

**CONCEPTUAL REPORT FOR PHASE II OF THE
REVISION OF THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
PROCEDURE (FSC-PRO-30-006):
IMPLEMENTATION OF MOTION 53/2021**

**Forest Management and
Climate and Ecosystem
Services teams**

30 January 2025

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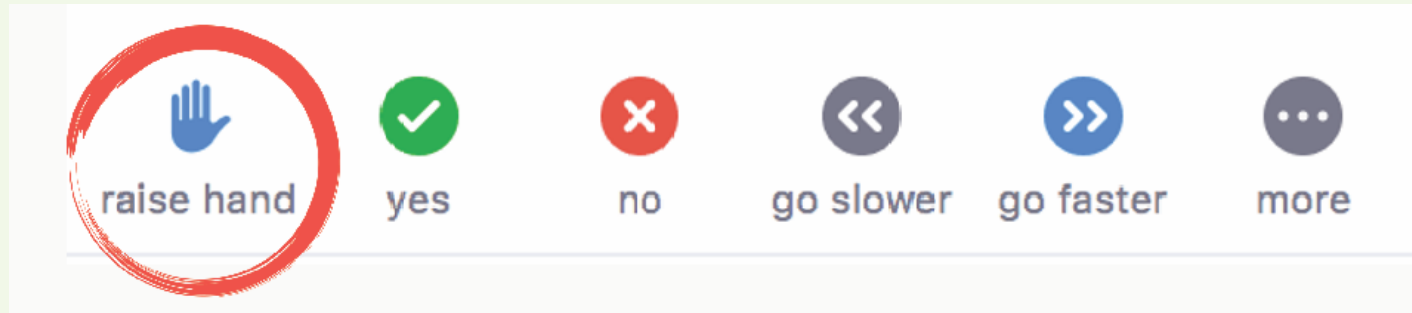


Reactions

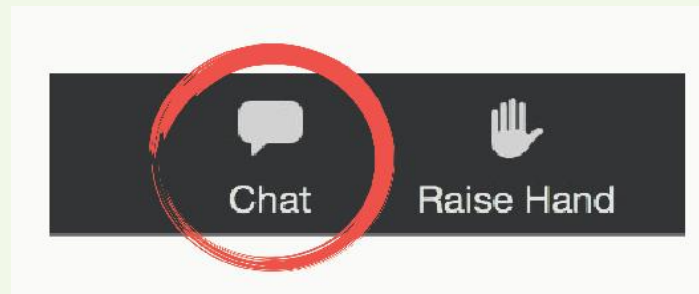
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1. WELCOME AND AGENDA

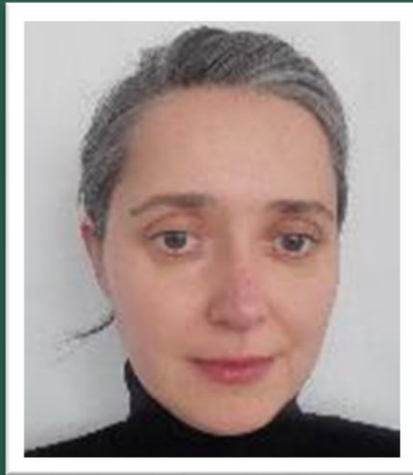


AGENDA



	Topic	Time	Presenter
1	Welcome & agenda	5 min.	Maria
2	Process overview	9 mins.	Maria
3	Overview consultation report	45 mins.	Natalia
4	Q&A	30 min.	All
5	Summary & Thank you	1 min.	Maria

Presenters in today's webinar



Maria Wowro

Climate and Ecosystem Services Program Manager

Marketing and Communication Unit



Natalia De Morais Gagini

Climate and Ecosystem Services Officer

Marketing and Communication Unit

2. PROCESS OVERVIEW



Ecosystem Services Procedure



- Based on Forest Management certification, the Ecosystem Services Procedure gives the framework for measuring and verifying the benefits that forests provide.
- The revision of the Ecosystem Services Procedure in two phases is a joint effort between PSU and MCU units at FSC.

How did the revision of the Ecosystem Services Procedure start?

1. Motion 48/2021 was approved at the FSC GA 2021
(October 2021)

When Motion 48 (which requested streamlining the FSC ES PRO) was approved, the revision of ES PRO was, consequently, also approved.

2. Review report recommended the full revision of the ES PRO
(consulted in Dec 2021 – Jan 2022)

FSC's Performance and Standards Unit recommended the full revision of the procedure following the regular review cycle.

Revision (Phase 1) - Finished

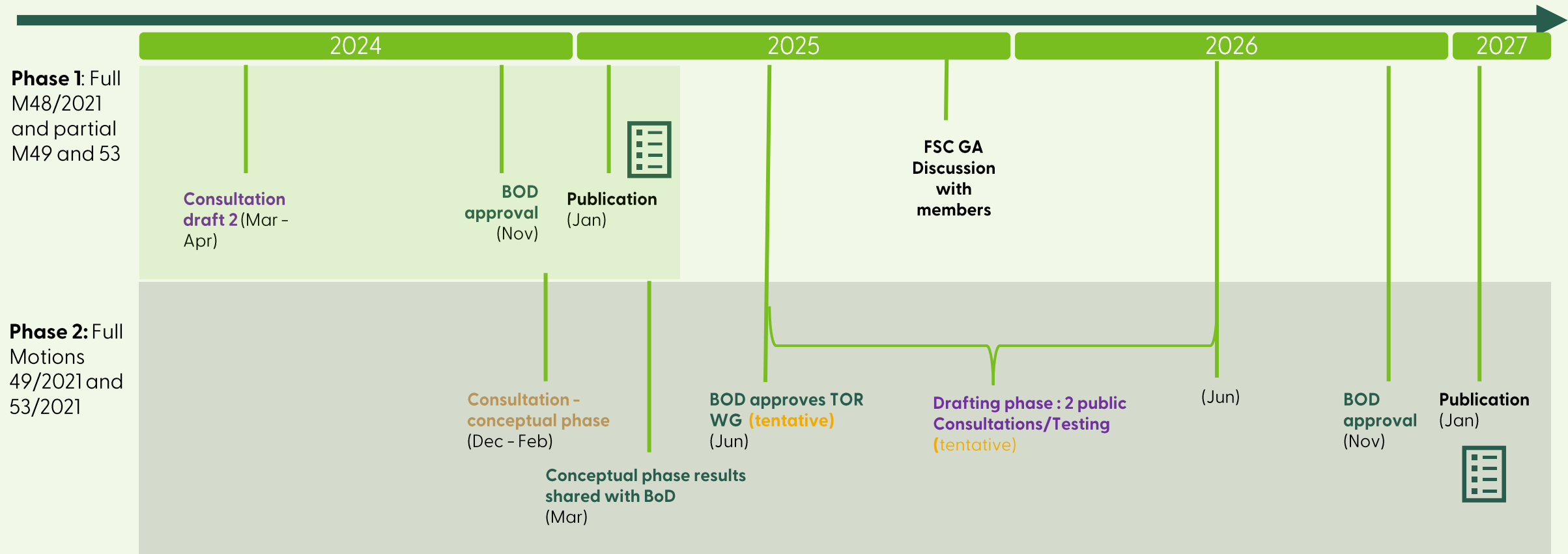
In 2022 two key motions were approved at the FSC GA

3. Motion 49 was approved at the FSC GA Oct 2022
(ES PRO as a mitigation mechanism)

4. Motion 53 was approved at the FSC GA 2022
(Incorporate the recognition of cultural services and practices of Indigenous Peoples in ES PRO)

Revision (Phase 2) - Ongoing

Timelines for Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the revision of the Ecosystem Services procedure



3. OVERVIEW REVISION PHASE 2: MOTION 53



INDIGENOUS & TRADITIONAL PEOPLES AND THE ES PRO

MOTION 53/2021:

“Incorporate to **ecosystem services** the recognition of **cultural services and practices** to strengthen and endure over time the interconnection of **Indigenous and Traditional Peoples**”



MOTION 53/2021:

Services and claims will be developed for each the following:



Protection and maintenance of **cultural and ancestral knowledge** and practices, including the guardianship and mentoring of the next generations.



Protection and maintenance of **cultural places and archaeological sites**.



Strengthened social benefits of forests including **health and well-being**.



Consider additional **cultural practice claims** which have a specific social or environmental outcome such as the use of **traditional fire practices** which combat biodiversity loss and climate change driven wildfires.

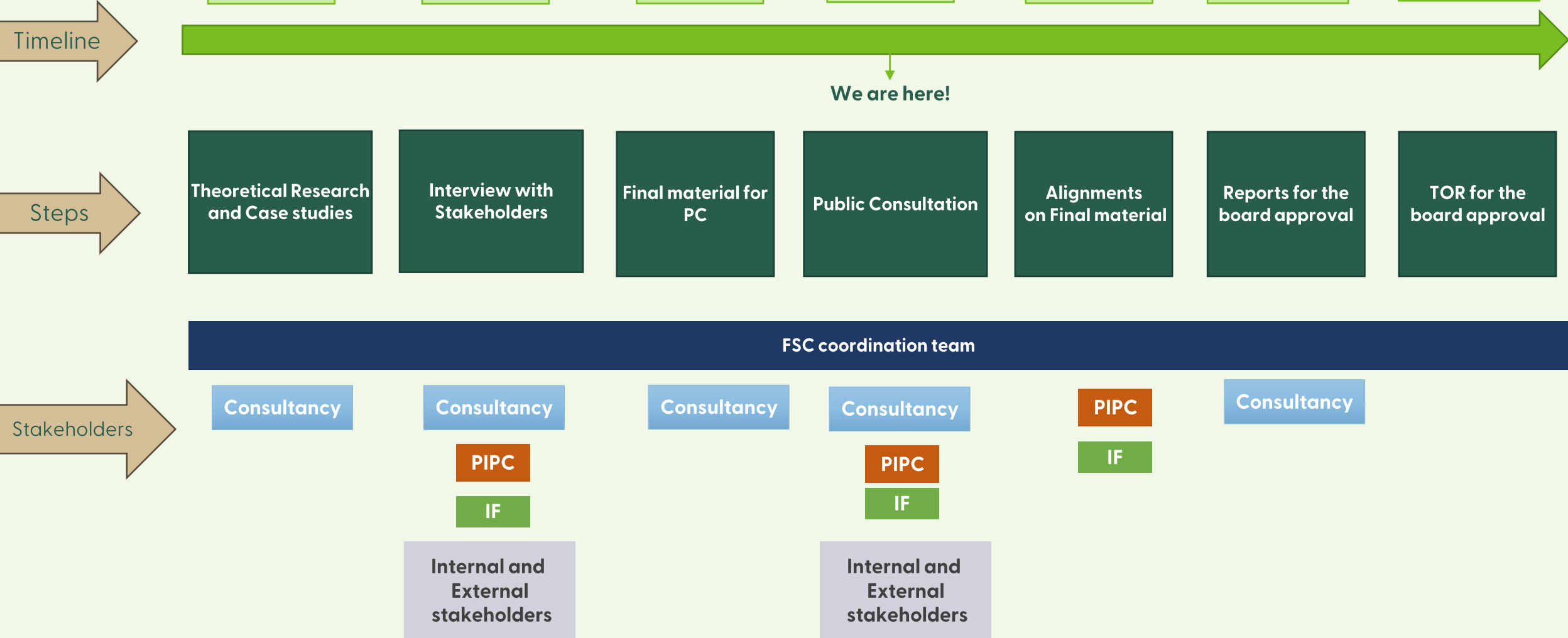
ADDITIONAL MOTION 53/2021 STATEMENTS:



Consider these critical improvements in the ES PRO:

- **The development, implementation, and verification** of these services are **designed by and adapted to the activities that Indigenous and Traditional Peoples perform**, facilitating the process.
- The Ecosystem Services approach, including **verification methods, will be simplified**, using innovative and low-cost solutions aligned with similar community controls applied in certain regions and/or local community verifiers.
- The **Indigenous and Traditional Peoples will be the owners of and the beneficiaries of the services and claims** and will **retain Intellectual Property Rights**.
- Development and consultations shall be carried out using the **Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)** to which Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Communities are entitled.
- Enable **bundling of services and claims**.

STEPS OF MOTION 53 CONCEPTUAL PHASE



SUMMARY OF INTERVIEWS - CONCEPTUAL PHASE

-> 44 interviews with stakeholders during May and August 2024



12 field interviews with FSC ES-certified Indigenous communities in San Gerónimo de Zacapexco, Mexico.

14 interviews with FSC-certified Indigenous communities around Oaxaca, Mexico.



15 online interviews with selected stakeholders, including five members of the FSC Permanent Indigenous Peoples Committee (PIPC).

3 interviews with representatives from an NGO in Peru.

- **Stakeholders selected** based on an FSC stakeholder management plan, prioritizing individuals with relevant **knowledge of Motion 53 and the FSC system.**
- The **motion proposers** were also included in the interviews.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE INTERVIEWS

Importance and Endorsements on Motion 53/2021 idea and approach:

- Reinforces **FSC's commitment** to conserving **Indigenous Cultural Landscapes**, recognizing **High Conservation Values**, and integrating Indigenous sociocultural values into FSC certification.
- Positions **Indigenous and traditional peoples as central to the certification** process, creating a market opportunity for recognizing Indigenous and traditional cultures in forest conservation projects.
- Emphasizes the **intrinsic value of Indigenous and traditional peoples and their cultures** beyond their utilitarian role in forest preservation, advocating for FSC to communicate this ethical perspective and call for action.
- Offers an opportunity to **maintain and enhance the cultural elements** of Indigenous and traditional peoples within communities at risk of losing their traditions.
- Reinforces **principles of self-determination** and Indigenous and traditional peoples' **land use tenure**.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONCEPTUAL PHASE



Great Potential Identified in the Desk Research:

- **No similar initiative exists worldwide**, positioning FSC as a pioneer.
- Approximately **65% of the world's total land area** is owned or managed by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) through land tenure and community agreements.
- About **80% of global biodiversity** is found on Indigenous and traditional peoples' lands.
- Significant opportunity to **align with organizations and governments** committed to meeting international socio-environmental goals and agendas.
- Cultural ES could **complement carbon and biodiversity claims** (focus of the ES market).

KEY RESULTS - NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS

Foster an integrated approach / Culture as a cross-cutting element. Indigenous and traditional peoples' projects would connect cultural elements with the supporting, regulating, and provisioning ecosystem services.



Strengthen safeguards to protect Indigenous and traditional peoples, especially in the FPIC process and intellectual property rights in the communication of cultural claims.

Ensure a **participatory community approach** in project design and implementation.

Allow **culturally and locally adapted methods** of verifying Ecosystem Services Procedure impacts.

3.1- PROPOSALS FOR THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION



Overview – 5 Topics and 19 Proposals



Proposals	Topic 1 New Impacts and Outcome Indicators	Topic 2 Cross-cutting ES Impact Category	Topic 3 New ES Claims	Topic 4 Audit Adaptation	Topic 5 Additional Safeguards and Guidance
	Proposal 1.1	Proposal 6	Proposal 8	Proposal 10	Proposal 12
	Proposal 1.2	Proposal 7	Proposal 9	Proposal 11	Proposal 13
	Proposal 2.1				
	Proposal 2.2				
	Proposal 3.1				
	Proposal 3.2				
	Proposal 3.3				
	Proposal 4.1				
	Proposal 4.2				
	Proposal 4.3				
	Proposal 5				

Topic 1- New Impacts and Outcome Indicators:



New impacts and outcome indicators under the ES6 will **address Motion 53 requests**, with the possibility of **local and regional adaptations of the outcome indicators**.

Impact categories that **will encompass the four Motion/53 requests**:

1. Protection and maintenance of cultural and ancestral knowledge and practices, including the guardianship and mentoring of the next generations.
2. Protection and maintenance of cultural places and archaeological sites.
3. Strengthened social benefits of forests, including health and well-being.
4. Consider additional cultural practice claims which have a specific social or environmental outcome such as the use of traditional fire practices which combat biodiversity loss and climate change driven wildfires.

Topic 1- New Impacts and Outcome Indicators:



Background information		Proposals Phase 2
Motion 53	Covered in Phase 1	Outcome Indicators
Request	ES PRO V2-0 - published in January 2025.	
1) “Protection and maintenance of cultural and ancestral knowledge and practices, including the guardianship and mentoring of the next generations.”	<p>“Impacts ES6.1/ ES6.2:</p> <p>“Maintenance/Enhancement of cultural and ancestral knowledge, practices, and language.”</p> <p>Type of Outcome Indicators under the Impacts ES6.1/ ES6.2:</p> <p>a) “Extent of protected areas or sites in the forest that are of importance for cultural practices.”</p> <p>b) “Socio-cultural and environmental benefits resulting from their connection to the forest.”</p>	<p>Proposal 1.1</p> <p>FSC to include new Outcome Indicators under ES6.1/ ES6.2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Level of the presence of ancestral culture and knowledge in the community.” “Number of cultural activities the community does to reinforce the ancestral knowledge transmission and cultural practices.” <p>Proposal 1.2:</p> <p>Any additional outcome indicators should be developed based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative assessment based on community members' testimonials (interviews) Observations of the community dynamics. Incorporation of community controls

Topic 1- New Impacts and Outcome Indicators:



Background information		Proposals Phase 2	
Motion 53 Request	Covered in Phase 1 ES PRO V2-0 - published in January 2025	Cultural Values and Practices Impacts	Outcome Indicators
2) “Protection and maintenance of cultural places and archaeological sites.”	<p>Impact ES6.3/ ES6.4: “Maintenance/Enhancement of culturally valued populations or species.”</p> <p>Type of Outcome Indicators under the Impact ES6.3/ ES6.4:</p> <p>a) “Culturally valued species or populations.”</p> <p>a) “Habitats protected by traditional, Indigenous practices.”</p>	<p>Proposal 2.1:</p> <p>FSC should expand on impacts ES6.3/ ES6.4 included in ES PRO V2-0 published in January 20205:</p> <p>And</p> <p>Consider adding to these Impacts: “Maintenance/Enhancement of cultural and archaeological sites.”</p> <p>E.g:</p> <p>ES6.3/ ES6.4: “Maintenance/Enhancement of culturally valued populations or species and/or archaeological sites.”</p>	<p>Conceptual Phase research did not identify a need for additional outcome indicators for those included in Impact ES6.3/ ES6.4.</p> <p>Proposal 2.2:</p> <p>Any additional outcome indicators should be developed based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative assessment based on community members' testimonials (interviews) • Observations of the community dynamics. • Incorporation of community controls.

Topic 1- New Impacts and Outcome Indicators:



Background information		Proposals Phase 2	
Motion 53 Request	Covered in Phase 1 ES PRO V2-0 - published in January 2025	Cultural Values and Practices Impacts	Outcome Indicators
3) “Strengthened social benefits of forests, including health and well-being.”	Solutions were not included in the ES PRO V2-0 published in January 2025	<p>Proposal 3.1</p> <p>FSC should expand on impacts under ES 6 Cultural practices and values and add:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ES 6.5/ ES 6.6 “Maintenance/Enhancement of the socioenvironmental conditions that enable food security.” ES6.7/ES 6.8 “Maintenance/Enhancement of the community’s sense of belonging and self-determination.” 	<p>Proposal 3.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider new outcome indicator under the impacts ES 6.5/ ES 6.6 and ES6.7/ES 6.8. This will be correlated to the High Conservation Value 5. (HCV5): Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities* or Indigenous Peoples* (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.), identified through engagement* with these communities or Indigenous Peoples*. <p>Proposal 3.3:</p> <p>Any additional outcome indicators should be developed based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative assessment based on community members' testimonials (interviews) Observations of the community dynamics. Incorporation of community controls.

Topic 1- New Impacts and Outcome Indicators:



Background information		Proposals Phase 2	
Motion 53 Request	Covered in Phase 1 ES PRO V2-0 - published in January 2025	Cultural Values and Practices Impacts	Outcome Indicators
4) “Consider additional cultural practice claims that have a specific social or environmental outcome, such as the use of traditional fire practices that combat biodiversity loss and climate change-driven wildfires.”	Solutions were not included in the ES PRO V2-0 published in January 2025	<p>Proposal 4.1</p> <p>FSC should create impacts under ES 6 Cultural practices and values and add:</p> <p>ES6.9/ ES6.10:</p> <p>“Maintenance/Enhancement of traditional stewardship practices that generate social and/or environmental outcomes”</p>	<p>Proposal 4.2</p> <p>Based on Conceptual Phase research, the proposal is to consider the following new outcome indicators under impacts ES6.9/ ES6.10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Number of traditional stewardship practices the community does that have social and/or environmental outcomes.” <p>Proposal 4.3:</p> <p>Any additional outcome indicators should be developed based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative assessment based on community members' testimonials. • Incorporation of community controls. • Incorporation of health authorities / third parties' controls.

Topic 1- New Impacts and Outcome Indicators



Proposal 5:

Enable local and/or regional **adaptations and flexibilities** of the impacts and outcome indicators.

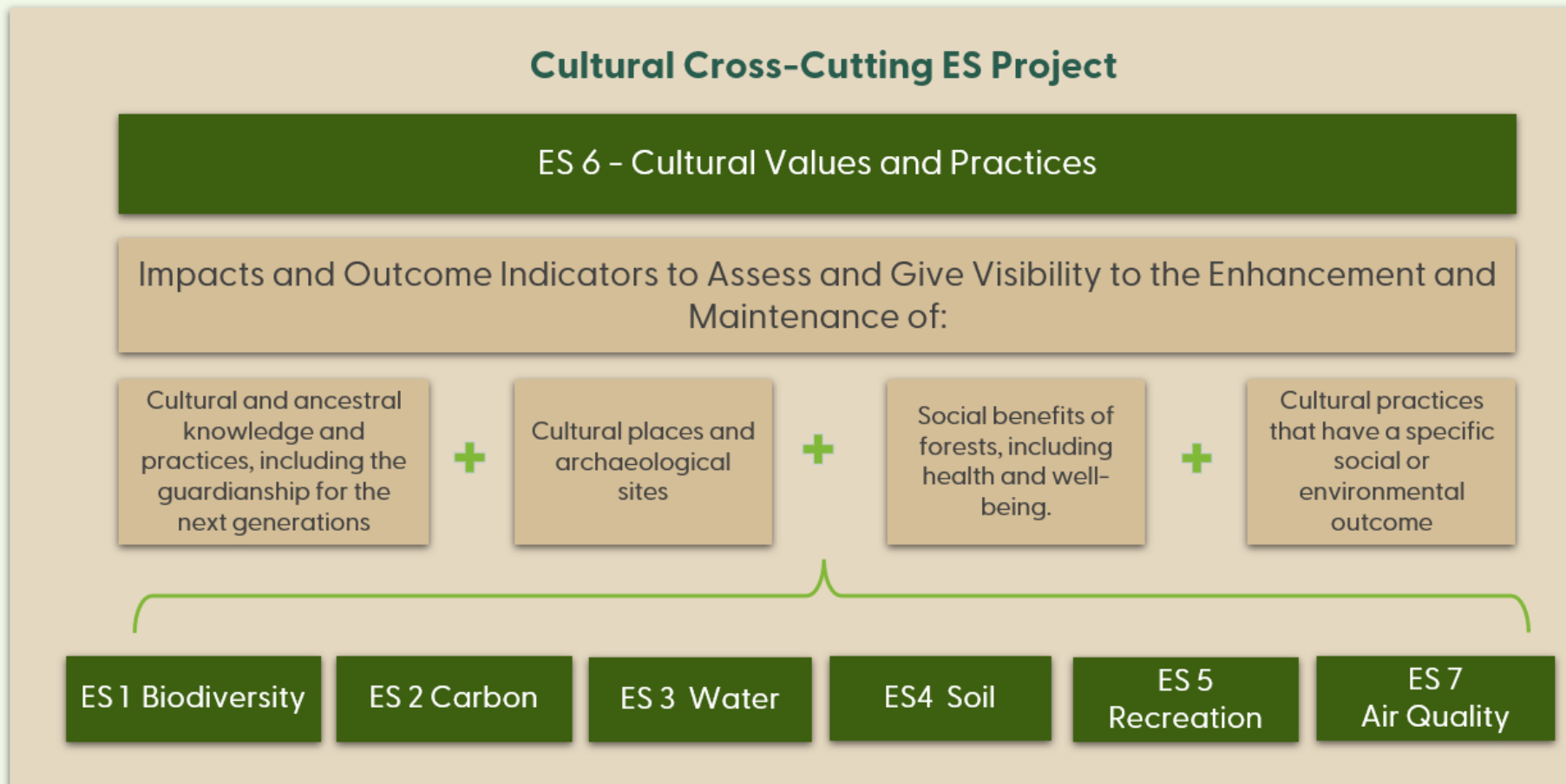
Types of the Questions:

- a) One question per proposal is to respond to what extent you agree with the proposal. (1 - Strongly disagree; 5 - Strongly agree)
- b) One open question per proposal is to provide the rationale for your answer and/or any suggestions for improvement

Topic 2 - Cross-cutting ES Impact Category

Enable verification of the ecosystem services in a model that encompasses a **cross-cutting impact evaluation**.

Enable the interconnections between Indigenous and Traditional Peoples' cultural values and practices and their influence on activities that sustain or improve other ecosystem services.



Topic 2 – Cross-Cutting ES Impact Category



Proposal 6: FSC proposes to **create clauses** in the ES PRO to show the impacts of Indigenous and Traditional Peoples’ practices and the Cultural practices and values on other ES Impacts.

Proposal 7: FSC is **proposing the Cultural Cross-Cutting ES as a name for this model**. However, stakeholders are welcome to **provide feedback and further naming suggestions**.

Type of Questions:

- a) One question per proposal to respond to what extent you agree with the proposal. (1 – Strongly disagree; 5 – Strongly agree)
- b) One open question per proposal to provide the rationale for your answer and/or any suggestions for improvement

Topic 3 - New ES Claims

- **To give more visibility** to the work and impacts under Indigenous and Traditional Peoples' ES projects
- **Enable a proper communication** showcasing that those ES verified impacts were **achieved thanks to** these communities' traditional knowledge, cultural values, and practices.
- Option to **give to these ES Claims special features and/or value.**



Topic 3 - New ES Claims



Proposal 8 - Create the clauses to **enable the new ES claim category**: The Cultural Cross-Cutting ES Claim

Proposal 9 - **Propose improvements** to the current ES PRO Claims design for the Cultural Cross-Cutting Claims

Type of Questions:

- a) One question to respond to what extent you agree with the proposal 9. (1 - Strongly disagree; 5 - Strongly agree)
- b) One question to respond to how should the new “Cultural Cross-Cutting ES” claim be differentiated? : (1- Keep as it is; 2- Different textual elements; 3- Different design; **4- Another Proposal; (if so, please say what could be different).**)
- c) One open question per proposal to provide the rationale for your answer and/or any suggestions for improvement

Topic 4 - Audit Adaptation



Motion 53/2021 states FSC to **“adapt the verification methods** for the Indigenous and Traditional Peoples' realities, facilitating this process for the communities and using local and ongoing verification methods”.

During the research and interviews of the conceptual phase, FSC collected feedback about the **necessity of adjusting the audit process to enable a trusted and effective verification of Cultural ES impacts.**

These cases **auditing process of might be beyond the current guidance and auditors' expertise. FSC will have to ensure the right orientation** and capacity of Certificate Bodies are in place.

FSC will be **careful not to impose further costs and burdens** on the audit process.

Topic 4 - Audit Adaptation



Proposal 10: Develop **clauses in the ES PRO** requesting that the Cultural ES audits follow the existing clauses in the FSC-PRO-30-011 V1-0 EN **Continuous Improvement Procedure**.

Proposal 11: Develop **clauses in the ES PRO** requesting that cultural ES audits be conducted by **auditors with anthropological and social skills and/or experience** working with Indigenous and Traditional Peoples.

Type of Questions:

- a) One question per proposal to respond to what extent you agree with the proposal. (1 - Strongly disagree; 5 - Strongly agree)
- b) One open question per proposal to provide the rationale for your answer and/or any suggestions for improvement
- c) One open question for **additional suggestions** for making the ES Cultural audit process more streamlined and cost-effective.

Topic 5 - Additional Safeguards and Guidance



The results of the conceptual phase highlighted the importance of the Motion requests about FSC **creates additional guidelines or/ and requirements (normative clauses)** to strengthen the safeguards for the Indigenous and Traditional Peoples.

Reinforcing adherence to a **robust FPIC process**, the focus is to strengthen two pillars:

1. Create safeguards for Cultural ES regarding **participatory project design and implementation**.
2. Create safeguards for cultural ES projects regarding **ethical communication** and assuring Indigenous and Traditional Peoples' **intellectual property rights**.

Topic 5 - Additional Safeguards and Guidance



Proposal 12: Create **safeguards and guidance** for Cultural ES regarding **participatory project design and implementation**.

Proposal 13: Create **safeguards and guidance** for cultural ES projects regarding **ethical communication** and assuring Indigenous and Traditional Peoples' **intellectual property rights**.

Type of Questions:

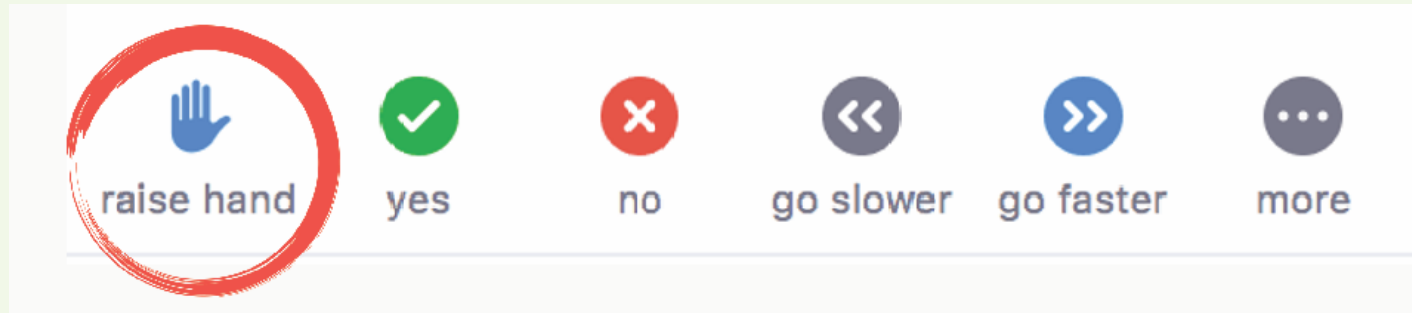
- a) One question per proposal to respond to what extent you agree with the proposal. (1 - Strongly disagree; 5 - Strongly agree)
- b) One open question per proposal to provide the rationale for your answer and/or any suggestions for improvement
- c) One open question for provide the rationale for your answer and indicate whether you consider these proposals **should be a normative requirements or guidelines**.

4. Q&A

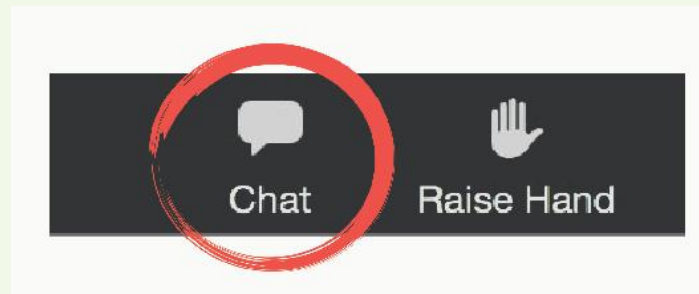


How to participate

Raise your hand using the control panel



Submit your comments and questions using the chat panel.



5. SUMMARY AND THANK YOU



Let us know what you think, participate in the conceptual phase consultation



How to participate?

Via FSC Consultation Platform ([link here](#))

When?

16 December– 14 February 2025

Questions?

Contact forestmanagement@fsc.org and
ecosystems@fsc.org

See our [process page here](#)



Petra Westerlaan

Next webinars

Ecosystem Services Procedure roll-out tailored to different actors.

For **Network Partners (and interested FSC colleagues): 19 Feb, Wed**

- For **Trademark Service Providers: 20 Feb, Thurs**
- For **Certification Bodies: 26 Feb, Wed**
- For **Assurances Services International: 27 Feb, Thurs**
- For **Forest Managers: 5 Mar, Wed**
- For **Project Developers: 6 Mar, Thurs**

•For information contact: d.srivastava@fsc.org



Petra Westerlaan

Thank you



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