



Procedure

RISK ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

FSC-PRO-60-006b V2-0 D2-0



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INTRODUCTION

This procedure defines the process and content requirements to develop, review, revise and withdraw FSC risk assessments. The development of the current version has been guided by the Strategy for FSC Mix products and Controlled Wood, <FSC-POL-01-007 Policy to Address Conversion>, the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR),¹ and <FSC-POL-01-004 Policy for Association>.

In terms of aligning risk assessments with the requirements established by the EUDR, the main focus has been on aligning terminology, streamlining the process requirements and ensuring key content requirements are covered (e.g. deforestation and degradation).

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¹ [Source: Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation \(EU\) No 995/2010.](#)

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Explanatory note for consultation:

The requirements proposed in this procedure (FSC-PRO-60-006b, previously known as FSC-PRO-60-002a) include the alignment with the applicable EUDR requirements and key FSC normative documents (e.g. Policy to Address Conversion, FSC-POL-01-007). The key changes made to this draft of the procedure are described in the crosswalk document shared in consultation together with this procedure (https://connect.fsc.org/sites/default/files/2024-01/FSC-PRO-60-006b%20V2-0%20D2-0_crosswalk.pdf). Furthermore, you will find specific questions in the FSC Consultation Platform where we are requesting your feedback/evaluation on those key changes.

Following the CW strategy as well as BoD decisions from BM96 and BM97, FSC has been working with other organizations (e.g. Preferred by Nature (PBN) with the objective to have a joint framework for cross-scheme risk assessments (including process requirements, as well for content including a common set of indicators) that can be used by any of the organizations of the Risk Information Alliance (RIA) when developing or revising risk assessments. Further details on the Risk Information Alliance, as well as information relating to FSC engagement and impacts on risk assessments, are provided under the following link: <https://fsc.org/en/newscentre/standards/fscs-new-approach-for-risk-assessments-in-forests>. Overall, the process requirements have been streamlined yet kept rigorous in order to be easily applied by any of the Risk Information Alliance organizations, including a common set of indicators which are no longer divided by the Controlled Wood (CW) categories.

Please note that the section 'Process requirements for developing and revising risk assessments' is presented in this document to enable stakeholders' evaluation of all draft requirements related to the Policy to Address Conversion and EUDR alignment. However, this section will be transferred to the procedure FSC-PRO-60-006 where it formally belongs. The mentioned procedure FSC-PRO-60-006 will contain the process requirements for Risk Assessments (RA) and Forest Stewardship Standards (FSS), combined in order to streamline and increase the efficiency of the processes conducted on the country or regional level. Respective requirements for the content for RA and FSS are being included into two addendum procedures to FSC-PRO-60-006: FSC-PRO-60-006b and FSCPRO-60-006a respectively.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this document is to ensure uniform and robust requirements for assessing the risk of sourcing material from supply areas. In the context of FSC certification, it relates to sourcing controlled material under <FSC-STD-40-005 Requirements for Sourcing FSC Controlled Wood>. Hence, this document aims to ensure fair and unambiguous risk assessments to protect the integrity of the FSC system, while at the same time reducing the burden of conformance with FSC requirements or regulatory compliance.

SCOPE

This document provides process steps and requirements for the designation and specification of risk (i.e., 'negligible risk' or 'non-negligible risk') of sourcing material, as well as determining mitigation measures.

This document shall be used together with the requirements of <FSC-PRO-60-006 The Development and Revision of FSC Country Requirements>, which contains the general process requirements for the development and revision of Risk Assessments (RA) and FSC Forest Stewardship Standards (FSS).

Explanatory note for consultation:

The Requirements for Development and Maintenance of Locally Adapted FSC Requirements (FSS and CWRAs) <FSC-PRO-60-006 The Development and Revision of FSC Country Requirements> is currently being revised. The revised draft will be aligned with changes in the Risk Assessment Framework.

All aspects of this document are considered to be normative, including the scope, effective and validity dates, references, terms and definitions, tables, and annexes, unless otherwise stated and/or marked as an example.

REFERENCES

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document.

For references without a version number, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies:

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| FSC-STD-40-005 | Requirements for Sourcing FSC Controlled Wood |
| FSC-STD-01-004 | FSC Regulatory Module |
| FSC-PRO-60-006 | The Development and Revision of FSC Country Requirements |
| | Common Guidance for the Identification of High Conservation Values |
| | Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010. |
| | FSC Motion 20 Study on the Impacts of Large-Scale Forestry Operations in Global North and South |
| | United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples |
| | International Labour Organization Convention No. 169 |

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions included in <FSC-PRO-60-006 The Development and Revision of FSC Country Requirements>, <FSC-STD-01-002 FSC Glossary of Terms>, <FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship>, and the following apply:

Controlled material: Material confirmed as being in conformity with the standard <FSC-STD-40-005 Requirements for Sourcing FSC Controlled Wood> and is used internally by the organization as an input material category in FSC production.²

Conversion: A lasting change of natural forest cover* or High Conservation Value* areas induced by human activity*. This may be characterized by significant loss of species diversity*, habit diversity, structural complexity, ecosystem functionality or livelihoods and cultural values. The definition of conversion* covers gradual forest degradation* as well as rapid forest transformation.³

NOTE: The definition of conversion is applicable after 31 December 2020.

Deforestation: Conversion from forest to agricultural use, whether human-induced or not.⁴

Degradation: Changes within a natural forest or High Conservation Value area that significantly and negatively affect its species composition, structure and/or function, and reduces the ecosystem's capacity to supply products, support biodiversity and/or deliver ecosystem services.⁵

NOTE: In the context of mass balance systems, including instances where controlled wood is sourced for the purpose of FSC certification, the application of the above definition focuses on "structural changes to forest cover, taking the form of the conversion of:

- (a) primary forests or naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests or into other wooded land; or
- (b) primary forests into planted forests."

Hence, the application of the degradation definition in the risk assessment context is based on and fully aligned with the EUDR.

Homogeneous risk designation: When a non-negligible risk designation covers an area without the need to further subdivide or refine that area. This is determined primarily by the availability of information on the risk in question.

Ecoregion: A large unit of land or water containing a geographically distinct assemblage of species, natural communities, and environmental conditions. The boundaries of an ecoregion are not fixed and

² Source: <FSC-STD-40-005 Requirements for Sourcing FSC Controlled Wood>

³ Source: <FSC-POL-01-007 Policy to Address Conversion>

⁴ Source: Adapted from Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation and repealing Regulation (EU) No 995/2010. Glossary definitions as provided in Chapter 1 Article 2.

⁵ Source: <FSC-POL-01-007 Policy to Address Conversion>

sharp, but rather encompass an area within which important ecological and evolutionary processes most strongly interact.⁶

NOTE: For the purposes of risk designation, the ecoregion needs to be interpreted to fixed boundaries in order to be used as a unit of scale.

Effective Protection:

The effectiveness of nature protection in an area shall be determined based on both the:

- Quality of nature protection, and the
- Quantity of nature protection.

The quality of nature protection shall be demonstrated by a legally established protected area network whose protection is legally enforced. The protected area network shall meet the standard of IUCN categories 1-3 (or equivalent). IUCN categories 4-6 (or equivalent) are permissible if commercial logging does not occur within protected areas. The reserve network must sample all forest types present in the country.

NOTE: Enforcement of legislation is determined through a risk assessment for relevant indicators.

The quantity of nature protection is considered sufficient if the minimum quantum of protected areas meets the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework established under the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)⁷ for terrestrial ecosystems, or are equivalent for countries which have not ratified the CBD.

NOTE: The following reports and tools may be useful when assessing effective protection:

- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs): <http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/>;
- Assessment of NBSAPs: [http://www.ias.unu.edu/resource_center/UNU-IAS Biodiversity Planning NBSAPs Assessment final web Oct 2010.pdf](http://www.ias.unu.edu/resource_center/UNU-IAS_Biodiversity_Planning_NBSAPs_Assessment_final_web_Oct_2010.pdf);
- Leverington, F., et al. (2010a) Management Effectiveness Evaluation in Protected Areas – a Global Study. Second Edition. The University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia;
- Leverington, F., et al. (2010b) A global analysis of protected area management effectiveness. *Environmental Management* 46: 685–698;
- Bertzky, B., Corrigan, C., Kemsey, J., Kenney, S., Ravilious, C., Besançon, C., Burgess, N. (2012) Protected Planet Report 2012: Tracking progress towards global targets for protected areas. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK;
- http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/protected_planet_report.pdf

Harvest (-ing / -ed): A general term for the removal of produce from the forest for utilization; often comprising cutting trees; additionally, this may also include initial processing (e.g. tipping and trimming) and/or the removal of forest products from the forest to a loading point for the purposes of transportation elsewhere (including felling, yarding, and decking).⁸

⁶ Source: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/publications/terrestrial-ecoregions-of-the-world>

⁷ Source: <https://www.cbd.int/article/cop15-final-text-kunming-montreal-gbf-221222>

⁸ Source: Based on the Dictionary of Forestry (XII World Forestry Congress, 2002)

Illegally-harvested wood: Forest products harvested in violation of any laws applicable to harvesting in that location or jurisdiction including the acquisition of the harvesting rights from the rightful owner; the harvesting methods used and the payment of all relevant fees and royalties.⁹

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

Minimum areas of Intact Forest Landscapes are determined by maps available at <http://intactforests.org>.

Mitigation Measure (RM): An action that The Organization shall take to mitigate the risk of sourcing material from unacceptable sources.

Negligible Risk: A conclusion, following a risk assessment, that either there is no cause for concern that material from a specific geographic area originates from unacceptable sources, or that material is mixed with non-eligible inputs or material with a different origin in such a way that would not allow the level of risk related to origin to be confirmed as negligible.

NOTE: FSC is replacing the term 'low risk' with 'negligible risk'. **Low risk:** A conclusion, following a risk assessment, that there is negligible risk that material from a specific geographic area originates from unacceptable sources. (Source: <[FSC-STD-40-005 Requirements for Sourcing Controlled Wood](#)>)

Negligible risk area: An area where 'negligible risk' for sourcing material has been designated through the risk assessment described in <[FSC-PRO-60-006b Risk Assessment Framework](#)>.

Non-negligible risk: A conclusion, following a risk assessment, that there is cause for concern that material from unacceptable sources may have been sourced or entered the supply chain from a specific geographic area. The nature and extent of this risk is specified for the purpose of defining efficient mitigation measures.

NOTE: FSC is replacing the term 'specified risk' to 'non-negligible risk'. **Specified risk:** A conclusion, following a risk assessment conducted according to <[FSC-PRO-60-002a FSC National Risk Assessment Framework](#)>, that there is risk which cannot be determined as low that forest products from unacceptable sources may be sourced or enter the supply chain from a specific geographic area. The nature and extent of this risk is specified for the purpose of defining efficient control measures. (Source: <[FSC-STD-40-005 Requirements for Sourcing Controlled Wood](#)>)

Non-negligible risk area: An area where 'non-negligible risk' for sourcing material has been designated through the risk assessment process as described in <[FSC-PRO-60-006b Risk Assessment Framework](#)>.

⁹ Source: <[FSC-STD-01-002 FSC Glossary of Terms](#)>

¹⁰ Source: <[FSC-STD-60-004 International Generic Indicators](#)>.

Precautionary approach: An approach requiring that when the available information indicates management activities pose a threat of severe or irreversible damage to the environment or a threat to human welfare, explicit and effective measures to prevent the damage and avoid the risks to welfare are required, even when the available information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of environmental values are uncertain (Source: Based on Principle 15 of Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992, and Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle of the Wingspread Conference, 23–25 January 1998).¹¹

NOTE: In the case of risk assessments, there are situations in which no evidence of specific risks may be found. This does not always mean that the risk is negligible. In those cases, it is necessary to look at other indications of risk related to, but not exactly aligned with, the indicator being assessed (e.g., international indices). Furthermore, not every piece of evidence of risk automatically results in a non-negligible risk designation. The evidence must be relevant and reliable in order to be considered as an indication of non-negligible risk.

Scale, intensity and risk (SIR)

Scale: A measure of the extent to which a management activity or event affects an environmental value or a Management Unit in time or space. An activity with a small or low spatial scale affects only a small proportion of the forest each year, while an activity with a small or low temporal scale occurs only at long intervals.

Intensity: A measure of the force, severity, or strength of a management activity or other occurrence affecting the nature of the activity's impacts.

Risk: The probability of an unacceptable negative impact arising from any activity in the Management Unit combined with its seriousness in terms of consequences.

Small or low intensity managed forest (SLIMF): A forest management unit which meets specific FSC requirements related to size and/or intensity.¹²

Source type(s): Source types describe the possible origins of a commodity from within a country. Different source types may be subject to different forms of applicable legislation and have attributes that affect the risk of non-compliance with such legislation. A source type is defined based on characteristics distinguishing the source type from other origins within the country; these may include characteristics such as ownership type, land classification, management regime, permit type, legal requirements and/or risk level. Source types are used to give an overview of the different origins within a country and the associated risks for each source type.

NOTE: Example of sources types include: State-owned plantations on forest land, private company owned plantations on forest land, etc.

Supplier: Individual, company or other legal entity providing goods or services to an organization.¹³

¹¹ Source: <FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship>

¹² Source: <FSC-STD-01-002 FSC Glossary of Terms>

¹³ Source: <FSC-STD-40-004 Chain of Custody Certification>

Supply Unit (SU): A spatial area with clearly defined boundaries managed to a set of explicit long-term forest management objectives. It includes all facilities and areas within or adjacent to these spatial areas that are under legal title or management control of, or operated by or on behalf of, the supply unit manager for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives.

Traditional Peoples: Traditional Peoples are social groups or peoples who do not self-identify as Indigenous and who affirm rights to their lands, forests and other resources based on long established custom or traditional occupation and use.¹⁴

NOTE: The above definition includes forest-dependent communities with traditional rights living in or adjacent to forests. Further specification of the traditional rights to be considered in the risk assessment shall take place during the risk assessment process.

Unassessed area: An area that is not covered by a risk assessment.

Verbal forms for the expression of provisions:

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

- “shall”: Indicates requirements to be followed strictly in order to conform with the standard.
- “should”: Indicates that among several possibilities, one option or item is recommended as particularly suitable without mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required. A ‘should requirement’ can be met in an equivalent way, provided this can be demonstrated and justified.
- “may”: Indicates a course of action permissible within the limits of the document.
- “can”: Is used for statements of possibility and capability, whether material, physical or causal.

¹⁴ Source: <[FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship](#)>

ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|-------------|---|
| CW | FSC Controlled Wood |
| EUDR | European Union Deforestation Regulation |
| FPIC | Free, Prior and Informed Consent |
| FSS | FSC Forest Stewardship Standard |
| GMO | Genetically Modified Organisms |
| HCV | High Conservation Value |
| IFL | Intact Forest Landscape |
| RA | Risk Assessment |
| RM | Risk Mitigation Measure |
| SIR | Scale, Intensity and Risk |

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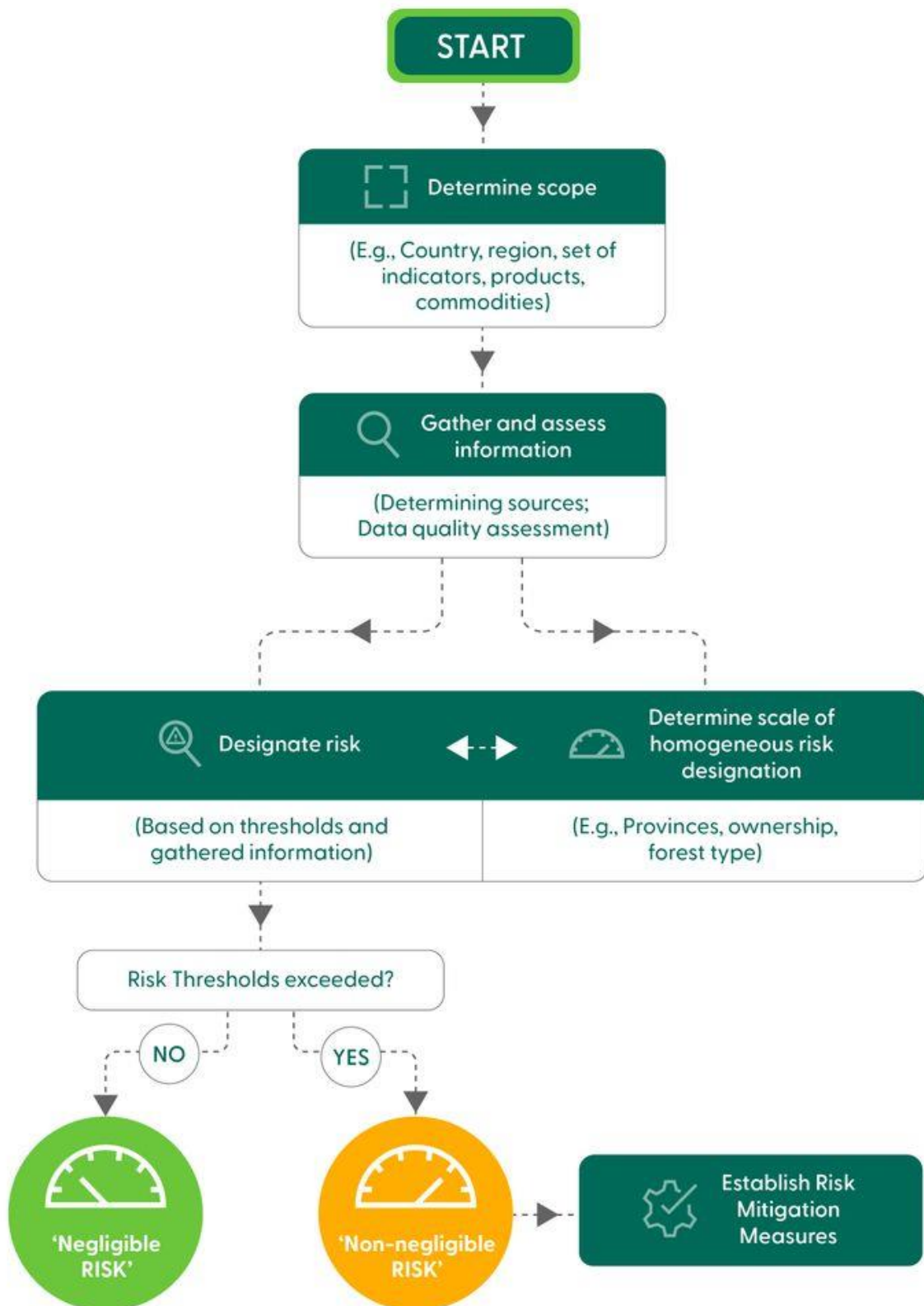


Figure 1. Steps required in the risk assessment process.

PROCESS REQUIREMENTS FOR DEVELOPING AND REVISING RISK ASSESSMENTS

Explanatory note for consultation:

The requirements under this section (process requirements) and Annex 1 will be transferred to <FSC-PRO-60-006 The Development and Revision of FSC Country Requirements> after the requirements have been improved based on the stakeholder inputs received during the public consultation.

The process requirements under this section take into account the need for ensuring that the requirements can be followed by other organizations participating in the Risk Information Alliance.

PART I: GENERAL

1 General aspects

- 1.1 Risk assessments shall be developed and revised following the methodology for risk assessment content and the process requirements defined in this Section. The requirements which apply for each step of the development process are explained in the clauses provided below.

NOTE: It is possible to develop and revise risk assessments through a chamber-balanced process, following the process requirements under <FSC-PRO-60-006 The Development and Revision of FSC Country Requirements>. Nevertheless, independently on the process type, the approval requirements established under this Section apply.

2 Involved parties

- 2.1 The organization responsible for the development and/or maintenance of a risk assessment shall designate a representative known as the 'process lead' that will oversee the development and/or maintenance of the risk assessment,.

NOTE: In the context of the Risk Information Alliance (RIA), this term can be used interchangeably with the term 'Task Manager'.

- 2.2 The process lead shall manage the process by:
- a) Establishing and executing the work plan;
 - b) Drafting the risk assessment(s), or delegating and coordinating the drafting of the risk assessment with the country specialist;
 - c) Providing an initial review of the findings of the risk assessment, including ensuring that the methodological requirements for the development of the risk assessment are followed and fulfilled;
 - d) Responding to feedback from the senior reviewer and revising the draft risk assessment accordingly;
 - e) Organizing the consultation(s), as well as collecting and analyzing the results; and
 - f) Submitting the risk assessment for final approval to the decision-making body.

- 2.3 The process lead shall be selected based on the following selection criteria:
- a) Soft skills: skilled in teamwork, clarity of expression, culturally appropriate behaviour, critical thinking, and consensus building;
 - b) Contribution: oriented towards achieving solutions and results, while also respecting the process timelines;
 - c) Engagement: Possesses the ability to engage their constituency and encourage active participation;
 - d) Possesses skills for coordination, drafting and facilitation;
 - e) Technical skills: expertise on the commodity sector and the geographical area under assessment are recommended, but are not necessary to manage the risk assessment process.

NOTE: The description of this Criterion may be adapted to the specific needs of the respective process.

- 2.4 The process lead shall engage country specialist(s) to support the process lead during the development and/or revision of a risk assessment.

The role can be fulfilled by one in-country expert, or more if, relevant to cover the needs for expertise on the indicators under assessment.

- 2.5 The country specialist shall have, at a minimum, the following credentials:

- a) A bachelor's degree in a relevant field;
- b) Three years of experience in the field relevant to the risk assessment;
- c) Proven research and analysis skills; and
- d) Proven detailed understanding of the country/regional context and system, including an understanding of the legal system governing the commodity in question.

NOTE: In case the process lead meets the qualifications of country specialist, it is not required to engage a country specialist unless the support is needed.

- 2.6 The process lead shall submit the draft risk assessment for review to the senior reviewer before the consultation and before the submission to the decision making body.
- 2.7 The senior reviewer shall have high level of expertise on risk assessments according to the relevant procedures, and shall be designated by the responsible organization.
- 2.8 The senior reviewer shall be in charge of the review of the drafts of risk assessments submitted by the process lead and shall provide feedback on what aspects need further improvement.
- 2.9 The decision-making body for risk assessments shall be the Performance and Standards Unit Director at FSC. Experts from other organizations may also be involved during the decision-making process.

PART II: DEVELOPMENT OR REVISION OF REQUIREMENTS

3 Process registration

- 3.1 The responsible organization shall define and register the following information relevant to the risk assessment process:
- Scope of the risk assessment (commodity, geopolitical scope [e.g., country, region], indicators);
 - Justification for the need to develop the risk assessment;
 - Timetable of the risk assessment process, including start date and planned date of submission of the final draft by the process lead;
 - Budget and description of how funds have been or shall be secured.
- 3.2 The communication channels and formats of the documents to be used throughout the risk assessment process shall be agreed between the process lead and the responsible organization at the beginning of the process; in the event of proposed changes, mutual agreement shall be reached.
- 3.3 In case of long or recurring delays compared to the original timetable, the responsible organization shall stop the risk assessment process until the process lead is replaced or solution(s) are implemented to ensure that the process can continue. In order to restart the process, the responsible organization shall update the timetable in agreement with the process lead.

4 Drafting

- 4.1 The process lead shall draft the risk assessment using the template provided by FSC.
- 4.2 At a minimum, the following draft versions shall be prepared by the process lead:
- A first draft to be consulted, which shall be submitted to the senior reviewer in English prior to the consultation;
 - A final draft, developed based on the input from stakeholder consultation(s), which shall be submitted to the senior reviewer for review prior to presentation to the decision-making body.
- 4.3 The risk assessment draft versions shall be proofread and edited prior to submission to the senior reviewer.
- 4.4 Upon receipt of the first draft, the senior reviewer shall review the documentation within a maximum of fourteen (14) working days and inform the process lead if further improvements are required before the first draft of the risk assessment can be released in consultation.
- 4.5 The process lead shall address all comments from the senior reviewer and amend the first draft of the risk assessment accordingly.
- 4.6 Once the senior reviewer confirms the first draft of the risk assessment is ready for consultation, the process lead shall release the risk assessment to consultation.
- 4.7 The submission package containing the final draft shall be free of editorial errors and include a formal statement from the process lead confirming the final draft has undergone required consultation and merits approval, as well as:
- A summary of the development process, including any deviations from the original work plan and an assessment of how content and process requirements have been met;
 - A record of any outstanding concerns;

- c) The final draft risk assessment in English;
- d) The stakeholder consultation report(s);
- e) A list of all stakeholders invited to participate during the consultation.

NOTE1: FSC maintains anonymity by default but may refer to the stakeholder group (see Annex 1).

NOTE 2: The application may include any other evidence that the process lead deems relevant to demonstrate compliance with the requirements specified in this procedure (e.g., minutes of meetings).

NOTE 3: Applications not meeting the above requirements will not be processed, nor will they be considered as timely submissions according to the agreed upon timelines.

- 4.8 Upon receipt of the final draft, the senior reviewer shall review the documentation within a maximum of fourteen (14) working days and inform the process lead if further improvements are required before the final draft risk assessment can be considered ready for approval.
- 4.9 The process lead shall address all comments from the senior reviewer and amend the final draft of the risk assessment accordingly.
- 4.10 Once the senior reviewer confirms the risk assessment is ready for approval, the senior reviewer shall present the final draft to the decision-making body.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 One round of focused consultation on the draft risk assessment lasting 30 days shall be organized.

NOTE: Testing of the draft after consultation is optional and to be decided on a case-by-case by the responsible organization. Testing can be either desk, field or pilot testing.

- 5.2 The process lead shall identify stakeholders according to Annex 1 and shall invite them to comment on the draft risk assessment. The process lead shall ensure that stakeholders from all stakeholder groups listed in Annex 1 are invited to participate, including consultation with experts as described in the section 'Requirements for the content of risk assessments'.

NOTE: The <[FSC-GUI-30-011 FSC Guidance for Stakeholder Engagement](#)> may be used as a tool to guide the stakeholder mapping process.

- 5.3 Indigenous Peoples' representatives in the country that are covered by the scope of the risk assessment shall be invited to participate in the consultation(s) of the draft risk assessment, having considered the most appropriate form of communication. The relevant information released together with the draft risk assessment for consultation shall highlight the aspects where the opinion and position of Indigenous Peoples' representatives is particularly recommended.

NOTE: This clause is applicable for countries where the presence of Indigenous Peoples can be confirmed or is probable within the scope of the risk assessment.

- 5.4 The process lead shall be proactive in seeking input from representatives of identified stakeholders, including using a variety of means to inform stakeholders, appropriate to the stakeholders being contacted.

NOTE: Techniques may include: face-to-face meetings, workshops, personal contact by phone or letter, notices published in the national and/or local press and on relevant websites, local radio announcements, announcements on local customary notice boards in the language of the local people, and emails in the language of the recipients.

- 5.5 The process lead shall review all comments provided by stakeholders and address them in subsequent drafts, in line with relevant requirements.
- 5.6 The process lead shall prepare a consultation report, including a general response to the comments and an indication as to how the issues raised were addressed, excluding confidential information and personal data.

6 Decision-making

- 6.1 The decision-making body shall make a decision to:
- a) Approve the risk assessment;
 - b) Approve the risk assessment with conditions; or
 - c) Reject the risk assessment and request further work be done prior to its re-submission. If the decision-making body requests further work, it shall state the reasons for the decision and list the conditions which are necessary to be fulfilled in order for the final draft to be approved.
- 6.2 In case of approval with conditions, the process lead shall address the conditions and send the improved risk assessment to the responsible organization within twenty working days (20) after the communication is made official.
- 6.3 In case the approved version of the risk assessment is in Spanish or French, the process lead shall provide a translation in English.

PART III: MAINTENANCE

7 Publication and implementation

- 7.1 Upon approval, the responsible organization shall publish the risk assessment on the website.
- 7.2 An approved risk assessment shall become effective on the date of publication.

8 Monitoring and review

- 8.1 The risk assessment shall be reviewed and updated annually by the process lead to ensure that the applicable legislation, risk designations and mitigation measures are up-to-date.
- 8.2 The annual review shall be based on expert and stakeholder inputs, provided that evidences are substantiated and confirm the need for a review.
- 8.3 Stakeholders and experts should have the possibility to continuously provide inputs to the risk assessment and share information through an online platform provided by the responsible organization.
- 8.4 If there are changes in the country under assessment leading to a change in applicable legislation, risk level or risk mitigation, it shall be considered if an update should be done immediately or if the information can be stored and included during the annual review instead.
- 8.5 The annual review and update will not need to follow all process requirements under this Section. However, information received from experts and stakeholders shall be reviewed and the accuracy of the data shall be confirmed and incorporated in the risk assessment.
- 8.6 The collection of additional information shall be supported through, either by:
 - a) Inviting experts and stakeholders to provide input to risk findings to identify additional information and gaps;
 - b) Arranging webinar(s) for feedback gathering;
 - c) Holding in-country consultation, if considered relevant.
- 8.7 Every five (5) years, a full review and eventual revision of the risk assessment shall be conducted in line with the requirements under this procedure.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONTENT OF RISK ASSESSMENTS

Explanatory note for consultation:

The requirements for content development provided under this section have been streamlined to ensure they can be applied by other organizations participating in the Risk Information Alliance for the purposes of cross-scheme risk assessments. Nevertheless, additional process requirements that are specific to the assessment of certain indicators (i.e. High conservation value [HCV], conversion, and Genetically Modified Organisms [GMO]) and that are relevant for FSC have been maintained, with applicable modifications.

PART I: GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1 General aspects

- 1.1 The process steps to develop a risk assessment include:
 - a) Determining the scope of the risk assessment;
 - b) Gathering and assessing information related to the indicators under assessment;
 - c) Determining source types;
 - d) Designating risk for each assessed indicator; and
 - e) Establishing mitigation measures.
- 1.2 The risk assessments shall include an assessment of all indicators covered by this procedure (listed in Table 1), except as specified in Clause 1.3.
- 1.3 If relevant, a partial risk assessment may be developed which covers some of the indicators. The indicators excluded from the scope of the assessment shall be marked as 'Not assessed'. The potential exclusion of indicators shall always be decided by the organization responsible for the specific country/region.

PART II: ASSESSING RISK

2 Determining the scope

- 2.1 The risk assessment shall specify the geopolitical scope of the assessment (e.g., a country, a region that is part of a country, or a region that covers more than one country) and the indicators that are covered in the case of partial risk assessments (as specified in Clause 1.3).

NOTE 1: In case of any doubts regarding exclaves, territories, protectorates or similar areas, those areas will be excluded from the risk assessment.

NOTE 2: The scope needs to be identified as specifically and unambiguously as possible.

- 2.2 The risk assessment shall specify the product/commodity scope under assessment (e.g. timber, rubber, specific NTFPs, [among others]).
- 2.3 If an indicator is not considered applicable in the risk assessment, a justification for why an indicator is 'not applicable' shall be included and agreed upon with the responsible organization.

3 Gathering and assessing information

- 3.1 Sufficient information shall be gathered to assess each indicator and threshold of the relevant framework to justify the risk designation reached.
- 3.2 The assessment shall be developed based on a combination of public sources of information and consultations with experts and stakeholders during the risk assessment process. However, in other situations, information obtained on-site may be included. In these cases, the different types of information shall be combined.
- 3.3 Only sources assessed as applicable and reliable shall be used in the risk assessment. The evaluation of information sources should be based on objective criteria. Information sources older than five (5) years should be avoided unless their relevance and reliability can be confirmed.

NOTE: Examples of objective criteria to evaluate information sources include publication indices,¹⁵ credibility of data providers,¹⁶ dates of publication, methodology used for data gathering, etc.

- 3.4 Whenever possible, information relevant to the specific context of forest- or farm-level management in the area under assessment should be used.
- 3.5 Expert consultation constitutes an important source of information and shall be conducted during the risk assessment process.
- 3.6 At a minimum, experts shall be consulted if:
- there are limited publicly available sources of information to evaluate the indicator and to reach a risk conclusion; and
 - there are doubts on how risk conclusion shall be graded (e.g., whether the risk is widespread, systematic, etc.);
 - input is needed to establish mitigation measures.
- 3.7 Selected experts shall have knowledge and/or experience on the indicator(s) being consulted.

¹⁵ For example, Impact Factor (IF) (<https://researchguides.uic.edu/if/impact>), Science Citation Index (SCI) (<https://clarivate.com/webofsciencegroup/solutions/webofscience-scie/>), etc.

¹⁶ Preferred data providers may include: scientific entities based on their international ranks and publication in high-ranked journals, International Agencies, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), governmental agencies, etc.

3.8 For each indicator, general sources of information provided by key topics in Annex 4 shall be considered when applicable. Additional sources shall be gathered which are specific to the area under assessment.

3.9 Data sources, including information gathered via experts, shall be referenced in such a way that they are verifiable by third parties (e.g., reference to fsc.org, Google search results, or similar is not specific enough for the purposes of data validation).

NOTE: Names of experts are anonymized by default (unless explicit permission is given), but a record of experts consulted is recorded and kept on file with other methodological materials.

3.10 Any existing conflicts between indicator requirements and applicable legislation identified for the area under assessment shall be identified and described. Such cases shall be documented and dealt with on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the responsible organization and relevant stakeholders identified during the risk assessment process.

NOTE: Instances where indicator requirements are more stringent than relevant legislation does not constitute a conflict.

3.11 The risk assessment shall be developed using the template provided by FSC. The template includes:

- a) An overview of the country;
- b) A description of the supply chain;
- c) The establishment of geopolitical scale and source types;
- d) An assessment of indicators;
- e) The establishment of mitigation measures; and
- f) Supporting documents, such as applicable legislation, sources of information, and/or risk mitigation related documents.

NOTE: Relevant instructions for each of the entry fields are provided in the template.

4 Determination of geopolitical scale and source types

4.1 The geopolitical scale relevant for the area under assessment shall be determined.

4.2 Source types shall be established.

NOTE: Establishing source types relevant for the area under assessment will allow for the clear designation of risk for the possible origins of material under assessment, as well as the provision of clear and meaningful mitigation measures.

4.3 In the determination of source types, relevant aspects of geopolitical and/or functional scale shall be considered, which may include the following:

- a) Geopolitical scale — determination based on geographical boundaries, such as administrative sub-divisions (e.g., states, counties, provinces, etc.) and/or biological and/or geographical sub-divisions (e.g., bioregions, ecoregions, water catchments, watersheds, etc.).
- b) Functional scale — determination based on non-geographical characteristics, such as the type of forested area (e.g. plantations, managed forests, or natural forests), tenure or ownership (e.g. public, private, corporate, Indigenous, or community forests), scope of management (e.g., presence or absence of particular planning requirements, type and/or quality of forest inventory, etc.), as well as scale, intensity and risk of forest management operations.

NOTE: The homogeneity of the area under assessment needs to be considered.

- 4.4 Source types shall be clearly described, understandable, and identifiable by risk assessment users.
- 4.5 The process lead shall provide, at a minimum, shapefiles for the geopolitical assessment scale used (GIS format) and clear description of the source types. Only data meeting internationally recognized spatial standards (e.g., Open Geospatial Consortium standards) shall be used.

NOTE: It is desirable to present source types on maps, documenting areas of both 'negligible' and 'non-negligible risk'.

5 Designation of risks

- 5.1 A risk designation shall be provided for all source types used in the assessment of an indicator for the area under assessment.
- 5.2 The designation of risk shall include the assessment of the risks of legal non-compliance or identification of sustainability issues within each indicator.

NOTE: There are indicators that are not only focused on the assessment of legal compliance. Nevertheless, as specified in the 'non-negligible risk thresholds' for those indicators, the assessment of legal compliance needs to be considered.

- 5.3 Risk designation shall be provided based on the assessment of information gathered by the process lead and according to the 'non-negligible' risk thresholds provided for each indicator.
- 5.4 For each indicator under assessment, it shall be determined to be:
- a) 'Negligible risk', in the event that evidence indicates that the 'non-negligible' risk threshold(s) are not exceeded, and that there is no other information that would lead to a 'non-negligible risk' designation; OR
 - b) 'Non-negligible risk', in the event that available means of verification do not show evidence that the negligible risk category is applicable; or that one or more specific risk areas were identified; OR
 - c) 'Not applicable', when an indicator is not considered applicable in the risk assessment.
- 5.5 When assessing indicators in the risk assessment, the aspects below shall be considered:
- a) All entities involved in harvesting and production activities (e.g., contractors).
 - b) The scale and intensity of the management operation within the area under assessment.
 - c) The impact and likelihood of the risk when providing the risk designation, as follows:
 1. Non-negligible risks are those which:
 - i. Affect a wide area, causes significant damage, and/or continues over a long period of time;
 - ii. Indicate the absence or breakdown of enforcement of the legal system;
 - iii. Are not corrected or adequately responded to upon being identified;
 - iv. Have a significant negative impact on society, the production of forest products and other services, the forest ecosystem and the people directly and indirectly affected by forest operations.
 2. Negligible risks are those which are:
 - i. Temporary;
 - ii. Unusual or non-systematic;
 - iii. Limited in their impact;
 - iv. Effectively controlled through the implementation of monitoring and enforcement measures carried out by efficient and effective government agencies.

- 5.6 Risk designation shall be substantiated, including a justification of the identified risk(s) in order to provide the rationale behind the final conclusion (e.g., “based on findings x, y and z, it is concluded that the risk is non-negligible for this indicator”).
- Additionally, for a ‘non-negligible risk’ designation, each risk related to the indicator shall be described. This shall be accomplished using the template described in Clause 3.11.
- 5.7 A precautionary approach shall be applied, and ‘non-negligible risk’ designation shall be assigned, in instances where:
- The assessment of indicators 15, 16, and 17 conclude that there is a risk of corruption and fraud in the country/region in question; and
 - Little or no evidence can be obtained to indicate that the risk is negligible.
- 5.8 When applying precautionary approach, it should be considered whether the assessment of other similar or related indicators of the risk assessment have concluded there is ‘non-negligible risk’.
- 5.9 If little or no information can be obtained to assess an indicator, a ‘negligible risk’ designation may be provided if:
- The assessment of indicators 15, 16, and 17 conclude there is a ‘negligible risk’ of corruption and fraud in the country/region in question; and
 - The country/region in question scores well on international governance indicators regarding the quality of governance (e.g., WB Worldwide Governance Indicators); and
 - The assessment of other similar or related indicators of the risk assessment have also concluded that there is ‘negligible risk’.
- 5.10 When assessing indicators relating to legal compliance, the aspects below shall be considered:
- Differences between national and sub-national legislation, where applicable. If legislation is applicable for the purposes of understanding the risk designation, those legal requirements shall be described.
 - Governance of the sector in the area under assessment, including the administrative capacity to oversee effective implementation of laws and regulations, as well as their enforcement.
 - Corruption and data and document falsification. When assessing the level of corruption, consultation with experts shall help to evaluate the extent of corruption in the sector, taking into account corruption related to the specific indicator in addition to the findings of indicators 15, 16, and 17 on corruption and document fraud. Special attention shall be given to the enforcement of laws requiring approval from public bodies, such as permits, concession licenses, custom declarations, etc.
- 5.11 In cases where the country/region already has an approved FSS, the risk assessment should cross reference the relevant legislation identified in the FSS for the country/region under assessment.¹⁷
- 5.12 Risk designations for the area under assessment shall be compared against the risk designations of risk assessment(s) of similar areas. In case the issues found in the corresponding indicator under comparison are similar but result in a different risk designation, an explanation of the reason for the difference(s) in risk designation shall be provided.

NOTE: Examples of characteristics for identifying similar areas include the following: size of the area, type(s) of forests, dominant management characteristics, proximity, type of identified risks, and

¹⁷ Approved FSS are available at the FSC Document Centre: <https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre>.

applicable legislation, among others; 'relevance' and 'similarity' are expected to be determined on a case-by-case.

6 Establishment of mitigation measures

- 6.1 Where 'non-negligible risks' are identified, mitigation measures shall be established which, when implemented, are expected to reduce the risk from 'non-negligible' to 'negligible', either individually or in combination with other mitigation measures.

NOTE 1: Conflict between indicators requirements and applicable legislation should be dealt with in similar way as per Clause 3.10.

NOTE 2: FSC certificate holders implementing the standard <FSC-STD-40-005 Requirements for Sourcing FSC Controlled Wood> shall consult this standard for additional requirements for risk mitigation.

- 6.2 Mitigation measures shall be provided for each identified risk which contain the following information:
- a) Classification of the 'type of verifier' (e.g., document verification, stakeholder consultation, field visit). Often, multiple types of verification may be needed to effectively mitigate a risk. Examples of verifiers include relevant document(s) to collect and verify, stakeholders to consult (among others needed to address the risks); and
 - b) Clear guidance on what information shall be reviewed and the actions suggested to address the identified risk(s).

NOTE: 'Means of verification' indicates how the organisation implementing mitigation measures can demonstrate that a mitigation measure is adequate, assess its effectiveness, or both. Such evidence may include records, documents, maps, site visits and interviews.

- 6.3 Mitigation measures shall be established according to each risk and source type identified, where applicable.

PART III: INDICATOR SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

This section provides indicator specific requirements in addition to requirements listed in Part II.

7 High Conservation Values (HCVs)

7.1 The requirements under this section are relevant for the assessment of indicators 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, and 75, as provided in Table 1 (below).

7.2 The scope of the assessment of HCVs includes:

- a) The assessment of HCV presence; and
- b) The assessment of threats to HCVs caused by management activities, including harvesting or production which occurs outside the scope of a formal management process.

NOTE: The use of the Common guidance for the identification of High Conservation Values for the assessment of HCV presence is recommended.

7.3 The following HCVs shall be assessed regarding the risk of being threatened by management activities:

- a) HCV 1—Species diversity. Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species that are significant¹⁸ at global, regional¹⁹ or national levels.
- b) 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.
- c) HCV 3—Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.
- d) HCV 4 —Critical ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including the protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.
- e) HCV 5—Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or Indigenous Peoples (e.g., for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.), identified through engagement with these communities or Indigenous Peoples.
- f) 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

¹⁸ For interpretation of 'Significant values', please refer to Common Guidance for the Identification of High Conservation Values. Significance of values may also be assigned by FSC Forest Stewardship Standards.

¹⁹ The context for 'regional' in assessing this value should be ecological in nature. In large countries like the United States of America, Australia, Russia, Canada, and Brazil (for example), there will be many ecological regions. Conversely, in a small European country, forests may form a small part of a larger ecosystem which crosses national boundaries. Risk assessments should be informed by the status of values that cross national boundaries, using the precautionary approach, even when the risk assessment does not cover more than one country. Where a value might be common at a national level, if the country contains the only or most examples of the value that was once geographically much more widespread, then the value will meet the threshold for HCV 1. Example: Most of the to medium- to large-weight mammals associated with European natural forest ecosystems can be found in the forests of Belarus; however, most of these are extinct in the rest of Europe, making the forest of Belarus particularly important for these HCV values.

or Indigenous Peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or Indigenous Peoples.

NOTE: Identification of HCVs 5 and 6 requires engagement of local communities and Indigenous Peoples. For the scope of the risk assessment, consultation on the risk assessment process conducted according to section 4 under 'Process requirements for developing and revising risk assessments' and/or any targeted consultation conducted with the right holders and/or experts during the risk assessment process is considered sufficient when identifying HCVs 5 and 6.

7.4 'Threat' in the context of HCVs refers to common management activities that cause or may cause loss or degradation of HCVs.

NOTE 1: The risk assessment may include other threats specific to national and/or regional conditions.

NOTE 2: While assessing existing threats to HCVs, information as specified in indicator 9.2.1 of <FSC-STD-60-004 International Generic Indicators> may be used.

7.4.1 The following threats shall be considered for HCV1:

- a) Habitat removal;
- b) Habitat fragmentation; and the
- c) Introduction of alien/invasive species.

7.4.2 The following threats shall be considered for HCV2:

- a) Fragmentation, including access (roading); and
- b) Commercial logging, or logging for the primary purpose of wood production (this applies only to IFLs.)

7.4.3 The following threat shall be considered for HCV3:

- a) Lack of effective protection of HCV 3.

7.4.4 The following threats shall be considered for HCV4:

- a) Reduction of water quality/quantity, and
- b) Negative impacts on human health (e.g., poisoning water, etc.).

7.4.5 The following threat(s) shall be considered for HCV5:

- a) The compromising (impacting) of fundamental needs of Indigenous Peoples, Traditional Peoples, and local communities by management activities.

7.4.6 The following threat(s) shall be considered for HCV6:

- a) Destruction and/or disturbance of rights or values determining HCV 6.

7.5 FSC-approved HCV frameworks (or parts thereof) that have previously been developed as part of the development of a FSS shall be used as a primary source of information in the risk assessment, provided they meet the requirements of this document.

7.6 Best available information to be used for the identification of HCV presence and assessment of threats to HCVs includes, but is not limited to:

- a) Available HCV surveys conducted in the area under assessment;
- b) Consultation with relevant databases and maps; and
- c) Consultation with relevant local and regional experts.

NOTE: The precautionary approach applies in the absence of best available information (or the lack of any available information).

- 7.7 Existing nature protection schemes implemented in the country/area under assessment shall be recognized and evaluated in terms of potential usefulness for HCV identification and protection (c.f. Clause 7.10.a).
- 7.8 Spatial data documenting HCV presence shall be used whenever possible. Data meeting internationally recognized spatial standards (e.g., Open Geospatial Consortium standards) shall be prioritized.

NOTE: Forest district maps, concession maps, land cover maps, administrative sub-units, and similar may be very helpful by informing data layers in addition to data that relates directly to the HCVs.

- 7.9 All Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) as defined by the maps at <http://intactforests.org> shall be considered as HCV 2. However, IFL boundaries may also be updated using other forms of best available information, such as historical harvesting documentation, existing FSS frameworks, maps and external data provided by independent organizations, scientists and experts.

- 7.10 When assessing risk thresholds for HCVs, the following shall be considered and utilized where relevant:

- a) In areas where HCVs are protected by country or regional nature protection schemes, the effectiveness of the implementation of those protection schemes shall be assessed. This shall include governance assessment and sufficiency of HCV protection;

NOTE 1: Protection schemes may include, for instance, a system of protected areas or international protection programs (e.g., National Parks, Natura 2000). The existence of network protection schemes on their own does not justify a 'negligible risk' designation. Only effective protection schemes assessed as appropriate for risk mitigation may justify a 'negligible risk' designation.

NOTE 2: The assessment of indicators on legal compliance (as described in Table 1) can be used when assessing governance of HCV protection.

- b) In cases where there is ongoing external regional/national consultation on specific issues related to HCVs that affect risk designation, the outcomes of such processes shall be considered, applying the precautionary approach; and
- c) In areas where there is forest conversion and degradation.

8 Forest conversion and degradation

- 8.1 The requirements under this section are relevant for the assessment of indicators 68 and 69, as provided in Table 1 (below).

- 8.2 When assessing risk thresholds for forest conversion and degradation, the following aspects shall be considered:

- a) Extent and impact of activities responsible for endangering forest cover. Such activities include legal structures, agriculture, pasture for grazing;
- b) Spatial data meeting internationally recognized spatial standards and documenting forest conversion and degradation shall be used whenever possible;
- c) The use of spatial data for risk assessment should be supported by other data types whenever possible; and

NOTE: Other data types may include, but are not limited to, land change registries, statistics, or management plans.

- d) Governance assessment in areas where conversion of natural forest is prohibited by law. This may include an assessment of the overall effectiveness of the administration

(national or sub-national agencies) to ensure the implementation of laws and regulations pertaining to conversion and degradation.

- 8.3 When assessing thresholds for conversion, the following aspects shall *not* be considered:
- Legal road construction to support forestry operations;
 - Infrastructure development to support forestry operations; and
 - Logging landings.
- 8.4 Considering the provisions of <FSC-POL-01-007 Policy to Address Conversion> the precautionary approach shall be applied for the assessment of indicator 68; thus, a 'non-negligible' risk designation shall be concluded, subject to 8.5.
- 8.5 In cases where a risk assessment is conducted via chamber-balanced processes (following the requirements under <FSC-PRO-60-006 The Development and Revision of FSC Country Requirements, a Working Group (WG) may designate an area as 'negligible risk', provided they shall able to demonstrate via data that applicable conversion has not taken place in the area under assessment since 31 December 2020.

9 Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)

- 9.1 The requirements under this section are relevant for the assessment of indicator 76, as provided in Table 1 (below).
- 9.2 When assessing the 'non-negligible' risk thresholds on the use of GMO (trees), the following aspects shall be considered:
- In areas where GMO (trees) are allowed in commercial plantations, the systems for controlling the use of GMO²⁰ shall be assessed. The ability to locate plantations of GMO trees through official documents is an important factor for determining risk and the implementation of Control Measures.
 - In countries or areas with poor or unclear governance on GMOs, the risk assessment should focus on the presence of GMO (trees) in plantations and/or forests.

NOTE: The risk in relation to GMO (trees) is usually species-specific. Examples of species that have been used to develop GMO (tree) species include American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*), Elm (*Elmerrillia sp.*), Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus sp.*), Pinelia (*Pinelia sp.*), Poplar (*Populus sp.*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*), Spruce (*Picea sp.*) and Walnut (*Juglans sp.*).

²⁰ A Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) is an organism in which the genetic material has been altered in such a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural re-combination.

PART IV: INDICATORS FOR RISK ASSESSMENTS

Explanatory note for consultation:

This section contains a set of indicators for cross-scheme risk assessments. Table 1 contains the list of indicators to be included in the set of indicators, developed based on current FSC CW risk assessment indicators and indicators from the Preferred by Nature (PBN) Sustainability Framework.

It is important to highlight that in the context of the Risk Information Alliance (RIA), the set of indicators that are or could be applicable to other organizations is still under discussion. Nevertheless, under the current proposal, only indicators numbered 1 until 76 are applicable for FSC certification. In case other indicators are added and include requirements which go beyond those applicable to FSC, they will be marked as 'not applicable' to FSC certification, but will still be part of the joint framework and will have to be assessed during the development/revision of country/regional risk assessments.

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Table 1. Risk assessment indicators.

| No. | Indicator | Non-negligible risk thresholds |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Land use and management | | |
| 1 | <i>Land tenure rights are secured and registered according to legal requirements.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
| 2 | <i>Land management rights are in place and registered according to legal requirements.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
| 3 | <i>Forest concession licenses are in place and are issued and registered according to legal requirements.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
| 4 | <i>Harvesting permits are in place and are issued and registered according to legal requirements.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
| 5 | <i>Land tenure and management rights are obtained through a process that ensures that Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) is secured before any activities are commenced that may affect Indigenous Peoples' or local communities' lands, territories, and resources.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but the risk assessment for indicators 1, 2, 3 and 4 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk'; 2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but any of the following are true: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of their implementation does not exist. • Evidence indicates systematic violation of requirements. • When laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities. |
| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s); 4. Evidence indicates that requirements under this indicator are not upheld. |
| 6 | <i>In case of ongoing land tenure or management right disputes, these are managed through a culturally appropriate and transparent process, agreed upon by the affected parties.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements specified by this indicator, but the risk assessment for indicators 1, 2, 3 and 4 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk'; 2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but any of the following are true: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of their implementation does not exist. • Evidence indicates systematic violation of requirements. • When laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities. • When laws are broken, cases are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities. 3. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s); 4. Evidence indicates that requirements under this indicator are not upheld. |
| 7 | <i>Legal requirements for land-use and management planning are complied with.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
| 8 | <i>Legal requirements for management and operational activities are complied with.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
| 9 | <i>Legal harvesting or production requirements are complied with.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |

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| 10 <i>Legal requirements related to the disclosure of information are complied with.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
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Taxes and fees

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|---|---|
| 11 <i>Legal requirements for payment of royalties, land/area taxes and fees are complied with.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
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| 12 <i>Legal requirements for payment of value-added taxes and/or other sales taxes are complied with.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
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| 13 <i>Legal requirements for payment of corporate taxes are complied with, including profit taxes.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
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| 14 <i>Legal requirements for payment of trade and/or export taxes and fees are complied with.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
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Corruption and/or document and data falsification

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| 15 <i>Legal requirements related to corruption, including bribery, fraud and conflict of interest, are complied with.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
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16 *All forms of bribery and corruption are avoided.*

1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but the risk assessment for indicator 15 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk';
2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but any of the following are true:
 - Evidence of their implementation does not exist.
 - Evidence indicates systematic violation of requirements.
 - When laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities.
 - When laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities.
3. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s);
4. Evidence indicates that requirements under this indicator are not upheld.

17 *Data and document falsification do not occur.*

1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but the risk assessment for indicator 15 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk';
2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but any of the following are true:
 - Evidence of their implementation does not exist.
 - Evidence indicates systematic violation of requirements.
 - When laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities.
 - When laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities.
3. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s);
4. Evidence indicates that requirements under this indicator are not upheld.

Management activities and environmental protection

18 *Legal requirements relating to management and harvesting activities in forests, including techniques and technology, are complied with.*

1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;
 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;
 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities.
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| <p>19 <i>Development and maintenance of buildings, infrastructure and activities comply with applicable codes and legal requirements.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
| <p>20 <i>Development and maintenance of buildings, infrastructure and activities is done in a way that minimises adverse impacts on human health and the environment.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but the risk assessment for indicator 19 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk'; 2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but any of the following are true: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of their implementation does not exist. • Evidence indicates systematic violation of requirements. • When laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities. • When laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities. 3. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s); 4. Evidence indicates that requirements under this indicator are not upheld. |
| <p>21 <i>Legal requirements related to biodiversity conservation, protected sites, and the protection of endemic, rare, threatened, or endangered species and their habitats are complied with.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
| <p>22 <i>Introducing invasive species is avoided, and already present invasive species are controlled.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but the risk assessment for indicator 21 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk'; 2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but any of the following are true: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of their implementation does not exist. • Evidence indicates systematic violation of requirements. • When laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities. • When laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities. |

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| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s); 4. Evidence indicates that requirements under this indicator are not upheld. |
| 23 | <i>Legal requirements relating to the harvesting, collection, and trade of CITES species are complied with.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
| 24 | <i>Legal requirements relating to waste management are complied with.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
| 25 | <i>The volume and negative impacts of waste from activities, including production and processing, are managed and minimised.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but the risk assessment for indicator 24 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk'; 2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but any of the following are true: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of their implementation does not exist. • Evidence indicates systematic violation of requirements. • When laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities. • When laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities. 3. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s); 4. Evidence indicates that requirements under this indicator are not upheld. |
| 26 | <i>Legal requirements on pollution are complied with.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |

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- 27** *Pollution resulting from production, processing or other activities is controlled and minimised.*
1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator but the risk assessment for indicator 26 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk';
 2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but any of the following are true:
 - Evidence of their implementation does not exist.
 - Evidence indicates systematic violation of requirements.
 - When laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities.
 - When laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities.
 - The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirements;
 3. Evidence indicates that requirements under this indicator are not upheld.
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- 28** *Legal requirements for using and protecting surface and groundwater are complied with.*
1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;
 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;
 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities.
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- 29** *Water resources are protected and used responsibly to ensure long-term viability.*
1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but the risk assessment for indicator 28 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk';
 2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but any of the following are true:
 - Evidence of their implementation does not exist.
 - Evidence indicates systematic violation of requirements.
 - When laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities.
 - When laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities.
 3. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s);
 4. Evidence indicates that requirements under this indicator are not upheld.
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| <p>30 <i>Legal requirements related to soil management are complied with.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
| <p>31 <i>Physical, chemical and biological attributes of the soil and overall soil health is maintained or improved. Negative impacts on soils are managed and minimised.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but the risk assessment for indicator 30 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk'; 2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but any of the following are true: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of their implementation does not exist. • Evidence indicates systematic violation of requirements. • When laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities. • When laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities. 3. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s); 4. Evidence indicates that requirements under this indicator are not upheld. |
| <p>32 <i>Forests and other natural ecosystems are managed in a way that maintains or enhances the functions and services provided by the ecosystem, including related biodiversity and structural complexity.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but the risk assessment for indicators 18, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28 and 30 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk'; 2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but any of the following are true: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of their implementation does not exist. • Evidence indicates systematic violation of requirements. • When laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities. • When laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities. 3. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s); 4. Evidence indicates that requirements under this indicator are not upheld. |

Health and safety

- 33** *Legal requirements related to workplace health and safety are complied with.*
1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;
 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;
 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities.
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- 34** *Facilities and activities are safe and support worker's health, and workers have access to and use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment commensurate with the activities undertaken.*
1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator but the risk assessment for indicator 33 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk';
 2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but any of the following are true:
 - Evidence of their implementation does not exist.
 - Evidence indicates systematic violation of requirements.
 - When laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities.
 - When laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities.
 3. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s);
 4. Evidence indicates that requirements under this indicator are not upheld.
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- 35** *Legal requirements for the use and storage of chemicals are complied with.*
1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;
 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;
 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities.
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- 36** *The use of chemicals is minimised, and any application and storage of chemicals ensure the protection of human health and the minimisation of environmental impacts.*
1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but the risk assessment for indicator 35 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk';
 2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but any of the following are true:
 - Evidence of their implementation does not exist.
 - Evidence indicates systematic violation of requirements.
 - When laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities.
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- When laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities.

3. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s);
4. Evidence indicates that requirements under this indicator are not upheld.

Human and labour rights

37 *Human rights protected under internal law, as enshrined in national law, are complied with.*

1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;
2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;
3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities.

38 *Harvest or trade in products do not contribute to a violation of international human rights or is not associated with armed conflicts.*

1. The area is a source of conflict timber²¹;
2. The area is covered by a UN security ban on exporting timber;
3. The area is covered by any other international ban on timber export;
4. Operators in the area are involved in the supply or trade of conflict timber (identified entities should be specified whenever possible while maintaining compliance with the law);
5. Individuals or entities in the forest sector are facing UN sanctions.

39 *Legal requirements related to child labour and employment of young workers are complied with.*

1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;
2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;
3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities.

40 *Child labour is not present, and the employment of young workers is responsibly managed, including*

1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers all ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at

²¹ The links between timber exploitation and conflict are essentially of two broad types:

First, revenues from the timber trade may be channeled towards activities that perpetuate conflict, such as the purchase of weapons. Thus, 'conflict timber' is defined as 'timber that has been traded at some point in the chain of custody by armed groups, be they rebel factions or regular soldiers, or by a civilian administration involved in armed conflict or its representatives, either to perpetuate conflict or take advantage of conflict situations for personal gain. Conflict timber is not necessarily illegal' (Global Witness 2002, cited in Le Billon 2003).

Second, the exploitation of timber may itself be a direct cause of conflict (Thomson and Kanaan 2003). This may be because of disputes over, for example, ownership of forest resources, the distribution of benefits, local environmental degradation, or social conflicts caused by immigration of timber workers. In some countries, especially when other sources of income are lacking, there is little attempt to ensure that timber production is sustainable or socially responsible (Source: UNEP, Africa Environment Outlook: <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/africa-environment-outlook-2-our-environment-our-wealth>). Such cases, however, are assessed by other indicators covering requirements based on ILO provisions; thus, they are not in the scope of indicator 38.

related rights as specified in the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

- Work, but the risk assessment for indicator 39 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk';
2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers all ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, but any of the following are true:
 - Evidence of their implementation does not exist.
 - Evidence indicates systematic violation of rights.
 - When labour laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities.
 - When labour laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities.
 3. There is substantial evidence of widespread violation of the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work;
 4. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s);
 5. Evidence indicates that labour rights against child labour are not upheld.

41 *Legal requirements related to modern slavery, including forced and compulsory labour, are complied with.*

1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;
2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;
3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities.

42 *Modern slavery, including forced and compulsory labour are not used, promoted, or supported in any way, including as specified in the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.*

1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers all ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, but the risk assessment for indicator 41 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk';
2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers all ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, but any of the following are true:
 - Evidence of their implementation does not exist.
 - Evidence indicates systematic violation of rights.
 - When labour laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities.
 - When labour laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities.
3. There is substantial evidence of widespread violation of the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work;
4. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s);
5. Evidence indicates that labour rights against modern slavery, including forced and compulsory labour are not upheld.

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| <p>43 <i>Legal requirements related to the Freedom of Association, the Right to Organise and the Right to Collective Bargaining are complied with.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
| <p>44 <i>Labour rights related to the Freedom of Association, the Right to Organise and the Right to Collective Bargaining are respected, including as specified in the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers all ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work but the risk assessment for indicator 43 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk'; 2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers all ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, but any of the following are true: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of their implementation does not exist. • Evidence indicates systematic violation of rights. • When labour laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities. • When labour laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities. 3. There is substantial evidence of widespread violation of the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work; 4. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s); 5. Evidence indicates that labour rights related to the Freedom of Association, the Right to Organise and the Right to Collective Bargaining are not upheld. |
| <p>45 <i>Legal requirements related to the recruitment and employment of workers are complied with.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
| <p>46 <i>Legal requirements related to the contracts and working permits, and requirements for competence certifications and other training requirements are complied with.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |

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| <p>47 <i>Legal requirements related to workers' wages and other payments, such as social insurance contributions and the payment of social and income taxes withheld by the employer on behalf of the worker, are complied with.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
| <p>48 <i>Legal requirements related to working hours, overtime, rest time and time off are complied with.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
| <p>49 <i>Labour rights related to recruitment and employment, contracts, training, workers' wages and other payments, working hours, overtime, rest time and time off are upheld, including as specified in the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work are upheld.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers all ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, but the risk assessment for indicators 45, 46, 47, and 48 confirm a designation of 'non-negligible risk'; 2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers all ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, but any of the following are true: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of their implementation does not exist. • Evidence indicates systematic violation of rights. • When labour laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities. • When labour laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities. 3. There is substantial evidence of widespread violation of the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work; 4. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s); 5. Evidence indicates that labour rights related to employment, working hours, overtime, rest time and time off are not upheld. |
| <p>50 <i>Legal requirements related to discrimination against workers are complied with.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
| <p>51 <i>There is no discrimination against workers in processes related to</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers all ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at |

hiring, remuneration and access to training, promotion, termination, or retirement, including related rights as specified in the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

- Work but the risk assessment for indicator 50 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk';
2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers all ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, but any of the following are true:
 - Evidence of their implementation does not exist.
 - Evidence indicates systematic violation of rights.
 - When labour laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities.
 - When labour laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities.
 3. There is substantial evidence of widespread violation of the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work;
 4. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s);
 5. Evidence indicates that labour rights related to discrimination against workers are not upheld.

52 *Legal requirements related to gender equality in the workplace are complied with.*

1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;
2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;
3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities.

53 *Gender equality is protected following best practices, including ensuring availability of job opportunities, equal remuneration for work of equal value and sufficient maternity and paternity leave, and other related rights as specified in the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.*

1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers all ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, but the risk assessment for indicator 52 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk';
 2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers all ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, but any of the following are true:
 - Evidence of their implementation does not exist.
 - Evidence indicates systematic violation of rights.
 - When labour laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities.
 - When labour laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities.
 3. There is substantial evidence of widespread violation of the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work;
 4. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s);
 5. Evidence indicates that labour rights related to gender equality are not upheld.
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- 54** *Legal requirements for employer-provided worker accommodation are complied with.*
1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;
 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;
 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities.
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Third parties' rights

- 55** *Legal requirements related to: i) the rights of Indigenous Peoples and ii) The principles of FPIC, including as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are complied with.*
1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;
 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;
 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities.
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- 56** *The rights of Indigenous Peoples are respected and upheld, following principles of FPIC.*
1. The presence of Indigenous Peoples is confirmed or likely within the area. The applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers ILO provisions governing the identification and rights of Indigenous Peoples,²² but the risk assessment for indicator 55 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk';
 2. The presence of Indigenous Peoples is confirmed or likely within the area. The applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples²³ (UNDRIP) but the risk assessment for indicator 55 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk';
 3. The presence of Indigenous Peoples is confirmed or likely within the area. The applicable legislation for the area under assessment contradicts indicator requirement(s);
 4. Substantial evidence of the widespread violation of Indigenous Peoples' rights exists;
 5. Indigenous Peoples are not aware of their rights;
 6. There is evidence of conflict(s) of substantial magnitude²⁴ pertaining to the rights of Indigenous
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²² International Labour Organization Convention No. 169

²³ United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf).

²⁴ For the purpose of indicator 56, a conflict of substantial magnitude is a conflict which involves one or more of the following:

- a) Gross violation of the legal or customary rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- b) Significant negative impact(s) that are irreversible or that cannot be mitigated;
- c) A significant number of instances of physical violence against Indigenous Peoples;
- d) A significant number of instances involving the destruction of property;
- e) The presence of military bodies;
- f) Systematic acts of intimidation against Indigenous Peoples.

Guidance:

In the identification of conflicts of substantial magnitude, one must also be aware of possible parallel activities of sectors other than the forest sector which can also impact the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and that the impacts of these activities can be

Peoples. Laws and regulations or other legally established processes do not exist that serve the resolution of conflicts in the area concerned, or, such processes exist but are not recognized by affected stakeholders as being fair and equitable.

NOTE: Processes for a resolution of conflicts pertaining to use rights, cultural interests or traditional cultural identity should provide means for recourse. They should also be free from overwhelming structural imbalances or inherent unfairness, should be acceptable to affected parties, and give affected parties a means to resolve any conflicts of substantial magnitude. Rights may be defined by international structures (e.g., the UN) and local legal structures.

57 *Legal requirements related to: i) the rights of Traditional Peoples and ii) The principles of FPIC, including as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples are complied with.*

1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;
2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;
3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities.

58 *The rights of Traditional Peoples are respected and upheld, following principles of FPIC.*

1. The presence of Traditional Peoples is confirmed or likely within the area. The applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers ILO provisions governing the identification and rights of Traditional Peoples,²⁵ but the risk assessment for indicator 57 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk';
2. The presence of Traditional Peoples is confirmed or likely within the area. The applicable legislation for the area under assessment contradicts indicator requirement(s);
3. Substantial evidence of the widespread violation of Traditional Peoples' rights exists;
4. Traditional Peoples are not aware of their rights;
5. There is evidence of conflict(s) of substantial magnitude²⁶ pertaining to the rights of Traditional

cumulative This cumulative impact can in turn lead to a 'gross violation of Indigenous Peoples' rights' or 'irreversible consequences', but the extent of the contribution of forest management operations to those impacts needs to be assessed. The substance and magnitude of conflicts shall be determined through the risk assessment process according to national/regional conditions. The risk assessment shall provide definition of such conflicts.

²⁵ [International Labour Organization Convention No. 169](#)

²⁶ For the purpose of indicator 58, a conflict of substantial magnitude is a conflict which involves one or more of the following:

- a) Gross violation of the legal or customary rights of Traditional Peoples;
- b) Significant negative impact(s) that are irreversible or that cannot be mitigated;
- c) A significant number of instances of physical violence against Traditional Peoples;
- d) A significant number of instances involving the destruction of property;
- e) The presence of military bodies;
- f) Systematic acts of intimidation against Traditional Peoples.

Guidance:

Peoples. Laws and regulations or other legally established processes do not exist that serve the resolution of conflicts in the area concerned, or, such processes exist but are not recognized by affected stakeholders as being fair and equitable.

NOTE: Processes for a resolution of conflicts pertaining to use rights, cultural interests or traditional cultural identity should provide means for recourse. They should also be free from overwhelming structural imbalances or inherent unfairness, should be acceptable to affected parties, and give affected parties a means to resolve any conflicts of substantial magnitude. Rights may be defined by international structures (e.g., the UN) and local legal structures.

59 *Legally recognised customary and community rights are identified and respected.*

1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;
2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;
3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities.

60 *The rights of local communities are respected and upheld.*

1. The presence of local communities is confirmed or likely within the area. The applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers ILO provisions governing the identification and rights of local communities, but the risk assessment for indicator 59 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk';
2. The presence of local communities is confirmed or likely within the area. The applicable legislation for the area under assessment contradicts indicator requirement(s);
3. Local communities are not aware of their rights;
4. Evidence indicates that the rights of local communities are not upheld.

61 *Interaction with Indigenous Peoples, Traditional Peoples and local communities is conducted in a respectful and culturally appropriate manner.*

1. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but the risk assessment for indicator 55, 57, and 59 confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk';
2. Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the requirements under this indicator, but any of the following are true:

In the identification of conflicts of substantial magnitude, one must also be aware of possible parallel activities of sectors other than the forest sector which can also impact the rights of Traditional Peoples, and that the impacts of these activities can be cumulative. This cumulative impact can in turn lead to a 'gross violation of Traditional Peoples' rights' or 'irreversible consequences', but the extent of the contribution of forest management operations to those impacts needs to be assessed. The substance and magnitude of conflicts shall be determined through the risk assessment process according to national/regional conditions. The risk assessment shall provide definition of such conflicts.

- Evidence of their implementation does not exist.
 - Evidence indicates systematic violation of requirements.
 - When laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities.
 - When laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities.
3. The applicable legislation for the area contradicts indicator requirement(s);
 4. Evidence indicates that the requirements under this indicator are not upheld.

Trade and transport

62 *Legal requirements related to the trade and transport of products are complied with.*

1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;
2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;
3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities.

63 *Legal requirements related to applicable trade restrictions and sanctions are complied with.*

1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;
2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;
3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities.

64 *Legal requirements related to the classification of products are complied with.*

1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;
2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;
3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities.

65 *Legal requirements related to the export and/or import of products are complied with.*

1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof;
 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities;
 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities.
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| <p>66 <i>Legal requirements relating to offshore trading and transfer pricing are complied with.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
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Due diligence/due care

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| <p>67 <i>Legal requirements relating to due diligence or due care are complied with.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified laws are not consistently upheld by all entities, are often ignored, are not enforced by relevant authorities, or any combination thereof; 2. Violations of identified laws are not efficiently followed up on by the relevant entities; 3. Violations of identified laws are not followed up by preventive actions taken by the relevant entities. |
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Conversion and forest degradation

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| <p>68 <i>There is no conversion from forest to agriculture since 31 December 2020.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers laws that prevent conversion, but the risk assessment for relevant indicators on legal compliance confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk'; 2. Evidence indicates that conversion from forest to agriculture is occurring. |
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| <p>69 <i>There is no forest degradation since 31 December 2020.</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The degradation of forests since 31 December 2020 is more than 0.02% on average per year; 2. The applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers laws that prevent forest degradation, but the risk assessment for relevant indicators on legal compliance confirms a designation of 'non-negligible risk'; 3. Evidence indicates that forest degradation is occurring on a widespread or systematic basis. |
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High Conservation Values (HCV)

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| <p>70 Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened, or endangered species that are significant at global, regional or national levels are identified and protected, maintained or enhanced (HCV1).</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Available data are not sufficient for determining HCV presence within the area under assessment; 2. Available data are not sufficient for an assessment of the threats to HCVs caused by management activities. 3. HCV 1 is identified, or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment and is threatened by management activities. |
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| <p>71 Intact forest landscapes and large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional, or</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Available data are not sufficient for determining HCV presence within the area under assessment; |
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| | <p>national levels, and which contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally-occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance, are identified and protected, maintained or enhanced (HCV2).</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Available data are not sufficient for an assessment of the threats to HCVs caused by management activities. 3. HCV 2 is identified, or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment and is threatened by management activities. |
| <p>72 <i>Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia are identified and protected, maintained, or enhanced (HCV3).</i></p> | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Available data are not sufficient for determining HCV presence within the area under assessment; 2. Available data are not sufficient for an assessment of the threats to HCVs caused by management activities. 3. HCV 3 is identified, or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment and is threatened by management activities. |
| <p>73 <i>Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including the protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes, are identified and protected (HCV4).</i></p> | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Available data are not sufficient for determining HCV presence within the area under assessment; 2. Available data are not sufficient for an assessment of the threats to HCVs caused by management activities. 3. HCV 4 is identified, or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment and is threatened by management activities. |
| <p>74 <i>Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic needs of local communities or Indigenous Peoples are identified and protected (HCV5).</i></p> | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Available data are not sufficient for determining HCV presence within the area under assessment; 2. Available data are not sufficient for an assessment of the threats to HCVs caused by management activities. 3. HCV 5 is identified, or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment and is threatened by management activities. |
| <p>75 <i>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 are identified and protected (HCV6).</i></p> | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Available data are not sufficient for determining HCV presence within the area under assessment; 2. Available data are not sufficient for an assessment of the threats to HCVs caused by management activities. 3. HCV 6 is identified, or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment and is threatened by management activities. |

Genetically modified organisms (GMO)

- 76 There is no commercial use of GMO (trees).
1. GMO (trees) use is legal, according to applicable legislation of the area under assessment;
 2. GMO (trees) use is illegal according to applicable legislation of the area under assessment, but any of the following are true:
 3. Evidence of the implementation of the ban does not exist.
 - Evidence indicates a systematic violation of the ban.
 - When laws are broken, cases are not efficiently followed up on by relevant entities.
 - When laws are broken, causes are not addressed through the implementation of preventive actions by relevant entities.
 4. There is evidence of commercial use of GMO (tree) species.
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Table 2. Indicators that could potentially be added to the common set of indicators.

NOTE: This table is presented only for information and is under development regarding other indicators not applicable for FSC certification, which is being discussed by the organizations participating in the Risk Information Alliance for cross-scheme risk assessments.

| No. | Indicator |
|--|---|
| Legal rights to land use and management | |
| 1 | <i>Land areas under management are protected from illegal encroachment by third parties</i> |
| Management activities | |
| 2 | <i>Where applicable, buildings, infrastructure and activities ensure appropriate access and accessibility features.</i> |
| 3 | <i>Legal requirements relating to activities in non-forest areas, including Other Natural Ecosystems, are complied with.</i> |
| Human and labour rights | |
| 4 | <i>Significant past human rights violations caused by the organisation are remediated.</i> |
| 5 | <i>Withholding of salary, benefits, documents or property is not used in ways to restrict workers' freedom.</i> |
| 6 | <i>Workers have the right to leave the workplace after completing their workday.</i> |
| 7 | <i>Workers are free to terminate their employment provided they give their employer reasonable notice.</i> |
| 8 | <i>Responsibilities towards workers are not avoided by hiring de facto permanent, long-term, full-time workers under seasonal or temporary contracts.</i> |
| 9 | <i>Where migrant workers are hired, the following are ensured: a) The employment of migrant workers follows legal requirements. b) Migrant workers are legally authorised to enter, stay and engage in a remunerated activity in the area/country. c) Migrant workers and their families are free to travel and leave the area/country without restrictions, except those defined by law.</i> |
| 10 | <i>Migrant workers are ensured equal opportunities and no less favourable treatment than local workers.</i> |
| 11 | <i>Accommodation is offered to workers if no affordable or safe accommodation is otherwise available, especially in remote locations where commuting is not a viable option or where workers are expected to stay within the premises for an extended period.</i> |
| 12 | <i>If workers pay for employer-provided accommodation, the cost of accommodation is proportional to the pay and comparable to similar accommodation in the area/industry.</i> |
| 13 | <i>Employer-provided accommodation is safe and hygienic.</i> |
| 14 | <i>Where workers and their families live in employer-provided accommodation, the employer ensures access to medical, educational, and social services.</i> |
| Third parties' rights | |
| 15 | <i>Reasonable opportunities for employment, training and other services are available to communities.</i> |
| 16 | <i>Cultures are respected and valued, and negative impacts on local culture are minimised.</i> |
| 17 | <i>Local practices, properties, sites and traditions of historical, archaeological, land management, cultural and spiritual significance are protected.</i> |

18 *Historical and archaeological artifacts are not sold, traded or displayed except as permitted by local and international law.*

19 *The impacts of activities on Indigenous Peoples, Traditional Peoples and local communities are identified, and adverse effects are avoided.*

Trade and transport

20 *Payments are agreed upon and made in a timely manner and receipts specifying price, quantity/volume/weight, qualities, deductions and amount paid are given.*

21 *Contracts with suppliers and/or buyers have clear terms, are fair and transparent, have an agreed upon timeframe and are not changed or cancelled unilaterally.*

Conversion and forest degradation

22 *The use of natural resources ensures long-term productivity and resource yield.*

23 *If clear-cuts are used for forest management, the size of clear-cuts is minimised to be ecologically appropriate for the forest ecosystem, type and biome.*

24 *Fire risk is controlled, and fire is only used for land preparation where environmental and social benefits are demonstrated.*

Quality of customers' and visitors' experience

25 *Facilities are kept in working order, and are clean and safe for customers and visitors.*

26 *Facilities are appropriate for the activities of customers and visitors.*

27 *Communication with customers and visitors is accurate and reliable and promotes responsible visits and interactions.*

Animal health and welfare

28 *Legal requirements relating to animal health, welfare, medication, transport and traceability are complied with*

29 *Animals are fed to satisfy nutritional needs and ensure good health.*

30 *Animals can access environments that allow them to move freely and exhibit natural behaviour.*

31 *Animals have continuous access to fresh and clean water that is sufficient to eliminate competition between animals.*

32 *Measures (such as vaccination and hygiene) are taken to prevent diseases while minimising risks of antimicrobial resistance as well as pain and injury to the animals.*

33 *Housing, pens and handling facilities have space, ventilation, lighting and drainage, and are safe, minimising the risk of diseases, injury and stress to the animals, and are adjusted to climatic zone conditions.*

34 *Transportation of animals considers the animals' size, climatic conditions and need for water and food (in case of long-distance transportation), minimising animal stress.*

35 *Animal handling is done by workers with experience and competence in animal welfare.*

Climate change impacts

36 *Significant greenhouse gas emission sources are identified, considering management practices, land use change, livestock, energy, sourcing and use of materials.*

37 *Animal feed shall be from sources that do not contribute to deforestation.*

-
- 38** *If there is a risk that sourcing activities may cause significant indirect land use change through conversion or destruction of forests or natural ecosystems elsewhere, steps are taken to mitigate such risk.*
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- 39** *Efforts are taken to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases resulting from activities, meeting, at minimum, the industry sector's best practices and considering the best available technology.*
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- 40** *The amount of soil carbon is maintained or increased.*
-
- 41** *If applicable, national and/or international regulations concerning emission reduction targets for relevant climate change factors and actions are complied with.*
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- 42** *The critical risks for the operation resulting or potentially resulting from climate change are identified.*
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- 43** *Measures for climate change adaptation are implemented for high-risk areas and are proportionate to the scale of the operations and anticipated social, economic and environmental impacts.*
-
- 44** *Best business practices to ensure GHG removals based on land use and land management practices and carbon stocks to promote positive climate regulation over time are implemented.*
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- 45** *If implemented, ecosystem restoration efforts aim to both regain the ecological functionality of the reference ecosystem and enhance human well-being while considering the area's changing environmental, social and economic conditions.*
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ANNEX 1: STAKEHOLDER GROUPS TO BE CONSULTED IN THE RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Stakeholders representing the interests listed below shall be identified and notified during the process of the development of risk assessments. Each group specified may be represented by an unlimited number of representatives. The list is not comprehensive, and any other stakeholder groups relevant for a risk assessment under national/regional conditions shall be identified and notified (see Clause 5.2 under section 'Process requirements for developing and revising risk assessments').

1. Economic interests

- Forest owners and/or managers of large, medium and small forests; high-, medium-, and low-intensity managed forests;
- Tenure and use rights holders, including landowners;
- Forest contractors (including loggers);
- Representatives of forest workers and forest industries;
- Certificate holders relevant for the organizations participating in the Risk Information Alliance.

2. Social interests

- NGOs involved or with an interest in social aspects of forest management and other related operations;
- Forest workers;
- International, national and local trade/labour unions;
- Representatives of local communities involved in or possessing an interest in forest management, including those relevant for HCVs 5 and 6;
- Representatives of Indigenous Peoples and/or Traditional Peoples (if present and/or holding rights), including those relevant for HCVs 5 and 6;
- Representatives of recreation interests.

3. Environmental interests

- NGOs involved in or possessing an interest in the environmental aspects of forest management. Consultation should target the following areas of interest and expertise:
- Biological diversity;
- Water and soil;
- High Conservation Values related to the environment;
- Local communities and Indigenous Peoples' representatives.

4. FSC-accredited certification bodies active in the country

5. Local development projects.

6. Government and enforcement agencies.

7. Experts, as specified in Clause 3.7 of the section 'Requirements for the content of risk assessments'.

8. Research institutions and universities.

9. National and regional offices of the organizations participating in the Risk Information Alliance.

ANNEX 2: EXAMPLES OF RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERING GEOPOLITICAL AND FUNCTIONAL SCALES

EXAMPLE 1.

Background information:

The country is divided into 4 provinces, each of which have different provincial laws. The applicable legislation for each province has been identified. Assessment of the enforcement of laws shows that laws are upheld in Provinces I, II and IV however in Province III, which has a high population density, there is data indicating significant problems pertaining to the theft of wood.



Figure 2. Designation of risks considering geopolitical scale.

Risk mitigation:

Area 1.III

Examples of mitigation measures for 'non-negligible risk':

Sourcing wood from legally established forest management enterprises.

Examples of verifiers:

Supplier documentation confirms legal rights to harvest in the MU.

Exclusion of suppliers that do not provide evidence of legal rights to harvest.

EXAMPLE 2.

Background information:

This example is based on the country discussed in Example 1 above. Investigation and data analysis shows that social issues are dealt with differently in different provinces, so scale was determined based on administrative divisions.

Within Province I, there is no confirmed or likely presence of Indigenous and/or Traditional Peoples. This area has been assessed as 'negligible risk'. In Provinces II and III, there is a confirmed presence of Indigenous Peoples, including nomadic tribes who regularly migrate between the two Provinces. Cross-checking with the risk assessment carried out in Example 1 confirms that the rights of Indigenous Peoples are established and enforced. There is no data indicating conflicts in either Province; thus they have also been assessed as 'negligible risk'. Please note that the problem with theft as identified in Province III in Example 1 is not explicitly related to social rights for the purposes of this example.

Within Province IV, the presence of Indigenous Peoples has been confirmed. The applicable legislation does not cover Indigenous Peoples' rights, and there are no other regulations that would protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples. The mitigation of this risk will require the implementation of FPIC, and evidence of this shall be provided through agreements with the relevant Indigenous Peoples' representatives. In this area, forests are managed by private owners and public authorities. Special agreements have been signed for public forests (PF) between forest managers and Indigenous Peoples' representatives, ensuring the implementation of FPIC. Evidence exists that these agreements are upheld. There is no such agreement signed for private forests. The area is assessed as 'negligible risk' for public forests and as 'non-negligible risk' for other forests.



Figure 3. Designation of risks considering geopolitical and functional scales.

Risk mitigation:

Area 2.III

Risk designation within Province IV:

Public forest – ‘negligible risk’

Other forests – ‘non-negligible risk’

Examples of mitigation measures for ‘non-negligible risk’:

Supplier documentation confirming that an agreement between forest managers/owners and Indigenous or Traditional Peoples exists at the Management Unit level, ensuring the proper implementation of FPIC.

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ANNEX 3: RISK ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

NOTE: This Annex is available in a separate document, in Excel format.

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ANNEX 4: LIST OF RECOMMENDED SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR RISK ASSESSMENTS

NOTE: This Annex is available in a separate document, in Excel format.

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