriate* engagement** in developing and modifying the system.

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

2.6.3 Up-to-date records of *The Organization's** own *workers'** grievances related to their loss or damage to property, *occupational diseases** or injuries are maintained, including:

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

2.6.4 Within the limits of the applicable law, *fair compensation** is provided to *workers** for loss or damage to their property, for *occupational disease** or injuries, if they result from the employment relationship.

PRINCIPLE* 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES'* RIGHTS

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

NOTE: Principle 3 does not apply to the conditions of Poland due to the fact that no Ethnic group is meeting the definition of "Indigenous Peoples" according to the UN criteria has been recorded in Poland.

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

3.1.1 *Indigenous Peoples** that may be affected by management activities are identified.

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

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

NTFP 3.1.2 Through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with the *Indigenous 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 *Indigenous Peoples**, governments and/or others;
- 6) Summary of the means by which the *legal** and *customary rights** and contested rights, are addressed by *The Organization**;
- 7) The aspirations and goals of *Indigenous 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**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.3.2 Records of *binding agreements** are maintained.

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

- 3.4** *The Organization** shall recognize and *uphold** the rights, customs and culture of *Indigenous Peoples** as defined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of *Indigenous Peoples** (2007) and *ILO Convention* 169* (1989).
- 3.4.1 The rights, customs and culture of *Indigenous Peoples** as defined in UNDRIP and *ILO Convention* 169* are not violated by *The Organization**.
- 3.4.2 Where evidence that rights, customs and culture of *Indigenous Peoples**, as defined in UNDRIP and *ILO Convention* 169*, have been violated by *The Organization**, the situation is documented including steps to restore these rights, customs and culture of *Indigenous Peoples**, to the satisfaction of the rights holders.
- 3.5** *The Organization**, through *engagement** with *Indigenous Peoples**, shall identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance and for which these *Indigenous Peoples** hold *legal* or customary rights**. These sites shall be recognized by *The Organization** and their management, and/or *protection** shall be agreed through *engagement** with these *Indigenous Peoples**.
- 3.5.1 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance for which *Indigenous Peoples** hold *legal* or customary rights** are identified through *culturally appropriate* engagement**.
- 3.5.2 Measures to protect such sites are agreed, documented and implemented through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *Indigenous Peoples**. When *Indigenous Peoples** determine that physical identification of sites in documentation or on maps would threaten the value or *protection** of the sites, then other means will be used.
- 3.5.3 Wherever sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance are newly observed or discovered, management activities cease immediately in the vicinity until protective measures have been agreed to with the *Indigenous Peoples**, and as directed by local and *national laws**.
- 3.6** *The Organization** shall *uphold** the right of *Indigenous Peoples** to *protect** and utilize their *Traditional Knowledge** and shall compensate *local communities** for the utilization of such knowledge and their *intellectual property**. A *binding agreement** as per *Criterion* 3.3* shall be concluded between *The Organization** and the *Indigenous Peoples** for such utilization through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** before utilization takes place, and shall be consistent with the *protection* of intellectual property* rights*.
- 3.6.1 *Traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property** are protected and are only used when the acknowledged owners of that *traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property** have provided their *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** formalized through a *binding agreement**.
- 3.6.2 *Indigenous Peoples** are compensated according to the *binding agreement** reached through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** for the use of *traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property**.

PRINCIPLE* 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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

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

4.1.1 *Local communities** that exist in the *Management Unit** and those that may be affected by management activities are identified. The identification is based on the *Best Available Information**.

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

- 1) Their *legal** and *customary rights** of *tenure**;
- 2) Their *legal** and *customary** access to, and *use rights**, of the *forest** resources and *ecosystem services**;
- 3) Their *legal** and *customary rights** and obligations that apply;
- 4) Evidence of these rights and obligations;
- 5) Areas where rights are contested;
- 6) Summary of the ways in which *legal**, *customary** and contested *rights** are respected by *The Organization**; and
- 7) The aspirations and goals of *local communities** related to management activities.

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***.

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

4.2.2 The *legal** and *customary rights** of *local communities** relating to management activities are not violated by *The Organization**.

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

4.2.4 Applicable only to *common lands**. *Free, prior and informed consent** is granted by the *local community** at the stage of developing a *forest management plan** for management activities affecting their identified rights.

4.2.5 Applicable only to *common lands**. Where *free, prior and informed consent** has not yet been achieved, *The Organization** and relevant *local communities** are engaged, in *good faith**, in a mutually agreed process to achieve such consent.

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

4.3.1 Employment, services, materials and procurement are offered to *local communities**, local contractors and local suppliers by *The Organization**.

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

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

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

4.5.1 Through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *local communities**, both at the planning stage and during ongoing forest management activities, measures are implemented to identify, avoid and mitigate significant negative social, environmental and economic impacts of management activities.

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**.

Non-SLIMF 4.6.1 A *publicly available** mechanism for resolving *disputes** related to *local communities** is in place, developed through the *engagement** of stakeholders who may be affected by the activities of the *Management Unit** involved in the *disputes**.

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

4.6.3 Up-to-date records of all *disputes** related to *local communities** are held, including:

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

4.6.4 Operations cease in areas while *disputes** exist of:

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

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

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

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

NOTE: Agreeing, documenting and implementing the above protective measures can take place at the stage of planning and execution of management activities.

4.7.3 In the event of discovery of new sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance, to which *local communities** have statutory or *customary rights**, management activities are ceased in the area where the aforementioned sites could be impacted. Those management activities could only be resumed after protective measures have been agreed with the community concerned and in accordance with local and *national laws**, if any such laws exist.

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.

4.8.1 *The Organization** upholds the right of *local communities** to *protect** and use their *traditional knowledge** and compensates *local communities** for the use of such knowledge and their *intellectual property**.

4.8.2 [IGI 4.8.2 adapted into 4.8.1] *Local communities** are compensated according to the *binding agreement** reached through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** for the use of *traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property**.

PRINCIPLE* 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST*

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

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

5.1.1 A range of resources and **ecosystem services*** that could strengthen and diversify the local economy is identified.

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

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

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

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

5.2.2 Based on the **Best Available Information***, the maximum 10-year harvesting level and the average annual cut in the **Management Unit*** is determined. The harvest rates in the **Management Unit*** do not exceed growth. An increase in the level of harvesting or the determination of the 10-year harvesting level above the level of expected growth may take place, provided the long-term sustained harvest levels and stability of the forest ecosystems is maintained, and only in the following cases:

- 1) due to a **natural disaster***, based on an annex to the **forest management plan***, or
- 2) when the percentage, even distribution of age classes of forest stands in a **Management Unit*** is disturbed.

5.2.3 Actual annual harvest levels for timber are documented, and the harvest over a 10-year period does not exceed the allowable harvesting cut determined in line with indicator 5.2.2.

5.2.4 For the commercial use of **non-timber forest products*** by **The Organization*** or under the control of **The Organization***, a sustainable harvest level is estimated. Sustainable harvest levels are based on the **Best Available Information***.

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

5.3.1 In the **management plan***, expenditures related to preventing, mitigating and compensating for the impact of management activities are included.

5.3.2 The management activities are identified in the **management plan*** to enhance the social and environmental benefits.

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

5.4.1 Where cost, quality and capacity of non-local and local options are at least equivalent, *The Organization** prefers, within the limits permitted by law, to purchase local goods and services.

5.4.2 Within the limits allowed by law, *The Organization** undertakes activities to stimulate the local economy.

NOTE: For this indicator, the term "local" refers to the territory of the municipalities, within the area managed by *The Organization**.

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

5.5.1 Funds are held and allocated by *The Organization** to implement the *management plan** to meet the adopted *long-term** forest management objectives and *economic viability**.

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.

NOTE: Annex H 'Framework of *conservation** of species groups' is included further in this document.

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

6.1.1 *The Organization** identifies the *environmental values** within the *Management Unit** and those *environmental values** outside the *Management Unit** that could potentially be affected by management activities. This identification is based on the *Best Available Information**. Among others, the following sources of information are used:

- 1) observations of natural processes in ecosystems on *representative sample areas**;
- 2) field studies;
- 3) databases relating to *environmental values**, for example those held by nature conservation authorities, NGOs, and scientific institutions;
- 4) scientific literature;
- 5) consultation with local and regional experts, if any exist;
- 6) *culturally appropriate* engagement* of local communities* and interested stakeholders**.

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**.

6.2.1 An *environmental impact assessment** based on the *Best Available Information** is conducted, which consists of:

- 1) obtaining an environmental decision from the competent authority for projects likely to have a significant impact on the environment, in accordance with applicable legislation;
- 2) a strategic environmental impact assessment of the *forest management plan**, in accordance with applicable legislation;

- 3) documentation of *The Organization's** own assessment of activities not covered by the above procedures (drainage works, earthworks, roadworks, etc.), according to the scale, *intensity and risk** of the impact of management activities on *environmental values**.

NOTES: Ref. 1) Competent authorities that issue environmental decisions for projects likely to have significant impact on the environment are listed in Act of 3 October 2008 on providing information on the environment and environmental protection, public participation in environmental protection and on environmental impact assessments.

Ref. 2) Management activities described in the *forest management plan** as management recommendations should be subject to a strategic environmental impact assessment of such plan.

Ref. 3) The level of detail of the documentation corresponds to the *scale, intensity and risk** of the activity.

6.2.2 An *Environmental impact assessment** identifies and assesses the impacts of management activities prior to their start.

6.2.3 *Environmental impact assessments** result, where necessary, in alternative solutions or measures to mitigate possible negative effects of management activities. These solutions or measures are included in the *management plan** and implemented.

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

6.3.1 Management activities are planned and implemented so as to prevent potential negative impacts and protect *environmental values**.

6.3.2 [Not Applicable for Poland] Management activities prevent negative impacts to *environmental values**.

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

6.3.4 The area of a harvesting plot does not exceed 4 ha, with a minimum time interval of 5 years between clear-cuts in adjacent plots. In justified cases necessitated by the cutting schedule resulting from the provisions of long-term management plans, the above-mentioned time interval is not shorter than 4 years. The size limitation of a harvesting plot for clear-cuts does not apply if the established plans for the protection of the natural elements require other, values or in the case of a *natural disaster** or anthropogenic factors, e.g. man-made fires, industrial dust, gases, pollution, and rapid lowering of groundwater due to human activity. The limitation concerning the recurrence intervals does not apply to plots from natural regeneration, which use seeding years.

Non-SLIMF 6.3.5 Clear-cuts are not carried out in ecotone zones (of width of at least one stand height) between the boundary of a forest and other ecosystems, including mid-forest ecosystems. In special cases (e.g. mid-field forest stands, low stability of a stand, pathogens, and stand reconstruction), exceptions are allowed (e.g. reduction of the width of the ecotone zone, modification of its management), when the spatial elements of the felling require the use of clear-cuts. The exception is documented and justified.

SLIMF 6.3.5 Clear-cuts system is not carried out in ecotone zones (of width of at least one stand height) between the boundary of a forest and other ecosystems, including mid-forest ecosystems.

6.3.6 Natural elements of forest ecosystems (e.g. anthills, hollow trees, light-seeded and fruit-bearing tree and shrub species, e.g. rowan, goat willow, aspen, juniper, cherry, apple, pear) are preserved as a result of management activities if it does not interfere with the principle of *general forest protection** or if keeping them does not threaten the species and habitats that are the subject of the establishment of the official forms of nature protection.

6.3.6.1 Cases where it is not possible to keep natural elements of forest ecosystems are justified and documented.

6.3.7 *The Organization** is committed to preserving *biocenotic trees**, including in particular hollow trees. *Biocenotic trees** are, therefore, not felled, except to comply with overriding requirements of *public safety** or to prevent *natural disasters**.

NOTE: Effort needs to be made to ensure that stands contain trees in which arboreal microhabitats can be formed, e.g. by preserving old trees for the next stand generation, ensuring the presence of species in which hollows can be formed (e.g. birch, aspen, elm, hornbeam).

6.3.7.1 *Biocenotic trees** felled for safety reasons remain on the ground until natural decay. Before felling, trees are checked for the presence of biocenotic features, in particular cavities and decay, and for possible colonisation by protected species.

6.3.8 The Organization leaves dead wood decaying in the forest diversified in form and species (lying dead wood, standing dead wood). The amount of deadwood left is based on the *Best Available Information** and needs to be spatially differentiated, taking into account local conditions and the functions of the forest (larger amounts are present in nature reserves, ecological sites, set-aside areas and xylobiont sites). The amount of dead wood of different forms and species increases over a multi-year period to target values, which may be defined in the nature conservation program contained in the *management plan**, Natura 2000 protection action plan or other conservation plans.

NOTE: Examples of sources of knowledge are summarized in Annex J.

Non-SLIMF 6.3.9: Within the fragments of stands that have reached the cutting age and are to be felled in the first decade (after reaching the cutting age), a minimum area of 5% of each felling block (felling section) and not less than 0,05 ha remains intact until natural death and wood decay. It applies to clear-cutting system and complex cutting systems. In complex cutting systems, fragments of old-growth are defined at the first cutting stage in order to differentiate the vertical structure of the stand (undergrowth, understory, second storey). This indicator does not apply in forest divisions smaller than one hectare.

NOTE 1: 5% of each block of felling stands (interval) means that this does not necessarily refer to 5% of each felling plot, but may represent 5% in relation to the sum of felling plots of clear-cutting and cleaning cut in complex cutting systems planned in the forest management plan. In justified and documented cases in which it is not possible to preserve a fragment of the old forest in a particular plot, it is permitted to implement the requirement of indicator 6.3.9. in adjacent plots.

NOTE 2: If the preserved fragments of stands areas make up a minimum of 0,5 ha, such areas may be counted towards the conservation areas referred to in Indicator 6.5.5.

Non-SLIMF 6.3.9.1 In Natura 2000 habitats, corresponding to conservation status A subject to felling, a coefficient of reduction of thick wood of 10% is taken into account so that clumps of old forest representing 10% of the management area are preserved on the felling plot.

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

6.4.1 *Rare** and *threatened** species present in the *Management Unit** included in current Red Lists or in current Red Books and CITES species (where applicable) are identified. The locations and habitats of these species are identified with the use of *Best Available Information**. Information about occurrences of *rare** and *threatened** species in areas adjacent to *Management Unit** is obtained and evaluated.

NOTE: Annex D includes the current Red Lists and Red Books that identify rare and threatened species applicable in Poland or parts of Poland, as of 30 January 2023.

6.4.2 Potential effects of management activities on *rare** and *threatened species**, their *conservation** status and *habitats** are identified. Management activities are modified in order to avoid negative effects, and preserve or improve the status of these species.

6.4.3 *Rare** and *threatened** species are protected by directly ensuring their survival and viability, providing them with habitats of suitable quality and suitable conditions for existence, breeding, reproduction, resting, overwintering, movement and migration.

NOTE: The framework for *conservation** of each group of species is set out in Annex H.

6.4.4 On its premises, *The Organization** prevents:

- 1) killing, maiming, capturing, destroying eggs, harvesting, collecting, destroying and deteriorating habitats and sanctuaries, destroying and deteriorating refuges, preventing access to refuges, deliberately disturbing, and/or deteriorating the living conditions of animals belonging to rare or threatened species;
- 2) destroying, picking, damaging, harvesting, collecting, destruction of habitats and refuges, and/or deteriorating living conditions of wild plants and fungi (including lichens) belonging to rare or threatened species.

6.4.5 The matters concerning the *rare** and *threatened** species and habitats are known, recognised and identified in the field by *The Organization** or external experts.

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

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

- 6.5.2 *The Organization** designates, maintains and maps examples of existing *ecosystems** in the landscape, the so-called *representative sample areas**. In the first instance, areas in natural or as close to natural condition as possible are designated as *Representative sample areas**. *Representative sample areas** (according to their protection plans, if such plans exist) are permanently preserved in their natural state without interference, except for measures dictated by *overriding requirements of public safety** (cut trees are left lying on the ground). Actions to restore such areas to more natural conditions are permitted where justified.
- 6.5.3 [Not Applicable for Poland] Where *Representative Sample Areas** do not exist, or where existing sample areas inadequately represent *native ecosystems**, or are otherwise insufficient, a proportion of the *Management Unit** is restored to more *natural conditions**.
- 6.5.4 *Representative sample areas** at *The Organization** level comprise no less than 5% and at the *Management Unit** level no less than 3% of the certified area.
- 6.5.4.1 *Representative sample areas** are designated to proportionally represent all forest habitat types present in the *Management Unit** and take into account the *conservation** status and *ecosystem** values at the *landscape** level. In the first instance, stands whose age exceeds by a minimum of two age classes the accepted cutting age of the dominant species in the first floor of the stand in question are designated as *representative sample areas**. In the event of a *natural disaster**, the protection regime in the designated representative sample areas may be relaxed to mitigate its effects or to *restore** the function of the *representative sample areas**. The decision to downgrade the protection regime is documented.
- 6.5.5 *Representative sample areas** in combination with other components of the *conservation areas network** comprise at least 10% of the *Management Unit's** area. Apart from the *representative sample areas**, the *conservation areas network** includes those parts of the *Management Unit** where *conservation** is the main or only objective, including:
- 1) nature reserves with their buffers,
 - 2) Natura 2000 sites,
 - 3) zones along *water bodies** (including natural water courses) left unused, ecological lands, surface natural monuments, protected geological sites
 - 4) ecotone zones preserved in accordance with indicator 6.3.5,
 - 5) protection zones around nests,
 - 6) forests classified as special management forests,
 - 7) non-forest ecosystems,
 - 8) fragments of old forest with a minimum size of 0,5 ha preserved in accordance with indicator 6.3.9,
 - 9) areas with *high conservation value** HCV 1, 3, 4,
 - 10) areas not used for timber harvesting preserved as per indicator 10.5.2.

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

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

6.6.2 Where past actions have eliminated plant communities or *habitat features**, actions are implemented to *restore** such *habitats**, unless another option is environmentally preferable, which is documented.

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

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

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

6.7.1 *Conservation** measures are implemented to protect *water bodies** (including natural water courses), *riparian zones** and their *connectivity**, including water quality and quantity, and in particular:

- 1) at a distance (measured "on the ground") of not less than 25 m from the banks of *water bodies** (including natural water courses), no clear-cutting is carried out, and for other cuts, trees providing shade and supplying woody debris are preserved;
- 2) natural water courses are not used for timber skidding;
- 3) when locating, building and maintaining roads, the riparian zones of *water bodies** (including natural water courses) are spared;
- 4) when crossing *water bodies** (including natural water courses) by roads, the ecological continuity of water courses is ensured;
- 5) anthropogenic siltation (turbidity) of *water bodies** (including natural water courses) is minimised.

6.7.1.1 In special cases (e.g. related to the size or shape of the felling plot, terrain and geomorphological characteristics, low stability of stand, pathogens, or stand conversion) and when the spatial elements of the cutting system require the use of clear cuts, exceptions from 6.7.1 are allowed. Exceptions, including the reduction of the width of the zone or modification of its management are documented and justified.

6.7.2 If the implemented *conservation** measures do not protect natural *water bodies** (including natural water courses), *riparian zones** and their *connectivity**, and water quantity or quality from the impacts of *forest management**, corrective measures are implemented.

6.7.3 Where management activities have caused, are causing or are likely to cause degradation of *water bodies** (including natural water courses), *riparian zones** or their *connectivity**, measures are implemented to prevent, mitigate or remedy this degradation.

6.7.4 [Not Applicable for Poland] Where continued degradation exists to *water courses**, *water bodies**, water quantity and water quality caused by previous managers and the activities of third parties, measures are implemented that prevent or mitigate this degradation.

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

6.8.1 The natural mosaic of plant communities and the diversity of developmental phases of the stands are maintained appropriately to the local *landscape**.

6.8.2 Where the natural mosaic of plant communities and the diversity of developmental phases of stands have not been maintained, they are being *restored** appropriately to the local *landscape**.

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*.

6.9.1 *The Organization* does not convert native forest* to plantation* or native forest* to non-forest land use, or plantations* on land directly converted from native forest* to non-forest areas, except where the conversion:*

1) affects a *very limited portion** of the *Management Unit**, or

2) the conversion will provide clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term *conservation** benefits in the *Management Unit**; or

3) it is carried out for investments the planning and implementation of which remain beyond control of the forest manager (e.g. road or gas "special acts"); or

4) when the conversion will provide sustainable and additional natural, social or economic benefits; and does not destroy or threaten *high conservation values**, or any habitats or resources necessary to conserve, or enhance those *high conservation values**.

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

a) Clear and sufficient evidence is provided that *The Organization was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion, or**

b) The conversion affected a *very limited portion of the area of the *Management Unit** and is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term *conservation** benefits in the *Management Unit**.**

6.10.1 Based on the *Best Available Information**, data is verifiable for all conversions from *native forest** to *plantations** carried out after November 1994.

6.10.2 If there are areas converted from native forest to plantation after November 1994, they meet the following conditions:

1) *The Organization** provides clear and sufficient evidence that it was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion; or

2) the conversion is producing clear, substantial, additional, long-term *conservation** benefits in the *Management Unit**; and the total area of *plantation** on sites converted from native forest since November 1994 is less than 5% of the total area of 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.

NOTE: Annex E 'Elements of the management plan' is included further in in this document.

- 7.1 The Organization*** shall, proportionate to **scale, intensity and risk*** of its management activities, set policies (visions and values) and **objectives*** for management, which are environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically viable. Summaries of these policies and **objectives*** shall be incorporated into the **management plan***, and publicized.
- 7.1.1 Policies (vision and values) that contribute to meeting the requirements of this standard are defined.
- 7.1.2 Specific, operational **management objectives*** that address the requirements of this standard are defined.
- 7.1.3 Summaries of the defined policies and **management objectives*** 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.
- 7.2.1 The **management plan*** includes management actions, procedures, strategies and measures to achieve the **management objectives***.
- 7.2.2 The **management plan*** addresses the elements listed in Annex E and is implemented.
- 7.2.3 The **management plan*** is developed in accordance with law.
- 7.3 The management plan*** shall include **verifiable targets*** by which progress towards each of the prescribed **management objectives*** can be assessed.
- 7.3.1 **Verifiable targets***, and the frequency that they are assessed, are established for monitoring the progress towards each **management objective***.
- 7.4 The Organization*** shall update and revise periodically the management planning and procedural documentation to incorporate the results of monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder **engagement*** or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.
- 7.4.1 The **management plan*** is revised and updated periodically to incorporate:
- 1) Monitoring results, including results of certification audits;
 - 2) Evaluation results;
 - 3) Stakeholder **engagement*** results;
 - 4) New scientific and technical information; and
 - 5) Changing environmental, social, or economic circumstances.

NOTE: The forest manager updates the *management plans** according to national procedures and takes into account the changing forest, environmental, social and economic conditions.

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

7.5.1 A summary of the *forest management plan** in a format comprehensible to *interested stakeholders**, including maps, is *publicly available** online at no cost.

NOTE: the Indicator is also met when the entire *forest management plan** excluding classified information is *publicly available**.

7.5.2 The *management plan**, excluding *classified information**, is available to the *affected stakeholders** upon request, at a cost of copying and preparation.

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

7.6.1 Proactive, transparent and *culturally appropriate** engagement is used by *The Organization** to engage *affected stakeholders** in the following processes:

- 1) *dispute** resolution (*Criterion** 1.6, *Criterion** 2.6, *Criterion** 4.6);
- 2) protection of the rights of *local communities** and their socio-economic development activities (*Criterion** 4.1, *Criterion** 4.4, *Criterion** 4.5, *Criterion** 4.7); and
- 3) *high conservation values** assessment, management and monitoring (*Criterion** 9.1, *Criterion** 9.2, *Criterion** 9.4).

7.6.2 Participation of *interested stakeholders** and *affected stakeholders** in management planning is ensured by *The Organization** through *culturally appropriate* engagement** by, among other things:

- 1) Determining appropriate representatives and points of contact (including, where appropriate, local institutions, organizations and authorities);
- 2) Determining mutually agreed communication channels allowing for information to flow in both directions;
- 3) Ensuring that minutes are taken of all meetings, all points discussed and all agreements reached;
- 4) Ensuring that the contents of the minutes of the meetings have been made available to all meeting participants so that they could make any written comments to the minutes within a specified time limit. The written comments will be annexed to the approved minutes;
- 5) Ensuring the results of all *culturally appropriate** engagement activities are shared with the *affected stakeholders**.

7.6.3 *All parties** are provided with the opportunity to participate in *culturally appropriate* engagement** in the processes of planning management activities and monitoring their impact.

7.6.4 [Not Applicable for Poland] On request, *interested stakeholders** are provided with an opportunity for *engagement** in monitoring and planning processes of management activities that affect their interests

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**.

NOTE: Annex G 'Monitoring requirements' is included further in this document.

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*

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

SLIMF 8.1.1 Implementation of the *management plan** is monitored.

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

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

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

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

8.3.1 The results of the monitoring are implemented in *The Organization** through an *adaptive management** process.

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

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

8.4.1 A summary of the results of the monitoring referred to in Indicator 8.2.1, including maps, is *publicly available** at possible costs for copying and preparation, in a format comprehensible to *interested stakeholders**, excluding *classified 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.

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

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

8.5.2 *The Organization** has measures and procedures to ensure that the following information concerning the timber or timber products marketed by *The Organization** is available:

- 1) description, including the trade name and type of product, as well as the common name of tree species and the full scientific name;
- 2) Location where the timber was harvested and harvesting permit;
- 3) Date of harvesting (period of time between the date the plot is made available and the date the timber is taken into stock);
- 4) Quantity (volume, weight or number of units);
- 5) Date of sale;
- 6) Name and address of the trader to whom the timber and timber products have been supplied;
- 7) Documents or other information showing that the timber and timber products comply with the applicable legislation
- 8) Information on whether the material has been sold as FSC certified (certificate code, FSC claim).

8.5.3 [Not Applicable for Poland] Sales invoices or similar documentation are kept for a minimum of five years for all products sold with an FSC claim, which identify at a minimum, the following information:

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

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**.

NOTE: Annex I 'National Framework of High Conservation Values for Poland' can be found further in this document.

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**.

Non-SLIMF 9.1.1 *The Organization** has written procedures for the identification of the *high conservation values** of Categories 1-6, in accordance with *Criterion** 9.1 and Annex I. Such identification is made using the *Best Available Information**.

9.1.2 [Not Applicable for Poland] This assessment includes identification of *Intact Forest Landscapes**, as of January 1, 2017.

9.1.3 In identifying *high conservation values** and areas of *high conservation value**, results from *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *all parties** are used.

Non-SLIMF 9.1.4 *The Organization** has maps of *high conservation value areas**.

NOTE: It is good practice (but not mandatory) to make maps of the boundaries and status of these areas available on websites.

SLIMF 9.1.4 An assessment of the presence of *high conservation values** and *high conservation value areas** has been carried out and documented by the forest manager, according to criteria laid down in Annex I and *Best Available Information**.

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

- 9.2.1 Threats to *High Conservation Values** are identified using *Best Available Information**.
- 9.2.2 Management strategies and actions are developed prior to the implementation of management activities affecting HCVs, to maintain or enhance the identified *high conservation values**, and to maintain associated *high conservation value areas**, taking into account the *scale, intensity and risk** of management activities carried out.

NOTE: Management strategies can be confirmed in a set of documents and do not need to be a separate document. This note applies to all indicators under Principle 9 where management strategies are mentioned and to Annex I (National Framework of High Conservation Values for Poland).

- 9.2.3 *All parties** and experts are engaged in the development of management strategies and actions to maintain and/or enhance the identified *High Conservation Values**. This also includes an ongoing opportunity to provide information and proposals on *high conservation values** and ways to protect them.
- 9.2.4 [Not Applicable for Poland] Management strategies are developed to *protect* core areas**.
- 9.2.5 [Not Applicable for Poland] The *vast majority** of each *Intact Forest Landscape** is designated as *core area**.
- 9.2.6 The strategies developed are effective to maintain and/or enhance *High Conservation Values**.
- 9.2.7 [Not Applicable for Poland] Management strategies allow limited *industrial activity** within *core areas** only if all effects of *industrial activity** including *fragmentation**:
- 1) Are restricted to a *very limited portion of the core area**;
 - 2) Do not reduce the *core area** below 50,000 ha, and
 - 3) Will produce clear, substantial, additional, *long-term* conservation** and social benefits.

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

- 9.3.1 The *high conservation values** and *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 which are based on *precautionary approach** prevent damage and avoid risks to *High Conservation Values**.
- 9.3.3 [Not Applicable for Poland] *Core areas** are *protected** consistent with *Criterion* 9.2*.
- 9.3.4 [Not Applicable for Poland] Limited *industrial activity** in *core areas** is consistent with *Indicator* 9.2.7*.
- 9.3.5 Activities that harm *high conservation values** cease immediately and actions are taken to *restore** and protect the *high conservation values**.

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

9.4.1 A program of periodic monitoring assesses:

- 1) Implementation of strategies;
- 2) The status of *high conservation values**, including *high conservation value areas** on which they depend;
- 3) The effectiveness of the management strategies and actions for the *protection** of *high conservation values**, to fully maintain or enhance the *high conservation values**.

9.4.2 The monitoring program enables *engagement** with *all parties** and involves relevant experts where necessary.

9.4.3 The monitoring program has sufficient scope, detail and frequency to detect changes in *high conservation values** relative to the initial assessment and status identified for each *high conservation value**, in order to prevent *threats**.

9.4.4 Management strategies and actions are adapted when monitoring or other new information show that these strategies and actions are insufficient to ensure the maintenance or enhancement of *high conservation values**.

PRINCIPLE* 10: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

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

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

10.1.1 Harvested sites are regenerated in a *timely manner** and in such a way that restores affected *environmental values** and is suitable to recover overall *pre-harvest** or *native forest** composition and structure.

10.1.2 Regeneration activities are carried out as follows:

- 1) where timber is harvested from existing *plantations**, regeneration is carried out until vegetation cover that existed prior to the harvest or more *natural conditions** are restored, using ecologically well-adapted species;
- 2) where *native forests** are harvested, they are restored to *pre-harvest** condition or more *natural conditions**; or
- 3) where timber is harvested from degraded *native forests**, they are regenerated to more *natural conditions**.

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

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

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

10.2.3. In the process of forest regeneration, where possible, natural regeneration of trees is used in the first place, allowing for growth of a stand that would use the possibilities of the habitat.

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

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

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

10.3.3 The spread of *invasive species** introduced by *The Organization** is controlled and effective measures have been taken to limit their spread.

10.3.4 Management activities are preferably carried out in cooperation with other institutions addressing the issues related to invasive species, if any such institutions exist, in order to eliminate the invasive impact of *alien species** that were not introduced by *The Organization**.

- 10.4** *The Organization** shall not use *genetically modified organisms** in the *Management Unit**.
- 10.4.1 *Genetically modified organisms** are not used.
- 10.5** *The Organization** shall use *silvicultural** practices that are ecologically appropriate for the vegetation, species, sites and *management objectives**.
- 10.5.1 Silvicultural practices are implemented that are ecologically appropriate for the vegetation, species, sites and *management objectives**.
- 10.5.2 Forest stands in conservation status A are not used for felling in natural habitats 91E0 (alluvial willow, poplar, alder and ash forests) and 91F0 (alluvial oak-elm-ash forests) and in swamp habitats (Polish forestry classification: swamp coniferous forest, swamp mixed coniferous forest, swamp mixed broadleaved forest and alder forest in the highest moisture variant).
- 10.5.3 Silvicultural practices, where possible, contribute to the diversification of the forest structure.
- 10.5.4 As far as possible, the use of forest stands in wetland habitats (in particular swamp, alluvial and alder forests) is discontinued. When such areas are used, in justified cases, it is necessary to:
- 1) apply measures aimed at reducing or eliminating the negative impact of management activities on the forest environment in wet forest habitat types,
 - 2) minimize soil damage and disturbance of water relations,
 - 3) determine the timing and conduct of the action, taking into account local natural conditions and the wet habitat type.
- 10.6** *The Organization** shall minimize or avoid the use of *fertilizers**. When *fertilizers** are used, *The Organization** shall demonstrate that use is equally or more ecologically and economically beneficial than use of *silvicultural** systems that do not require fertilizers, and prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to *environmental values**, including soils.
- 10.6.1 The use of *fertilizers** is minimized or avoided.
- 10.6.2 When *fertilizers** are used, their ecological and economic benefits are equal to or higher than those of silvicultural systems that do not require *fertilizers**.
- 10.6.3 When *fertilizers** are used, their types, rates, frequencies and site of application are documented.
- 10.6.4 When *fertilizers** are used, *environmental values** are protected, including through implementation of measures to prevent damage.
- 10.6.5 Damage to *environmental values** resulting from *fertilizer** use is mitigated or repaired.
- 10.7** *The Organization** shall use integrated pest management and *silviculture** systems which avoid, or aim at eliminating, the use of chemical *pesticides**. *The Organization** shall not use any chemical *pesticides** prohibited by FSC policy. When *pesticides** are used, *The Organization** shall prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to *environmental values** and human health.
- 10.7.1 *Integrated methods of forest protection**, including selection of *silviculture** practices, are used to avoid the application of chemical *pesticides** or to limit the frequency and scope of their application.
- 10.7.2 Chemical *pesticides** are used in accordance with clause 4.12 of FSC Pesticide Policy.

- 10.7.3 Records of *pesticide** usage are maintained, including trade name, active ingredient, quantity of active ingredient used, period of use, location and area of use and reason for use.
- 10.7.4 The use of *pesticides** complies with the ILO document “Safety in the use of chemicals at work” regarding requirements for the transport, storage, handling, application, and emergency procedures for cleanup following accidental spillages.
- 10.7.5 When *pesticides** are used, their use remains in accordance with the requirements of the label/instructions for use of the product, approved by the competent authorities, and application methods minimize the amounts used while achieving effective results and ensuring effective *protection** of the surrounding *landscape**.
- 10.7.6 Damage to *environmental values** and human health from *pesticide** use is prevented and mitigated or repaired where damage occurs.
- 10.7.7 [Not Applicable for Poland] When *pesticides** are used:
 - 1) The selected *pesticide**, application method, timing and pattern of use offers the least *risk** to humans and non-target species; and
 - 2) Objective evidence demonstrates that the *pesticide** is the only effective, practical and cost effective way to control the pest.

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

- 10.8.1 *Biological control agents** are used in accordance with *internationally accepted scientific protocols**, and their application is monitored and controlled.
- 10.8.2 The use of *biological control agents** that, according to the *Best Available Information**, may pose a risk to *environmental values**, is minimised.
- 10.8.3 The use of *biological control agents** is recorded, including type, quantity, period, location and reason for use.
- 10.8.4 Damage to *environmental values** caused by the use of *biological control agents** is prevented and mitigated or repaired where damage occurs.

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

- 10.9.1 Potential negative impacts of *natural hazards** on *infrastructure**, *forest** resources, and communities in the *Management Unit** are assessed.
- 10.9.2 Management activities mitigate these impacts.
- 10.9.3 Management activities that increase the *risk** of natural hazards are identified.
- 10.9.4 Management activities are modified or measures are developed and implemented that reduce the identified *risks**.

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

10.10.1 Development, maintenance and use of *infrastructure** as well as transport activities are managed taking into account the protection of *environmental values** identified in *Criterion** 6.1.

10.10.2 *Silvicultural** activities are managed taking into account the protection of *environmental values** identified in *Criterion** 6.1.

10.10.3 Disturbance or damage to *water bodies** (including natural water courses), soils, *rare and threatened species**, *habitats**, *ecosystems** and *landscape values** caused by *The Organization's** activities are prevented, mitigated and repaired in a *timely manner**. Management activities are modified to prevent possible 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.

10.11.1 Harvesting and extraction practices for timber and *non-timber forest products** are implemented in a manner that conserves *environmental values** as identified in *Criterion** 6.1, and *High Conservation Values** identified in *Criteria** 9.1 and 9.2., in particular by avoiding erosion and minimizing other damage to forest ecosystems during timber harvesting.

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

10.11.3 Harvesting practices ensure that sufficient amounts of dead and decaying biomass are retained and the *forest** structure is preserved, in order to conserve *environmental values**. Where dead wood in any form (lying dead wood, dead standing wood, uproots, scrap, etc.) is present on clearcuts, a minimum amount of 3 trees/ha is left there, with a minimum thickness equal to the average diameter of the stand in use.

10.11.3.1 It is permissible to leave dead trees in designated parts of the stand, in accordance with indicator 6.3.9.

10.11.3.2 If dead wood is not present, it is permissible, after documented justification, to deviate from the quantitative requirement of the indicator 10.11.3.

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

NOTE: The level of damage does not exceed the thresholds identified in the *Best Available Information**.

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

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

F ANNEXES

(Normative section)

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

As of 1 December 2023 (Principle 1)

NOTE: The following is not intended to be an exhaustive list of applicable legislation; if any additional legislation applies, certificate holders shall also comply with it. Some legal acts included in this table often cover a broader context and theoretically should be listed in more than one category of this table (e.g. Forest Act). The standard developers decided to list a given act in a limited number of categories whose context dominates in a given legal act. In addition to the legal acts listed in this table, the following also apply: Implementing and delegated acts of these acts and Judgments of the Court of Justice of the EU.

1. Legal rights to harvest	
1.1 Land <i>tenure*</i> and management rights	KONSTYTUCJA Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej z dnia 2 kwietnia 1997 roku
	USTAWA z dnia 14 czerwca 1960 r. Kodeks postępowania administracyjnego
	USTAWA z dnia 17 maja 1989 r. Prawo geodezyjne i kartograficzne
	USTAWA z dnia 19 października 1991 r. o gospodarowaniu nieruchomościami rolnymi Skarbu Państwa
	USTAWA z dnia 7 lipca 1994 r. - Prawo budowlane
	USTAWA z dnia 3 lutego 1995 r. o ochronie gruntów rolnych i leśnych
	USTAWA z dnia 27 marca 2003 r. o planowaniu i zagospodarowaniu przestrzennym
TRAKTAT o funkcjonowaniu Unii Europejskiej	
1.2 Concession licenses	USTAWA z dnia 4 lutego 1994 r. o prawie autorskim i prawach pokrewnych
	USTAWA z dnia 6 lipca 2001 r. o zachowaniu narodowego charakteru strategicznych zasobów naturalnych kraju
1.3 Management and harvesting planning	USTAWA z dnia 28 września 1991 r. o lasach
1.4 Harvesting permits	USTAWA z dnia 9 czerwca 2011 r. Prawo geologiczne i górnicze.
2. Taxes and fees	

2.1 Payment of royalties and harvesting fees	USTAWA z dnia 30 października 2002 r. o podatku leśnym
2.2 Value added taxes and other sales taxes	DECYZJA Parlamentu Europejskiego i Rady nr 529/2013/UE z dnia 21 maja 2013 r. w sprawie zasad rozliczania emisji i pochłaniania gazów cieplarnianych w wyniku działalności związanej z użytkowaniem gruntów, zmianą użytkowania gruntów i leśnictwem oraz informacji o działaniach związanych z tą działalnością ROZPORZĄDZENIE PARLAMENTU EUROPEJSKIEGO I RADY (UE) 2018/841 z dnia 30 maja 2018 r. w sprawie włączenia emisji i pochłaniania gazów cieplarnianych w wyniku działalności związanej z użytkowaniem gruntów, zmianą użytkowania gruntów i leśnictwem do ram polityki klimatycznoenergetycznej do roku 2030 i zmieniające rozporządzenie (UE) nr 525/2013 oraz decyzję nr 529/2013/UE
2.3 Income and profit taxes	USTAWA z dnia 30 października 2002 r. o podatku leśnym
3. Timber harvesting activities	
3.1 Timber harvesting regulations	DYREKTYWA 2007/2/WE Parlamentu Europejskiego i Rady z dnia 14 marca 2007 r. ustanawiająca infrastrukturę informacji przestrzennej we Wspólnocie Europejskiej (INSPIRE)
3.2 Protected sites and species	USTAWA z dnia 18 kwietnia 1985 r. o rybactwie śródlądowym USTAWA z dnia 13 października 1995 r. Prawo łowieckie USTAWA z dnia 21 sierpnia 1997 r. o ochronie zwierząt USTAWA z dnia 7 czerwca 2001 r. o leśnym materiale rozmnożeniowym USTAWA z dnia 23 lipca 2003 r. o ochronie zabytków i opiece nad zabytkami USTAWA z dnia 16 kwietnia 2004 r. o ochronie przyrody USTAWA z dnia 11 marca 2004 r. o ochronie zdrowia zwierząt oraz zwalczaniu chorób zakaźnych zwierząt USTAWA z dnia 9 listopada 2012 r. o nasiennictwie USTAWA z dnia 11 sierpnia 2021 r. o gatunkach obcych KONWENCJA w sprawie ochrony światowego dziedzictwa kulturalnego i naturalnego, przyjęta w Paryżu dnia 16 listopada 1972 r. przez Konferencję Generalną Organizacji Narodów Zjednoczonych dla Wychowania, Nauki i Kultury na jej siedemnastej sesji (Dziennik Ustaw z 1976 r. Nr 32, poz. 190)

KONWENCJA o ochronie wędrownych gatunków dzikich zwierząt, sporządzona w Bonn dnia 23 czerwca 1979 r. (Dz. U. z 2003 r. Nr 2, poz. 17)

KONWENCJA o ochronie gatunków dzikiej flory i fauny europejskiej oraz ich siedlisk, sporządzona w Bernie dnia 19 września 1979 r. (Dz. U. Nr 58, poz. 264)

POROZUMIENIE o ochronie nietoperzy w Europie, podpisane w Londynie dnia 4 grudnia 1991 r. (Dz. U. z 1999 r. Nr 96, poz. 1112)

KONWENCJA o różnorodności biologicznej, sporządzona w Rio de Janeiro dnia 5 czerwca 1992 r. (Dz. U. z 2002 r. Nr 184, poz. 1532)

KONWENCJA o ochronie środowiska morskiego obszaru Morza Bałtyckiego, sporządzona w Helsinkach dnia 9 kwietnia 1992 r. (Dz. U. z 2000 r. Nr 28, poz. 347)

PROTOKÓŁ Kartageński o bezpieczeństwie biologicznym do Konwencji o różnorodności biologicznej, sporządzony w Montrealu dnia 29 stycznia 2000 r. (Dz. U. z 2004 r. Nr 216, poz. 2201)

Europejska Konwencja Krajobrazowa, sporządzona we Florencji dnia 20 października 2000 r. (Dz.U. 2006 nr 14 poz. 98)

DYREKTYWA RADY 92/43/EWG z dnia 21 maja 1992 r. w sprawie ochrony siedlisk przyrodniczych oraz dzikiej fauny i flory, z późn. zm.

DYREKTYWA Parlamentu Europejskiego i Rady 2009/147/WE z dnia 30 listopada 2009 r. w sprawie ochrony dzikiego ptactwa

ROZPORZĄDZENIE Parlamentu Europejskiego i Rady (UE) nr 1143/2014 z 22 października 2014 r. w sprawie działań zapobiegawczych i zaradczych w odniesieniu do wprowadzania i rozprzestrzeniania inwazyjnych gatunków obcych

3.3 Environmental requirements

USTAWA z dnia 20 lipca 1991 r. o Inspekcji Ochrony Środowiska

USTAWA z dnia 13 lutego 2020 r. o ochronie roślin przed agrofagami

USTAWA z dnia 27 kwietnia 2001 r. Prawo ochrony środowiska

USTAWA z dnia 13 kwietnia 2007 r. o zapobieganiu szkodom w środowisku i ich naprawie

USTAWA z dnia 10 lipca 2007 r. o nawozach i nawożeniu

USTAWA z dnia 14 grudnia 2012 r. o odpadach

USTAWA z dnia 20 lipca 2017 r. - Prawo wodne

KONWENCJA o ocenach oddziaływania na środowisko w kontekście transgranicznym, sporządzona w Espoo dnia 25 lutego 1991 r. (Dz. U. z 1999 r. Nr 96, poz. 1110)

KONWENCJA o ochronie i użytkowaniu cieków transgranicznych i jezior międzynarodowych, sporządzonej w Helsinkach dnia 17 marca 1992 r. (Dz. U. z 2003 r. Nr 78, poz. 702)

DYREKTYWA 2001/42/WE Parlamentu Europejskiego i Rady z dnia 27 czerwca 2001 r. w sprawie oceny wpływu niektórych planów i programów na środowisko

DECYZJA NR 2455/2001/WE PARLAMENTU EUROPEJSKIEGO I RADY z dnia 20 listopada 2001 r. ustanawiająca wykaz priorytetowych substancji w dziedzinie polityki wodnej oraz zmieniająca dyrektywę 2000/60/WE

ROZPORZĄDZENIE Parlamentu Europejskiego i Rady (UE) nr 1293/2013 z dnia 11 grudnia 2013 r. w sprawie ustanowienia programu działań na rzecz środowiska i klimatu (LIFE) i uchylające rozporządzenie (WE) nr 614/2007

DYREKTYWA 2004/35/WE Parlamentu Europejskiego i Rady z dnia 21 kwietnia 2004 r. w sprawie odpowiedzialności za środowisko w odniesieniu do zapobiegania i zaradzania szkodom wyrządzonym środowisku naturalnemu

DYREKTYWA Parlamentu Europejskiego i Rady 2008/99/WE z dnia 19 listopada 2008 r. w sprawie ochrony środowiska poprzez prawo karne

DYREKTYWA Parlamentu Europejskiego i Rady 2011/92/UE z dnia 13 grudnia 2011 r. w sprawie oceny skutków wywieranych przez niektóre przedsięwzięcia publiczne i prywatne na środowisko

3.4 Health and safety

USTAWA z dnia 13 kwietnia 2007 r. o Państwowej Inspekcji Pracy

KONWENCJA nr 81 dotycząca inspekcji pracy w przemyśle i handlu, przyjęta w Genewie dnia 11 lipca 1947 r. (Dz. U. 1997 r. Nr 72, poz. 450)

KONWENCJA nr 119 Międzynarodowej Organizacji Pracy dotycząca zabezpieczenia maszyn, przyjęta w Genewie dnia 25 czerwca 1963 r. (Dz. U. z 1977 r. Nr 14, poz. 53)

DYREKTYWA Parlamentu Europejskiego i Rady 2009/128/WE z dnia 21 października 2009 r. ustanawiająca ramy wspólnotowego działania na rzecz zrównoważonego stosowania pestycydów

3.5 Legal* employment

USTAWA z dnia 26 czerwca 1974 r. Kodeks pracy

4. Third parties' rights

4.1 Customary rights*

USTAWA z dnia 23 kwietnia 1964 r. Kodeks cywilny

	USTAWA z dnia 24 sierpnia 2001 r. - Kodeks postępowania w sprawach o wykroczenia
4.2 Free Prior and Informed Consent*	USTAWA z dnia 28 listopada 2003 r. o wspieraniu rozwoju obszarów wiejskich ze środków pochodzących z Sekcji Gwarancji Europejskiego Funduszu Orientacji i Gwarancji Rolnej
	USTAWA z dnia 6 września 2001 r. o dostępie do informacji publicznej
	USTAWA z dnia 7 marca 2007 r. o wspieraniu rozwoju obszarów wiejskich z udziałem środków Europejskiego Funduszu Rolnego na rzecz Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich w ramach Programu Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich na lata 2007-2013
	USTAWA z dnia 20 lutego 2015 r. o wspieraniu rozwoju obszarów wiejskich z udziałem środków Europejskiego Funduszu Rolnego na rzecz Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich w ramach Programu Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich na lata 2014-2020
	USTAWA z dnia 3 października 2008 r. o udostępnianiu informacji o środowisku i jego ochronie, udziale społeczeństwa w ochronie środowiska oraz o ocenach oddziaływania na środowisko
	USTAWA z dnia 11 lipca 2014 r. o petycjach
	KONWENCJA o dostępie do informacji, udziale społeczeństwa w podejmowaniu decyzji oraz dostępie do sprawiedliwości w sprawach dotyczących środowiska, sporządzona w Aarhus dnia 25 czerwca 1998 r. (Dz.U. 2003 nr 78 poz. 707)
	DYREKTYWA 2003/4/WE Parlamentu Europejskiego i Rady z dnia 28 stycznia 2003 r. w sprawie publicznego dostępu do informacji dotyczących środowiska i uchylająca dyrektywę Rady 90/313/EWG
4.3 Indigenous Peoples' rights*	Not applicable for Poland.
5. Trade and transport	
NOTE: This section covers requirements for forest management operations as well as processing and trade.	
5.1 Classification of species, quantities, qualities	ROZPORZĄDZENIE 995/2010 Parlamentu Europejskiego i Rady z dnia 20 października 2010 r. ustanawiające obowiązki podmiotów wprowadzających do obrotu drewno i produkty z drewna
5.2 Trade and transport	USTAWA z dnia 21 marca 1985 r. o drogach publicznych
	USTAWA z dnia 10 kwietnia 2003 r. o szczególnych zasadach przygotowania i realizacji inwestycji w zakresie dróg publicznych

5.3 Offshore trading and transfer pricing	ROZPORZĄDZENIE RADY (WE) NR 338/97z dnia 9 grudnia 1996 r. w sprawie ochrony gatunków dzikiej fauny i flory w drodze regulacji handlu nimi
5.4 Custom regulations	USTAWA z dnia 11 września 2019 r. Prawo zamówień publicznych USTAWA z dnia 5 sierpnia 2010 r. o ochronie informacji niejawnych
5.5 CITES	KONWENCJA o międzynarodowym handlu dzikimi zwierzętami i roślinami gatunków zagrożonych wyginięciem, sporządzona w Waszyngtonie dnia 3 marca 1973 r. (Dz.U. nr 27, poz.112 i 113 z 1991 r.)
6. Due diligence / due care	
6.1 Due diligence / due care procedures	USTAWA z dnia 23 kwietnia 1964 r. Kodeks cywilny
7. Ecosystem Services	
	KONWENCJA o obszarach wodno-błotnych mających znaczenie międzynarodowe, zwłaszcza jako środowisko życiowe ptactwa wodnego, sporządzona w Ramsarze dnia 2 lutego 1971 r. (Dz.U. z 1978 r. Nr 7, poz. 24), z późn. zm. DYREKTYWA NR 2000/60/WE PARLAMENTU EUROPEJSKIEGO I RADY z dnia 23 października 2000 r. ustanawiająca ramy wspólnotowego działania w dziedzinie polityki wodnej

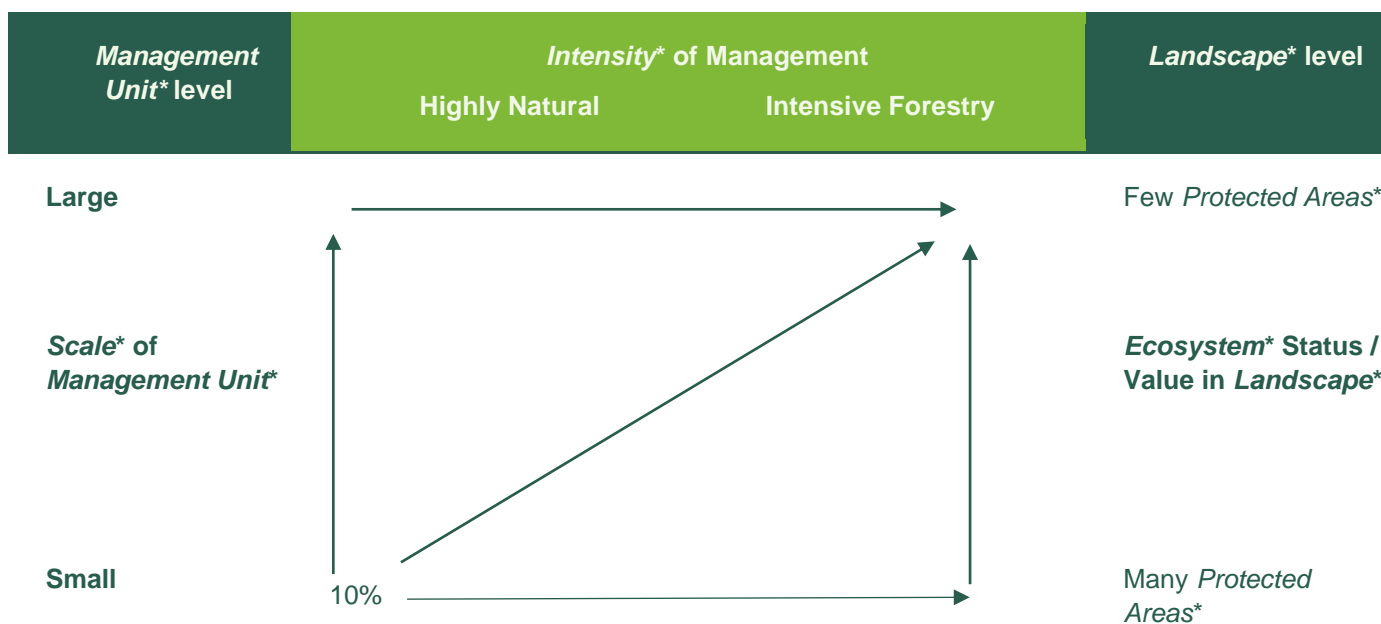
Annex B Training requirements for workers* (Principle* 2)

The list of training requirements in this Annex is intended for those *workers** with specific job responsibilities related to the implementation of this standard.

*Workers** shall be able to:

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

Annex C Conservation Area Network* conceptual diagram (Principle* 6)



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

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

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

Annex D List of rare and threatened species* in Poland (Principle* 6)

- European Red Lists: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/resources>
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The "rare and endangered" species are those that are assigned the threat category Ex, EW, RE, REW, CR, EN, VU, NT, E, V, R in at least one of the catalogues of endangered species listed above, geographically appropriate for the Management Unit. Species, whose threat categories are assessed as LC or DD are not included here. Species listed in the currently binding regulation of the Minister of Environment on the species protection of plants, fungi and animals are assumed to be 'protected' species.

Annex E Elements of the *management plan** (Principle* 7)

- 1) The results of assessments, including:
 - i. Natural resources and *environmental values**, as identified in *Principle** 6 and *Principle** 9;
 - ii. Social, economic and cultural resources and condition, as identified in *Principle** 6, *Principle** 2 to *Principle** 5 and *Principle** 9;
 - iii. Major social and environmental risks in the area, as identified in *Principle** 6, *Principle** 2, *Principle** 4, to *Principle** 5 and *Principle** 9;
- 2) Programs and activities regarding:
 - i. *Workers**' rights, occupational health and safety, *gender equality**, as identified in *Principle** 2;
 - ii. Community relations, local economic and social development, as identified, *Principle** 4 and *Principle** 5;
 - iii. *Stakeholder engagement** and the resolution of *disputes** and grievances, as identified in *Principle** 1, *Principle** 2 and *Principle** 7;
 - iv. Planned management activities and timelines, *silvicultural** systems used, typical harvesting methods and equipment, as identified in *Principle** 10;
 - v. The rationale for harvesting rates of timber and other natural resources, as identified in *Principle** 5.
- 3) Measures to *conserve** and/or *restore**:
 - i. Rare and *threatened species** and *habitats**;
 - ii. *Water bodies** (including natural water courses) and *riparian zones**;
 - iii. *Landscape** connectivity, including wildlife corridors;
 - iv. *Declared ecosystem services** when FSC ecosystem services claims are used as identified in *Criterion** 5.1;
 - v. *Representative sample areas**, as identified in *Principle** 6; and
 - vi. *High Conservation Values**, as identified in *Principle** 9.
- 4) Measures to assess, prevent, and mitigate negative impacts of management activities on:
 - i. *Environmental values**, as identified in *Principle** 6 and *Principle** 9;
 - ii. *Ecosystem services** when FSC ecosystem services claims are used as identified in *Criterion** 5.1;
 - iii. Social Values, as identified in *Principle** 2 to *Principle** 5 and *Principle** 9; and
- 5) A description of the monitoring program, as identified in *Principle** 8, including:
 - i. Growth and yield, as identified in *Principle** 5;
 - ii. *Ecosystem services** when FSC ecosystem services claims are used as identified in *Criterion** 5.1;
 - iii. *Environmental values**, as identified in *Principle** 6;
 - iv. Operational impacts, as identified in *Principle** 10;
 - v. *High Conservation Values**, as identified in *Principle** 9;
 - vi. Monitoring systems based on *stakeholder engagement** planned or in place, as identified in *Principle** 2, *Principle** 4, *Principle** 5 and *Principle** 7;
 - vii. Maps describing the natural resources and land use zoning on the *Management Unit**;
 - viii. Global Forest Watch map, or more accurate national or regional map, describing the natural resources and land use zoning on the *Management Unit**.

Annex F Conceptual framework for planning and monitoring (Principle* 7) (not applicable for Poland)

Poland has a system of procedures according to which forest managers have to carry out monitoring and inventory of their resources, and verify their activities to adapt them to the requirements related to nature protection. These procedures are anchored in the Law on Forests, the Law on Environmental Protection, and the Law on Nature Conservation, and the documents associated with implementation of these laws. In addition, forest managers, on the basis of national law, create their own more detailed documents and instructions obliging them to enforce the law (e.g., Silvicultural Principles, Forest Management Instruction, Forest Protection Instruction). The concept of Annex F is included in Indicator 7.4.1.

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

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

Annex G Monitoring requirements (Principle* 8)

- 1) Monitoring in 8.2.1 is sufficient to identify and describe the environmental impacts of management activities, including where applicable:
 - i. The results of regeneration activities (*Criterion** 10.1);
 - ii. The use of ecologically well adapted species for regeneration (*Criterion** 10.2);
 - iii. Invasiveness or other adverse impacts associated with any *alien species** within and outside the *Management Unit** (*Criterion** 10.3);
 - iv. The use of *genetically modified organisms** to confirm that they are not being used (*Criterion** 10.4);
 - v. The results of silvicultural activities (*Criterion** 10.5);
 - vi. Adverse impacts to *environmental values** from *fertilizers** (*Criterion** 10.6);
 - vii. Adverse impacts from the use of *pesticides** (*Criterion** 10.7);
 - viii. Adverse impacts from the use of *biological control agents** (*Criterion** 10.8);
 - ix. The impacts from *natural hazards** (*Criterion** 10.9);
 - x. The impacts of infrastructural development, transport activities and *silviculture** to *rare and threatened species**, *habitats**, *ecosystems**, *landscape values**, water and soils (*Criterion** 10.10);
 - xi. The impacts of harvesting and extraction of timber on *non-timber forest products**, *environmental values**, merchantable wood waste and other products and services (*Criterion** 10.11); and
 - xii. Environmentally appropriate disposal of *waste materials** (*Criterion** 10.12).
- 2) Monitoring in 8.2.1 is sufficient to identify and describe social impacts of management activities, including where applicable:
 - i. Evidence of illegal or unauthorized activities (*Criterion** 1.4);
 - ii. Compliance with applicable *laws**, *local laws**, *ratified** international conventions and obligatory *codes of practice** (*Criterion** 1.5);
 - iii. Resolution of *disputes** and grievances (*Criterion** 1.6, *Criterion** 2.6, *Criterion** 4.6);
 - iv. Programs and activities regarding *workers**' rights (*Criterion** 2.1);
 - v. *Gender equality**, sexual harassment and gender discrimination (*Criterion** 2.2);
 - vi. Programs and activities regarding occupational health and safety (*Criterion** 2.3);
 - vii. Payment of wages (*Criterion** 2.4);
 - viii. *Workers**' training (*Criterion** 2.5);
 - ix. Where *pesticides** are used, the health of workers exposed to *pesticides** (*Criterion** 2.5 and *Criterion** 10.7);
 - x. The identification of *local communities** and their *legal* rights** (*Criterion** 4.1);
 - xi. Full implementation of the terms in *binding agreements** (*Criterion** 4.2);
 - xii. Community relations (*Criterion** 4.2);
 - xiii. *Protection** of sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to *local communities** (*Criterion** 4.7);
 - xiv. Local economic and social development (*Criterion** 4.2, *Criterion** 4.3, *Criterion** 4.4, *Criterion** 4.5);
 - xv. The production of diversified benefits or products (*Criterion** 5.1);
 - xvi. The maintenance and/or enhancement of *ecosystem services** (*Criterion** 5,1);

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

Annex H Framework of conservation* of species groups

- Species associated with forests with natural characteristics (e.g. with very old stands and trees, high volumes of deadwood, specific microhabitats typical of native forests) are provided with an area and distribution of forest stands excluded from use and levels of saturation of the remaining forests, along with key natural elements for such species (tree clumps, biocenotic trees, deadwood), that are sufficient for their protection*;
- Having in mind species dependent on specific elements of the forest ecosystem (e.g. trees of a particular species; tall trees as nesting sites for certain bird species, hollows), it is ensured that such elements are maintained and restored in the forest in sufficient quantity required for the protection of these species, and in the case this is not possible for technical reasons, the absence of such elements is compensated by replacing elements according to available ecological knowledge;
- For water-dependent species (e.g. peatland species, swamp forest species), it is ensured that the hydration of their habitats required for their protection is maintained or restored;
- For the habitats of species dependent on semi-natural habitats (e.g. grassland, light oak habitat) it is ensured that their habitats are maintained, if necessary through active protection;
- As regards species sensitive to human presence, either year-round or during breeding, migration or overwintering periods, human access is excluded or restricted, as necessary, in key locations, at key times for such species, including exclusion of forestry work;
- Spatial connectivity between species sites is maintained and, where necessary and ecologically feasible, restored, in particular by restoring the permeability and ecological continuity of water courses and by providing convenient habitats for species at such spacing and distances that the species can move between them.

National Framework of High Conservation Values for Poland

Introduction

This document, the National Framework of High Conservation Values for Poland (hereinafter referred to as the HCV Framework; HCV - High Conservation Values), has been prepared by the Standard Development Group and the Technical Working Group. FSC certificate holders and certification bodies are required to use this HCV Framework to assess conformance with the requirements of Principle 9. This document provides guidance to *Organizations** on the implementation of the indicators included in the FSC Interim Forest Stewardship Standard for Poland. This document adapts the content of the HCV definition to Polish natural and legal conditions.

The HCV framework includes national HCV categories and sources of the *Best Available Information** to identify, assess, manage, and monitor HCV. The HCV identifications and *Best Available Information** detailed in this document may not be exhaustive. The HCV framework is a supporting document, and any proposed Best Available Information (BAI) is not mandatory but optional. Use the information that applies to your *management unit**. Nationally, regionally, or within a *management unit** there may be additional examples of HCV identification that need to be identified by forest management through assessment and engagement. Section 3 of this HCV Framework is entitled "Selected literature for some of the HCVs", which contains a list of publications that may help identify, monitor, and define management strategies for selected HCV. The list includes only items relevant on a nationwide scale. Literature relating to regional and local conditions should also be considered.

This Annex replaces the 2006 Criteria for the Determination of HCVF in Poland. The present version is based on the quoted document, as well as on the manual for Standard Developers contained in the International Generic Indicators (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0) and the FSC manual published in January 2020 "Guidance for Standard Development Groups: Developing National High Conservation Value Frameworks FSC-GUI-60-009 V1-0 EN" and the FSC template "Template for National High Conservation Value Frameworks FSC-GUI-60-009a V1-0 EN". The developers of the Standard have adapted the FSC guidelines to Polish conditions - based on the assumption that the determination of HCV must be based on such data that are available in Poland or should be available soon, and at the same time, if possible, the designation of *high conservation value areas** should be harmonized with other procedures used in Poland, i.e. designating protective forests and creating forms of nature protection and planning their protection.

Each of the following HCV categories leads to the designation of areas that can (and usually will) overlap. Thus, within one forest complex, there will be no coherent, independent HCV areas, but rather a network of partially overlapping areas from different HCV categories. At the stage of identification and designation, none of the categories should be considered "superior" - reconciliation of the requirements of individual categories takes place at the stage of management planning.

One area may have a double, triple, or even quadruple or quintuple designation as HCV in different categories.

The National HCV Framework contains guidelines for individual HCV categories in the scope of:

- Identifying HCV and designating *high conservation value areas**, assessing the HCV status and possible threats to these values,
- HCV management strategy and
- HCV status monitoring.

According to the FSC definition, "high conservation value areas" are zones and physical spaces that have *high conservation values** or areas that are needed for the existence and maintenance of high conservation values. The developers of the Standard have agreed to allow the use of the existing nomenclature - high conservation value forests (HCVF); yet, according to the definition mentioned above, this area does not in fact have to mean a forested area. The HCVF acronym (High Conservation Value Forest) includes a

reference to forests, but it also implicitly entails any other areas (meadows, crops, etc.) under the management of a given *management unit**.

Responsible use of the forest requires undertaking educational activities related to the knowledge of the natural environment, its functions, and threats, with particular emphasis on forests and forest management; therefore, such activities may be part of the management strategy for all HCV categories.

Section I: Overarching *Best Available Information* (BAI)*

The tables below list the types of overarching *Best Available Information** (BAI) that apply to the identification, assessment, development of management and monitoring strategies for all HCVs, individual HCV categories, or specific HCV elements. The purpose of listing the overarching BAI in the tables below is to avoid having to repeat the BAI for each HCV in the following sections.

a. Overarching *Best Available Information** used to identify and assess HCV

*Best Available Information** for Identifying and Assessing Regional or National HCV Designations

All HCV categories: All elements

- The laws and regulations contained in Annex A.
- Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and results of field studies obtained as a result of own activities or as a result of consultations with interested stakeholders. Every effort should be made to ensure that this information is as reliable, accurate, and complete as possible. The information must be attained with *reasonable** effort and cost, taking into account the *scale** and *intensity** of management activities and a precautionary approach.
- Surveys on *High Conservation Values** in a *management unit**; relevant databases and maps; engagement of *all parties** and relevant local and regional experts; FSC-GUI-60-002 - Guidelines for the Implementation of the Right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent; review of the results obtained by competent experts independent of *The Organization**.

HCV 5 and HCV 6: Element 1, Values important to local communities

- *Culturally appropriate** *engagement** of *local communities**. Note that this will be the base BAI for these elements.

b. Overarching *Best Available Information** for Development of Management Strategies

*Best available information** for Development of Management Strategies for Regional or National HCV Designations

All HCV categories: All elements

- Hazard identification using data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and field research results obtained as a result of own activities or as a result of consultations with interested stakeholders. Every effort should be made to ensure that this information is as reliable, accurate, and complete as possible. The information must be attained with reasonable effort and cost, taking into account the *scale** and *intensity** of management activities and a *precautionary approach**.
- *Engagement** of *all parties** and experts.

HCV 5 and HCV 6: Element 1, Values

- *Culturally appropriate** *engagement** with *local communities**. Note that this will be the base BAI for these elements. Keep in mind that “critical ...

Best available information* for Development of Management Strategies for Regional or National HCV Designations

important to local communities

importance” should be understood as the result of *engagement** with *local communities**.

c. Overarching Best Available Information for Monitoring of HCV

Best Available Information for Monitoring Regional or National HCV Designations

- | | |
|---|--|
| All HCV categories:
All elements | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment of the status of relevant values collected in the field using a monitoring protocol adequate to the type of the HCV value.• Involvement with <i>local communities*</i> in accordance with Criteria 4.5 and 4.7; <i>culturally appropriate*</i> engagement of all parties; information on engaging with the representatives of local communities; community-based monitoring; expert involvement. |
|---|--|

Section 2: High Conservation Values

1. HCV 1 – Species diversity. Concentrations of *biodiversity**, including endemic species and *rare** and *threatened** species, that is *significant** at the global, regional, or national level.

1.1. Element 1 (HCV 1.1.)

Concentration of *biodiversity** that is *significant** at the global, regional, or national level.

High conservation value areas for Poland 1.1. (HCVF 1.1. - protected areas) are defined as a fragment of a forest specially intended for the protection of natural values without making any concessions to the management needs.

Depending on the occurrence in the *management unit** HCV 1.1 areas may include:

- a. forms of nature protection designated directly for the protection of biodiversity at the species level or ensuring such protection through the protection of ecosystems (without making any concessions to the management needs):
 - nature reserves,
 - areas of strict and active protection in national parks,
 - ecological lands designated as remains of ecosystems important for the preservation of biodiversity,
 - nature monuments created to protect sites of rare plant, fungi, or animals species;
- b. facilities and areas protected in a manner similar to (a), based on the forest manager's decisions;
- c. the proposed forms of nature protection referred to in (a), with documentation justifying the concentration of *biodiversity**

1.1.1. *Best Available Information** proposed to identify and assess the HCV 1.1 element.

- Databases maintained by the General Directorate for Environmental Protection and Regional Directorates for Environmental Protection (Central Register of Nature Protection Forms [<http://crfop.gdos.gov.pl/CRFOP/index.jsf>], Biodiversity Information Exchange System in Poland [<http://biodiv.gdos.gov.pl/>], etc.).
- Regional and thematic databases maintained by scientific units or social organizations (e.g. [ornitho.pl], [grzyby.pl], [coleoptera.ksib.pl], [kp.org.pl/pl/rezerwaty-przyrody-czas-na-comeback/], [<https://www.igipz.pan.pl/Roslinnosc-potentina-zgik.html>], etc.).
- Nature protection program included in the *forest management plan**.
- Own knowledge and field observations carried out by the manager.
- Inventories, expert opinions, and reports on natural inventory works, research works, scientific works, metadata, and environmental impact assessments.

1.1.2. Management strategies for HCV 1.1.

Each activity in a forest of this category must result from the need of nature protection (only activities that undoubtedly improve the state of nature are allowed). Since forests of this category are intended "exclusively for nature conservation", there are no concessions to the economic needs. The principle of "the priority of nature" applies - natural processes can only be interfered with if their development direction would make it impossible to achieve the protection objective.

Strategies for maintaining these HCV designations	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information</i> * for strategies to maintain the HCV 1.1 element
<p>Implementation of provisions resulting from the Nature Protection Program (an element of the management plan) or protection plans or protective tasks for reserves</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge about the ecological requirements of species and groups of species as well as knowledge about the functioning of ecosystems with their biodiversity, contained in scientific literature and review studies (e.g. Materials for designating and determining the conservation status of bird habitats in Natura 2000 special bird protection areas, Criteria for the favorable condition of natural habitats according to monitoring guides,⁴ etc.) • Annex H ("Framework for conservation of species groups") to this Standard • Nature protection program included in the <i>forest management plan</i>*. • Environmental impact assessment of a <i>forest management plan</i>*.

⁴ Criteria for the proper condition of natural habitats following the guidelines for their monitoring usually also optimize the importance of these natural habitats for biodiversity, although in some cases locally occurring species may have other requirements.

1.1.3. Monitoring of HCV 1.1.

Monitoring of this HCV element	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information*</i> for the monitoring of the HCV 1.1 element
Making observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The results of own observations obtained in the field.• Results of other studies conducted in the area.• Results and reports of government administration entities (e.g., The Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection or Regional Directors for Environmental Protection)• Expert knowledge• Results of the interpretation of available aerial and satellite images• Tracking changes in the forest surveys of successive revisions of forest <i>management plans*</i>.

1.2. Element 2 (HCV 1.2.)

Concentrations of *rare and *threatened** species that are *significant** at the global, regional, or national level.**

High conservation value areas for Poland HCV 1.2. (HCVF 1.2. - refuges for rare and endangered species) are defined as areas of significant importance for the preservation of national or regional resources of at least one species from the species included in the national or regional Red List (list of dying and endangered species) in Annex D of this Standard or species of "European importance (Annex II or IV to the Habitats Directive or Annex I to the Birds Directive).

1.2.1. Identification and assessment of HCV 1.2.

"Substantial for resource conservation" should be understood analogously to the relevant criterion for designating the Natura 2000 network. Ideally, the issue should be approached from the point of view of individual species - by designating sites that are crucial for their conservation on a national and regional scale, and then designating them as *high conservation value areas**. Single, accidental findings, e.g. migrating specimens or populations, that are irrelevant to the survival of the species, do not count. On the other hand, the conservation of species resources should be understood not only as an attempt to preserve the number of specimens, but also as their variability and geographical distribution.

The "Red List" refers to a European, national, or regional list of dying and endangered species (i.e. a study containing the categories of threat to individual species). The national list should be taken as the basis (as it exists for all groups of plants, fungi, and animals), but if there are regional lists (as is the case, for example, for plants in many regions), the species included in them should also be taken into account. The Red List should not be replaced with the Red Book - the Red Books are popular scientific studies, containing only a selection of species from the endangered list. The extension of species from the annexes to the European Directives is of practical importance - it enables the "harmonization" of *high conservation value areas** with the Natura 2000 network and the implementation of Article 12 from the Habitats Directive. The Annexes to the Directives should be treated as a kind of "red list" of species recognized as endangered and in need of protection throughout Europe.

When designating HCV 1.2., the presence of indicator species of an old forest and forest relics, which determine the uniqueness of individual forest complexes, should be taken into account.

The designation of sites should take into account the biology of the specific species - it should cover the entire living space or the entire key element of this space. Different species will have different surfaces. For species that depend on the entire forest landscape rather than individual ecosystems (e.g. wolf, the European bison, some birds), the HCV 2 category should be used for the entire forest complex, although particularly important sites may be designated (wolf and lynx breeding sites, main feeding places for the European bison, protection zones for nests of birds of prey) as HCV 1.2.

When estimating the importance of values, the co-occurrence of individual species should be taken into account (the refuge of the entire group of endangered species should be considered to be a greater value than the sum of the refuges of each of these species separately). Considering the "synergy effect" is also important – for example, the presence of entire ecologically-related groups of endangered species.

In Poland, designated Important Bird and Biodiversity Area areas (IBA) and most of the Important Plant Areas (IPA) should not be considered to be high conservation value areas in this category - these are usually very large areas, and only parts of them are important from the point of view of the protection of endangered species. This does not apply to small areas of IBA or IPA, which should automatically be considered HCVF 1.2. Protection zones around sites with protected animals, plants, or fungi should automatically be considered HCVF in this category. Refuges and sites of species under protection in Natura 2000 areas are automatically HCVF 1.2 (designation of a Natura 2000 site for the protection of this species means automatic recognition that its local refuges and sites are important for the preservation of national resources).

1.2.1. **Best Available Information*** proposed to identify and assess the HCV 1.2 element.

- Annex D to the Standard ("Current Red Lists and Red Books specifying rare and endangered species applicable in Poland or its part")
- (2009/147/EC) / EU Birds Directive, Annex I Bird species under protection in Special Bird Protection Areas⁵
- (92/43/EEC) / EU Habitats Directive, Annexes II and IV
- Ongoing consultations with government and local government administration institutions and experts, updating knowledge
- Inventories made by managers
- Environmental impact assessment of *forest management plans**
- Nature protection program included in the *forest management plan** .
- Own knowledge and observations in the field carried out by a manager
- Scientific publications, inventories, expert opinions, and reports on natural inventory works, research, scientific works, metadata, and environmental impact assessments

1.2.2. **Management strategies for HCV 1.2.**

Forests of this category should be designated as protective - valuable fragments of native nature, or protective - refuges for animals/fungi/plants. In practice, it is also useful to designate them as Special management forests.

⁵ The list of species is included in the document: Announcement of the Prime Minister of March 22, 2011. (Journal U. 2011.67.358) on correcting errors in Annex 2 to the Regulation of the Minister of the Environment of January 12, 2011. on special protection areas for birds.

Due to the diversity of requirements of individual species, it is not possible to define common principles of management in forests belonging to this group. The criterion of preserving the populations and habitats of the relevant species in the so-called "favorable conservation status" (FCS), as defined by the EU Habitats Directive and Polish law on nature protection.

Strategies for maintaining these HCV designations	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information*</i> for strategies to maintain the HCV 1.2 element
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures sufficient to prevent reductions in the extent, integrity, quality, and viability of the species occurrences and their <i>habitats*</i>. • Implementation of provisions resulting from the Nature Protection Program (an element of the forest <i>management plan*</i>) or protection plans or protective tasks for reserves • Expected impact of the draft forest <i>management plan*</i> on known sites of rare, dying, and endangered species of plants and animals and ways to reduce the negative impact of activities • Specific management strategies directly relevant to a given species • Filing applications to designate, designating, and protecting protection areas around the sites • Descriptive information on the ecological requirements of individual species • Where relevant, it should also be considered to help restore the species' habitats to enhance their chances of survival and recovery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria for the favorable status of species according to guidelines for their monitoring. • Environmental impact assessment of a <i>forest management plan*</i>. • Nature protection program included in the forest <i>management plan*</i>. • Protection plan or protection tasks of the reserve • Manual for the protection of Natura 2000 species and natural habitats • Natura 2000 protection plans • Knowledge about the ecological requirements of species and groups of species, and the functioning of ecosystems with their biodiversity, contained in scientific literature and review studies

1.2.3. Monitoring of HCV 1.2.

Monitoring of this HCV element	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information*</i> for the monitoring of the HCV 1.2 element
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making observations • Controlling information of key importance for the proper status, maintenance, and development of the population of a protected species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of own observations obtained in the field • Results of other studies conducted in the area • Results and reports of government administration entities (e.g., The Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection or Regional Directors for Environmental Protection) • Expert knowledge

1.3. Element 3 (HCV 1.3.)

Concentration of endemic species that is *significant on a global, regional, or national level.**

HCV 1.3 high conservation value areas for Poland (HCVF 1.3. - refuges for endemic species) are defined as areas of significant importance for the preservation of national or regional endemic species.

There are not many endemics in Poland, and those that do occur are rather associated with non-forest ecosystems. Polish "centers of endemism" or sub-endemism are recognized as national parks and they do not involve forest management.

In exceptional cases, this category may apply to refuges of endemics distinguished at the subspecies level (the Kęпно blackberry, the Mosina blackberry) - such cases should be considered individually, and they will be very rare throughout Poland.

HCV 1.3 areas may include:

- a. Forests or non-forest areas for which there is a record in the nature protection program of the *forest management plan** or the nature protection plan or the plan of protective tasks, taking into account the determination of the endemic species and the existence of potential threats to it,
- b. Forests or non-forest areas with a scientifically documented presence of a species or subspecies of an endemic organism.

1.3.1. **Best Available Information*** proposed to identify and assess the HCV 1.3 element.

- List of endemic species locations.
- Annex D to the Standard (Current Red Lists and Red Books, specifying rare and endangered species, applicable in Poland or its part).
- Consultations with the government and local government administration institutions and experts.
- Environmental impact assessment of *forest management plans**.
- Nature protection program included in the *forest management plan**.
- Scientific publications, inventories, expert opinions, and reports on natural inventory works, research, scientific works, metadata, and environmental impact assessments.
- Own knowledge and observations in the field carried out by a manager

1.3.2. Management strategies for HCV 1.3.

Strategies for maintaining these HCV designations	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information</i> * for strategies to maintain the HCV 1.3 component
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of provisions resulting from the Nature Protection Program (an element of the <i>forest management plan</i>*) or protection plans or protective tasks for reserves• Expected impact of the draft <i>forest management plan</i>* on known sites of endemic species of plants and animals and ways to reduce the negative impact of activities• Designation of protection areas for endemic species• Specific management strategies directly relevant to a given species• Filing applications to designate, designating, and protecting protection areas around the sites• Descriptive information on the ecological requirements of individual species	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environmental impact assessment of the <i>forest management plan</i>*• Nature protection program included in the <i>forest management plan</i>*• Protection plan or protection tasks of the reserve• Manual for the protection of Natura 2000 species and natural habitats• Natura 2000 protection plans• Scientific publications• Criteria for the favorable status of species according to guidelines for their monitoring

1.3.3. Monitoring of HCV 1.3.

Monitoring of this HCV element	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information</i> * for the monitoring of the HCV 1.3 element
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making observations• Controlling information critical to the proper status, maintenance, and development of the population of an endemic species	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The results of own observations obtained in the field• Results of other studies conducted in the area• Results and reports of government administration entities (e.g. The Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection or Regional Directors for Environmental Protection)• Expert knowledge

2. 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, that, in addition, contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.

2.1. Element 1. HCV 2.1.

Large *ecosystems** and *ecosystem mosaics** at the *landscape level** that are *significant** at the global, regional, or national level, that, in addition, contain viable populations of most naturally occurring species, with their natural distribution and abundance.

For Poland, HCV 2.1. *high conservation value areas** (HCVF 2.1 - forest complexes playing a significant role in the landscape, on a national, macro-regional, or global scale) - are defined as a forest complex, usually with an area of at least 10,000 ha, designated as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) due to forest landscape bird species, as an International Plant Area due to forest flora, or as a Site of Community Importance due to animals typical of the forest landscape (e.g. the bear, wolf, lynx, European bison).

In Poland, this category will include large (several tens of thousands of hectares) forest complexes important for biodiversity on a landscape scale - and thus, will comprise various types of "forests". Even though they have a different degree of naturalness (from Białowieża, Karpacka and Romincka to Notecka), they all fit at least in the concept of "semi-natural forest" and are very significant refuges of forest species in the landscape.

2.1.1. *Best Available Information** proposed to identify and assess the HCV 2.1 element.

The "role in the landscape" is confirmed by the fact that the forest complex plays a role as a significant refuge for species related to the forest landscape. Very good indicators are birds, as well as large mammals associated with forest areas (e.g. the wolf, the lynx). Due to the fact that for these species, "valorization" of individual forest complexes was carried out in Poland on the nationwide scale (as part of the work on designating the IBA International Bird Areas and Natura 2000 sites).

- Valorization of forest complexes in terms of the presence of large forest mammals (e.g. the bear, wolf, lynx, European bison), carried out as part of the work on designating the IBA International Bird Areas, IPA International Plant Area, and Natura 2000 areas
- (2009/147/EC) / EU Birds Directive, Annex I
- (92/43/EEC) / EU Habitats Directive, Annexes II and IV
- RAMSAR (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands)
- Information on plant areas of international importance published by the Institute of Botany of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Krakow
- Central Register of Nature Protection Forms <http://crfop.gdos.gov.pl/CRFOP/>

2.1.2. Management strategies for HCV 2.1.

The purpose of HCV 2.1. is to preserve the character of a large forest complex.

Strategies for maintaining these HCV designations	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information*</i> for strategies to maintain the HCV 2.1 element.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintaining the structure of the forest landscape of the entire complex in the planning of forest management while maintaining the characteristic spatial arrangements• Controlling the impact of forest management on the structure of the forest landscape (preserving the "mosaic" of stands, including the share of key elements for biodiversity in this mosaic - e.g., old-growth forests)• Protection of certain important "spatial convergences" in the landscape (e.g. old trees standing by the lakes - very important for certain species of birds)• Protection - also active - of some small but important elements of the landscape (e.g. enclaves of in-forest meadows, and other open areas inside large forest complexes)• Undertaking educational activities for the responsible use of the forest, and, if necessary, related to landscape protection, directing the movement of people visiting forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provisions in forest <i>management plans*</i>.• Results, conclusions, and guidelines resulting from the research carried out in a given area (expert knowledge)

2.1.3. Monitoring of HCV 2.1.

Monitoring of this HCV element	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information*</i> for the monitoring of the HCV 2.1 element.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making observations• Controlling the impact of forest management on the structure of the forest landscape, i.e. preservation of the mosaic of stands, development phases, temporarily open areas, share of appropriate age classes, including old-growth forests• Periodic analysis of infrastructure density. (It should be noted that the conditions for the effective preservation of natural values in question sometimes go beyond the scope of forest management. It is necessary to protect dense forest complexes against deforestation for various other purposes and against fragmentation).• Observation of trends in tourist traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The results of own observations obtained in the field• Results of other studies conducted in the area• Results and reports of government administration entities (e.g. The Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection or Regional Directors for Environmental Protection)• Expert knowledge• Controlling information of key importance for the proper status, maintenance, and development of the population of the species qualifying a given area• Using monitoring data in scientific projects (if any)• Results of the interpretation of available aerial and satellite images• Tracking changes in the forest surveys of successive revisions of <i>forest management plans*</i>

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

The list of "rare or threatened forest ecosystems and habitats" in the natural conditions in Poland can be adopted in the same form as the list of habitats included in Annex I to the EU Habitats Directive. This solution reflects the status of individual types of forest ecosystems quite well. At the same time, it favors "harmonization" between HCV sites and the Natura 2000 network and the use of the existing data or data that will soon have to be collected.

The HCV 3 category includes not only ecosystems occurring in Natura 2000 areas (and thus, formally protected) but also ecosystems of the types mentioned above located outside these areas (indicating them will also verify whether the Natura 2000 areas have been correctly designated).

Element 1 (HCV 3.1.) *Ecosystems** and *habitats** that are extremely rare and disappearing.

For Poland, *high conservation value areas** HCV 3.1. (HCVF 3.1. - extremely rare and disappearing ecosystems) are defined as *ecosystems** and *habitats** extremely rare and disappearing.

HCV 3.1 areas may include:

- a. extremely rare and disappearing ecosystems and habitats: orchid beech forests, luminous oak forests, hillside forests, swamp forests, birch forests, and swamp spruce forests
- b. other types of forest natural habitats classified as being in a good or excellent conservation status and representativeness A or B according to the criteria adopted for Standard Data Forms drawn up under the Natura 2000 network
- c. non-forest types of Natura 2000 natural habitats, except for communities that may require active protection.

3.1.1. *Best Available Information** proposed to identify and assess the HCV 3.1 element.

- Regulation of the Minister of Environment of 13 April 2010, on natural habitats and species of Community interest (Journal of Laws 2010.77.510)
- Methodological and cross-sector manuals on Natura 2000 sites
- Natural habitats monitoring manuals 2010-2015 (data from the National Environmental Monitoring of the Central Directorate of Environmental Protection)
- Scientific publications

3.1.2. Management strategies for HCV 3.1

Strategies for maintaining these HCV designations	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information*</i> for strategies to maintain the HCV 3.1 element.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas should be excluded from timber harvesting or subject to active protection related to timber harvesting in the event of special natural needs. Possibility of incorporating an area into a special management forest. • Where relevant, consider helping to <i>restore*</i> and enhance the ecosystems and habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodological and cross-sector manuals on Natura 2000 sites • Natural habitats monitoring manuals 2010-2015 (data from the National Environmental Monitoring Central Directorate of Environmental Protection) • Provisions in the <i>forest management plans*</i> including the Nature Protection Program • Typical recommendations for the protection or development of "Natura 2000 natural habitats" inventoried in the State Forests

3.1.3. Monitoring of HCV 3.1.

Monitoring of this HCV element	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information</i> * for the monitoring of the HCV 3.1 element.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making observations • Controlling information critical to the proper status, maintenance, and development of the site's qualifying habitat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of own observations obtained in the field • Results of other studies conducted in the area • Results and reports of government administration entities (e.g., The Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection or Regional Directors for Environmental Protection) • Expert knowledge • Natural habitats monitoring manuals 2010-2015 • Using monitoring data in scientific projects (if any) • Results of the interpretation of available aerial and satellite images • Tracking changes in the forest surveys of successive revisions of <i>forest management plans</i>*

3.2. Element 2 (HCV 3.2.)

Ecosystems* that are rare* and threatened* or endangered* on a European scale, but common and widespread in Poland, constituting important areas for forest management.

For Poland, *high conservation value areas** HCV 3.2. (HCVF 3.2. - rare and endangered ecosystems on a European scale) are defined as rare and endangered ecosystems on a European scale (included in Annex I of the Habitats Directive), but in Poland they are common and large, constituting important areas of forest management.

HCV 3.2 areas may include:

- extremely rare and dying ecosystems and habitats: oak-hornbeam forests, beech forests, fir forests, riparian forests, upper montane spruce forests, lower montane fir-spruce forests,
- forests classified as being in good or excellent conservation status and representativeness A or B according to the criteria adopted for Standard Data Forms drawn up under the Natura 2000 network.
- non-forest types of Natura 2000 natural habitats that may require active protection.

3.2.1. *Best Available Information** proposed to identify and assess the HCV 3.2 element

- Regulation of the Minister of Environment of 13 April 2010, on natural habitats and species of Community interest (Journal of Laws 2010.77.510)
- Methodological and cross-sector manuals on Natura 2000 sites
- Maps and spatial data from plans of protective tasks, protection plans, and data collected by the Regional Director for Environmental Protection as part of supplementing the state of knowledge about Natura 2000 habitats
- Data from environmental impact forecasts and reports and other expert studies

3.2.2. Management strategies for HCV 3.2.

Strategies for maintaining these HCV designations	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information</i> * for strategies to maintain the HCV 3.2 element
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully maintaining the extent and integrity of the ecosystems and habitats. Where enhancement is the <i>objective</i>*, measures to <i>restore</i>* the ecosystems or habitats are to be taken. • Application of Natura 2000 Habitat Conservation Guidelines • As far as possible, ensuring proper water conditions of swamp habitats. • If necessary, active protection of semi-natural habitats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural habitats monitoring manuals 2010-2015 • Provisions in <i>forest management plans</i>*, including the Nature Protection Program • Methodological and cross-sector manuals on Natura 2000 sites • Appendix H (Framework for <i>conservation</i>* of species groups)

3.2.3. Monitoring of HCV 3.2.

Monitoring of this HCV element	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information</i> * for the monitoring of the HCV 3.2 element
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making observations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of own observations obtained in the field • Results of other studies conducted in the area • Results and reports of government administration entities (e.g. The Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection or Regional Directors for Environmental Protection) • Expert knowledge • Controlling information critical to the proper status, maintenance, and development of the site's qualifying habitat • Natural habitats monitoring manuals 2010-2015 • Results of the interpretation of available aerial and satellite images • Tracking changes in the forest surveys of successive revisions of <i>forest management plans</i>*.

4. 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.**

4.1. Element 1. (HCV 4.1.)

Critical water catchments.

For Poland, *high conservation value areas** HCV 4.1. (HCVF 4.1. - water protection areas) are defined as areas meeting the criteria for water protection according to the rules of the Regulation of the Minister of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources, and Forestry of 25 August 1992 on the detailed rules and procedure for recognizing forests as protective and on the detailed rules for forest management in them and other areas with water protection functions.

4.1 HCV areas may include:

- a. Forests growing by the springs, rivers, and streams
- b. Forests growing along rivers, streams, canals, lakes, and other water reservoirs, considered navigable as well as not considered navigable, separated depending on their location and nature, taking into account that they include:
 - a. in the mountains - forests located between the banks of *water bodies** (including natural water courses) and the nearest natural lines in the area,
 - b. in the lowlands - forests located in floodplains during the average water height, around water reservoirs, forests located between the bank of a given reservoir and the nearest natural line in the area surrounding the reservoir,
- c. Forests in the protected areas of groundwater reservoirs and within the protection zones of water intakes and sources, designated under the provisions of the water law,
- d. Forests in wet, swamp, and floodplain habitats (as defined in the Forest Management Manual)
- e. Secondary swampy areas

4.1.1. *Best Available Information proposed to identify and assess the HCV 4.1 element.**

- Regulation of the Minister of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources, and Forestry of 25 August 1992 on detailed rules and procedure for recognizing forests as protective and on the detailed rules for forest management in them
- *Environmental impact assessment** of a *forest management plan**
- Provisions in *forest management plans**
- Own knowledge and observations in the field carried out by the manager, e.g. concerning the occurrence of spring areas, swamps, i.e.: topographic maps (also historical maps, sometimes useful, e.g. to reveal spring areas), hydrographic maps (MHP10), hydrological maps, digital terrain models and other databases (e.g. GIS-Mokradła [Institute of Land Reclamation and Grasslands])

4.1.2. Management strategies for HCV 4.1.

Strategies for maintaining these HCV designations	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information</i> * for strategies to maintain the HCV 4.1 element
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintaining natural water conditions, including swampy areas• If necessary, restoring water conditions, e.g. liquidation of drainage systems, construction of penstocks, partitions in ditches, restoring water supply, restoring the possibility of flooding water courses with water• Management ensuring the permanent presence of the forest cover, e.g. the use of partial, group shelterwood method, shelterwood method, or single-tree cuts (group selection method). Clear cutting can only be used in case of <i>natural disasters</i>*.• The formation of anthropogenic silting (turbidity) of water courses is minimized• If necessary, harvesting timber should be discontinued	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulation of the Minister of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources, and Forestry of 25 August 1992 on detailed rules and procedure for recognizing forests as protective and on the detailed rules for forest management in them• Provisions in <i>forest management plans</i>*• Principles of Silviculture

4.1.3. Monitoring of HCV 4.1.

Monitoring of this HCV element	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information</i> * for the monitoring of the HCV 4.1 element.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The results of own observations obtained in the field (e.g. water level registration)• Results of other studies carried out in the area (e.g. water level registration)• Results and reports of government administration entities (e.g. The Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection or Regional Directors for Environmental Protection, PGW Wody Polskie, PIG)• Expert knowledge• Results of the interpretation of available aerial and satellite images• Tracking structural changes in the forest surveys of successive revisions of <i>forest management plans</i>*

4.2. Element 2. (HCV 4.2.)

Controlling the erosion of sensitive soils and slopes and protecting carbon resources in organic soils.

For Poland, *high conservation value areas** HCV 4.2. (HCVF 4.2. - soil-protecting forests) are defined as areas meeting the criteria for recognition as soil-protecting according to the rules of the Regulation of the Minister of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources, and Forestry of 25 August 1992 on the detailed rules and procedure for recognizing forests as protective and on the detailed rules for forest management in them and other areas performing soil-protective functions, in particular protecting carbon resources⁶ in organic soils.

4.2 HCV areas may include:

- a. Forests growing on coastal dunes and cliffs and in areas directly adjacent to them in the coastal belt
- b. Forests growing on inland dunes, including areas of dune sands that, when exposed, tend to move, and in areas directly adjacent to them
- c. Forests growing on steep and precipitous mountain slopes, covering, depending on the exposure, slopes with an average slope:
 - a. over 20° on slopes with southern, south-western and western exposure on shallow soils up to 25 cm deep, and with greater soil depth - over 25°,
 - b. over 30° on slopes with a northern, north-western, north-eastern, and eastern exposure on shallow soils up to 25 cm deep, and with greater depth - over 35°
- d. Forests growing in areas prone to landslides or in areas with stepped relief with cracks perpendicular to the fall line - on slopes with a predominant inclination of more than 20°,
- e. Forests growing on the steep slopes of ravines, gullies, and hills with a predominant inclination of over 20° for loose soils and over 35° for compact soils, with the boundary of the protective forest running 30-50 meters from the edge of the slope,
- f. Forests growing in the zone of the upper forest border
- g. Areas with organic soils.

4.2.1. *Best Available Information** proposed to identify and assess the HCV 4.2 element.

- Regulation of the Minister of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources, and Forestry of 25 August 1992 on detailed rules and procedures for recognizing forests as protective and on the detailed rules for forest management in them
- Soil-habitat study
- Environmental impact assessment of a *forest management plan**
- Provisions in *forest management plans**
- Inventories of peatlands
- Digital terrain model.

⁶ Organic soils store significant amounts of carbon, and their efficiency depends on the water level.

4.2.2. Management strategies for HCV 4.2.

Strategies for maintaining these HCV designations	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information*</i> for strategies to maintain the HCV 4.2 element
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management ensuring the permanent presence of the forest cover, e.g. the use of partial, group, gradual felling, or single-tree cuts in the first place, when possible, before clear-cutting or refraining from any timber harvesting whatsoever. Clear cutting system can only be used in case of <i>natural disasters*</i>. Maintaining and, if possible, restoring permanent hydration of organic soils. • Sustainable use of forests on organic soils with a focus on the conservation of carbon stocks in organic soils. Disuse can also be part of a management strategy. • If necessary, harvesting timber should be discontinued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation of the Minister of Environmental Protection, Natural Resources, and Forestry of 25 August 1992 on detailed rules and procedures for recognizing forests as protective and on the detailed rules for forest management in them • Provisions in <i>forest management plans*</i> • Principles of Silviculture.

4.2.3. Monitoring of HCV 4.2.

Monitoring of this HCV element	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information*</i> For the monitoring of the HCV 4.2 element
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making observations (including the hydration status of organic soils) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of own observations obtained in the field (e.g. hydration status of organic soils) • Results of other studies carried out in a given area (including the state of organic soil decay, e.g. during soil and habitat works) • Results and reports of government administration entities (e.g. The Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection or Regional Directors for Environmental Protection, PIG) • Expert knowledge • Results of the interpretation of available aerial and satellite images • Tracking structural changes in the forest surveys of successive revisions of <i>forest management plans*</i>.

4.3. Element 3 (HCV 4.3.)

Protection of other locally significant ecosystem services identified by the manager that occur in the *management unit**.

Ecosystem services are the benefits that people obtain from nature. Forests provide society with a wide range of benefits, from reliable flows of clean water to productive soil and carbon sequestration.

These include:

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

4.3.1. *Best Available Information proposed to identify and assess the HCV 4.3 element.**

- FSC. 2020a. High Conservation Value Guidance for Forest Managers. FSC-GUI-30-009 V1-0 EN. <https://fsc.org/en/document-centre/documents/resource/422>.
- HCVRN. 2017. Common Guidance for the Identification of High Conservation Values. High Conservation Value Resource Network. October 2013, amended September, 2017. <https://hcvnetwork.org/library/common-guidance-for-the-identification-of-high-conservation-values/>
- FSC. 2021. Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools. FSC-PRO-30-006 V1-2. <https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre/documents/resource/316>

Management strategies and monitoring of the 4.3 HCV element should be implemented according to the values present.

5. 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.**

No presence of *Indigenous Peoples** was recorded in Poland.

5.1. Element 1 (HCV 5.1.)

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

For Poland, *high conservation value areas** HCV 5.1. (HCVF 5.1. – community needs) are defined as sites and resources fundamental to the livelihoods and subsistence of *local communities**, identified through *culturally appropriate** engagement* with the communities.

According to FSC-GUI-60-009 “HCV5: Examples of sites and resources essential to the basic needs of indigenous peoples and local communities may include water sources; irrigation water sources; traditional food and medicine; and other forest resources on which local communities depend.

Fundamental needs are considered to be the "well-being" of the *local community** and are to be determined through engagement with the local communities.

There are probably few circumstances where local communities are fundamentally dependent on forests for their basic needs.

5.1.1. *Best Available Information proposed to identify and assess the HCV 5.1 element.**

- *Culturally appropriate** engagement* with the *local communities** is to be the principal *Best Available Information**.
- Other information sources may be used to supplement the community information.

5.1.2. Management strategies for HCV 5.1.

Strategies for maintaining these HCV designations	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information</i> * for strategies to maintain the HCV 5.1 element.
• Strategies developed in cooperation with representatives and members of the <i>local communities</i> *.	• Representatives and members of the <i>local communities</i> *.

5.1.3. Monitoring of HCV 5.1.

Monitoring of this HCV element	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information</i> * For the monitoring of the HCV 5.1 element
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making observations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observations and studies conducted by the <i>local communities</i>*• The results of own observations obtained in the field, validated by the <i>local communities</i>*• Expert knowledge.

6. 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**.

No presence of *indigenous peoples** was recorded in Poland.

6.1. Element 1. (HCV 6.1.)

Cultural values. Sites, resources, *habitats and *landscapes** of *critical** global, national, or local cultural, archeological, or historical importance.**

For Poland, a *high conservation value** HCV 6.1. (HCVF 6.1. – cultural, archeological, or historical) is defined as sites, resources, *habitats** and *landscapes** of global, national or local cultural, archeological, historical significance.

6.1 HCV areas may include monuments, archeological sites, and historical sites.

6.1.1. *Best Available Information proposed to identify and assess the HCV 6.1.**

- Records of monuments, register of monuments.
- Own knowledge and observations in the field carried out by a manager.
- Publications, expert opinions, inventories, etc. concerning cultural, archeological, or historical resources.
- Spatial development studies and plans
- Lists of objects of significant historical, archeological, and cultural importance in landscape park protection plans.
- Chapters on cultural heritage in the documentation of protection plans and plans for the protection of reserves.
- Nature protection program included in the *forest management plan**.
- Historical documents, among others, historical topographic maps.
- Information from experts and enthusiasts.

6.1.2. Management strategies for HCV 6.1.

Strategies for maintaining these HCV designations	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information</i> * for strategies to maintain the HCV 6.1 element.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of dedicated methods of protection, with particular emphasis on the guidelines of the conservator, if any • Both the lack of use and appropriate modifications of forest management can be part of the management strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act of 23 July 2003, on the protection of monuments and the care of monuments • Records in the <i>forest management plan</i>* or in attachments • Results, conclusions, and guidelines resulting from the research carried out in a given area • Expert knowledge

6.1.3. Monitoring of HCV 6.1.

Monitoring of this HCV element	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information*</i> for the monitoring of the HCV 6.1 element
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making observations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The results of own observations obtained in the field • Results of other studies conducted in the area • Expert knowledge,

6.2. Element 2. (HCV 6.2.)

Cultural values. Sites, resources, *habitats and *landscapes** of *critical** cultural, ecological, economic, or religious importance to the traditional culture of *local communities**, identified through engagement with those communities.**

For Poland, a *high conservation value** HCV 6.2. (HCVF 6.2. – cultural values of local communities) are defined as sites, resources, *habitats** and *landscapes** of cultural, ecological, economic, or religious importance to the traditional culture of local communities, identified through *engagement** with these communities.

6.2 HCV areas may include places of remembrance (cemeteries, monuments), places of religious worship, and other places and areas indicated by local communities.

The concept of *critical** value refers to non-substitutability and cases where the loss or serious damage of such HCV would cause serious harm, and is to be determined through *engagement** with the *local communities**.

The mere recreational value of forests is not a sufficient basis for recognizing 6.2 HCV.

6.2.1. *Best Available Information** proposed to identify and assess the HCV 6.2.

- *Culturally appropriate engagement** with the local governments and other members of *local communities** is to be the principal *Best Available Information**.
- Other information sources may be used to supplement the community information, e.g., own knowledge, information from experts, etc.

6.2.2. Management strategies for HCV 6.2.

Strategies for maintaining these HCV designations	Examples of the <i>Best Available Information*</i> for strategies to maintain the HCV 6.2 element.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies developed in cooperation with representatives and members of <i>local communities*</i>. • Use of dedicated methods of protection, with particular emphasis on the guidelines of the conservator, if any • Avoiding activities that could result in the loss of <i>critical*</i> values for the traditional cultural identity of <i>local communities*</i>, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives and members of the <i>local communities*</i> • Expert knowledge • Statements, articles, speeches, petitions, social consultations

Strategies for maintaining these HCV designations

Examples of the *Best Available Information** for strategies to maintain the HCV 6.2 element.

- Both the lack of use of and appropriate modifications to forest management can be part of the management strategy.

6.2.3. Monitoring of HCV 6.2.

Monitoring of this HCV element

Examples of the *Best Available Information** for the monitoring of the HCV 6.2 element

- **Making observations**
 - Observations and studies conducted by the *local communities**.
 - The results of own observations obtained in the field, validated by the *local communities**.
 - Expert knowledge.
 - Statements, articles, speeches, petitions, social consultations.

Section 3: Selected literature for some of the HCVs

HCVs	Literature
HCV 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Methodological and cross-sector manuals on Natura 2000 sites• https://natura2000.gdos.gov.pl/podreczniki-methodyczna• Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection Methodological guides http://siedliska.gios.gov.pl/pl/publikacje• Zawadzka D., Ciach M., Figarski T., Kajtoch Ł., Rejt Ł. 2013. Materials for designating and determining the conservation status of bird habitats in Natura 2000 special bird protection areas. GDOŚ, Warsaw (re: 1.2.2. ;)
HCV 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Methodological and cross-sector manuals on Natura 2000 areas• https://natura2000.gdos.gov.pl/podreczniki-methodyczna• Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection Methodological guides http://siedliska.gios.gov.pl/pl/publikacje• Wilk T., Jujka M., Krogulec J., Chylarecki J. 2010. Bird refuges of international importance in Poland. OTOP, Brands (ref. 2.1.2.;)• Mirek Z. et al. 2005. Plant refuges in Poland. Institute of Botany them. W. Szafer, Kraków. (ref. 2.1.2. ;)• Jermaczek A., Kwaśny Ł. 2019. Does the Natura 2000 network in Poland overlap with areas without infrastructure – potential wild areas? Nature Review 30.4: 108-131. (ref. 2.1.2. ;)• Jędrzejewski W., Nowak S., Stachura K., Skierczyński M., Mysłajek RW, Niedziałkowski K., Jędrzejewska B., Wójcik JM, Zalewska H., Pilot M., Górny M., Kurek RT, Ślusarczyk R. 2011. Design of ecological corridors connecting the European Natura 2000 Network in Poland. Mammal Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Białowieża. Accessed on October 12, 2020 [https://korytarze.pl/mapa/mapa-korytarzy-ekologii-w-polsce]. (ref. 2.1.2. ;)• Jermaczek A. 2014b. Wilderness areas - a condition for effective protection of anthropophobic fauna. Przegląd Przyrodniczy 25, 4: 104-129. (ref. 2.1.2. ;)• Selva N., Kreft S., Kati V., Schluck M., Jonsson BG., Mihok B., Okarma H., Ibisch P. 2011. Roadless and low-traffic areas as a conservation target in Europe. Environ. manager. 48: 865-877. (ref. 2.1.2. ;)• Mysłajek RW, Nowak S. 2014. Best Practice Handbook. Protecting the Wolf, the Lynx, and the Brown Bear.
HCV 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Methodological and cross-sector manuals on Natura 2000 areas• https://natura2000.gdos.gov.pl/podreczniki-methodyczna• Chief Inspectorate of Environmental Protection Methodological guides http://siedliska.gios.gov.pl/pl/publikacje• Pawlaczyk P. 2012. Natura 2000 and other requirements of European nature protection - A forester's toolkit. Wydawnictwo Klubu Przyrodników. Świebodzin. (ref. 3.1.2.; 3.2.2)• Wysocki Cz., Sikorski P. 2002. Applied phytosociology. Published by SGGW. Warsaw• Matuszkiewicz W. 2001. Guide to the determination of plant communities in Poland. PWN. Warsaw

Annex J Examples of knowledge sources for indicator 6.3.8

State of knowledge as of 1 July 2022

A review of the results of studies on threshold values of deadwood in European forests available in scientific databases indicates very different values for the amount of deadwood necessary to maintain specific environmental values. The authors of those studies clearly indicate that in addition to the quantity, it is necessary to take care of the qualitative characteristics of the dead wood (differentiated thickness and species), its spatial distribution and to ensure its presence in all growth phases of the stand. For example, it is preferable to establish at landscape level a few stands with an amount of deadwood above 20-50 m³/ha (depending on the habitat), compared to setting a lower target in all stands. The above priorities can be implemented with the help of available scientific literature, selected examples of which are included below:

- GDOŚ Poradniki ochrony siedlisk i gatunków
- MÜLLER, Jörg; BÜTLER, Rita. A review of habitat thresholds for dead wood: a baseline for management recommendations in European forests. *European Journal of Forest Research*, 2010, 129.6: 981-992.
- RANIUS, Thomas; FAHRIG, Lenore. Targets for maintenance of dead wood for biodiversity conservation based on extinction thresholds. *Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research*, 2006, 21.3: 201-208.
- SIITONEN, Juha. Forest management, coarse woody debris and saproxylic organisms: Fennoscandian boreal forests as an example. *Ecological bulletins*, 2001, 11-41.
- SVERDRUP-THYGESON, Anne; GUSTAFSSON, Lena; KOUKI, Jari. Spatial and temporal scales relevant for conservation of dead wood associated species: current status and perspectives. *Biodiversity and conservation*, 2014, 23.3: 513-535

Annex K Glossary of terms

Concepts and terms marked with an asterisk and italics in this document are those concepts and terms whose definitions can be found in the Glossary of Terms. This glossary is included in this standard to facilitate understanding of terms that require clarity and consistent interpretation within the Standard. It is an internal glossary of terms for the purposes of the IFSS of Poland, created on the basis of the Glossary of Terms contained in the FSC International Generic Indicators.

The glossary of terms includes internationally accepted definitions wherever possible. Sources of definitions include, for example, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005), and definitions from online dictionaries on the World Conservation Union IUCN website), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Invasive Alien Species Program of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Where reference is made to other sources, the relevant reference is provided.

The term 'based on' means that a given definition has been adapted from an existing definition in an international source.

In order to adapt to local conditions, some terms and definitions have been added or changed by the Standard Developers. Other terms and definitions are from FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0.

Terms in Annex K that are faded in grey are not applicable in Poland but are kept in the Standard for transparency.

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

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

Affected Rights Holder: Persons and groups, including Indigenous Peoples, traditional peoples and local communities with legal or customary rights whose Free, Prior and Informed Consent is required to determine management decisions (Source: (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

- Local communities
- Indigenous Peoples
- Workers
- Forest dwellers
- Neighbours
- Downstream landowners
- Local processors
- Local businesses
- Tenure and use rights holders, including landowners
- Organizations authorized or known to act on behalf of affected stakeholders, for example social and environmental NGOs, labor unions, etc.

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

Alien species: A species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, based on Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Invasive Alien Species Programme. Glossary of Terms as provided on CBD website).

All parties: Affected stakeholders and interested stakeholders.

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

Best Available Information: Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and results of field surveys or consultations with stakeholders that are most credible, accurate, complete, and/or pertinent and that can be obtained through reasonable effort and cost, subject to the scale and intensity of the management activities and the Precautionary Approach (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Binding Agreement: A deal or pact, written or not, which is compulsory to its signatories and enforceable by law. Parties involved in the agreement do so freely and accept it voluntarily (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Biocenotic trees: biocenotic trees are considered to be e.g.:

- living and dead trees, locally rotten (with rot);
- hollow trees;
- trees with an unusual shape;
- trees with unusual morphological forms, e.g. of cones or bark;
- trees of native biocenotic species: naturally occurring or introduced, improving the game's food base, nectar-producing, landscape-diversifying, such as apple tree, pear tree, cherry tree and others;
- trees with bird's nests, with a diameter of nests over 25 cm;
- residual trees: trees and groups of trees left for the next felling round or until their natural death and decay;
- trees that are the habitat of protected species of fungi, plants and animals;
- trees clearly distinguishable in age or size in relation to other trees in the area;
- trees that are a memento of forest culture, e.g. specimens of exotic species (distinguished by age or size), all experimental plots established before 1945 (regardless of the species);
- trees forming spatial forms, e.g. avenues, lanes. (based on the Forest Protection Manual)

Biological diversity: The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 1992, Article 2).

Biological control agents: Organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other organisms (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website).

Child: any person under the age of 18 (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182, Article 2).

Classified information /confidential information: Information that, according to national law, may not be disclosed, in particular:

- in connection with the provisions of the Act on the Protection of Classified Information;
- in connection with the provisions on the protection of personal data;
- because their disclosure would pose a significant risk of environmental damage;
- in connection with the protection of professional and trade secrets provided for by law.

Collective bargaining: a voluntary negotiation process between employers or employers' organization and workers' organization*, with a view to the regulation of terms and conditions of employment by means of collective agreements (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 98, Article 4).

Common land: Special kind of community forests established on the basis of regulations and decrees issued even centuries ago by former rulers of the country (kings, emperors), currently regulated by the "Act on common lands management" issued on 01.01.2016

Confidential information: Private facts, data and content that, if made publicly available, might put at risk The Organization, its business interests or its relationships with stakeholders, clients and competitors (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Connectivity: A measure of how connected or spatially continuous a corridor, network, or matrix is. The fewer gaps, the higher the connectivity. Related to the structural connectivity concept; functional or behavioral connectivity refers to how connected an area is for a process, such as an animal moving through different types of landscape elements (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on R.T.T. Forman. 1995. Land Mosaics. The Ecology of Landscapes and Regions. Cambridge University Press, 632pp). Aquatic connectivity deals with the accessibility and transport of materials and organisms, through groundwater and surface water, between different patches of aquatic ecosystems of all kinds (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

Conservation Areas Network: Those portions of the Management Unit for which conservation is the primary and, in some circumstances, exclusive objective; such areas include representative sample areas, conservation zones, Protection Areas, connectivity areas and High Conservation Value Areas (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

Core area: The portion of each Intact Forest Landscape designated to contain the most important cultural and ecological values. Core areas are managed to exclude industrial activity. Core Areas meet or exceed the definition of Intact Forest Landscape (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

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

Critical: The concept of 'critical' or 'fundamental' in Principle 9 and HCV refers to irreplaceability and cases where the loss of or major damage to this HCV would cause serious harm to the affected stakeholders. An ecosystem function is considered to be critical (HCV 4) where a disruption of that function could cause or pose a threat of severe negative impacts on welfare, health or survival of local communities, on the environment, on HCV or on the functioning of significant infrastructure (roads, dams, buildings, etc.) for welfare. The concept of critical refers to the importance and risk for natural resources and environmental and socio-economic values. (Source: FSC-STD-50-001 V5-0).

The concept of critical value refers to irreplaceability and cases where the loss of or serious damage to such HCV would cause serious harm.

Culturally appropriate [mechanisms]: Means/approaches for outreach to target groups that are in harmony with the customs, values, sensitivities, and ways of life of the target audience (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Customary law: Interrelated sets of customary rights may be recognized as customary law. In some jurisdictions, customary law is equivalent to statutory law, within its defined area of competence and may replace the statutory law for defined ethnic or other social groups. In some jurisdictions customary law complements statutory law and is applied in specified circumstances (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, based on N.L. Peluso and P. Vandergeest. 2001. Genealogies of the political forest and customary rights in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, *Journal of Asian Studies* 60(3):761–812).

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

Cutting system: an activity in the field of forest use, aimed at creating the most favorable conditions for renewing a forest with an appropriate, from the point of view of forest management, tree species composition and obtaining the desired stand structure.

Discrimination: includes- a) any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction, social origin,- sexual orientation, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation; b) such other distinction, exclusion or preference which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation as may be determined by the Member concerned after consultation with representative employers' and workers' organization where such exist, and with other appropriate bodies (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, adapted from International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 111, Article1). 'Sexual orientation' was added to the definition provided in Convention 111, as it has been identified as an additional type of discrimination which may occur.

Dispute: for the purpose of the IGI, this is an expression of dissatisfaction by any person or organization presented as a complaint to The Organization, relating to its management activities or its conformity with the FSC Principles and Criteria, where a response is expected (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, based on FSC-PRO-01-005 V3-0 Processing Appeals).

Dispute involving a significant number of interests: Dispute that involves a majority of the affected stakeholders in each of the social, economic, and environmental sub-group and that is the subject of *ongoing court cases**, where court order on ceasing forestry operation was issued.

Dispute of substantial duration: Dispute that is the subject of *ongoing court cases**, where court order on ceasing forestry operation was issued and that continues for more than twice as long as the predefined timelines in the FSC System (this is, for more than 6 months after receiving the complaint, based on FSC-STD-20-001).

Dispute of substantial magnitude: Dispute that is the subject of *ongoing court cases**, where court order on ceasing forestry operation was issued and that involves one or more of the following:

- Affects the legal or customary rights of local communities;
- Where the negative impact of management activities is of such a scale that it cannot be reversed or mitigated;
- Physical violence;
- Destruction of property;
- Presence of military bodies;
- Acts of intimidation against forest workers and stakeholders.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Due consideration: To give such weight or significance to a particular factor as under the circumstances it seems to merit, and this involves discretion (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on Black's Law Dictionary, 1979).

Economic viability: The capability of developing and surviving as a relatively independent social, economic or political unit. Economic viability may require but is not synonymous with profitability (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, based on the definition provided on the website of the European Environment Agency).

Eco-regional: Large unit of land or water containing a geographically distinct assemblage of species, natural communities, and environmental conditions (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on WWF Global 200. http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/ecoregions/about/what_is_an_ecoregion/).

Ecosystem: A dynamic complex of plants, animals, microorganisms, and their non-living environment, interacting as a functional unit (Source: Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992, Article 2).

Ecosystem function: An intrinsic ecosystem characteristic related to the set of conditions and processes whereby an ecosystem maintains its integrity (such as primary productivity, food chain, biogeochemical cycles). Ecosystem functions include such processes as decomposition, production, nutrient cycling, and fluxes of nutrients and energy. For FSC purposes, this definition includes ecological and evolutionary processes such as gene flow and disturbance regimes, regeneration cycles and ecological seral development (succession) stages. (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, based on R. Hassan, R. Scholes and N. Ash. 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Series. Island Press, Washington DC; and R.F. Noss. 1990. Indicators for monitoring biodiversity: a hierarchical approach. Conservation Biology 4(4):355–364).

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

- provisioning services such as food, forest products and water;
- regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, air quality, climate and disease;
- supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and
- cultural services and cultural values such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other non-material benefits (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, based on R. Hassan, R. Scholes and N. Ash. 2005).

Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Series. Island Press, Washington DC).

Employment and Occupation: Includes access to vocational training, access to employment and to particular occupations, and terms and conditions of employment (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 111, Article 1.3).

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

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Systematic process used to identify potential environmental and social impacts of proposed projects, to evaluate alternative approaches, and to design and incorporate appropriate prevention, mitigation, management and monitoring measures (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, based on Environmental impact assessment, guidelines for FAO field projects. Food and agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO). Rome).

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

- ecosystem functions (including carbon sequestration and storage);
- biological diversity;
- water resources;
- soils;
- atmosphere;
- landscape values (including cultural and spiritual values).
- The actual worth attributed to these elements depends on human and societal perceptions.

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

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

Fair compensation: Remuneration that is proportionate to the magnitude and type of services rendered by another party or of the harm that is attributable to the first party (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Fertilizer: Mineral or organic substances, most commonly N, P₂O₅ and K₂O, which are applied to soil for the purpose of enhancing plant growth (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Fibre Testing: a suite of wood identification technologies used to identify the family, genus, species and origin of solid wood and fibre based products (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Forced or compulsory labour: work or service exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself/ herself voluntarily (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 29, Article 2.1).

Forest: A tract of land dominated by trees (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0, derived from FSC Guidelines for Certification Bodies, Scope of Forest Certification, Section 2.1 first published in 1998, and revised as FSC-GUI-20-200 in 2005, and revised again in 2010 as FSC-DIR-20-007 FSC Directive on Forest Management Evaluations, ADVICE-20-007-01).

Forest management plan: a basic forest management document developed for a specific object, containing a description and assessment of the condition of the forest as well as objectives, tasks and

methods of forest management. For the purposes of the standard, the term also includes a simplified forest management plan.

Forest resources: The total quantifiable components of a forest, including the elements of the biocenosis, especially stands, undergrowth and game, as well as the components of the biotope, soil and water.

Formal and informal workers organization: association or union of workers, whether recognized by law or by The Organization or neither, which have the aim of promoting workers rights and to represent workers in dealings with The Organization particularly regarding working conditions and compensation (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Fragmentation: The process of dividing habitats into smaller patches, which results in the loss of original habitat, loss in connectivity, reduction in patch size, and increasing isolation of patches. Fragmentation is considered to be one of the single most important factors leading to loss of native species, especially in forested landscapes, and one of the primary causes of the present extinction crisis. In reference to Intact Forest Landscapes, the fragmentation of concern is understood to be that caused by human industrial activities. (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, adapted from Gerald E. Heilman, Jr. James R. Strittholt Nicholas C. Slosser Dominick A. Dellasala, *BioScience* (2002) 52 (5): 411-422.)

Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC): A legal condition whereby a person or community can be said to have given consent to an action prior to its commencement, based upon a clear appreciation and understanding of the facts, implications and future consequences of that action, and the possession of all relevant facts at the time when consent is given. Free, prior and Informed Consent includes the right to grant, modify, withhold or withdraw approval (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on the Preliminary working paper on the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples (...) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2004/4 8 July 2004) of the 22nd Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 19–23 July 2004).

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

Gender equality: Gender equality or gender equity means that women and men have equal conditions for realizing their full human rights and for contributing to, and benefiting from, economic, social, cultural and political development (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, adapted from FAO, IFAD and ILO workshop on 'Gaps, trends and current research in gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment: differentiated pathways out of poverty', Rome, 31 March to 2 April 2009.).

Genetically modified organism: An organism in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination. (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on FSC-POL-30-602 FSC Interpretation on GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms)).

General forest protection: shaping the balance in forest ecosystems and increasing the natural resistance of forest stands. In particular, this includes:

- preventive and protective treatments to prevent the occurrence and spread of fires;
- preventing, detecting and combating excessive occurrence and spread of harmful organisms;
- protection of soil and forest waters. [Source: Forest Act, Art. 9.1.]

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

Good faith: A process of engagement where the parties make every effort to reach an agreement, conduct genuine and constructive negotiations, avoid delays in negotiations, respect agreements concluded and

under development, and give sufficient time to discuss and settle disputes (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, adapted from Motion 40:2017).

Habitat: The place or type of site where an organism or population occurs (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Article 2).

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

- Old trees whose age noticeably exceeds the average age of the main canopy;
- Trees with special ecological value;
- Vertical and horizontal complexity;
- Standing dead trees;
- Dead fallen wood;
- Forest openings attributable to natural disturbances;
- Nesting sites;
- Small wetlands, bogs, fens;
- Ponds;
- Areas for procreation;
- Areas for feeding and shelter, including seasonal cycles of breeding;
- Areas for migration;
- Areas for overwintering.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Hazardous work (in the context of child labour): Any work which is likely to jeopardize children's physical, mental or moral health, should not be undertaken by anyone under the age of 18 years. Hazardous child labour is work in dangerous, or unhealthy conditions that could result in a child being killed or injured/maimed (often permanently) and/or made ill (often permanently) as a consequence of poor safety and health standards and working arrangements. In determining the type of hazard child labour referred to under (Article 3(d) of the Convention No 182, and in identifying where they exist, consideration should be given, inter alia, to

- Work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse;
- Work underground, under water at dangerous heights or in confined spaces;
- Work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads;
- Work in unhealthy environment which may, for examples, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health;
- Work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on International Labour Organization (ILO), 2011: IPEC Mainstreaming Child labour concerns in education sector plans and Programmes, Geneva, 2011& ILO Handbook on Hazardous child labour, 2011).

Heavy work (in the context of child labour): refers to work that is likely to be harmful or dangerous to children's health (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on International Labour Organization (ILO) Core Conventions principles, 2017).

High Conservation Value (HCV): Any of the following values:

- **HCV1:** Species Diversity. Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.
- **HCV 2:** Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics. Intact Forest Landscapes, large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- **HCV 3:** Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.
- **HCV 4:** Critical ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.
- **HCV 5:** Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or Indigenous Peoples (for example for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water), identified through engagement with these communities or Indigenous Peoples.
- **HCV 6:** Cultural values. Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or Indigenous Peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or Indigenous Peoples (Source: based on FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

High Conservation Value Areas: Zones and physical spaces which possess and/or are needed for the existence and maintenance of identified High Conservation Values (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

High grading: High grading is a tree removal practice in which only the best quality, most valuable timber trees are removed, often without regenerating new tree seedlings or removing the remaining poor quality and suppressed understory trees and, in doing so, degrading the ecological health and commercial value of the forest. High grading stands as a counterpoint to sustainable resource management (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on Glossary of Forest Management Terms. North Carolina Division of Forest Resources. March 2009).

Illegal harvesting: harvesting of timber, plants, fungi or animals in violation of legislation.

ILO Core (Fundamental) Conventions: these are labour standards that cover fundamental principles and rights at work: freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination* in respect of employment and occupation. The eight Fundamental Conventions are:

- Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)
- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)
- Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111) (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on International Labour Organization (ILO) Core Conventions principles, 2017).

(Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017.)

ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, adopted by the International Labour conference at its Eighty-sixth Session, Geneva, 18th June 1998 (Annex revised 15 June 2010): is a resolute reaffirmation of ILO principles (art 2) which declares that all Members, even if they have not ratified the Conventions in question, have an obligation, arising from the very fact of membership in the organization, to respect, to promote and to realize, in good faith* and in accordance with the Constitution, the principles concerning the fundamental rights which are the subject of those Conventions, namely:

- Freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- The elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour;
- The effective abolition of child labour; and
- The elimination of discrimination* in respect of employment and occupation (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on International Labour Organization (ILO) Core Conventions principles, 2017).

Indicator: A quantitative or qualitative variable which can be measured or described, and which provides a means of judging whether a Management Unit complies with the requirements of an FSC Criterion. Indicators and the associated thresholds thereby define the requirements for responsible forest management at the level of the Management Unit and are the primary basis of forest evaluation (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0 Glossary of terms (2009)).

Indigenous cultural landscapes: Indigenous cultural landscapes are living landscapes to which Indigenous Peoples attribute environmental, social, cultural and economic value because of their enduring relationship with the land, water, fauna, flora and spirits and their present and future importance to their cultural identity. An Indigenous cultural landscape is characterized by features that have been maintained through long-term interactions based on land-care knowledge, and adaptive livelihood practices. They are landscapes over which Indigenous Peoples exercise responsibility for stewardship (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

- The key characteristic or Criterion is self-identification as Indigenous Peoples at the individual level and acceptance by the community as their member;
- Historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies;
- Strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources;
- Distinct social, economic or political systems;
- Distinct language, culture and beliefs;
- Form non-dominant groups of society;
- Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, adapted from United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous, Factsheet 'Who are Indigenous Peoples' October 2007; United Nations Development Group, 'Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues' United Nations 2009, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 13 September 2007).

Industrial activity: Industrial forest and resource management activities such as road building, mining, dams, urban development and timber harvesting (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Infrastructure: In the context of forest management, roads, bridges, culverts, log landings, quarries, reservoirs, buildings and other structures required in the course of implementing the management plan (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Infrastructure: in the context of forest management, roads, bridges, culverts, log loading sites, quarries, retention reservoirs, buildings and other facilities needed in the process of implementing the management plan.

Intact Forest Landscape: A territory within today's global extent of forest cover which contains forest and non-forest ecosystems minimally influenced by human economic activity, with an area of at least 500 km² (50,000 ha) and a minimal width of 10 km (measured as the diameter of a circle that is entirely inscribed within the boundaries of the territory) (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on Intact Forests / Global Forest Watch. Glossary definition as provided on Intact Forest website. 2006-2014).

Integrated methods of forest protection: a method that combines all methods of forest protection in order to minimize the risk of losses, both ecological and economic. The treatments used are aimed at preventing the excessive reproduction of harmful organisms, not at destroying them. This is achieved by modifying the environment so that it becomes unfavorable to pathogenic organisms. When modifying the environment, full use should be made of the following methods: biological, chemical, hylotechnical, physical and other techniques without causing changes in the ecosystem. (Source: Forest Protection Instruction, 2004)

Intellectual property: Practices as well as knowledge, innovations and other creations of the mind (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, based on the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Article 8(j); and World Intellectual Property Organization. What is Intellectual Property? WIPO Publication No. 450(E)).

Intensity: A measure of the force, severity or strength of a management activity or other occurrence affecting the nature of the activity's impacts (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Interested stakeholder: Any person, group of persons, or entity that has shown an interest, or is known to have an interest, in the activities of a Management Unit. The following are examples of interested stakeholders.

- Conservation organizations, for example environmental NGOs;
- Labor (rights) organizations, for example labor unions;
- Human rights organizations, for example social NGOs;
- Local development projects;
- Local governments;
- National government departments functioning in the region;
- FSC National Offices;
- Experts on particular issues, for example High Conservation Values

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

Internationally accepted scientific protocol: A predefined science-based procedure which is either published by an international scientific network or union, or referenced frequently in the international scientific literature (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

Lands and territories: For the purposes of the Principles and Criteria these are lands or territories that Indigenous Peoples or local communities have traditionally owned, or customarily used or occupied, and where access to natural resources is vital to the sustainability of their cultures and livelihoods (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on World Bank safeguard OP 4.10 Indigenous Peoples, section 16 (a). July 2005.).

Landscape: A geographical mosaic composed of interacting ecosystems resulting from the influence of geological, topographical, soil, climatic, biotic and human interactions in a given area (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website).

Landscape values: Landscape values can be visualized as layers of human perceptions overlaid on the physical landscape. Some landscape values, like economic, recreation, subsistence value or visual quality are closely related to physical landscape attributes. Other landscape values such as intrinsic or spiritual value are more symbolic in character and are influenced more by individual perception or social construction than physical landscape attributes (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on website of the Landscape Value Institute).

Legal/statutory: In accordance with primary legislation (national or local laws) or secondary legislation (subsidiary regulations, decrees, orders, etc.). 'Legal' also includes rule-based decisions made by legally competent agencies where such decisions flow directly and logically from the laws and regulations. Decisions made by legally competent agencies may not be legal if they do not flow directly and logically from the laws and regulations and if they are not rule-based but use administrative discretion (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Legally competent: Mandated in law to perform a certain function (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Legal registration: National or local legal license or set of permissions to operate as an enterprise, with rights to buy and sell products and/or services commercially. The license or permissions can apply to an individual, a privately-owned enterprise or a publicly-owned corporate entity. The rights to buy and sell products and/or services do not carry the obligation to do so, so legal registration applies also to Organizations operating a Management Unit without sales of products or services; for example, for unpriced recreation or for conservation of biodiversity or habitat (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Legal Status: The way in which the Management Unit is classified in relation to the law. In terms of form of ownership, this means a category of ownership, such as communal or leased land, state or government land, etc. If the Management Unit is in the process of converting from one form of ownership to another (e.g. state-owned land to indigenous community land), the status includes current position in the transition process. Administratively, legal status can mean that the area is owned by the entire nation and administered on behalf of it by a government entity, and is leased out by a government ministry to a private sector operator under a concession (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5 -0).

Light work: National laws* or regulations may permit the employment or work of persons 13 to 15 years of age on light work which is- a) not likely to be harmful to their health or development; and b) not such as to prejudice their attendance at school, their participation in vocational orientation or training programmes approved by the competent authority or their capacity to benefit from the instruction received (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 138, Article 7).

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

Local communities: Communities of any size that are in or adjacent to the Management Unit, and also those that are close enough to have a significant impact on the economy or the environmental values of the Management Unit or to have their economies, rights or environments significantly affected by the management activities or the biophysical aspects of the Management Unit (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Local community: a community within which a network of social connections and a sense of belonging to this community have developed, located in the area of the Management Unit or adjacent to it, as well as one that is close enough to have a significant impact on the Management Unit or for the Management Unit to affect this community (Based on FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Local laws: see National Law. The whole suite of primary and secondary laws (acts, ordinances, statutes, decrees) which is limited in application to a particular geographic district within a national territory, as well as secondary regulations, and tertiary administrative procedures (rules / requirements) that derive their authority directly and explicitly from these primary and secondary laws. Laws derive authority ultimately from the Westphalian concept of sovereignty of the Nation State (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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

Management objective: Specific management goals, practices, outcomes, and approaches established to achieve the requirements of this standard (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Management plan: The collection of documents, reports, records and maps that describe, justify and regulate the activities carried out by any manager, staff or organization within or in relation to the Management Unit, including statements of objectives and policies (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Management Unit: A spatial area or areas submitted for FSC certification with clearly defined boundaries managed to a set of explicit long-term management objectives which are expressed in a management plan. This area or areas include(s):

- all facilities and area(s) within or adjacent to this spatial area or areas under legal title or management control of, or operated by or on behalf of The Organization, for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives; and
- all facilities and area(s) outside, and not adjacent to this spatial area or areas and operated by or on behalf of The Organization, solely for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Minimum age (of employment): is not less than the age of finishing compulsory education, and which in any case, should not be less than 15 years. However, a country, whose economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed, may initially specify a minimum age of 14 years. National laws* may also permit the employment of 13-15 year olds in light work which is neither prejudicial to school attendance, nor harmful to a child's health or development. The ages 12-13 can apply for light work in countries that specify a minimum age of 14 (ILO Convention 138, Article 2). In Poland, the minimum age of employment is specified in national regulations.

National laws: a set of normative acts applicable in a given country, which consists of: the constitution, acts, implementing acts (regulations), ratified international agreements, acts of local law (binding in the area of operation of the authorities that established them), as well as lower-level administrative acts (orders, resolutions, guidelines and others), adopted directly and explicitly on the basis of the above-mentioned generally applicable normative acts.

Native forest: A forest area with many of the basic characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems, such as complexity, structure and biodiversity, including soil characteristics, flora and fauna, where all or almost all trees are native species, not classified as plantations.

'Native forest' includes the following categories:

- Forest that has been subject to timber harvesting or other management activities, where stands are being or have been regenerated through a combination of natural and artificial regeneration of species typical of forests in the area, and where many features of natural forest are still present. In boreal and north temperate forests that are naturally composed of only one or a few tree species, a combination of natural and artificial forest regeneration with the same native species that are a key element of the native ecosystem is not considered conversion to plantations.
- Forests maintained through traditional forestry practices, including natural or assisted natural regeneration.
- Secondary forests or forests colonized with native species that have regenerated or have been introduced artificially in non-forest areas.
- Natural forests created as a result of natural processes and in which natural processes dominate at every stage of existence, i.e.: regeneration, growth, maturation, aging and decay.

Native forest does not include areas that are not dominated by trees, were not previously forested, and do not yet contain many features and elements of native ecosystems.

Native species: Species, subspecies, or lower taxon, occurring within its natural range (past or present) and dispersal potential (that is, within the range it occupies naturally or could occupy without direct or indirect introduction or care by humans) (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, based on Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Invasive Alien Species Programme. Glossary of Terms as provided on CBD website).

Natural conditions/native ecosystem: For the purposes of the Principles and Criteria and any applications of restoration techniques, terms such as 'more natural conditions', 'native ecosystem' provide for managing sites to favor or restore native species and associations of native species that are typical of the locality, and for managing these associations and other environmental values so that they form ecosystems typical of the locality. Further guidelines may be provided in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Natural disaster: an event related to the action of the forces of nature, the effects of which threaten the life or health of a large number of people, property in large sizes or the environment in large areas, in particular atmospheric discharges, seismic shocks, strong winds, intense precipitation, prolonged occurrence of extreme temperatures, landslides, fires, droughts, floods, ice phenomena on rivers and seas as well as lakes and water reservoirs, mass occurrence of pests, plant or animal diseases or infectious diseases of people, or the action of another element. (based on: Act of 18 April 2002 on the state of natural disaster, Journal of Laws 2017 item 1897).

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

'Natural forest' includes the following categories:

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

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

- Natural forests which are maintained by traditional silvicultural practices including natural or assisted natural regeneration;
- Well-developed secondary or colonizing forest of native species which has regenerated in non-forest areas;

The definition of 'natural forest' may include areas described as wooded ecosystems, woodland and savannah.

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

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

FSC has not developed quantitative thresholds between different categories of forests in terms of area, density, height, etc. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may provide such thresholds and other guidelines, with appropriate descriptions or examples. Pending such guidance, areas dominated by trees, mainly of native species, may be considered as natural forest.

Thresholds and guidelines may cover areas such as:

- Other vegetation types and non-forest communities and ecosystems included in the Management Unit, including grassland, bushland, wetlands, and open woodlands;
- Very young pioneer or colonizing regeneration in a primary succession on new open sites or abandoned farmland, which does not yet contain many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems. This may be considered as natural forest through ecological progression after the passage of years;
- Young natural regeneration growing in natural forest areas may be considered as natural forest, even after logging, clear-felling or other disturbances, since many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems remain, above-ground and below-ground;
- Areas where deforestation and forest degradation have been so severe that they are no longer 'dominated by trees' may be considered as non-forest, when they have very few of the principal above-ground and below-ground characteristics and key elements of natural forests. Such extreme degradation is typically the result of combinations of repeated and excessively heavy logging, grazing, farming, fuelwood collection, hunting, fire, erosion, mining, settlements, infrastructure, etc. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may help to decide when such areas should be excised from the Management Unit, should be restored towards more natural conditions, or may be converted to other land uses (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Natural Hazards: Disturbances that can present risks to social and environmental values in the Management Unit but that may also comprise important ecosystem functions; examples include drought, flood, fire, landslide, storm, avalanche, etc (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Non-SLIMF: forests managed by large and medium-scale Organizations.

- **Medium Scale:** forests of area of 500 to 10,000 ha (single or joint ownership - community).
- **Large Scale:** forests with an area of more than 10,000 ha (single or joint ownership - community).

Non-timber forest products (NTFP): All products other than timber derived from the Management Unit (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Objective: The basic purpose laid down by The Organization for the forest enterprise, including the decision of policy and the choice of means for attaining the purpose (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on F.C. Osmaston. 1968. The Management of Forests. Hafner, New York; and D.R. Johnston, A.J. Grayson and R.T. Bradley. 1967. Forest Planning. Faber & Faber, London).

Obligatory code of practice: A manual or handbook or other source of technical instruction which The Organization must implement by law (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Occupational accident: An occurrence arising out of, or in the course of, work which results in fatal or non-fatal injury (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, based on International Labour Organization (ILO). Bureau of Library and Information Services. ILO Thesaurus as provided on ILO website).

Occupational disease: Any disease contracted as a result of an exposure to risk factors arising from work activity (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, based on International Labour Organization (ILO). Bureau of Library and Information Services. ILO Thesaurus as provided on ILO website).

Occupational injuries: Any personal injury, disease or death resulting from an occupational accident (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, based on International Labour Organization (ILO). Bureau of Library and Information Services. ILO Thesaurus as provided on ILO website).

Ongoing court case: a dispute that is the subject of court proceedings.

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

The Organization: The person or entity holding or applying for certification and therefore responsible for demonstrating compliance with the requirements upon which FSC certification is based (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Overriding requirements of public safety: current, real and above-average threat to people, which cannot be eliminated in any other way, resulting from the location of the hazardous element in the place:

- used by people unaware of the risk existing in the forest, e.g. people moving on a public road;
- used by people staying in one place in the forest for a long time (e.g. on a camping site);
- used by people using the forest in a concentrated or linear way (e.g. tourist trails)
- if the risk posed is high.

Peatland: Is constituted by flooded and soggy areas, with large accumulations of organic material, covered by a layer of poor vegetation associated with a certain degree of acidity, and which presents a characteristic amber color (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on Aguilar, L. 2001. About Fishermen, Fisherwomen, Oceans and tides. IUCN. San Jose (Costa Rica)).

Pesticide: Any substance or preparation prepared or used in protecting plants or wood or other plant products from pests; in controlling pests; or in rendering such pests harmless. This definition includes insecticides, rodenticides, acaricides, molluscicides, larvaecides, fungicides and herbicides (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Pesticide: any substance or mixture of chemical substances or biological components intended to repel, destroy or control pests or to regulate plant growth (source: FAO International Code of Practice on Pesticide Management). This definition includes insecticides, rodenticides, miticides, molluscicides, larvicides, nematocides, fungicides and herbicides. (source: FSC Pesticide Policy, FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0 EN)

Plantation: A forest area established by planting or sowing with using either alien or native species, often with one or few species, regular spacing and even ages, and which lacks most of the principal

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

- Areas which would initially have complied with this definition of 'plantation' but which, after the passage of years, contain many or most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems, may be classified as natural forests.
- Plantations managed to restore and enhance biological and habitat diversity, structural complexity and ecosystem functionality may, after the passage of years, be classified as natural forests.
- Boreal and north temperate forests which are naturally composed of only one or few tree species, in which a combination of natural and artificial regeneration is used to regenerate forest of the same native species, with most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems of that site, may be considered as natural forest, and this regeneration is not by itself considered as conversion to plantations (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Plantation: A wooded area using species of non-native or native origin, often one or more species, at regular intervals and of equal age, and which lacks most of the characteristics and key elements of a natural forest. Plantations are established for intensive wood production in a shortened production cycle, adapted to the species and habitat conditions.

Point of first sale: the place from which a "trader", i.e. a natural or legal person, in the course of a commercial activity, acquires ownership rights to timber or timber products from the Organization.

Precautionary approach: An approach requiring that when the available information indicates that management activities pose a threat of severe or irreversible damage to the environment or a threat to human welfare, The Organization will take explicit and effective measures to prevent the damage and avoid the risks to welfare, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of environmental values are uncertain (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, based on Principle 15 of Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992, and Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle of the Wingspread Conference, 23–25 January 1998).

Pre-harvest [condition]: The diversity, composition, and structure of the forest or plantation prior to felling timber and appurtenant activities such as road building (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Principle: An essential rule or element; in FSC's case, of forest stewardship (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Protection: See definition of Conservation (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Protection Area: See definition of Conservation Zone (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Publicly available: In a manner accessible to or observable by people generally (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on Collins English Dictionary, 2003 Edition).

Rare species: Species that are uncommon or scarce, but not classified as threatened. These species are located in geographically restricted areas or specific habitats, or are scantily scattered on a large scale. They are approximately equivalent to the IUCN (2001) category of Near Threatened (NT), including species that are close to qualifying for, or are likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future. They are also approximately equivalent to imperiled species (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). 2001. IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK).

Ratified: The process by which an international law, convention or agreement (including multilateral environmental agreement) is legally approved by a national legislature or equivalent legal mechanism, such that the international law, convention or agreement becomes automatically part of national law or sets in motion the development of national law to give the same legal effect (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Reasonable: based on modern, scientific methods, well planned and giving good results, based on logical reasoning, guided by reason (Source: Dictionary of the Polish language PWN).

Reasonable: Judged to be fair or appropriate to the circumstances or purposes, based on general experience (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on Shorter Oxford English Dictionary).

Refugia: An isolated area where extensive changes, typically due to changing climate or by disturbances such as those caused by humans, have not occurred and where plants and animals typical of a region may survive (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on Glen Canyon Dam, Adaptive Management Program Glossary as provided on website of Glen Canyon Dam website).

Representative sample areas: Portions of the Management Unit delineated for the purpose of conserving or restoring viable examples of an ecosystem that would naturally occur in that geographical region (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Resilience: The ability of a system to maintain key functions and processes in the face of stresses or pressures by either resisting or adapting to change. Resilience can be applied to both ecological systems and social systems (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA). 2008. Establishing Marine Protected Area Networks – Making it Happen. Washington D.C.: IUCN-WCPA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and The Nature Conservancy.).

Restore/Restoration: These words are used in different senses according to the context and in everyday speech. In some cases 'restore' means to repair the damage done to environmental values that resulted from management activities or other causes. In other cases 'restore' means the formation of more natural conditions in sites which have been heavily degraded or converted to other land uses. In the Principles and Criteria, the word 'restore' is not used to imply the recreation of any particular previous, pre-historic, pre-industrial or other pre-existing ecosystem (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

The Organization is not necessarily obliged to restore those environmental values that have been affected by factors beyond the control of The Organization, for example by natural disasters, by climate change, or by the legally authorized activities of third parties, such as public infrastructure, mining, hunting or settlement. FSC-POL-20-003 The Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification describes the processes by which such areas may be excised from the area certified, when appropriate (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

The Organization is also not obliged to restore environmental values that may have existed at some time in the historic or pre-historic past, or that have been negatively affected by previous owners or organizations. However, The Organization is expected to take reasonable measures to mitigate, control and prevent environmental degradation which is continuing in the Management Unit as a result of such previous impacts (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Riparian zone: Interface between land and a water body, and the vegetation associated with it (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Risk: The probability of an unacceptable negative impact arising from any activity in the Management Unit combined with its seriousness in terms of consequences (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Scale: A measure of the extent to which a management activity or event affects an environmental value or a Management Unit, in time or space. An activity with a small or low spatial scale affects only a small proportion of the forest each year, an activity with a small or low temporal scale occurs only at long intervals (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Scale, intensity and risk: See individual definitions of the terms 'scale', 'intensity', and 'risk' (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Significant: For the purposes of Principle 9, HCVs 1, 2 and 6 there are three main forms of recognizing significance.

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

Any one of these forms will justify designation as HCVs 1, 2 and 6. Many regions of the world have received recognition for their biodiversity importance, measured in many different ways. Existing maps and classifications of priority areas for biodiversity conservation play an essential role in identifying the potential presence of HCVs 1, 2 and 6 (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Silviculture: The art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health and quality of forests and woodlands to meet the targeted diverse needs and values of landowners and society on a sustainable basis (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, based on Nieuwenhuis, M. 2000. Terminology of Forest Management. IUFRO World Series Vol. 9. IUFRO 4.04.07 SilvaPlan and SilvaVoc).

Silviculture: a branch of forestry dealing with the issues of the formation and development of forest stands, the relationships between them and the natural environment, and the impact of management activities on the development and formation of forest stands.

SLIMF: see Small or low intensity managed forests.

Small or low intensity managed forests (SLIMF):

- forests with an area of less than 500 ha, or
- forests where the harvest rate is less than 20% of the annual growth and the total annual harvest is less than 5000 m³.

Stakeholder: See definitions for 'affected stakeholder' and 'interested stakeholder' (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Statute law: Set of laws contained in Acts of Parliament (national legislature) (Source: Oxford Law Dictionary).

Statutory: see Legal.

Tenure: Socially defined agreements held by individuals or groups, recognized by legal statutes or customary practice, regarding the 'bundle of rights and duties' of ownership, holding, access and/or usage of a particular land unit or the associated resources there within (such as individual trees, plant species, water, minerals, etc.) (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2, based on International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Glossary definitions provided on IUCN website).

Threat: An indication or warning of impending or likely damage or negative impacts (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on Oxford English Dictionary).

Threatened species: Species that meet the IUCN (2001) criteria for Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR), and are facing a high, very high or extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. These categories may be re-interpreted for FSC purposes according to official national classifications (which have legal significance) and to local conditions and population densities (which should affect decisions about appropriate conservation measures) (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). 2001. IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK).

Threatened species: Species meeting the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN, 2001) criteria for Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR), and facing a high, very high or extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. These categories may be re-adapted for FSC purposes according to official national classifications (with legal significance) and with respect to natural conditions and local population density (which should influence the decision on appropriate conservation measures taken by the Management Unit). (Source: Based on International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). 2001. IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK)

Timber harvesting level: The actual harvest quantity executed on the Management Unit, tracked by either volume (e.g. cubic meters) or area (e.g. hectares) metrics for the purpose of comparison with calculated (maximum) allowable harvest levels (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Timely manner: As promptly as circumstances reasonably allow; not intentionally postponed by The Organization; in compliance with applicable laws, contracts, licenses or invoices (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Traditional Knowledge: Information, know-how, skills and practices that are developed, sustained and passed on from generation to generation within a community, often forming part of its cultural or spiritual identity (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on the definition by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Glossary definition as provided under Policy / Traditional Knowledge on the WIPO website).

Traditional peoples: Traditional peoples are social groups or peoples who do not self-identify as indigenous and who affirm rights to their lands, forests and other resources based on long established custom or traditional occupation and use (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, Forest Peoples Programme (Marcus Colchester, 7 October 2009).

Transaction verification: Verification by certification bodies and/or Accreditation Services International (ASI) that FSC output claims made by certificate holders are accurate and match with the FSC input claims of their trading partners (Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V3-0).

Uphold: To acknowledge, respect, sustain and support (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Use rights: Rights for the use of resources of the Management Unit that can be defined by local custom, mutual agreements, or prescribed by other entities holding access rights. These rights may restrict the use of particular resources to specific levels of consumption or particular harvesting techniques (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Vast majority: 80% of the total area of Intact Forest Landscapes within the Management Unit as of January 1, 2017. The vast majority also meets or exceeds the minimum definition of Intact Forest Landscape (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Verifiable targets: Specific goals, such as desired future forest conditions, established to measure progress towards the achievement of each of the management objectives. These goals are expressed as clear outcomes, such that their attainment can be verified and it is possible to determine whether they have been accomplished or not (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Very Limited portion: The affected area shall not exceed 5% of the Management Unit, irrespective of whether the conversion activities have taken place prior to or after The Organization is awarded with FSC Forest Management certification (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

Very limited portion of the core area: The area affected shall not exceed 0.5% of the area of the core area in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% of the area of the core area.

Wage: includes the ordinary, basic or minimum wage or salary and any additional remuneration which is paid directly or indirectly, whether in cash or in kind, by the employer to the worker and which arises out of the workers employment (ILO Convention No. 100, Article 1a).

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

- Hazardous waste, including chemical waste and batteries;
- Containers;
- Motor and other fuels and oils;
- Rubbish including metals, plastics and paper; and
- Abandoned buildings, machinery and equipment (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Water bodies (including water courses): Seasonal, temporary, and permanent brooks, creeks, streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Water bodies include riparian or wetland systems, lakes, swamps, bogs and springs (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

Water bodies (including natural water courses): seasonal, temporary and permanent streams, creeks, rivers, streams flowing through natural or regulated channels. Water bodies include coastal or wetland systems, lakes, marshes, roosts and springs.

Wetlands: Transitional areas between terrestrial and aquatic systems in which the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on Cowardin, L.M., Carter, V., Golet, F.C., Laroe, E.T. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. DC US Department: Washington).

Under the Ramsar Convention, wetlands can include tidal mudflats, natural ponds, marshes, potholes, wet meadows, bogs, peatlands, freshwater swamps, mangroves, lakes, rivers and even some coral reefs (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), No Date, IUCN Definitions – English).

Workers: All employed persons including public employees as well as 'self-employed' persons. This includes part-time and seasonal employees, of all ranks and categories, including laborers, administrators, supervisors, executives, contractor employees as well as self-employed contractors and sub-contractors (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 155, Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981).

Workers' organization: any organization of workers* for furthering and defending the interest of workers (adapted from ILO Convention 87, Article 10). It is important to note that rules and guidance on composition of workers' organization vary from country to country, especially in relation to those who are considered as rank and file members, as well those who are deemed to have power to "hire and fire". Workers' organizations tend to separate association between those who can "hire and fire" and those who cannot (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on report on generic criteria and indicators based on International Labour Organization (ILO) Core Conventions principles, 2017).

Worst forms of child labour: comprises a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performance; c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties; d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 182, Article 3).



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