



Forest Stewardship Council®



The FSC Regional Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders

FSC-STD-RAP-01-2021 V-1



NOTE ON THIS ENGLISH VERSION:

This is the only version that is approved and endorsed by FSC, and it is available at ic.fsc.org. Any other translation of this original version is not an official translation endorsed by FSC International. The entity providing a translated version assumes no liability or guarantee for possible damages resulting from errors, deviations or interpretations of the translation of this document. The original versions endorsed by FSC International are available at ic.fsc.org.






Title	The FSC Regional Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders (India, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam)
Document reference code:	FSC-STD-RAP-01-2021 V-1
Status:	Conditionally approved by Policy and Standards Committee. Conditions closed by Performance and Standards Unit.
Geographical Scope:	Regional (India, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam)
Forest Scope	Plantations (see Section 1.3 for details)
Approval body	Policy and Standards Committee
Submission date	10 November 2020
Approval date:	29 November 2021
Proposed effective date:	Applicable only after national adaptation (see Section 1.4 for details)
Validity Period:	Five years starting from the effective date or until replaced
Regional Contact:	Loy Jones FSC Asia Pacific Region Jalan Veteran, Gg. Jempinis #17 Buduk, Bali 80351 Indonesia l.jones@fsc.org
FSC Performance and Standards Unit Contact	FSC International Center - Performance and Standards Unit - Adenauer Allee 134 53113 Bonn, Germany  +49-(0)228-36766-0  +49-(0)228-36766-65  psu@fsc.org
<p>A.C. All rights reserved.</p> <p>No part of this work covered by the publisher's copyright may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means (graphic, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, recording taping, or information retrieval systems) without the written permission of the publisher.</p> <p>The Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC) is an independent, not for profit, non-government organization established to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.</p> <p>FSC's vision is that the true value of forests is recognized and fully incorporated into society worldwide. FSC is the leading catalyst and defining force for improved forest management and market transformation, shifting the global forest trend toward sustainable use, conservation, restoration, and respect for all.</p>	

Table of Contents

1. Preface
 - 1.1. Descriptive statement of FSC
 - 1.2. Descriptive statement of the Regional Office / Standard Development Group
 - 1.3. Scope of this Regional Forest Stewardship Standard
 - 1.4. Application of this RFSS in India, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam in combination with the NFSS in these Countries
 - 1.5. Potential Application of this RFSS in combination with NFSS in other Countries
 - 1.6. Terminology
2. Preamble
 - 2.1. Purpose of the standard
 - 2.2. Background information on the standard development
3. Version
4. Context
 - 4.1 Geographical Scope
 - 4.2 Technical Advisory Group
 - 4.3 Consultants and Advisors
5. References
6. Explanatory Notes
 - 6.1. Note on the development of Indicators in this standard
 - 6.2. Who is required to meet the Indicators?
 - 6.3. What activities do the Indicators in this Standard apply to?
 - 6.4. Are all Principles and Criteria and IGI applicable?
 - 6.5. How do the Indicators apply to family members, temporary workers, employees and others who work on the smallholder's forest?
 - 6.6. Who does "assessments" to determine presence of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and High Conservation Value Forests (Principles 3, 4, and 9)?
 - 6.7. Does the smallholder need to consider factors outside his or her property?
 - 6.8. Comments on language used in the Standard
 - 6.9. Definitions
7. Principles, Criteria and National Indicators
8. Glossary of Terms



1. Preface

1.1. Descriptive statement of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

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

FSC is an international organization that provides a system for voluntary accreditation and independent third-party certification. FSC sets standards for the accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies (also known as Certification Bodies) that certify conformance with FSC's standards. In addition, FSC sets the standard for what are considered well managed forests that are environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable through the International Principles, Criteria and Indicators that are then adapted to the individual country level. This system allows certificate holders to market their products and services as FSC certified.

1.2. Descriptive statement of the Regional Office and Standard Development Group

The FSC Asia Pacific Region has a regional headquarters in Hong Kong with FSC contracted representatives in India, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, South Korea, China, Japan, and Malaysia. In addition, there is a recognized FSC National Office in Australia which also administers New Zealand Office, and also informal representatives in Nepal, Taiwan and Papua New Guinea. The offices deal with FSC issues on a regional and country specific basis while working to grow the acceptance and use of FSC within the forest products industry and forest management. This standard is one such effort to address the millions of smallholders within the region that own an average of 1 – 5 hectares of land, derive the majority of their annual revenue from that land at a much lower level than more economically developed countries, have lower educational levels than most such countries, and would like to participate and learn within the FSC system while being able to afford to do so. Its development was supported strongly by the FSC New Approaches international team and the Performance and Standards Unit (PSU) in Bonn.

The Standard Development Group (SDG) for this project, which was named the Technical Advisory Group, consisted of 3 members from each of the four participating countries (India, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam) with one person representing each chamber. At least one of



the members from each country, and in some cases more than one, served on their country's SDG to maintain communications at that level. All shared the serious concerns about how to achieve the objective of making FSC certification more accessible for the smallholders within their individual countries.

1.3. Scope of this Regional Forest Stewardship Standard

This standard is applicable for all smallholders in Indonesia, India, Thailand and Vietnam who own or manage individual units of plantations, woodlots, orchards, or agro-forestry in block, linear or strip form that are less than 20 hectares in size. It includes boundary trees or small groups of trees. This standard is for rough wood, and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) as listed in FSC-STD-40-004a V2-1. This includes latex rubber, seeds, fruits, nuts, honey and other edible products, resins and oils, rattan, bamboo and other products. NTFP-specific indicators are developed in the following FSC Criteria – 1.3, 5.2, 6.1, 6.6, 7.1, 7.2, 8.5 and 10.7.

Organizations including NTFPs in their certification scope shall conform with all the indicators in this standard and the applicable requirements of the respective national forest stewardship standard. Where specific NTFP indicators exist (marked as e.g. “NTFP 3.5.1”), The Organizations above shall conform with them in addition.

The scope of this standard does not include any short-rotation agricultural crops which are primarily grown while the canopy is still open.

1.4 Application of this RFSS in India, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam in combination with the NFSS in these countries

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) that developed this RFSS expects that after it is approved as a Regional Standard, each country Standard Development Group (SDG) will proceed to endorse the standard, and it will then be the applicable standard for all smallholders in those countries within the defined scope –units less than 20 ha, and community owned or co-operatively managed forests where the total allocated size per member or family is less than 20 hectares.

If the SDG decides to make any changes to this approved RFSS before adopting it for their country, the SDG will need to seek an approval from the Policy and Standards Committee as required by FSC for changes to approved NFSS.



Larger smallholdings in these countries that are outside the scope will be required to meet the respective Indicators in the country NFSS. Larger FMUs would need to meet the full NFSS. Effectively, this smallholder standard is referred to as a “subset of the NFSS”, applicable to the very small smallholders, or a “an addition to the NFSS”. It provides a different set of indicators than the NFSS which are applicable only to the very small smallholders.

There are no Annexes or Addenda to this standard. Once this standard is approved then each country's SDG will be asked to formally endorse it to be part of their country's certification system. At that time, each country SDG will be asked to identify any specific Annexes that are applicable or not, as well as areas within those Annexes that may not apply to this particular set of CH. That is a country decision, not a TAG decision, and needs to be approved by PSU.

1.5 Potential Application of this RFSS in combination with NFSS in other countries

If another country in the Asia Pacific region wishes to fully adopt this standard with no changes, the SDG for that country could do so simply by approving the standard for that country without change, considering the requirements for adoption as specified in Clause 1.4 above, and requesting that PSU change the geographical scope of the RFSS to include that country.

If a country in the Asia Pacific region decides to make any changes to this approved RFSS before adopting it for their country, the SDG will need to go through the approval process required by FSC for NFSS.

If PSU or the FSC Board wishes to expand the concepts developed in this standard globally outside of Asia Pacific, PSU or the FSC Board will need to identify an administrative process to take it outside the Asia Pacific Region.

1.6 Terminology

In this standard, a “smallholder” is an individual or family who owns, manages, or uses forests which are less than 20 hectares in size that may be defined as plantations, woodlots, or agroforestry. “Smallholder” may also include community producers*, including Indigenous or others who fulfil the criteria for small size (as above), or a cooperative or community which owns, manages and uses a forest where less than 20 hectares has been allocated to each member or family.



In different countries, smallholders are known by various names – for example, woodlot owners, family foresters, small non-industrial private forest owners, small forest enterprises, community forestry operations, and non-timber forest product (NTFP) harvesters. Smallholders produce a wide variety of timber, non-timber and non-wood products.

Similarly, the smallholder's forest is also known by various names – for example, woodlots, plantations, tree farms, etc. In some countries, forests only refer to natural forests. For the purposes of this Standard, reference to “smallholder's forest” is used consistently to refer to all the smallholdings with trees that are less than 20 ha. The term “smallholder's forest” is defined in the Glossary and includes plantation.

2. Preamble

2.1. Purpose of the standard

This document presents a Regional Forest Stewardship Standard (RFSS) for FSC forest management (FM) certification of the forestry activities, including forest management, forestry operations and other activities, of smallholders in India, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. It presents a standard for FSC certification that addresses the realities of the over 550,000,000 smallholders in these four countries of SE Asia which produce a large volume of timber and a high percentage of the forest products available in these countries, despite the average size of the management unit being about 3 hectares. Typically, these smallholders have limited capacity and their operations have very low impact as single management units. The standard has been developed to provide realistic, achievable Indicators relevant to the circumstances of these smallholders for their management units, written in simple language that can be understood and met by the smallholder. It sets out the required elements against which FSC accredited Certification Bodies evaluate the forest management practices of smallholders within the scope (see 2.2 below) of the standard.

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

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



There are no Annexes or Addenda to this standard. Annexes approved in the NFSS or SLIMF standards for a specific country are also considered annexes to this standard so may be different for each country.

2.2. Background information on the standard development:

Development of this standard for smallholders was a project of the FSC New Approaches Program. The FSC Regional Office for the Asia Pacific Region (APRO) retained a consultant to draft the standard while the PSU Regional Policy Manager served as coordinator and facilitator for the process. A Technical Advisory Group (TAG) was created to provide input and comments to the consultant and the APRO office throughout the development process. The TAG approved successive drafts to proceed to public consultation, field testing and final submission. The TAG consisted of one member from each chamber in each of the four countries involved (India, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam), plus an independent non-voting Chair Person.

The steps in the development included:

- A first draft was prepared by the consultant and was closely reviewed by APRO Regional Policy and Standards Manager and the TAG. Numerous changes were made by the TAG prior to their approval to release Draft 0-0 for an informal public consultation with key stakeholders in the region in order to get input before a draft was finalized for field testing.
- Based on the public input received during the informal consultation of Draft 0-0, a second draft was developed by the consultant. Draft 1-0 was also reviewed by the Regional Policy and Standards Manager and the TAG along with the Consultative Forum for the TAG that included all members of the individual country's Consultative Forum for their NFSS process, and changes were made before it was approved for field testing.
- Draft 1-0 was field tested by auditors from two certification bodies (NEPCon and GFA) at several sites in each of the four participating countries. A total of 120 persons participated in the field testing.
- Draft 1-0 was extensively revised and Draft 2-0 was developed by the consultant based on comments from the certification bodies and additional participants in the field test. A



table of all comments received was prepared to show how each comment was addressed in subsequent revisions and this table was provided to the TAG. The changes in Draft 2-0 were then reviewed by the Regional Policy and Standards Manager and the TAG and Draft 2-0 was approved for the 60-day public consultation. The consultation was extended to 90 days. A total of 59 persons provided comments in the public consultation.

- Draft 3-0, the final version, was developed to include revisions based on the public consultation input. This draft was submitted to PSU for review on 1 September 2020. The final draft was submitted on November 10, 2020

3. Version of the standard

FSC-STD-RAP-01-2021 V-1. The FSC Regional Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders.

4. Context

4.1 Geographical scope

This standard applies to smallholders (as defined above) in India, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. As described in Section 1.5, other countries in the Asia-Pacific region may be added to the scope at a later date upon the approval of the country's Standard Development Group and PSU and with no changes to the standard for those countries. Should PSU and the Board of Directors decide to expand this concept globally then it may be an administrative procedure outside the Region as well. In cases where a country decides to make changes to the final approved Regional Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders, then they would need to go through the same registration and approval process through PSU as this standard has done.

4.2 Technical Advisory Group

The members of the Technical Advisory Group were:

Chair Person: Michael Brady, Principal Scientist at CIFOR and leads the Value Chains, Finance and Investment (VFI) team.

India: Suneel Pandey*, ITC Ltd, Economic Chamber; Prodyut Bhattacharya*, GSI University, Environmental Chamber; Krishna Kumar Singh, *Lok Vaniki Kisan Samiti*, Social Chamber.



Indonesia: Joko Sarjito*, WWF Indonesia, Environmental Chamber; Untung Karnonto, TFT, Social Chamber; Thesis Budiarto*, SCS, Economic Chamber.

Thailand: Piyathip Eawpanich*, Thailand National Park Association, Environmental Chamber; Chittiwat Silapat*, Independent Consultant, Economic Chamber; Prasnee Tipraqsa*, RECOFTC, Social Chamber.

Vietnam: Dung Tri Ngo*, KFW, Environmental Chamber; Bui Chinh Nghia, Vietnam Forestry Administration, Economic Chamber; Nguyen Vu, WWF Mekong, Social Chamber.

*Indicates those involved in their country Standard Development Group for NFSS.

4.3 Consultants and advisors

The primary consultant who led the development of the standard was Keith Moore. Michael Brady served as non-voting chair of the TAG and as a technical advisor.

5. References

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

FSC-POL-01-004	Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC
FSC-POL-20-003	The Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification
FSC-POL-30-001	FSC Pesticides Policy
FSC-POL-30-401	FSC Certification and the ILO Conventions
FSC-POL-30-602	FSC Interpretation on GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms)
FSC-STD-01-002	Glossary of Terms
FSC-STD-01-003	SLIMF Eligibility Criteria
FSC-STD-20-007	Forest Management Evaluations
FSC-STD-30-005	FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups
FSC-STD-60-002	Structure and Content of National Forest Stewardship Standards
FSC-STD-60-006	Development of National Forest Stewardship Standards
FSC-PRO-01-001	The Development and Revision of FSC Normative Documents
FSC-PRO-01-005	Processing Appeals



FSC-PRO-01-008	Processing Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme
FSC-DIR-20-007	FSC Directive on Forest Management Evaluations
FSC-GUI-60-005	Promoting Gender Equality in National Forest Stewardship Standards

6. Explanatory Notes

6.1. Note on the development of Indicators in this standard

This RFSS is based on the 10 Principles and 70 Criteria in the FSC Principles and Criteria, Version 5-2 (FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2). Indicators have been developed using the International Generic Indicators (IGI) Version 2-0 (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0). The IGI have been adopted or adapted, or in some cases, have been dropped. A limited number of new Indicators have been added. This process of “adapt”, “adopt”, “drop”, or “add” follows the procedures set out in Development and Transfer of National Forest Stewardship Standards to the FSC Principles and Criteria Version 5-1 (FSC-PRO-60-006 V2-0 EN).

In addition, some Indicators have been added to apply to non-timber forest products that the language of the International Generic Indicators V 2-0 did not specifically include or address. These are primarily for products that are produced by hunting and/or honey collection. These are NTFP products that may not originate entirely on the smallholder’s farm or even exist there for significant periods of time and for which there should be requirements for health and safety relating to the production of these products for human consumption.

Applicability Notes are provided for a number of Principles, Criteria and Indicators to explain if and how they are applicable to smallholders. Explanatory Notes are provided throughout the Standard to assist smallholders, group managers, certificate holders, auditors and other readers to interpret the requirements. Some important explanation is also provided here.

All Applicability Notes, Explanatory Notes and the explanations below provide guidance and explanation only. They are not normative.

6.2 Who is required to meet the Indicators?

In many of the Indicators, the obligation to take action to meet the Indicator requirement falls directly on the smallholder. This includes all Indicators that relate to compliance with laws (Principle 1), workers’ rights (Principle 2), implementation of practices to protect the environment (Principles 6 and 9), management of the forest (Principle 10) and others.

It is recognized that some Indicator requirements in this standard will likely be beyond the



capacity of an individual smallholder to meet on his or her own without help from a larger organization or external individuals for the very small area of land that the smallholder manages. In these situations, the Indicator is written so that the smallholder can receive support and assistance from a group manager or an external body such as an NGO, a purchaser or a government agency working to assist the smallholder to undertake the actions necessary to meet the Indicator. These Indicators include those related to writing policies, procedures and commitments (Indicators 1.6.1, 1.7.1, 1.7.3, 2.6.1, 4.6.1, 8.5.1); keeping records (Indicators 1.6.3, 2.3.3, 2.6.3, 3.3.2, 4.6.2, 5.2.3, 8.5.2); identifying and consulting with Indigenous Peoples and local communities or stakeholders (Indicators 3.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.4, 3.3.1, 3.5.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.2.1, 4.2.3, 7.6.1, 9.2.2, 9.4.2); conserving native forests (Indicators 6.5.1, 6.5.2 and 6.5.3) and planning and monitoring (Indicators 7.3.1, 7.4.1, 8.1.1, 8.3.1).

A small number of indicators allow external entities to carry out work to assist the smallholder to meet the Indicator requirement. This includes indicators that require large-scale assessments (Indicators 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 4.1.1, 6.1.1, 6.4.1, 9.1.1, 9.2.1) that are beyond the capacity of individual smallholders and are undertaken at scales beyond the smallholder's forest but in the smallholder's location.

In some Indicators, a "named representative" can meet the requirement on behalf of the smallholder. These include indicators that require developing policies or keeping records (Indicators 1.6.3, 1.7.2, 1.7.3, 2.6.1, 2.6.3, 4.6.2, 7.1.1, 10.6.2, 10.7.3 and 10.7.4).

In all these above indicators, work can be undertaken by an individual, a group manager or an external organization to assist the smallholder to meet the requirement but the smallholder needs to be able to demonstrate an awareness of the work and to show that he or she is taking action if the policies, assessments and the Indicators require.

6.3 What activities do the Indicators in this standard apply to?

The indicators apply to the smallholder's forestry operations and trees on his or her land and/or land they have authorized use rights from government or other entities. The indicators apply to timber and non-timber forest products. They do not apply to farming of short rotation agricultural or animal crops on non-forest land within the holding. This is a standard for FSC Forest Management (FM) certification of small forests and forest products, not a farm certification standard. In some situations, farming or agro-forestry where trees and agricultural crops are growing together will be occurring within the forest. Only the management of the trees and the



timber and non-timber products from the smallholder's forest can be considered for certification.

6.4 Are all Principles and Criteria and IGI applicable?

All 10 FSC Principles are applicable to smallholders and all are included in this Standard. All 70 Criteria in the FSC international standard Version 5-2 are also included.

The words "scale, intensity and risk" (SIR) do not appear in any Indicators in this standard but are implicit throughout. By definition and scope, the standard applies only to very small and relatively low intensity management units with relatively low risks as individual management units. Thus, some of the International Generic Indicators (IGI), which were developed with much larger organizations in mind, are not appropriate for, or applicable to, smallholders and in this standard for smallholders, Indicators have been dropped for this reason. There are seven Criteria (4.3 and 4.4 in Principle 4; 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 in Principle 5; 6.8 in Principle 6; and 8.2 in Principle 8) which are not applicable to individual smallholders because of the scale, intensity and risk of their forestry activities. In these Criteria, all the IGI Indicators are therefore functionally not applicable to most smallholders and have been dropped. However, in two of these Criteria (6.8 and 8.2) there may be situations where individual smallholders combine their activities with other smallholders and have a more significant impact at the larger scale and intensity. In these situations, an indicator has been added to address this specific situation.

Other Criteria in Principles 3, 4 and 9 may be determined to be not applicable if the assessments required in those Principles determine that no Indigenous Peoples, local communities or High Conservation Values are present in the location of the smallholder's forest. These Indicators are all prefaced by "if", and their applicability depends on the results of the assessments that the smallholder is required to have to assess their applicability to the smallholder's property.

Many of the IGI have been adapted to greatly reduce the amount of work or limit the steps required to meet the Indicator. This reflects the low risk and the limited capacity of smallholders. The relevant Criteria must be met but the extent of work or information required to meet a specific Indicator will be determined by auditors based on the scale, intensity and risk and the context of the smallholder.

6.5 How do the Indicators apply to family members, temporary workers, employees and others who work on the smallholder's forest?

In Principle 2, the IGI generally refer to "workers" meaning employed and self-employed persons working in the smallholder's forest. In general, in the Asia Pacific region, most workers on a



smallholder's forest are either the self-employed smallholder, his or her family members and business partners or are temporary workers hired on contract to do short-term specific tasks. In rare or unusual situations, a smallholder may have an employee or employees, so this term is also included as well. In community forests or co-operatives there may be volunteers or community members working.

Thus, in this Regional Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders, the term "workers" is not used in any Indicators. That is in order to distinguish between the family members (including co-owners or business partners) and the "temporary workers", "employees" or "volunteers" who are not family members or business associates. Most of the IGI have been adapted to refer to "temporary workers" or "employees" on the smallholder's forest when it is intended that the requirements of the Indicator refer only to those "temporary workers" or "employees", not to "family members" or business associates (for example, in regard to wages and terms of employment conditions). The term "family members" is used when the requirements of an Indicator also apply to a smallholder's immediate family members (husband, wife, children) and to business partners or co-owners who are not considered "temporary workers" or "employees". When indicators in Principle 2 apply to both family members, business associates and non-family member "temporary workers" or "employees" (for example, in regard to use of safety equipment) the indicators refer to all persons working on the forest including "employees", "temporary workers", "volunteers", "family members" and business associates. Definitions of all the terms used in Principle 2 are in the Glossary.

6.6 Who does "assessments" to determine presence of Indigenous Peoples, local communities and High Conservation Value Forests (Principles 3, 4, and 9)?

Three new indicators are "added" in this Standard to require that the smallholder has assessments that determine if Principles 3, 4 and 9 are applicable to the smallholder. The standard allows other parties to undertake these assessments on behalf of the smallholder. The other parties could be a group manager, an NGO, a purchaser, a government organization or any other party acting to assist the smallholder to do the required assessment to determine if a Criterion applies (i.e. if there are Indigenous Peoples, local communities or HCVs in the location of the individual smallholder). If the assessments indicate presence, then the indicators in those Principles are applicable for the smallholder.

In most cases, the assessments required by Indicators 3.1.1, 4.1.1 and 9.1.1 in this RFSS are expected to confirm that there are no Indigenous Peoples or local communities or HCVs in that



location that will potentially be affected by the smallholder. In that situation, all the Indicators in these Principles are not applicable. A similar assessment is required by Indicator 6.1.1 in Principle 6. It also allows an external organization to do the “assessment of environmental values” in Criterion 6.1. However, in most cases, indicators in Principle 6 will be applicable – the assessment will limit the indicators to the specific environmental values identified in the assessment.

6.7 Does the Smallholder need to consider factors outside his or her property?

The standard requires that the smallholder must consider:

- values or interests outside the smallholder’s property that may influence the forestry activities that the smallholder undertakes on his or her property; and,
- activities on the smallholder’s property that may impact or affect the rights or interests of others outside, but close to, his or her property.

The consideration of factors outside the smallholder’s property is addressed in this standard by the use of two terms – “*in the immediate vicinity*” and “*in the smallholder’s location*”. Both terms are defined in the Glossary.

The term “*immediate vicinity*” appears in 13 Indicators in 8 Criteria in Principle 6, 7, 9 and 10 (Indicators 6.1.1, 6.4.1, 6.4.2, 6.4.3, 7.1.1, 9.1.1., 9.2.1, 9.2.2, 9.3.1, 9.4.1, 9.4.2 and 10.9.1). These indicators require consideration of any values that are adjacent to, or in very close proximity to, the smallholder’s forest and may be impacted by the smallholder’s forestry activities.

The term “*smallholder’s location*” appears in 27 Indicators in 13 Criteria in Principles 3, 4, 6 and 7 (Indicators 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.3.1, 3.3.2, 3.4.1, 3.4.2, 3.5.1, 3.6.1, 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.4, 4.2.1, 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.5.1, 4.5.2, 4.6.1, 4.8.1, 6.5.1, 6.5.2, 6.5.3 and 7.1.1). These Indicators require the smallholder to determine if there are rights, interests or values important to Indigenous Peoples and local communities that may be affected by the smallholder’s forestry activities, and if there are, to take actions to address those rights, interests or values. They also refer to the existence of native ecosystems close to the smallholder’s forest. The “*Smallholder’s location*” refers to a larger geographical area than “*immediate vicinity*” and may refer to the nearby community, region or subregion or the watershed catchment where the smallholder’s forest is located.

6.8 Comments on the language used in the Standard

In general, all Indicators have been shortened, and sentences simplified. Detailed lists have been



removed. The language is broad to be inclusive of the specific details that are in the IGI so that an auditor can determine if the actions of a smallholder meet the Indicator in consideration of the context and the scale, intensity and risk of the individual smallholder.

Forestry words like “silviculture”, “regeneration”, and “ecologically appropriate” have been replaced with simpler terms. However, some FSC terms like “ecosystem services”, “high conservation values” and “invasive species” have been retained and are defined in the Glossary.

Indicators are consistently presented in an active, present tense as in “the smallholder complies...” or “the smallholder implements...”. This is a change from the IGI which frequently refer to documents or processes and use passive terms as in “1.1.1 Legal registration is granted...” rather than “The smallholder has a legal right...”.

The Indicators refer specifically to “the smallholder” rather than “The Organization”, the term that is consistently used in the IGI.

The word “if” is used in Indicators in Principles 3, 4, 6 and 9 to indicate that a requirement to meet the Indicator is dependent on confirming that Indigenous Peoples, local communities, native ecosystems or High Conservation Values are present in the location of the smallholder’s forest. It is anticipated that Indicators preceded by “if” will not be applicable to smallholders in many locations and situations and those Indicators will be not-applicable.

The word “if” is also used for indicators that are specific to non-timber forest products.

The word “shall” is not used in any Indicators. In its place the requirement is described in an active tense.

The word “appropriate” is used as an adjective in a number of Indicators (mostly in the context of “appropriate engagement”, “appropriate consultation” or “appropriate dispute resolution” but also in “appropriate safety equipment”, “appropriate regeneration”, and “appropriate plans”). “Appropriate” means “appropriate to the scale, intensity, risk and context of the specific smallholder situation” and to the peoples and values present. This gives some flexibility to the smallholder and gives some discretion to the auditor, and therefore opens room for interpretation. “Appropriate” is an auditable term and occurs in many of the Indicators in the IGI and in almost every principle – often in the context of “culturally appropriate” – and frequently in the Guidance to Standard Developers.



6.9 Definitions

All words in the Indicators in this Standard that appear in italics are defined in the Glossary. Words in the Principles and Criteria or in the Glossary that are marked with an asterix * are defined in the Glossary of the Principles and Criteria Version 5-2 (FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2) or in the Glossary of the International Generic Indicators (IGI) Version 2-0 (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).



7. Principles, Criteria and Indicators

PRINCIPLE 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

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

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

1.1.1 The *smallholder* has evidence that confirms the *smallholder's* undisputed right to manage the forest and use the resources within the scope of the certificate.

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

1.2.1 The *smallholder* clearly shows the boundaries of his or her forest using maps, documents or other appropriate means on the ground and shows that the *smallholder* has the rights to all forest products produced on the *smallholder's* forest.

Explanatory Note: This Indicator refers to the boundaries of the forest for which FSC certification is sought. The only products that can claim FSC certification are the timber and non-timber forest products from that forest.

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

1.3.1 The *smallholder* carries out *forestry activities* in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, administrative requirements and *legal and customary rights*.

1.3.2 The *smallholder* makes all required payments related to *forestry activities* within the prescribed time limits.

1.3.3 **If *non-timber forest products* are for human consumption or personal use such as skincare or medicine**, all applicable *legal* and administrative requirements for hygiene and food safety are complied with.

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

1.4.1 The *smallholder* uses measures to protect the *smallholder's* forest from unauthorized or



illegal activities.

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

1.5.1 The *smallholder* complies with all laws related to transport and trade of forest products and *non-timber forest products* up to the point of first sale.

Explanatory Note: The “applicable laws” for transport and trade vary by country and auditors will need to be aware of the specific legislation in the specific country of the *smallholder*.

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

1.6.1 The *smallholder* has, or can make use of, an appropriate process to quickly resolve any disputes that arise which directly involve the *smallholder*.

1.6.2 The *smallholder* follows the process and seeks to quickly resolve disputes that directly involve the *smallholder*.

1.6.3 The *smallholder* or their *named representative* keeps a record of disputes.

1.6.4 The *smallholder* immediately stops *forestry activities* if there are unresolved *significant disputes* that directly involve the *smallholder*.

Explanatory Note: This Criterion, along with Criterion 1.7, is an example of a situation where the requirement to meet the Indicator requirements falls on the *smallholder*, but another entity - a group manager or other organization - can provide support and assistance to the *smallholder* by preparing the processes, or procedures or documents required and can keep records on behalf of the *smallholder*. The requirement is that the *smallholder* demonstrate an awareness of the existence of a process and the requirement for records and uses them if required. The record of disputes required by Indicator 1.6.3 should include basic relevant information about the nature of the dispute and how it was resolved.

Criterion 1.7 The Organization* shall* publicize a commitment not to offer or receive bribes in money or any other form of corruption and shall* comply with anti-corruption legislation where this exists. In the absence of anti-corruption legislation, The Organization* shall* implement other anti-corruption measures proportionate to the scale* and intensity* of management activities and the risk* of corruption.

1.7.1 The *smallholder* makes a written commitment not to offer or receive bribes.

1.7.2 **If requested**, the *smallholder* or their *named representative* provides the commitment to a person who requests it at no cost to the requestor.



1.7.3 The *smallholder* has no involvement in any bribery, coercion or other acts of corruption related to the *smallholder's* forest.

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

Explanatory Note: A *smallholder* demonstrates the commitment (required by this criterion) by conforming with FSC *Principles* and *Criteria* and other respective requirements, when the *smallholder* chooses to participate in the FSC system.

Therefore, by participating in the certification process, the *smallholder* is in conformity with the requirements of this criterion.

PRINCIPLE 2: WORKERS'* RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

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

Explanatory Note: The terms “worker”, “temporary worker”, “employee”, “family member” and “volunteer” are all defined in the Glossary. The terms “worker”, “temporary worker” and “employee” refer to forest workers who receive direct financial payment through employment. They may be employed directly by the *smallholder*, or may be employed by a contractor who is hired by the *smallholder*. “Family members” are direct relatives of the *smallholder* or business partners or co-owners and may receive compensation in various forms but are not employed or contracted to work. Business associates are non-family members who have some ownership or financial involvement with the *smallholder* and are not employees. “Volunteers” also work without direct financial compensation as members of a community or co-operative *smallholder* forest. Indicators in Principle 2 refer to some or all of these categories. Some, for example in Criterion 2.2, only apply to “temporary workers” or “employees”. Others, for example in Criterion 2.3, refer to all of “temporary workers”, “employees”, “family members” and “volunteers”.

The requirements of Principle 2 that apply to temporary workers apply whether the temporary worker is hired by the *smallholder* or by a separate contractor. In cases where the temporary worker works for a contractor, the *smallholder* is required to ensure that the Indicator requirements are met by the contractor.

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

2.1.1 The *smallholder* does not have temporary workers, employees or volunteers below the age of 15.

2.1.1.1. The *smallholder* does not allow work to interfere with the schooling of any children under the age of 15.

2.1.1.2 The *smallholder* does not allow any children under the age of 18 to perform



hazardous or heavy work.

2.1.2 The *smallholder* does not force *temporary workers* or *employees* to work.

2.1.3 The *smallholder* does not discriminate in hiring *temporary workers* or *employees*.

Explanatory Note: *The numbering of Indicators 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.1.2 is required by the addition of indicators into the International Generic Indicators (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0 EN).*

Indicator 2.1.1 does not allow the smallholder to have temporary workers, employees or volunteers under the age of 15 working on the smallholding. It does allow smallholders to have their children who are family members under the age of 15 involved in forestry activities, but Indicators 2.1.1.1 and 2.1.1.2 do not allow that participation to interfere with schooling of their children under 15, or to involve hazardous or heavy work by children under 18. In a community forest, children under 15 could accompany parents or other family members to the forest and participate in forestry activities but could not have paid employment and should not be “working” in the same way that adults are working or engaged in hazardous or heavy work.

Discrimination in Indicator 2.1.3 refers to any form of discrimination in the hiring of employees – for example, discrimination based on age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation – as outlined in the core conventions in the ILO Declaration of 1998 (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).

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

2.2.1 **If the *smallholder* hires *temporary workers* or *employees*,** the *smallholder* promotes equality among men and women and prevents discrimination in *employment*.

2.2.2 **If the *smallholder* hires *temporary workers* or *employees*,** the *smallholder* provides job opportunities to both men and women under the same conditions, and women are encouraged to participate actively in all levels of employment.

2.2.3 The *smallholder* provides equal opportunities to all *temporary workers, employees, family members* and *volunteers* to receive training and participate in health and safety programs related to the work they do.

2.2.4 The *smallholder* pays women and men *temporary workers* or *employees* equally when they do the same job.

2.2.5 The *smallholder* pays *temporary workers* or *employees* directly using methods that the *smallholder* and the *temporary worker* or *employee* agree on.

2.2.6 **Unless declined,** the *smallholder* provides women *temporary workers* or *employees* in all levels of employment with maternity leave in accordance with national legislation but, in all cases, not less than 6 weeks maternity leave following the birth of a child.



2.2.7 **If requested**, the *smallholder* provides men *temporary workers* or *employees* with paternity leave with no penalty following the birth of a child.

2.2.8 **If the *smallholder* forest is a community-owned forest or a co-operative**, 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 **If the *smallholder* forest is a community-owned forest or a co-operative**, confidential and effective mechanisms exist for reporting and eliminating cases of sexual harassment and discrimination based on gender, marital status, parenthood or sexual orientation.

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

2.3.1 The *smallholder* and his or her *temporary workers*, *employees*, *family members*, *business associates* and *volunteers* have safe work practices.

2.3.2 The *smallholder* and his or her *temporary workers*, *employees*, *family members*, *business associates* and *volunteers* use appropriate safety equipment.

2.3.3 The *smallholder* or their *named representative* keeps a record of any accidents.

2.3.4 The *smallholder* changes practices that have caused, or will likely cause, accidents in the *smallholder's* forest.

2.3.5 If hunting or other dangerous activities are part of the forestry activities, the *smallholder* identifies the dangerous activities and implements safety measures to protect the public where hunting or other dangerous activities related to NTFP activities are carried out.

Explanatory Note: *The ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work provides examples of safe work practices and personal protective equipment (Table 1, page 37) appropriate for the smallholder for different forestry tasks. Auditors should consider the tasks the smallholder is doing and the equipment he or she is using to interpret the guidance provided in this Code.*

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

2.4.1 **If the *smallholder* hires *temporary workers* or *employees***, the *smallholder* pays *temporary workers* or *employees* at wage rates that meet or exceed any *legal* minimum wage.

2.4.2 **If no *legal* minimum wage exists**, the *smallholder* pays a *living wage* to *temporary workers* or *employees* that is agreed prior to work starting.



2.4.3 The *smallholder* makes wage and contract payments within the prescribed time limits.

Applicability Note: *If a smallholder does not have any temporary workers or employees, Criterion 2.4 does not apply. If there is no minimum wage (2.4.1) in the country or state where the smallholder forest is located, then Indicator 2.4.2 applies. The “living wage” referred to in Indicator 2.4.2 is defined in the Glossary.*

Explanatory Note: *The terms “hires” and “wages” in Indicators 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 refer to employment. They do not apply to, or restrict, the common smallholder practice of labour exchange.*

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

2.5.1 The *smallholder* provides training and supervision so that *temporary workers, employees, family members, business associates and volunteers* can work safely and effectively in the tasks that they do.

Criterion 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 **If the *smallholder* hires *temporary workers or employees*, the *smallholder* has, or can make use of, an appropriate process to quickly resolve any disputes that arise with those *temporary workers or employees*.**

2.6.2 The *smallholder* follows the process and seeks to resolve disputes or grievances with *temporary workers or employees*.

2.6.3 The *smallholder* or their *named representative* keeps a record of any disputes or grievances with *temporary workers or employees*.

2.6.4 The *smallholder* compensates *temporary workers or employees* for any loss or damage of property and occupational disease* or injuries related to work in the *smallholder’s* forest.

Applicability Note: *If a smallholder does not have any temporary workers or employees, Criterion 2.6 does not apply.*

Explanatory Note: *As in Criterion 1.6, the requirement to meet the Indicators falls on the smallholder, but another entity - a group manager or other organization - can provide support and assistance to the smallholder by preparing the processes, or procedures or documents required and can keep records on behalf of the smallholder. The requirement is that the smallholder demonstrate an awareness of the existence of a process and the requirement for records and uses them if required. The record of disputes required by Indicator 2.6.3 should include basic relevant information about the nature of the dispute and how it was resolved.*



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.

Applicability Note: *To determine if Principle 3 is applicable, the first requirement is an assessment in Criterion 3.1. If no potentially affected Indigenous Peoples are identified in the smallholder's location, Principle 3 is not applicable. If a local Indigenous Person or an Indigenous community is the smallholder, Principle 3 is not applicable.*

If potentially affected Indigenous Peoples are identified in the assessment, Criteria 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 and related Indicators are applicable.

All of the indicators refer to "forestry activities" which includes NTFP activities within the scope of the indicator.

Explanatory Note: *A group manager or an external organization such as an NGO, purchaser, or government agency may assist a smallholder to conduct this assessment and to meet any requirements in Criteria 3.2, 3.3 or 3.4, if they are applicable.*

Criterion 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 *The smallholder has a culturally appropriate* assessment, that the smallholder is aware of, to determine if there are any Indigenous Peoples in the smallholder's location that are potentially affected by the smallholder's forestry activities.*

3.1.2 **If potentially affected Indigenous Peoples are present in the smallholder's location (3.1.1),** *the smallholder identifies the Indigenous Peoples, their specific location, their rights and their interests in the smallholder's forest.*

Explanatory Note: *The assessment to identify Indigenous Peoples may be completed by group manager or an external organization such as an NGO, purchaser, or government agency acting on behalf of, or providing assistance to the smallholder. The smallholder needs to be aware of the assessment and of any Indigenous Peoples identified, but it is not required that the smallholder undertake the assessment alone.*

If no potentially affected Indigenous Peoples are identified in the smallholder's location, the remaining Criteria in Principle 3 are not applicable.

The term "smallholder's location" is defined in the Glossary.



Criterion 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 If potentially affected *Indigenous Peoples* are present in the *smallholder's location*, the *smallholder* informs the *Indigenous Peoples* about the *smallholder's forestry activities* in the *smallholder's forest* and seeks their comments.

3.2.2 If potentially affected *Indigenous Peoples* are present in the *smallholder's location*, the *smallholder's forestry activities* do not violate any rights.

3.2.3 If potentially affected *Indigenous Peoples* are present in the *smallholder's location*, and if the *smallholder* has violated rights in the *smallholder's forest*, the *smallholder* uses culturally appropriate* means to correct the situation.

3.2.4 If potentially affected *Indigenous Peoples* are present in the *smallholder's location*, the *smallholder* obtains their *consent* to *forestry activities* that affect the identified rights of the *Indigenous Peoples* in the *smallholder's forest*.

Explanatory Note: *Consent means "Free, Prior and Informed Consent" as defined in the Glossary. See also FSC-GUI-30-003 FSC guidelines for the implementation of the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) Version 1, 30 October 2012, pages 25 and 42, for application to smallholders.*

Criterion 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 If potentially affected *Indigenous Peoples* are present in the *smallholder's location*, the *smallholder* demonstrates that the *smallholder* is seeking, or has obtained *consent* for *forestry activities* in the *smallholder's forest* and follows the requirements of all agreements.

3.3.2 If potentially affected *Indigenous Peoples* are present in the *smallholder's location*, and if agreements are made (3.3.1), the *smallholder* or their *named representative* has a record of agreements.

Explanatory Note: *If the smallholder is seeking consent at the time of certification, consent should be obtained within the first 5-year term of the certificate. It will be up to auditors working for certification bodies to determine if efforts to obtain consent have been made and if there has been significant progress.*



Criterion 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 If potentially affected *Indigenous Peoples* are present in the *smallholder's location*, the *smallholder* protects the *Indigenous Peoples* rights, customs and culture in the *smallholder's* forest.

3.4.2 If potentially affected *Indigenous Peoples* are present in the *smallholder's location*, and if the rights have not been protected in the *smallholder's* forest, the *smallholder* is taking steps to restore such rights, customs or culture.

Criterion 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 If potentially affected *Indigenous Peoples* are present in the *smallholder's location*, the *smallholder* works with the *Indigenous Peoples* to identify and protect sites that are significant to the *Indigenous Peoples* in the *smallholder's* forest.

3.5.2 If sites that are significant to *Indigenous Peoples* are found during forestry activities, the *smallholder* immediately stops forestry activities that may affect those sites.

Criterion 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 If potentially affected *Indigenous Peoples* are present in the *smallholder's location*, the *smallholder* does not use the traditional knowledge of the *Indigenous Peoples* for economic benefit without consent and/or compensation.

***Explanatory Note:* In many situations, smallholders are members of the Indigenous Peoples and are entitled to use traditional knowledge in managing their smallholder forest without consent and/or compensation.**



PRINCIPLE 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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

Applicability Note: Principle 4 may be determined to be not applicable if one of the following applies:

- If there are no potentially affected local communities in a smallholder's location, the rest of Principle 4 is not applicable.
- If a local community owns or collectively manages a smallholder management unit, Principle 4 is not applicable.
- If a smallholder is a member of a local community that has legal and customary rights to maintain control over forestry activities in that location, Principle 4 is not applicable.

If potentially affected local communities are identified in the assessment, all the Criteria in Principle 4, with the possible exception of Criterion 4.2 and related Indicators are applicable. A group manager or an external organization such as an NGO, purchaser, or government agency may assist a smallholder to meet those requirements.

All of the indicators refer to "forestry activities" which includes NTFP activities within the scope of the standard.

Explanatory Note: The term "local communities" is defined in the Glossary. Criterion 4.2 recognizes that some local communities, including ethnic minorities or forest dwelling communities, have long-standing legal and customary rights and may maintain some control over forestry activities on a smallholder's forest in order to maintain those rights. Other local communities do not have those legal and customary rights.

A group manager or an external organization such as an NGO, purchaser, or government agency may assist a smallholder to conduct the assessment required in Indicator 4.1.1 and to determine if Principle 4 is applicable. These organizations may assist a smallholder to meet any requirements of Principle 4, if they are applicable.

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

4.1.1 The *smallholder* has an appropriate assessment, that the *smallholder* is aware of, to determine if there are any *local communities* in the *smallholder's location* that are potentially affected by the *smallholder's forestry activities* in the *smallholder's forest*.

4.1.2 If **potentially affected local communities** are present in the **smallholder's location (4.1.1)**, the *smallholder* knows the *local communities' legal and customary rights* of tenure, access and use in the *smallholder's forest*.

4.1.3 If **potentially affected local communities** are present in the **smallholder's location**, the *smallholder* has identified the interests of the *local community* in the *smallholder's forestry*



activities in the smallholder's forest.

4.1.4 If potentially affected local communities are present in the smallholder's location, the smallholder has identified and sought to resolve any conflicts or disputes with those local communities in the smallholder's forest.

Applicability Note: *If no potentially affected local communities are identified, Principle 4 is not applicable. If a local community owns or collectively manages the smallholder management unit or if the smallholder is a member of the local community with legal and customary rights, Principle 4 is not applicable.*

Explanatory Note: *The assessment to identify local communities may be completed by a group manager or an external organization such as an NGO, purchaser, or government agency acting on behalf of, or providing assistance to, the smallholder. The smallholder needs to be aware of the assessment and of any local communities identified, but it is not required that the smallholder undertake the assessment alone. The term "smallholder's location" is defined in the Glossary.*

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

4.2.1 If potentially affected local communities that have legal and customary rights to maintain control over forestry activities are present in the smallholder's location, the smallholder consults with the local communities and obtains their comments and consent in a culturally appropriate* process prior to forestry activities in the smallholder's forest.

4.2.2 If potentially affected local communities that have legal and customary rights to maintain control over forestry activities are present in the smallholder's location, the smallholder respects the local community rights and finds a solution for any violations caused by forestry activities in the smallholder's forest.

4.2.3 If potentially affected local communities that have legal and customary rights to maintain control over forestry activities are present in the smallholder's location, and if consent, required in Indicator 4.2.1, has not been granted, the smallholder is engaged in an appropriate consultation process with the local communities about forestry activities in the smallholder's forest.

Criterion 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.

Applicability Note: *There are no Indicators in Criterion 4.3 applicable to smallholders. Because of the small scale and intensity of smallholders' forestry activities, it is not expected that an individual smallholder should provide opportunities for local communities, contractors or external suppliers, although typically they do not have resources to hire or purchase anywhere else other than their local communities.*



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

Applicability Note: There are no Indicators in Criterion 4.4 applicable to smallholders. Because of the small scale, low intensity and little socio-economic impact of smallholder's forestry activities, it is not expected that an individual smallholder implements additional activities to contribute to social and economic development of local communities.

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

4.5.1 If *local communities* are present in the *smallholder's location*, the *smallholder* avoids significant impacts of *forestry activities* in the *smallholder's* forest on the *local communities*.

4.5.2 If *local communities* are present in the *smallholder's location*, and if significant impacts from the *forestry activities* in the *smallholder's* forest have occurred, the *smallholder* tries to find a solution for them.

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

4.6.1 If *local communities* are present in the *smallholder's location*, the *smallholder* has, or can make use of, a culturally appropriate* process to quickly resolve any disputes in the *smallholder's* forest.

4.6.2 The *smallholder* or their *named representative* keeps a record of any disputes.

4.6.3 If there are *significant disputes with any local communities*, the *smallholder* immediately stops *forestry activities* in the *smallholder's* forest.

Explanatory Note: As in Criteria 1.6 and 2.6, the requirement to meet the Indicators falls on the *smallholder*, but another entity - a group manager or other organization - can provide support and assistance to the *smallholder* by preparing the processes, or procedures or documents required and can keep records on behalf of the *smallholder*. The requirement is that the *smallholder* demonstrate an awareness of the existence of a process and the requirement for records and uses them if required. The record of disputes required by Indicator 4.6.2 should include basic relevant information about the nature of the dispute and how it was resolved.

Criterion 4.7 The Organization*, through engagement* with local communities*, shall* identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance, and for which these local communities* hold legal* or customary rights*. These



sites shall* be recognized by The Organization*, and their management and/or protection* shall* be agreed through engagement* with these local communities*.

4.7.1 Based on culturally appropriate* consultation, the *smallholder* identifies and protects *sites that are significant* to the *local communities* in the *smallholder's* forest.

4.7.2 If sites that are significant to *the local communities* are found during *forestry activities*, the *smallholder* immediately stops *forestry activities* that may affect those sites.

Criterion 4.8 The Organization* shall* uphold* the right of local communities* to protect* and utilize their traditional knowledge* and shall* compensate local communities* for the utilization of such knowledge and 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 If local communities are identified in the *smallholder's location*, the *smallholder* does not use the traditional knowledge of the local communities for economic benefit without consent and/or compensation.

Explanatory Note: *In some situations, smallholders will be members of the local community and entitled to use traditional knowledge in managing their own forest without consent and/or compensation.*



PRINCIPLE 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST*

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

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

5.1.1 If the *smallholder* makes FSC promotional claims regarding the maintenance and/or enhancement of *ecosystem services*, the *smallholder* follows the Ecosystem Services Procedure (FSC-PRO-30-006 V1-0 and FSC-GUI-30-006 V1-0).

Explanatory Note: The term “ecosystem services” refers to all the benefits that are provided by a healthy environment – clean water, food and medicine, cultural values and regulation of climate and erosion, for example. The term is defined in the Glossary.

Ecosystem services are no longer part of the FSC forest management standard. If a smallholder wishes to make promotional claims regarding maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services, they must follow the procedures described in FSC-PRO-30-006 V1-0 Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools and FSC-GUI-30-006 V1-0 Guidance for Demonstrating Ecosystem Services Impacts.

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

5.2.1 The *smallholder* has determined a harvest level for the *smallholder*'s forest resources in the management plan.

5.2.2 The *smallholder* removes forest resources at a rate that is environmentally sustainable and consistent with the management plan.

5.2.3 The *smallholder* or their *named representative* keeps a written record of forest resources removed from the *smallholder*'s forest.

Applicability Note: This Criterion applies to harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products.

Most smallholder timber harvesting activities in Southeast Asia involve short-rotation species which are planted, clear cut in a very few years, and then coppiced or quickly replanted. In these situations, there is no “sustainable timber harvest”, or “environmentally sustainable rate of harvest”. Indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 are not applicable to these short-rotation plantations.

In situations where Indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.2 are applicable, the information required to be included in the smallholder's management plan is in Principle 7.

Indicator 5.2.3 is applicable in all situations.



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

Applicability Note: There are no Indicators in Criterion 5.3 applicable to smallholders. Because of the small scale and low intensity of smallholders' forestry activities, it is not expected that the smallholder creates positive or negative externalities except on a small scale and short impact.

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

Applicability Note: There are no Indicators in Criterion 5.4 applicable to smallholders. Smallholders are often families or community groups, and because of the small scale and low intensity of all smallholders' forestry activities, it is not expected that the smallholder makes attempts to use local processing, local services or local value-added facilities, although in reality, that is what they do while trying to earn a living.

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

Applicability Note: There are no indicators in Criterion 5.5 applicable to smallholders. Because of the small scale and low intensity of smallholders' forestry activities, it is not expected that the smallholder needs to demonstrate long-term commitment to 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.

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

6.1.1 The *smallholder* has an *environmental assessment*, that the *smallholder* is aware of, that identifies *environmental values* in the *smallholder's* forest and the *immediate vicinity*.

6.1.2 **If hunting is part of the forestry activities**, the proposed level of hunting does not threaten the population of the target species in the long-term.

Explanatory Note: *The assessment of environment values may be completed by a group manager or an external organization such as an NGO, purchaser, or government agency acting on behalf of or providing assistance to the smallholder. The smallholder needs to be aware of the assessment and of any values identified, but it is not required that the smallholder alone undertakes the assessment.*

For smallholders an appropriate assessment could be a simple checklist or a document or a map prepared for the smallholder's forest by a group manager or an external organization.

The term "immediate vicinity" is defined in the Glossary.

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

6.2.1 The assessment of *environmental values* (6.1.1) identifies any potential impacts that might be caused by the *forestry activities* in the *smallholder's* forest.

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

6.3.1 The *smallholder* carries out *forestry activities* in ways that do not have negative impacts on identified values in the *smallholder's* forest (6.1.1) and the *immediate vicinity*.

6.3.2 If negative impacts occur as a result of the *smallholder's* forestry activities, the *smallholder* changes practices and makes reasonable efforts to repair damage.



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

6.4.1 The *smallholder's* assessment of environmental values (6.1.1) has identified any *rare* or *threatened species* or habitats that occur or may occur in the *smallholder's* forest or the *immediate vicinity*.

6.4.2 If *rare* or *threatened species* or habitats are identified in the *smallholder's* forest or the *immediate vicinity* (6.1.1), the *smallholder's* management plan (7.1.1) includes measures to protect the species or habitats in the *smallholder's* forest.

6.4.3 If *rare* or *threatened species* are identified in the *smallholder's* forest or the *immediate vicinity* (6.1.1), the *smallholder* prevents hunting, fishing, trapping and collection of *rare* or *threatened species* in the *smallholder's* forest.

Explanatory Note: *A group manager or an external organization such as an NGO, purchaser, or government agency may assist the smallholder to identify if there are any rare or threatened species in the immediate vicinity of the smallholder's forest. If any are identified in the immediate vicinity, they may assist in developing measures to protect those species or habitats. The smallholder needs to be aware of the assessment and of any species and habitats identified, and of the measures to protect them but is not required to undertake the assessment alone.*

The term "immediate vicinity" is defined in the Glossary.

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

6.5.1 The *smallholder* assists in identifying and protecting representative sample areas of native ecosystems where those exist in the *smallholder's* forest or in the *smallholder's location*.

6.5.2 Where representative sample areas of native ecosystems do not exist in the *smallholder's* forest or the *smallholder's location*, the *smallholder* works with others to facilitate regeneration and restoration of suitable areas in the *smallholder's location* to more natural conditions if suitable areas exist.

Explanatory Note: *Restoration of suitable areas in the smallholder's location to more natural conditions if suitable areas exist are required by this indicator. "Suitable areas" include areas with*



some natural conditions, or some regenerating native species, already existing nearby the site, and where there is no other land use threatening those conditions. Restoration might involve simply letting those areas recover, or more active intervention to protect and enhance those conditions to support their restoration.

6.5.3 The *smallholder*, if part of a group entity, to the extent possible, works with others to achieve the target of maintaining a minimum of 10% of the native ecosystems in the *smallholder's location* in representative sample areas through conservation or restoration of native ecosystems.

Applicability Note: *Indicator 6.5.3 is applicable only for those smallholders which operate within group entities.*

Explanatory Note: *Criterion 6.5 requires all applicants for FSC certification to protect native ecosystems or to restore representative suitable areas to more natural conditions. Native ecosystems include natural forests but also other ecosystems such as wetlands or open grasslands that are native to that location. The three Indicators in Criterion 6.5 are applicable ONLY IF there are native ecosystems present in the smallholder's forest or in the smallholder's location, OR if opportunities exist to restore areas in the smallholder's forest or in the smallholder's location to more natural conditions. If native ecosystems or opportunities for restoration do not exist in the smallholder's forest or the smallholder's location, Criterion 6.5 is not applicable.*

The FSC Interpretation Notes INT-STD-01-001_09 and INT-STD-20-007_45 (found in Interpretations of the Normative Framework, 12th February, 2019) provide interpretation and guidance for this Criterion specific to smallholders. The Interpretation Notes state that the minimum 10% requirement for protection or restoration can be met at a group level, and can be met outside the smallholder's forests (if the management unit is smaller than 50 ha) or outside a group's forests. INT-STD-01-001_09 states that the areas outside the forest must be in the same forest landscape. However, these interpretations and the minimum 10% requirement only apply if native ecosystems or opportunities for restoration exist. Further guidance about the minimum 10% requirement is provided in Principle 6, Annex D, Conservation Area Network Conceptual Diagram on page 41 in the International Generic Indicators (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

The Indicators for smallholders presented here do not require that the smallholder set aside 10% of the smallholder's forest or any of the smallholder's forest. They require the smallholder, or organizations assisting the smallholder, to identify any native ecosystems (including any natural forest) that exist in the smallholder's forest. If any native ecosystems exist, the smallholder is required to achieve a target of protecting a minimum of 10% of those native ecosystems in representative sample areas in, or in the location of, the smallholder's forest. This can be achieved in the smallholder's forest or outside it, but in most circumstances will be outside the smallholder's forest. Where natural ecosystems do not exist, the smallholder is expected to work with or assist others to restore a suitable area in the location to more natural conditions, if those opportunities exist.

The term "smallholder's location" is defined in the Glossary. The term "to the extent possible" in Indicator 6.5.3 will reflect a combination of the extent of native ecosystems available for protection in the location, the potential for restoration when they do not exist, the capacity of the smallholder, based on the size of the smallholder's forest, and the resources available.

As in other Criteria in Principle 6, it is anticipated that a group manager or an external organization such as an NGO, purchaser, or government agency may assist the smallholder to interpret and



meet these requirements.

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

6.6.1 The *smallholder* has implemented ways to control any hunting, fishing, trapping and collection activities for *native species* in the *smallholder's* forest.

6.6.2 **If hunting is part of the forestry activities**, the *smallholder* ensures that the population levels of target species and species diversity are not threatened.

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

6.7.1 The *smallholder* protects the quality and quantity of water in streams, ponds and lakes, and the vegetation beside them, in the *smallholder's* forest.

6.7.2 The *smallholder* repairs damage to streams, ponds and lakes, or the vegetation beside them, that the *smallholder's forestry activities* have caused.

Explanatory Note: *The smallholder is responsible for avoiding impacts from forest activities within his or her forest and for repairing any damage that his or her activities have caused. He or she is not responsible for preventing impacts caused by his or her neighbours or others on nearby land or required to repair damage caused by any neighbour or other party on nearby properties.*

Examples of measures to protect the quality and quantity of water in streams, ponds and lakes include buffer zones, maintenance of native vegetation, avoidance of trails or roads and measures to prevent sedimentation.

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

Explanatory Note: *The activities of most individual smallholders within the scope of this standard are at such a small scale and low intensity that they do not affect landscape values in the region or affect environmental or economic resilience as described in Criterion 6.8. Thus, for most smallholders, Criterion 6.8 is not applicable. However, in some situations, individual smallholders' farms are contiguous with a number of other similar smallholders, and the smallholder's forestry activities are conducted together with those other smallholders on units that are much larger than 20 hectares. In these situations, when individual smallholders combine their activities with other smallholders, they can affect landscape values, for example when the combined operations result in a large clearcut and a uniform regenerating stand of a single age and a single species after*



harvest. In situations where the individual smallholder participates in these larger scale activities with multiple other smallholders, Indicator 6.8.1 is applicable.

6.8.1 The *smallholder* avoids undertaking *forestry activities* with other *smallholders* that result in large scale landscape level disturbance or the establishment of large uniform forests within a landscape.

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

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

6.9.1 The *smallholder* does not convert natural forest to plantation.

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

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

6.10.1 If the *smallholder's* forest is a plantation that was converted from natural forest, the *smallholder* shows that either:

- a) the forest was converted to plantation prior to November 1994; or
- b) it was not converted by the current *smallholder*.



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.

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

7.1.1 The *smallholder* or their *named representative* has, and the *smallholder* is aware of, a *management plan* for the *smallholder's* forest. The management plan identifies

- any timber or *non-timber forest products* produced in the *smallholder's* forest; and,
- any *environmental values* (6.1.1) that are found in the *smallholder's* forest or in the *immediate vicinity* of the *smallholder's* forest; and,
- any interests or values important to *Indigenous Peoples* (3.1.2) or *local communities* (4.1.3) in the *smallholder's* location.

7.1.2 The *smallholder's* *management plan* sets objectives, including harvesting objectives for the production of timber and non-timber forest products and objectives for the protection of environmental values in the *smallholder's* forest.

Explanatory Note: *The management plan is expected to be a simple document specific to the smallholder's forest. It should set objectives for protection of environmental values or interests that are found within and in the "immediate vicinity of the smallholder's forest, and for values or interests within the "immediate vicinity" that are important to Indigenous Peoples or local communities in the smallholder's location.*

A management plan may be prepared by a group manager or an external organization such as an NGO, purchaser, or government agency acting on behalf of, or providing assistance to, the smallholder. The smallholder will need to be aware of the plan and of any values and interests identified, but it is not required that the smallholder undertake preparation of a simple management plan alone.

The terms "management plan", "immediate vicinity" and "smallholder's location" are defined in the Glossary.

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



and social management planning proportionate to scale*, intensity* and risk* of the planned activities.

7.2.1 The *smallholder's management plan* identifies actions and *forestry activities* to be taken in the *smallholder's forest* to meet the objectives in the *management plan*.

7.2.2 The *smallholder* implements the actions and *forestry activities* in the *management plan*.

7.2.3 **If collection of *non-timber forest products* is included within the forestry activities**, the *management plan* describes how the specific *non-timber forest products* are managed and collected, based on established management practices.

7.2.4 **If hunting is included within the forestry activities**, the *management plan* includes elements relating to species being hunted, measures for monitoring impacts to species, and a general evaluation of the ecological impacts of hunting.

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

7.3.1 The *smallholder* has ways to monitor if the objectives in the *management plan* are met.

Explanatory Note: Monitoring (Indicator 7.3.1) to determine if objectives are met, and review of the management plan (Indicator 7.4.1) may be done by a group manager or an external organization such as an NGO, purchaser, or government agency acting on behalf of, or providing assistance to, the smallholder. The monitoring and review should be specific to the smallholder's forest and the smallholder will need to be aware of the results, but it is not required that the smallholder undertake monitoring and review of a management plan alone.

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

7.4.1 The *smallholder* reviews the *management plan* periodically and revises the *management plan* if relevant circumstances change.

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

7.5.1 **If requested**, the *smallholder* provides public information from the *management plan* to a person who requests it at no cost to the requestor.

Criterion 7.6 The Organization* shall*, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk* of



management activities, proactively and transparently engage affected stakeholders* in its management planning and monitoring processes, and shall* engage interested stakeholders* on request.

7.6.1 The *smallholder* informs *affected* and *interested stakeholders* about management planning and monitoring.

7.6.2 **If requested**, the *smallholder* carries out culturally appropriate* consultation with *affected* and *interested stakeholders*.



PRINCIPLE 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

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

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

8.1.1 The *smallholder* monitors implementation of the *management plan*, including social and environmental impacts.

Explanatory Note: *The smallholder may be assisted by a group manager or an external organization such as an NGO, purchaser, or government agency acting on behalf of, or providing assistance to, the smallholder. The smallholder needs to be aware of the monitoring but it is not required that the smallholder alone undertake the monitoring.*

The term “management plan” is defined in the Glossary.

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

Applicability Note: *The activities of most individual smallholders within the scope of this standard are at such a small scale and low intensity that they do not cause environmental or social impacts or change environmental conditions as described in Criterion 8.2. Thus, for most smallholders, Criterion 8.2 is not applicable. However, in some situations, individual smallholders' farms are contiguous with a number of other similar smallholders, and the smallholder's forestry activities are conducted together with those other smallholders on units that are much larger than 20 hectares. In these situations, the combined activities of smallholders working together can have environmental and social impacts. In situations where the individual smallholder participates in these larger scale activities with multiple other smallholders, Indicator 8.2.1 is applicable.*

Explanatory Note: *A group manager or an external organization such as an NGO, purchaser, or government agency may assist the smallholder to undertake monitoring to meet Indicator 8.2.1.*

8.2.1 The *smallholder* monitors social and environmental impacts of *forestry activities* when they are carried out with other *smallholders* that are adjacent and create a larger operational unit than the scope of this standard covers.

Criterion 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 *smallholder* periodically improves the *management plan* based on monitoring results.

Explanatory Note: *The smallholder may be assisted by a group manager or an external organization such as an NGO, a purchaser or a government agency acting on behalf of, or providing assistance to, the smallholder. The smallholder needs to be aware of the monitoring and any changes to the management plan, but it is not required that the smallholder alone undertake the monitoring and planning.*

The frequency of monitoring and revision of the management plan depends on the smallholder's production cycle and the management objectives.

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

8.4.1 **If requested**, the *smallholder* provides results of monitoring to a person who requests them at no cost to the requestor.

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

8.5.1 The *smallholder* or their *named representative* has a system to track all products from the *smallholder's* forest that are sold as FSC certified to the smallest land unit.

8.5.2 The *smallholder* or their *named representative* keeps a record of all FSC certified products sold, including product name, purchaser, amount, source, date, and certificate code for a minimum of five years.

Explanatory note: *The smallholder is responsible for keeping records of the FSC products sold to meet Indicator 8.5.2. The smallholder may be assisted by a group manager or an external organization such as an NGO, purchaser, or government agency acting on behalf of, or providing assistance to, the smallholder and named by the smallholder.*

8.5.3 **If hunting or honey collection is part of the forestry activities and FSC NTFP certification is sought**, the *smallholder* demonstrates that at least 50% of the pollen for honey came from, or 50% of an animal's lifespan was lived on, the certified management unit.



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*.

Applicability Note: *To determine if Principle 9 is applicable, the first requirement is an assessment of high conservation values in, or in the immediate vicinity of, the smallholder's forest in Criterion 9.1. If no high conservation values are identified, Principle 9 is not applicable.*

If High Conservation Values are identified in the assessment, Criteria 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4 and related Indicators are applicable. A group manager or an external organization such as an NGO, purchaser, or government agency may assist a smallholder to meet those requirements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9.1.1 The *smallholder* has an *HCV assessment*, that the *smallholder* is aware of, that identifies any *High Conservation Values* (Categories 1-6) in the *smallholder's* forest or the *immediate vicinity* and any threats to those *High Conservation Values*.

9.1.2 The assessment of *High Conservation Values* (9.1.1) is based on *best available information* and appropriate *engagement* with *interested stakeholders*.

Applicability Note: *An assessment that meets Indicator 9.1.1 and 9.1.2 must be completed, but if no High Conservation Values are identified, the remaining Indicators in Principle 9, except for*



Indicator 9.3.2, are not applicable.

Explanatory Note: *The assessment of high conservation values may be completed by an external entity or organization such as a group manager, an NGO, a purchaser or a government agency, acting on behalf of, or providing assistance to, the smallholder. The smallholder needs to be aware of the assessment and of any values identified, but it is not required that the smallholder alone undertake the assessment. If High Conservation Values are identified, the external organization may assist the smallholder to develop strategies in Indicator 9.2.1.*

An assessment is carried out by a person or organization with knowledge of High Conservation Values and sufficient knowledge of the local area to determine if High Conservation Values are present. It identifies both High Conservation Values and threats to those values. For smallholders, such an assessment could be a simple checklist of documents or a map prepared for the smallholder's forest by a group manager or an external organization. The assessment is carried out at a scale that allows determination of values in the immediate vicinity of the smallholder's forest and includes culturally appropriate consultation with knowledgeable local people.*

The document "Meeting the RSPO Certification Requirements for the Management and Monitoring of High Conservation Values", August 2013 may provide some guidance that is useful to smallholders.

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

9.2.1 If *High Conservation Values* are identified in the *smallholder's forest or immediate vicinity (9.1.1)*, the *smallholder* develops appropriate strategies to maintain and/or enhance the identified *High Conservation Values* in the *smallholder's forest*.

9.2.2 If *High Conservation Values* are identified in the *smallholder's forest or immediate vicinity (9.1.1)*, the *smallholder* seeks advice in developing strategies (9.2.1) from *affected and interested stakeholders* and experts.

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

9.3.1 If *High Conservation Values* are identified in the *smallholder's forest or immediate vicinity (9.1.1)*, the *smallholder* implements strategies and actions in the *smallholder's forest* that maintain and/or enhance the identified *High Conservation Values*.

9.3.2 The *smallholder* immediately stops *forestry activities* that might damage any new *High Conservation Values* that are found during forestry activities in the *smallholder's forest*.

Applicability Note: *Indicator 9.1.1 and 9.1.2 require that an assessment is completed, but if no High Conservation Values are identified, Indicator 9.3.1 is not applicable. However, Indicator 9.3.2 requires that forestry activities must stop if any new HCVs, not identified in the assessment, are*



found.

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

9.4.1 If High Conservation Values are identified in the *smallholder's* forest or immediate vicinity (9.1.1), the *smallholder* periodically monitors the *High Conservation Values* and the implementation of plans to maintain and/or enhance the values in the *smallholder's* forest.

9.4.2 If High Conservation Values are identified in the *smallholder's* forest or immediate vicinity (9.1.1), the *smallholder* consults with *customary rights* and *use rights* holders, *stakeholders* and experts about monitoring results and adapts the management strategies accordingly.

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.

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

10.1.1 The *smallholder* promptly replants or regrows trees on harvested sites using *native species* or appropriate *non-native species* that have been used locally in the past or are shown to be *non-invasive* in the local area.

Explanatory Note: *Non-native species are those species that did not occur naturally in the smallholder's location. They are species that have been imported from elsewhere. In many situations those non-native species have become locally common and have adapted to local environments and are not harmful to the local environment. Thus, locally known species may include non-native species if those species are present in the smallholder's location and are known to be non-invasive.*

"Invasive" refers to non-native species that spread rapidly and that compete with, and have negative impacts on, the local native species.

The terms "native", "non-native" and "invasive" are defined in the Glossary.

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

10.2.1 The *smallholder* follows the objectives in the *management plan* for planting or growing trees.

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

10.3.1 The *smallholder* does not use non-native *invasive species*.

10.3.2 **If requested by regulatory bodies**, the *smallholder* co-operates in programs to control *invasive* impacts of *non-native species* growing in the *smallholder's* forest.

Explanatory Note: *The term "invasive" is defined in the Glossary.*



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

10.4.1 The *smallholder* does not use *genetically modified organisms* in the *smallholder's* forest.

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

10.5.1 The *smallholder* uses appropriate practices to plant or grow trees.

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

10.6.1 The *smallholder* minimizes or avoids *not-natural fertilizer* use in the *smallholder's* forest.

10.6.2 The *smallholder* or their *named representative* keeps a record of the types and rates and places where *not-natural fertilizers* are used in the *smallholder's* forest.

10.6.3 The *smallholder* protects *environmental values* when *fertilizers* are used in the *smallholder's* forest.

10.6.4 The *smallholder* repairs any environmental damage resulting from the use of *fertilizers* in the *smallholder's* forest.

Explanatory Note: This Criterion and IGI Indicators refer to “fertilizers”. For the purposes of this Standard, “not-natural fertilizers” are defined in the Glossary as “mineral” or “not natural” fertilizers, often referred to as “synthetic” or “chemical” or “inorganic” fertilizers. The Indicators in this Criterion do not prevent the use of “organic” fertilizers, such as animal waste or composted plant material or other organic waste in the *smallholder's* forest.

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

10.7.1 The *smallholder* minimizes or avoids the use of chemical *pesticides* in the *smallholder's* forest.

10.7.2 The *smallholder* does not use or store any chemical *pesticides* prohibited by FSC policy in the *smallholder's* forest.

10.7.3 If **chemical pesticides** are used in the ***smallholder's* forest**, the *smallholder* or their *named representative* keeps a record of the types and rates and places where chemical *pesticides* are



used.

10.7.4 If **chemical pesticides** are used in the *smallholder's forest*, the *smallholder* or their *named representative* transports and stores them safely.

10.7.5 If **chemical pesticides** are used in the *smallholder's forest*, the *smallholder* uses them in ways that reduce risks to people and the environment.

10.7.6 If **chemical pesticides** are used in the *smallholder's forest*, the *smallholder* provides an appropriate reason for the choice over non-chemical alternatives.

10.7.7 If **production of honey or fruit or any other edible non-timber forest products is included within the forestry activities**, chemical pesticides are not used in the *smallholder's forest*.

Explanatory Note: The ILO 1993 document "Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work" provides guidance on the safe storage, transport and use of pesticides including the use of personal protective equipment during application of chemical pesticides.

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

10.8.1 The *smallholder* minimizes or avoids the use of *biological control agents* in the *smallholder's forest*.

10.8.2 If **biological control agents** are used in the *smallholder's forest*, the *smallholder* uses them in appropriate ways.

Explanatory Note: The reference to using biological control agents in "appropriate ways" includes complying with internationally accepted scientific protocols and preventing environmental damage.

10.8.3 If **biological control agents** are used in the *smallholder's forest*, the *smallholder* or their *named representative* keeps a record of the types, amount and places where biological control agents are used.

Explanatory Note: The term "biological control agents" is defined in the Glossary. They are organisms that are used to control insects or pests or other organisms that are harmful to the forest resources.

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

10.9.1 The *smallholder* carries out *forestry activities* in ways that reduce the risk of fire and other natural hazards in the *smallholder's forest* and the *immediate vicinity*.



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

10.10.1 The *smallholder* builds roads and/or trails and transports material in ways that protect *environmental values* identified in Criterion 6.1.

10.10.2 The *smallholder* immediately repairs any damage to watercourses, soils or threatened species or habitats caused by the *smallholder's forestry activities*.

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

10.11.1 The *smallholder* protects *environmental values*, including standing trees and woody debris, in harvesting and removing timber and *non-timber products*.

10.11.2 The *smallholder* uses, or allows others to use, the full variety of products resulting from harvesting.

10.11.3 The *smallholder* leaves some dead and decaying biomass on harvested sites to conserve *environmental values*.

Explanatory Note: *Retention of trees, woody debris and dead and decaying biomass is important to prevent soil erosion and protect habitat for birds and small mammals.*

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

10.12.1 The *smallholder* collects, transports and disposes of waste in appropriate ways.



Glossary

NOTE: This Glossary included definitions for all terms in italics in Indicators in this Regional Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders. It is developed specifically for this standard. It also includes many of the terms in the Principles and Criteria with an asterisk*. This Glossary includes both new definitions created for this standard and definitions from existing FSC normative documents or other documents.

Please also refer to FSC-STD-01-002 FSC Glossary of Terms October 2017 and to glossaries found in FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2 (FSC Principles and Criteria) and FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0 (International Generic Indicators) for terms with an asterisk * in the Principles or Criteria.

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

- Local communities
- Indigenous Peoples
- Workers
- Forest dwellers
- Neighbors
- 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).

Agro-forestry: Agroforestry is the term for land-use systems and technologies in which woody perennials (such as trees, shrubs, palms or bamboos) and agricultural crops or animals are deliberately grown on the same parcel of land in some form of spatial and temporal arrangement. **Source:** FAO.

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 forestry activities and the *Precautionary Approach**. **Source:** FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0.

Biological Control Agent: Organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other organisms. (**Source:** FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0 Based on FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0 and World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website).

Business associates: Non-family members who have some ownership as a business partner or financial involvement with the smallholder and are not employees. (**New**)

Child: Any person under the age of 18. **Source:** ILO Convention 182, Article 2.



Consent: The free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities, as defined in FSC-STD 60-004 V2-0 EN, provided through a culturally appropriate process. **(New)**

Community Producer: A forest management unit complying with the following tenure AND management criteria:

Tenure: The legal right to manage a forest management unit (e.g., title, long-term lease, concession) is held at the communal level, AND

- i) the community members must be either Indigenous Peoples or traditional peoples, OR
- ii) the forest management unit meets the smallholder eligibility criterion.

Management: The community actively manages the forest management unit through a concerted effort (e.g., under a communal forest management plan) OR the community authorizes management of the forest by others (e.g., resource manager, contractors, forest products company).

If the community authorizes management of the forest by others, criterion 1 and either criterion 2 or 3 must be met:

1. The community's own representative institution has legal responsibility for the harvesting operations, AND
2. The community performs the harvesting operations OR
3. The community's own representative institution is responsible for the forest management decisions, and follows and monitors the operations.

NOTE: The forest can be either located in a communal forest and/or on individually-assigned plots, as long as the right to use the forest is communally held (e.g., this is the case for Mexican ejidos, Brazilian sustainable development reserves).

Source: FSC- FSC-ADV-50-003

Culturally appropriate [means]: Means/approaches for outreach to target groups that are in harmony with the customs, values, sensitivities, and ways of life of the target audience.

Customary 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.

Dispute: An expression of dissatisfaction by any person or organization presented as a complaint relating to its forestry activities or its conformity with the FSC Principles and Criteria, where a response is expected. **Source:** based on FSC-PRO-01-005 V3-0 Processing Appeals.

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-60-004 V2-0.



Employ: To retain, and pay for, work services that are provided by a person who is not a relative or a family member of the smallholder and not a business partner or co-owner. **(New)**

Employee: See also “Family Member”, “Volunteer” and “Worker”. For the purposes of this Regional Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders, “Employee” and “Worker” refer to persons who are employed and paid directly for work on the smallholder’s forest. Typically, they are not relatives or family members of the smallholder and are hired and paid to carry out work under the direction and supervision of the smallholder. The terms “Employee” and “Worker” do not include:

- Family members and relatives who participate in work on the smallholder’s forest but who are not paid a wage for this work; or
- Volunteers from a local community or other organization who participate in work as members of a community or co-operatively owned smallholding but are not paid a wage for their contributions to the community benefit; or
- Business partners, business associates or co-owners. **(New)**

Employment: A work relationship between a smallholder and an individual that is not based on a family relationship with the smallholder or on participation in the management of a community-owned or co-operatively owned small-holding as a volunteer member of the community or organization but is based on payment, usually monetary, for labour or services, provided to the smallholder by the individual. **(New)**

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 V5-0.

Environmental Assessment: A simple Environmental Impact Assessment in the form of a checklist, or a document or a map.

Environmental Impact Assessment: Systematic process used to identify potential environmental and social impacts of proposed projects, to evaluate alternative approaches, and to design and incorporate appropriate prevention, mitigation, management and monitoring measures. **Source:** Based on Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for FAO Field Projects, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Rome. FSC-STD-01-001 v 5-2.

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

- Ecosystem functions (including carbon sequestration and storage);
- Biological diversity;
- Water resources;
- Soils;
- Atmosphere;
- Landscape values (including cultural and spiritual values).

The actual worth attributed to these elements depends on human and societal perceptions. **Source:** FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2.

Family members: Immediate family members and close relatives who benefit directly from



the forest management unit. Typically, they live on, or in close proximity to, the smallholding and work on the smallholder unit with the owner to benefit from food, accommodation, or the revenues shared from products sourced from the forest management unit, but are not paid a wage. The term also includes co-owners or business partners. Family members are not “Employees” or “Workers”. **(New)**

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 V-2.

Forest: A tract of land dominated by trees (Derived from FSC Guidelines for Certification Bodies, Scope of Forest Certification, Section 2.1 first published in 1998, and revised as FSC-GUI-20-200 in 2005, and revised again in 2010 as FSC-DIR-20-007 FSC Directive on Forest Management Evaluations, ADVISE-20-007-01). **Source:** FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2. For the purposes of this standard only, this term also refers to plantations, woodlots, agro-forestry areas, and orchards due to the small scale of the scope and the reality that smallholders rely on their land for a significant percentage of their annual revenue needs.

Forest products: For the purposes of this standard, forest products are defined as any “natural” raw material or commodity produced from the certified forest, to include, but not limited to; wood, sap, bark, leaves/needles, latex rubber, forest plants or fungi, fruit, honey, nuts, etc. Certifiable FSC timber and non-timber forest products are listed in FSC-STD-40-004a V2-1. **(New)**

Forestry activities: All activities carried out by a smallholder to manage or use trees in the natural forest or plantations, including cutting and removing trees or other products, building roads or other infrastructure, planting or thinning trees, disposing of waste products or using pesticides, fertilizers or other materials. For the purposes of this standard, it also means any activities carried out by a smallholder to manage or use any other *non-timber forest products* originating from the management unit. **(New)**

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

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

Group entity: The group entity is the entity representing the forest properties (smallholders) that constitute a group for the purpose of FSC forest management



certification. The group entity applies for group certification and finally holds the forest management certificate. The group entity is responsible to the certification body for ensuring that the requirements of the FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship are met in all forest properties participating in the group. The group entity may be an individual (e.g. a resource manager), a cooperative body, an owner association, or other similar legal entity. **Source:** FSC-STD-30-005 V1-1.

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 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 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:** FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2.

HCV Assessment: One carried out by a person or organization with knowledge of High Conservation Values and sufficient knowledge of the local area to determine if High Conservation Values are present. It identifies both High Conservation Values and threats to those values. For smallholders, this could be a simple checklist of documents or a map prepared for the smallholder's forest by a group manager or an external organization. The assessment is carried out at a scale that allows determination of values in the immediate vicinity of the smallholder's forest and includes culturally appropriate consultation with knowledgeable local people.

Immediate vicinity: In very close proximity to, as in adjacent to, very close to or nearby the smallholder's forest. This refers to values or specific features that occur within that close proximity. It does not, therefore, include all the values or features that might be within a protected area for example where the boundary of that area is distant from the smallholder's forest. **(New)**

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



- The key characteristic or criterion is self-identification as Indigenous Peoples at the individual level and acceptance by the community as their member;
- Historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies;
- Strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources;
- Distinct social, economic or political systems;
- Distinct language, culture and beliefs;
- Form non-dominant groups of society;
- Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities. **Source:** Adapted from United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous, Factsheet 'Who are Indigenous Peoples' October 2007; United Nations Development Group, 'Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues' United Nations 2009, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 13 September 2007.

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.

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.

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

Living wage: The level of wages sufficient to meet the basic living needs of an average-sized family in a particular economy. **Source:** FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2.

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

Location: See Smallholder's location.



Long-term: The timescale 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-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 smallholder, 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* smallholder, solely for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives. **Source:** FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2.

Named representative: An individual or organization freely chosen and identified by the smallholder as the person representing them in carrying out forest management, including the development of any policies and keeping of records. **(New)**

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

Natural 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-native species: Species that have been introduced into new areas that have not historically been part of their native range. **(New)**

Non-timber forest products (NTFP): All forest products except timber, including other materials obtained from trees such as resins and leaves, as well as any other plant and animal products. Examples include, but are not limited to seeds, fruits, nuts, honey, palm trees, ornamental plants and other forest products originating from a forest matrix. **Source:** FSC-STD-40-004a V2-1. For a smallholder, NTFP includes both non-timber wood products from the smallholder's forest, including rattan and bamboo, and non-timber



non-wood products like latex rubber, fruits, nuts, honey, game, and many other products. A full list of FSC non-timber forest products is found in FSC-STD-40-004a V2-1.

Not-natural fertilizer: A chemical, synthetic or not-natural substance, most commonly N, P2O5 and K2O, which is applied to soil for the purpose of enhancing plant growth. These do not include natural fertilizers such as manure or dung. **Source:** Adapted from FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0.

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, larvacides, fungicides and herbicides. **Source:** FSC-POL-30-001 FSC Pesticides Policy (2005).

Public information: Information about the smallholder's forest which is available from public sources. **(New)**

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

Reasonable: Judged to be fair or appropriate to the circumstances or purposes, based on general experience (Source: Shorter Oxford English Dictionary). **Source:** FSC-STD-60-004 V1-0

Representative Sample Areas (RSA): 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 EN.

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 forestry 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.

Significant: Includes social, economic, cultural or environmental values or impacts. **(New)**

Significant disputes: Disputes of a substantial magnitude; substantial duration as defined in the Glossary of FSC-STD 60-004 V2-0.; or involving a significant number of interests. **(New)**

Sites that are significant: Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance for Indigenous Peoples, local communities or others that are within the



property of the smallholder or sufficiently close to the property that the sites or their values are impacted by the operations of the smallholder. **(New)**

Smallholder: An individual or family who owns, manages, or uses forests which are considered “small” compared with others in their region. Smallholder also includes *community producers*, including Indigenous Peoples, or others who fulfil the smallholder criterion small size OR a co-operative or community who own, manage and use a forest in which less than 20 ha has been allocated to a member or family. Smallholders are known by various names – for example, woodlot owners, family foresters, small non-industrial private forest owners, small forest enterprises, community forestry operations, and non-timber forest product (NTFP) harvesters. Smallholders produce a wide variety of timber, non-timber and non-wood products. **(New)**

Smallholder’s forest: The forest that is within the smallholder’s land holding. It may also be referred to as a plantation or a woodlot or a tree farm in some countries. **(New)**

Smallholder’s location: The community, region, or subregion or watershed catchment area where the smallholder’s forest is located and where Indigenous Peoples or local communities might have interests in the smallholder’s forest or where native ecosystems might exist. **(New)**

Stakeholder: See affected stakeholder and interested stakeholder.

Temporary worker: A worker either hired directly by the smallholder, or hired by a contractor hired by the smallholder to carry out a short-term specific task on the smallholder’s forest. **(New)**

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

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

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 V5-0.

Volunteer: A member of a community or an organization who donates time to work on the smallholder’s forest or a forest that is owned by the community or a co-operative. Volunteers are not “Employees” or “Workers”. **(New)**



Vicinity: See immediate vicinity. **(New)**

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.

Woodlot: A parcel of a woodland or forest capable of small-scale production of forest products (such as wood fuel, sap for maple syrup, sawlogs, and pulpwood) as well as recreational uses like bird watching, bushwalking, and wildflower appreciation. **Source:** Wikipedia.

Worker: 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-01-001 V5-2.



Forest Stewardship Council®

ic.fsc.org

FSC International Center gGmbH
Adenauerallee 134 · 53113 Bonn · Germany

