



**FORESTS<sup>TM</sup>  
FOR ALL  
FOREVER**

# DEVELOPING AND REVISING FSC COUNTRY REQUIREMENTS

**Public webinar on 13 November 2025**





# **DEVELOPING AND REVISING FSC COUNTRY REQUIREMENTS**

**Public webinar on 13 November 2025**

# How to Participate

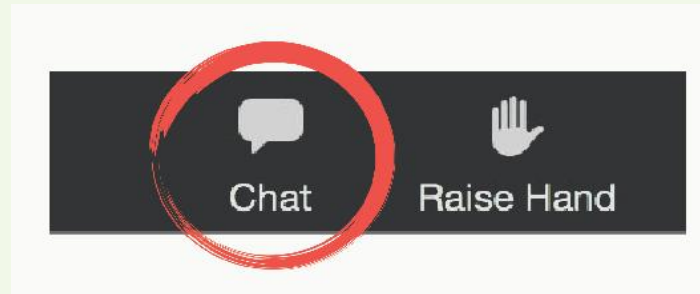
Submit your Questions using the Q&A button- anonymously please!



Ask your **questions** in the **Q&A box** so that we can keep an overview and easily manage them

You can like (👍) a question submitted by other participants- the more likes a question receives, the greater the priority it will become to answer.

# How to participate



**Submit your comments and discussion** using the chat panel.

Please kindly keep this chat  
box for **comments and  
discussion**



# What to expect today

- Review of the requirements and content in consultation for developing and revising FSC Country Requirements
- Learn how to participate in the consultations and raise clarifying questions
- Presentation will be shared on the process page
- Today's session is public and open to all stakeholders



# AGENDA



|   | Topic                                                   | Time    |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1 | Forest Management Consultations                         | 5 min.  |
| 2 | How FSS work today                                      | 5 min.  |
| 3 | Developing & revising country requirements              | 5 min   |
| 4 | Developing & revising country requirements consultation | 30 min  |
| 5 | Outcome orientation in Forest Stewardship Standards     | 15 min  |
| 6 | Participate & Q&A                                       | 30 min. |



# FOREST MANAGEMENT CONSULTATIONS

FSC has launched two related consultations  
on:

- Our **Forest Management** standards
- How we develop **Forest Stewardship Standards**

Join us....



# Forest Management Standards

## PCI Revision

- FSC Principles & Criteria
  - International Generic Indicators
- Other forest management normative documents

## Forest Stewardship Standards Revision

- Development and revision of FSC Country Requirements
  - Forest Stewardship Standard content requirements

**Public Consultation**  
**October 1 – November 30**

# DEVELOPING AND REVISING COUNTRY REQUIREMENTS

# Forest Management Standards

## Forest Stewardship Standards Revision

- Development and revision of FSC Country Requirements
- Forest Stewardship Standard content requirements

**Public Consultation**  
**October 1 – November 30**

**Drafting Phase**



# From international to country requirements



FSC regulates how to develop and maintain the application of international requirements at the country level



This allows for adaptations to provide needed flexibility for different contexts



# Main users



The key users of this procedure are working groups to adapt international requirements to their context



# HOW THEY WORK TODAY



# FSC Forest Stewardship Standards



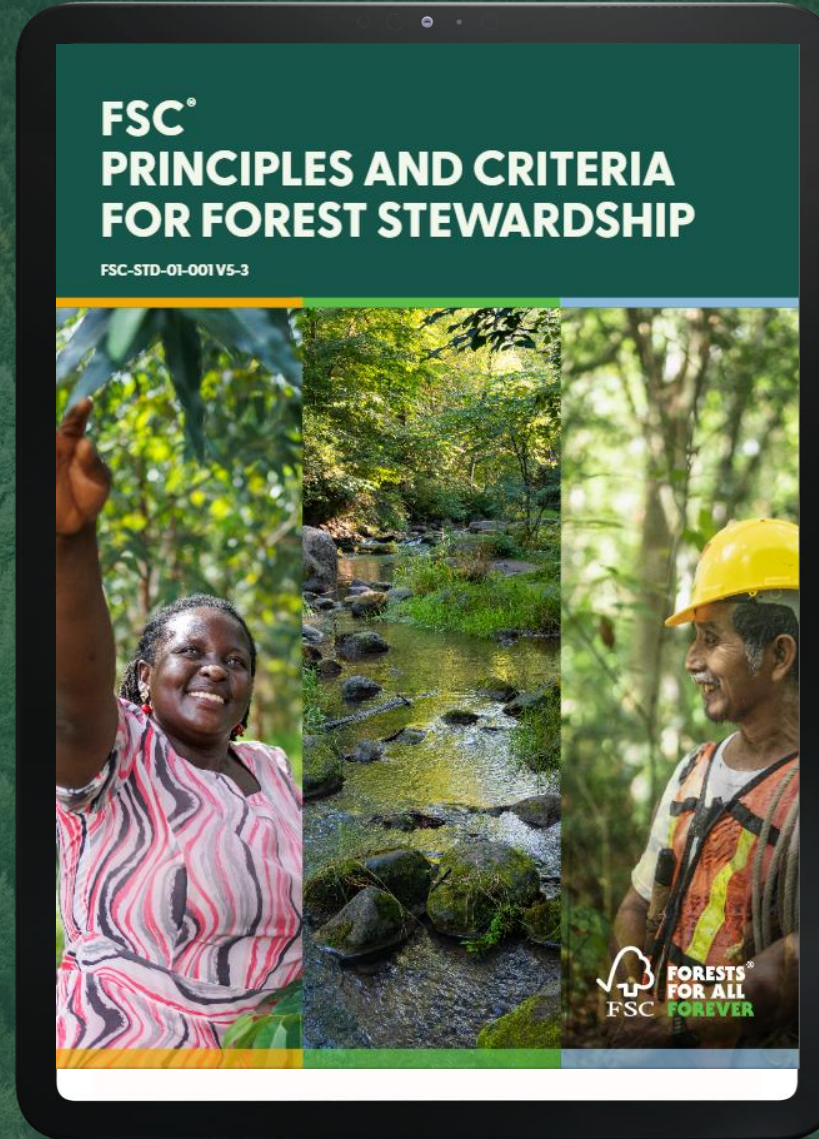
# What is a Forest Stewardship Standard?





# FSC Principles and Criteria

- ♥ The Principles and Criteria (P&C) is the core standard for FSC Forest Management Certification
- ♥ The P&C define a global benchmark for good Forest Stewardship

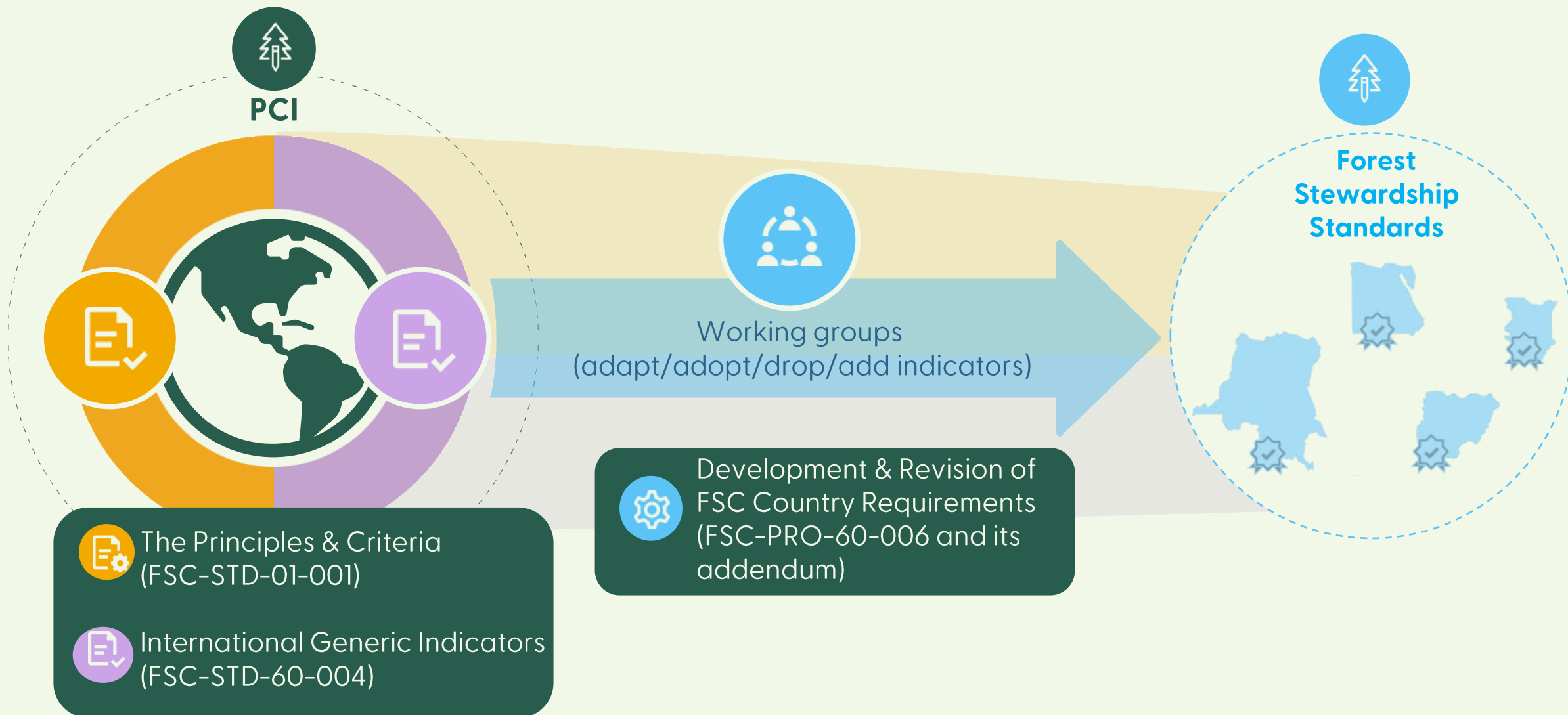




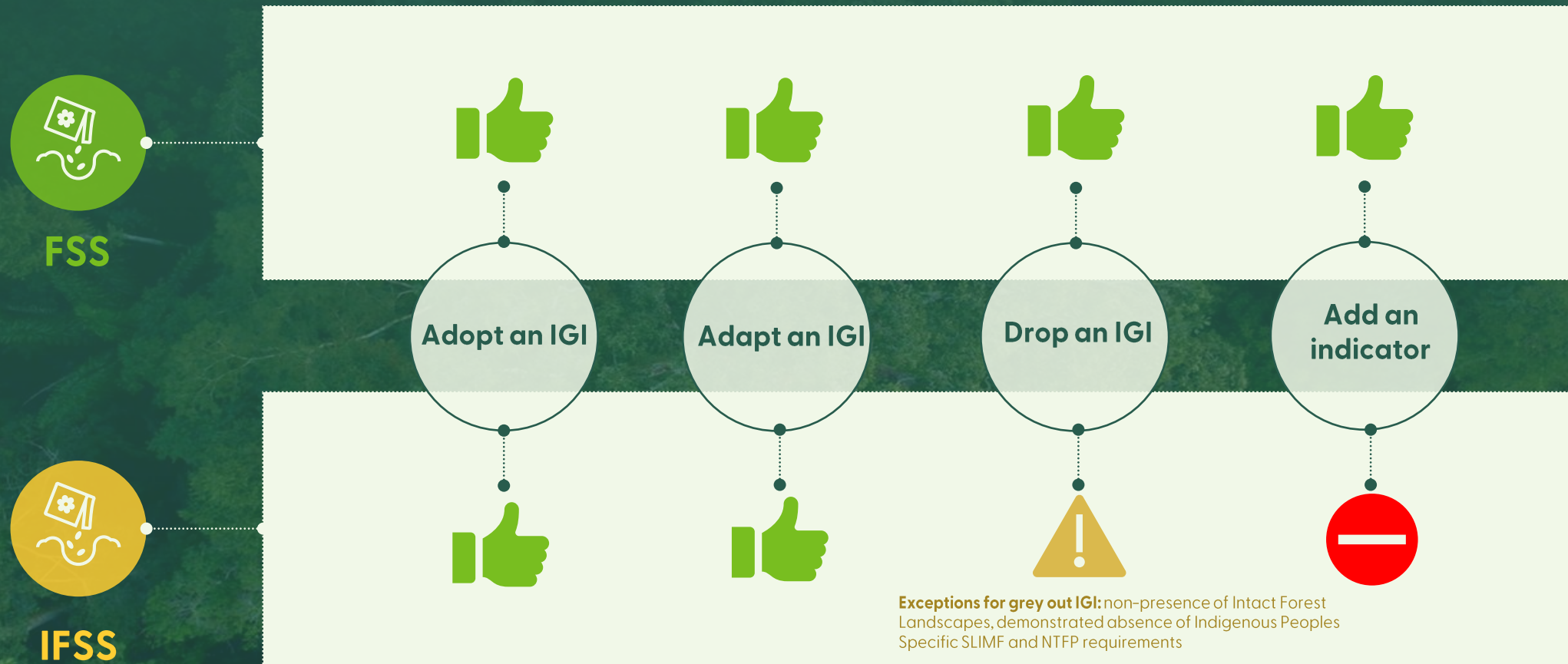
# Principles and Criteria for responsible forest stewardship



# From the PCI to Forest Stewardship Standards



# Developing FSS

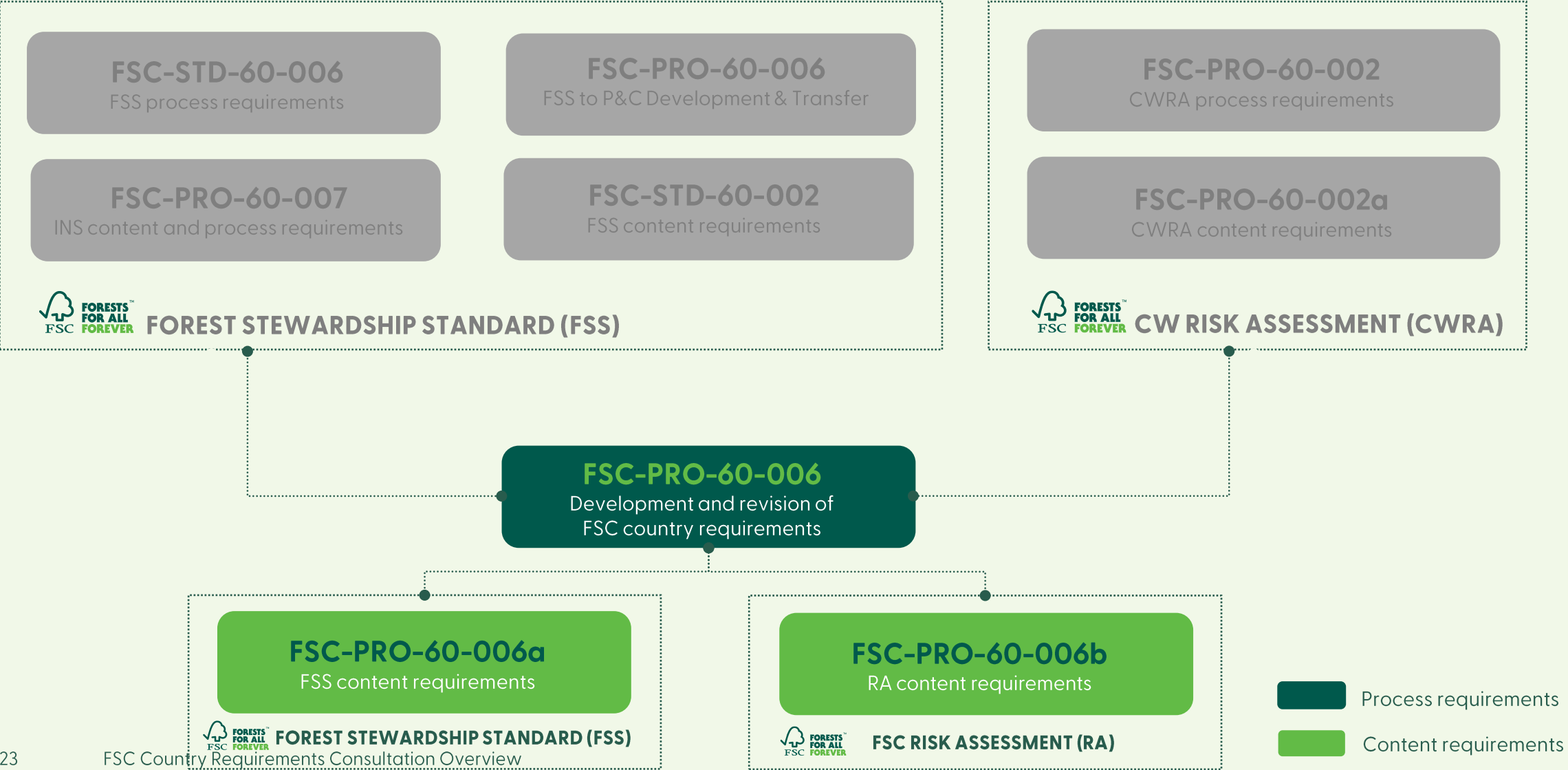




# FSS structure



# What normative documents



# Country Requirements

## FSC-PRO-60-006 Development and revision of FSC Country Requirements

**Forest Stewardship Standards**

**FSC Risk Assessments**





# CONSULTATION ON DEVELOPING AND REVISING COUNTRY REQUIREMENTS



## WHAT WE HEARD FROM STAKEHOLDERS

### ✓ **Long processes**

Lack of involvement of FSC at early stages, lack of binding commitments, no specification of consequences should delays occur by any of the parties involved, .

### ✓ **Complex**

Complicated wording of requirements and application of Forest Stewardship Standards and FSC Risk Assessments.

### ✓ **Uneven calibration**

Inconsistent training of all involved parties, calibration among reviewers, decision-making body.

# Objectives of this revision

FSC is innovating its Forest Stewardship Standards (FSS) by introducing **outcome orientation and risk-based approaches**—ensuring both environmental and social integrity while reducing unnecessary burden on working groups.



Streamlining



Alignment



Outcome  
orientation



Risk based  
approaches



# Consultation topics

Process types

Involved parties

Conceptual  
Phase

Consultation

Process steps  
and duration

Decision making

Stalled  
processes

Outcome  
orientation

Risk-based  
approach

Minimal  
adaptation to  
IGI

# Process timelines



## FSC-PRO-60-006

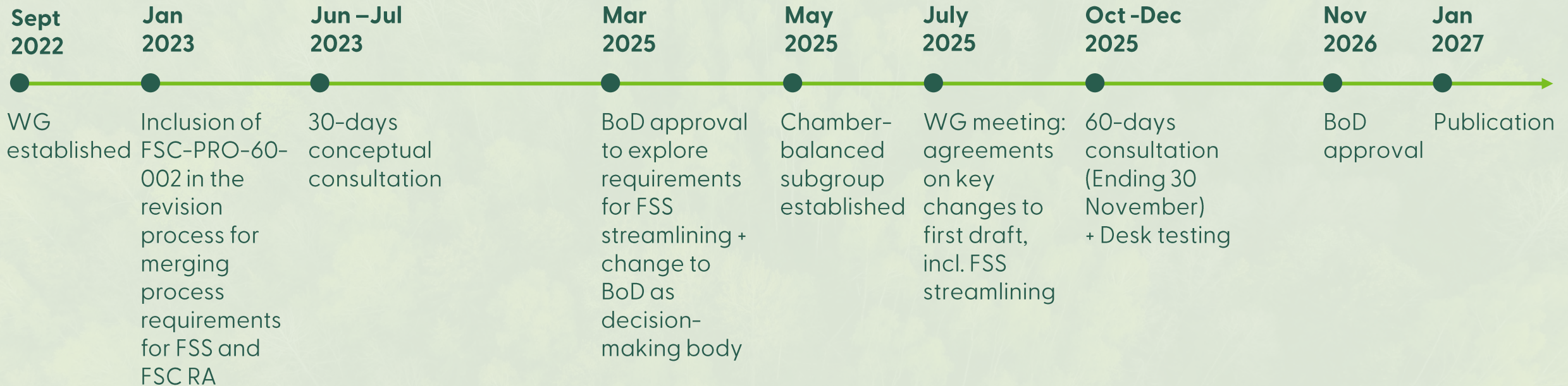
Process requirements for development & revision of FSC country requirements



## PRO-60-006a (addendum)

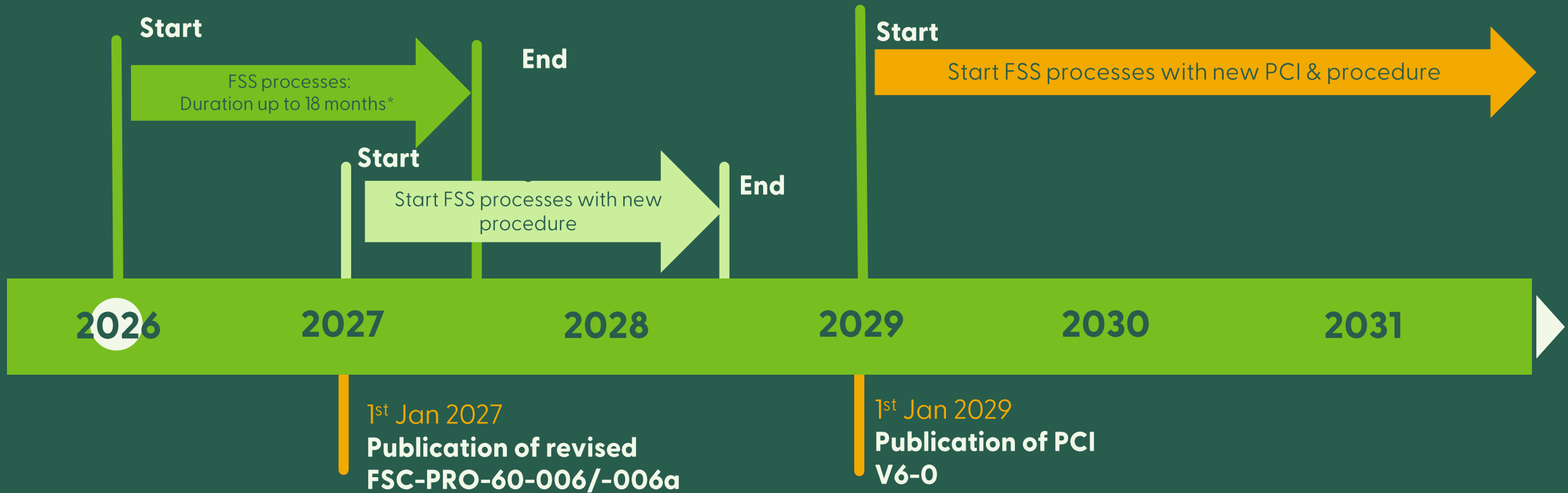
Content requirements for development & revision of Forest Stewardship Standards (FSS)

**To be launched: January 2027**



\* The process timelines have been extended 3 times. One of the main reasons is the change of 4 process leads.

# Still developing Forest Stewardship Standards





# Key proposals



**Alignment with PRO-01-001**



**New approach for stalled processes**



**Streamlining for outcome orientation and risk-based approaches**



**Streamlining the process**

# There are 3 distinct types of processes for the development and revision of standards:

## MAJOR PROCESS

The process to develop or revise FSC country requirements involving chamber-balanced WG



## ACCELERATED PROCESS

For urgent revisions to preserve the integrity and credibility of FSC; it can be used for FSS transfer. Also applies for administrative revisions



## REGULAR PROCESS

The process involving TWG when major process is not possible



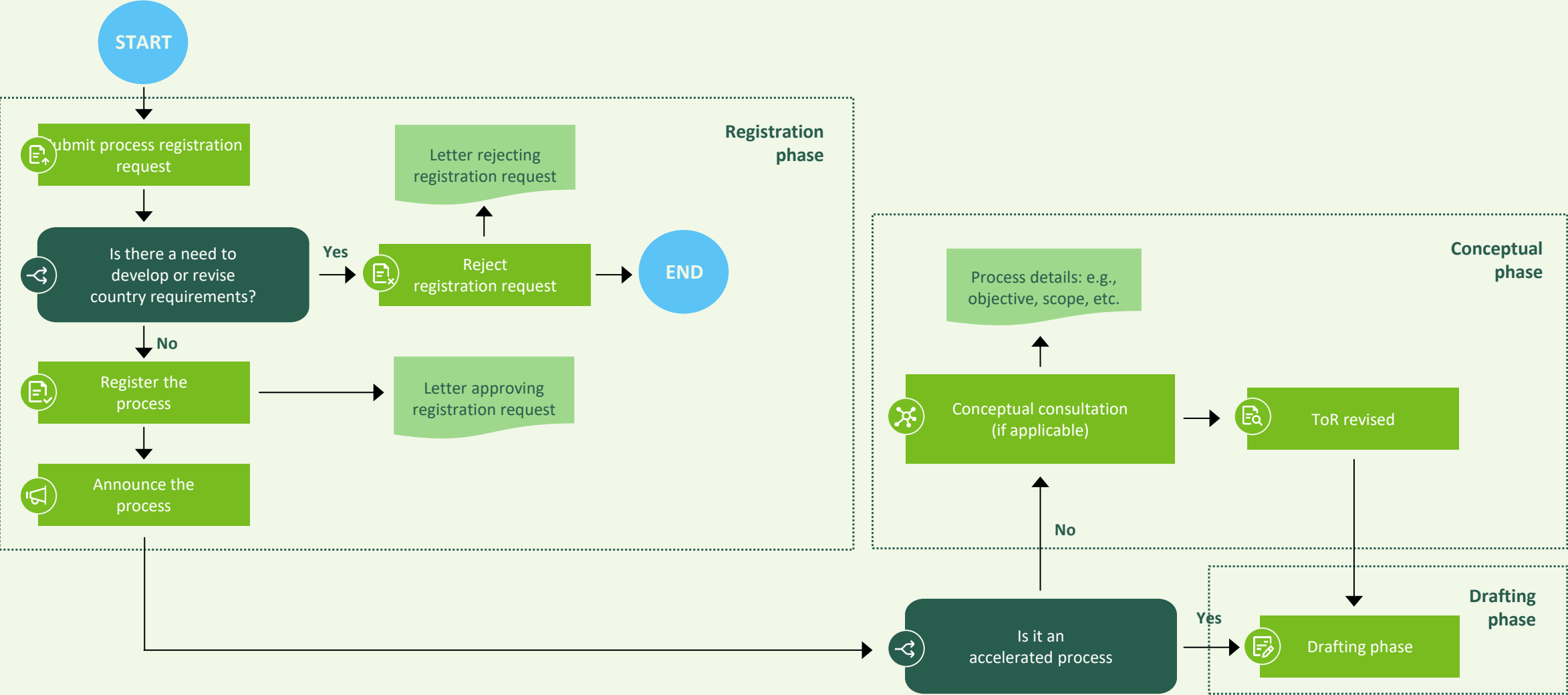
In countries with an FSC Network Partner, they are the responsible body for all types of processes  
(Previously, NPs were only responsible for chamber-balanced processes)

# Phases and steps per process type

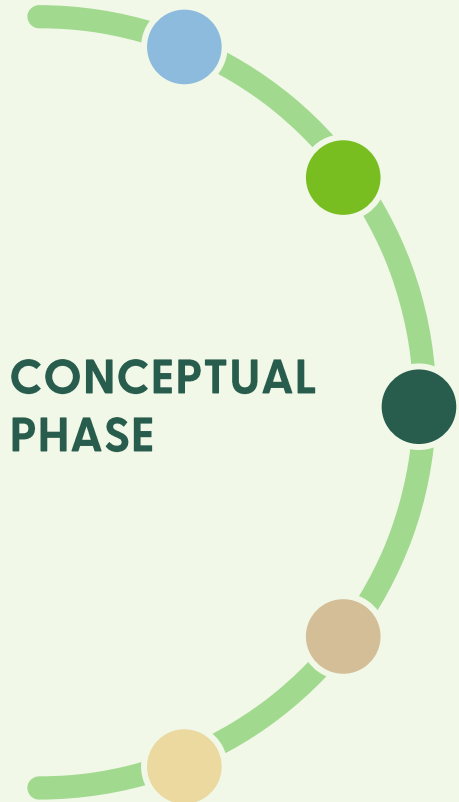
| Phase                 | Steps                                                    |                                                                                                  |                                                                                     |                                                        |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
|                       |                                                          | Major Process                                                                                    | Regular Process                                                                     | Accelerated Process                                    |
| Registration          | Type of Working Group                                    | Chamber-balanced                                                                                 | Technical                                                                           | Technical                                              |
|                       | Submission of the Registration Request by                | Responsible body                                                                                 | Responsible body*                                                                   | Responsible body                                       |
|                       | Development of process terms of reference by             | Responsible body                                                                                 | Responsible body                                                                    | Responsible body                                       |
|                       | Decision on registration request by                      | Policy & Performance Unit                                                                        | Policy & Performance Unit                                                           | Policy & Performance Unit                              |
| Conceptual            | Type of consultation                                     | For development – Public and for revision – Public or focused                                    | Consultation is optional                                                            | Not applicable                                         |
|                       | Submission of consultation report to                     | Policy & Performance Unit                                                                        |                                                                                     | Not applicable                                         |
| Drafting              | Drafting of FSC country requirements by                  | Process lead                                                                                     | Process lead                                                                        | Process lead                                           |
|                       | Type of consultation                                     | For development – Public and for revision – Public or focused                                    | Public or Focused                                                                   | TBD on case by case                                    |
| Testing               | Testing of the draft FSC country requirements            | Mandatory                                                                                        | Testing is optional                                                                 | TBD on case by case                                    |
| Final decision        | Decision-making body is                                  | Policy Steering Group                                                                            | Policy Steering Group                                                               | Policy Steering Group                                  |
| Implementation        | Publication date of approved FSC country requirements is | Up to 3 months from the date of approval of FSC country requirements                             |                                                                                     | Immediately after approval of FSC country requirements |
|                       | Effective date of FSC country requirements is            | 3 months after publication date                                                                  | For FSS – 3 months after publication date and for RA – same as the publication date | TBD on a case by case                                  |
|                       | Transition end date is                                   | 18 months after effective date                                                                   | For FSS – 18 months after effective date and for RA – TBD case by case              | TBD on a case by case                                  |
|                       | Period of validity                                       | From effective date until it is withdrawn or replaced by a new version.                          |                                                                                     |                                                        |
| Monitoring and Review | Review of FSC country requirements                       | Within five years from the transition end date and Additional annual review for Risk Assessments |                                                                                     | Not applicable                                         |



# Registration and conceptual phase



# Conceptual phase



## Process steps

Including proposed deviations from the FSC normative requirements, and the workplan.



## Scope

Specification on the scope of FSC country requirements, including indicators in the case of partial RA or FSS indicators included in the risk-based approach



## Key Intended Outcomes

Prioritized key intended outcomes to develop requirements for outcome monitoring.



## Review Report

In case of revision. The content includes proposed key changes in the approved FSC country requirements.



## Regional Calibration

Results of comparison of FSC country requirements in the region for the most crucial topics.

# Key proposals



**Alignment with PRO-01-001**



**New approach for stalled processes**



**Streamlining for outcome orientation and risk-based approaches**



**Streamlining the process**



# Involved parties



## RESPONSIBLE BODY (FSC NETWORK PARTNER OR ENTITY SELECTED BY FSC)

- Develop and submits process registration request
- Shortlist members for working group and process lead
- Monitor adherence to process terms of reference
- Supervise consultation and testing
- Develop and execute implementation and engagement plan



## PROCESS LEAD (AN INDIVIDUAL)

- Develop drafts of FSC country requirements
- Organize and lead working group meetings
- Manage and organize consultations and testing
- Submit progress report on the process to FSC
- Coordinate and communicate with FSC and responsible body



## WORKING GROUP (CHAMBER-BALANCED OR TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP)

- Discuss and provide inputs to the drafts of FSC country requirements
- Adhere to the process terms of reference
- Define key intended outcomes to develop requirements for outcome-oriented FSS
- Provide inputs on the consultation material, and FSC comments to the drafts of FSC country requirements
- Strive for consensus on drafts of the FSC country requirements



## EXPERTS

- Provide advice to working group or perform specific tasks related to the process



# Involved parties

The following are additional parties involved in the process



## **FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC)**

- Receive, assess, and approve registration requests
- Delegate process type
- Provide technical support to the working group when needed
- Assess the drafts submitted before consultation(s)
- Assess the pre-approval draft before recommending it for decision-making
- Publish relevant documents



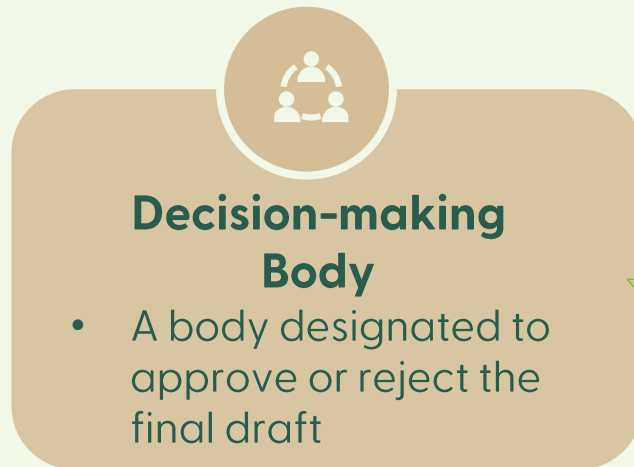
## **DECISION-MAKING BODY**

- A body designated to approve or reject the final draft.



# Decision-making bodies at FSC

## Relevant decision-making bodies in country requirements



### **PSC: Policy & Standards Committee**

- Chamber balanced FSC Members

### **PSG: Policy Steering Group**

- Leaders at FSC Secretariat

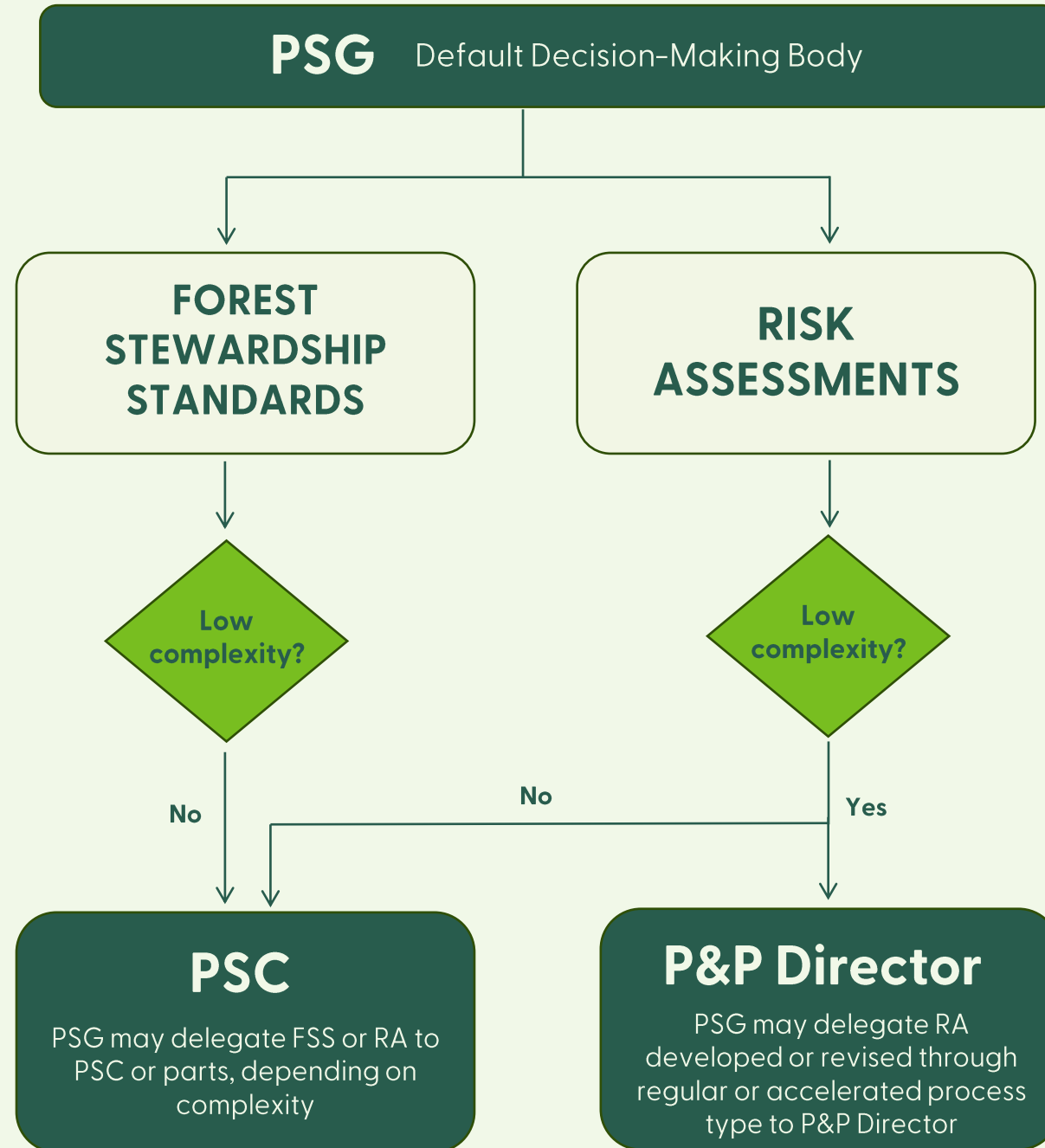
### **P&P Director**

- Director of FSC's Policy & Performance Unit or designated representative



# Decision-making for FSS and RA, Option #1:

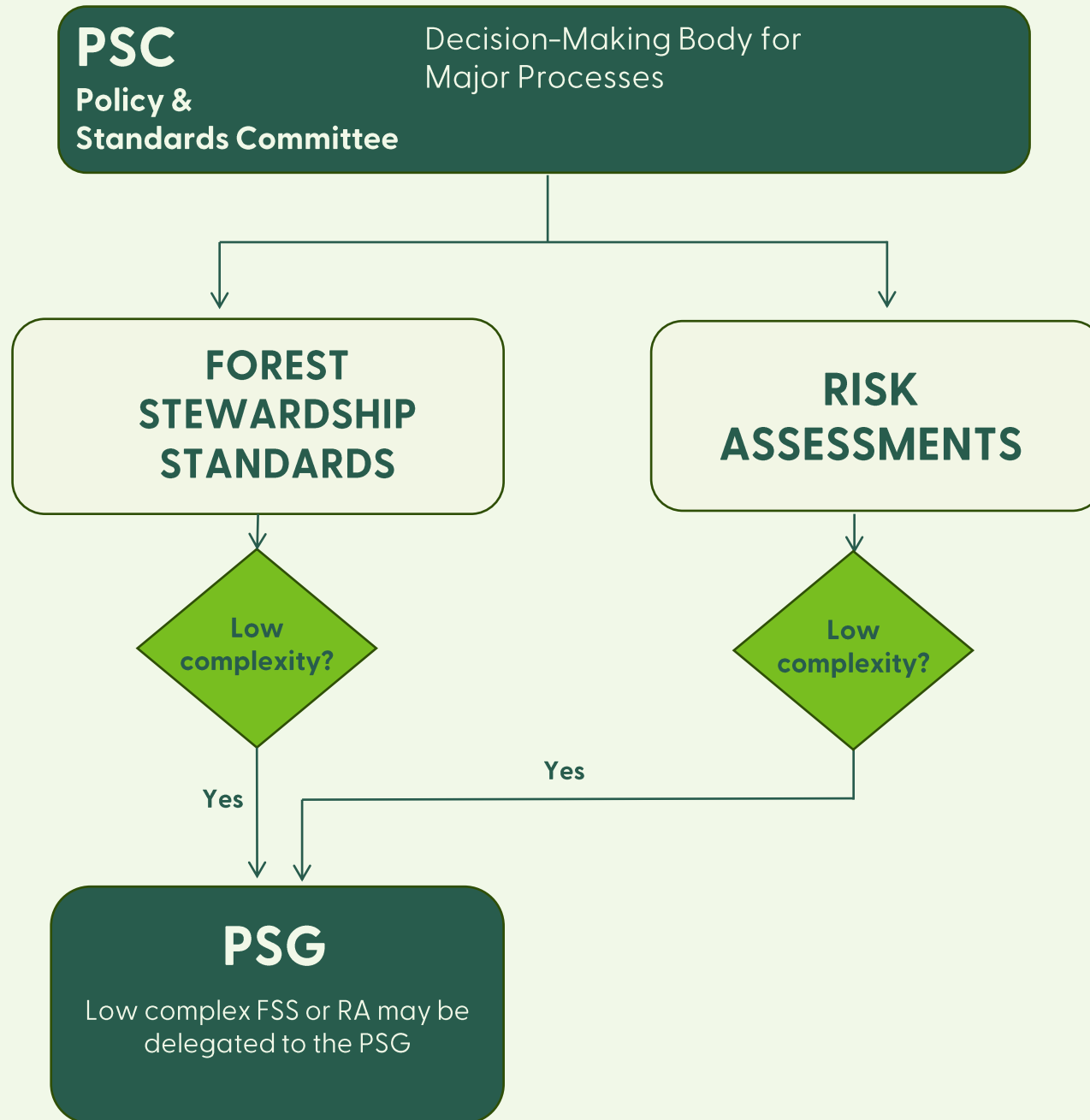
**PSG is default for  
all**



The FSC-PRO-10-607a currently contains the criteria to determine low complexity FSS but needs to be revised to make it applicable to all FSC country requirements (FSS and RA).

# Decision-making for FSS and RA, Option #2:

## PSC for Major Processes, otherwise PSG

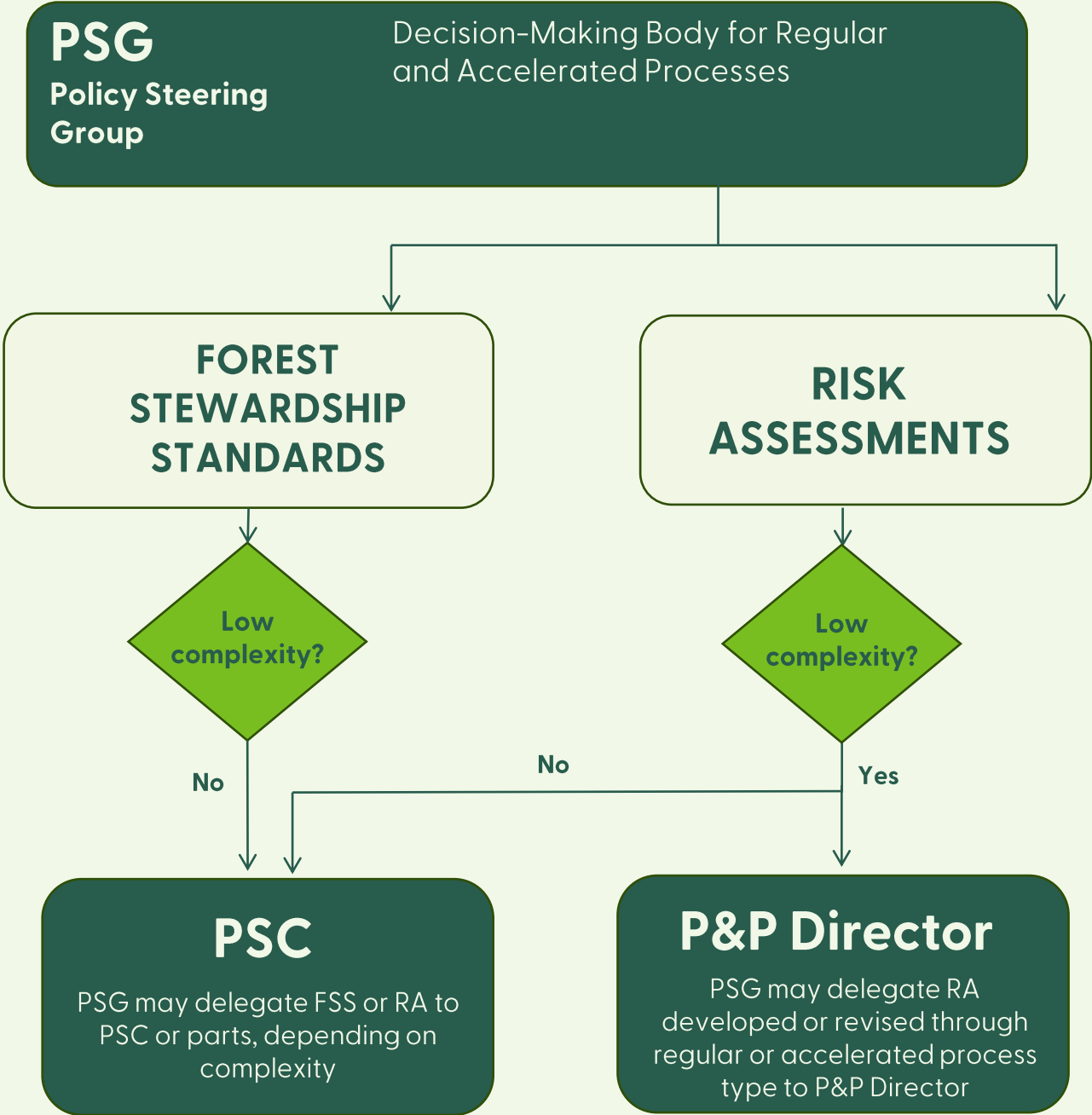


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# Decision-making for FSS and RA, Option #2:

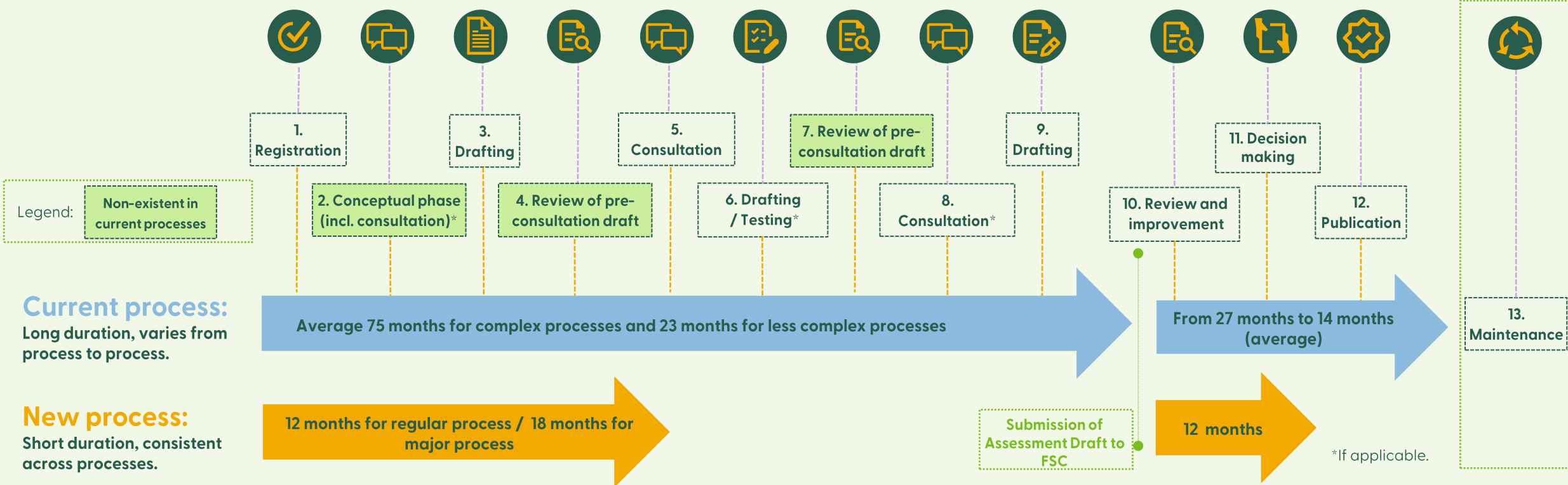
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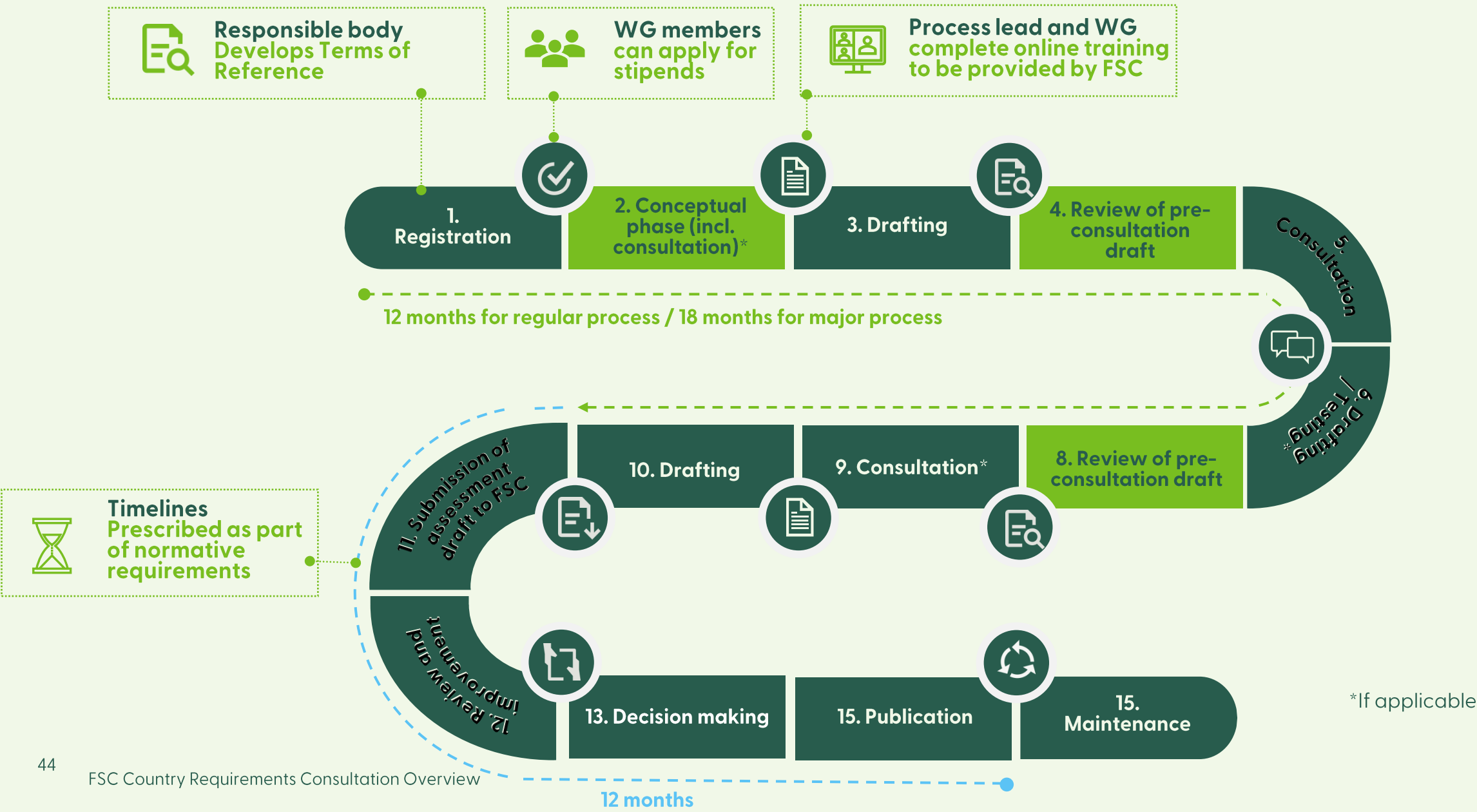




# Comparison Timeline for Current and New processes



# New process steps and shorter duration



# How to ensure new timelines are appropriate

FSC is enabling shorter timeframes by:

1

Enabling FSC Network Partners to be the responsible body

2

They can identify the process type that fits their needs

3

Network Partners will work with FSC International on prioritizing processes

4

This helps them prepare accordingly by having predictable timeframes



# Ensuring timelines

FSC is enabling working groups by:

1

FSC getting involved in early stages with reviewing the pre-consultation draft

2

This helps working groups adapt drafts as needed

3

Regulates the quality of the drafts to streamline for later

4

Working Group members can apply for stipends



# FSC is building capacity



**Process lead** and **working group members**  
will receive adequate training



This calibrates understanding  
among all involved parties



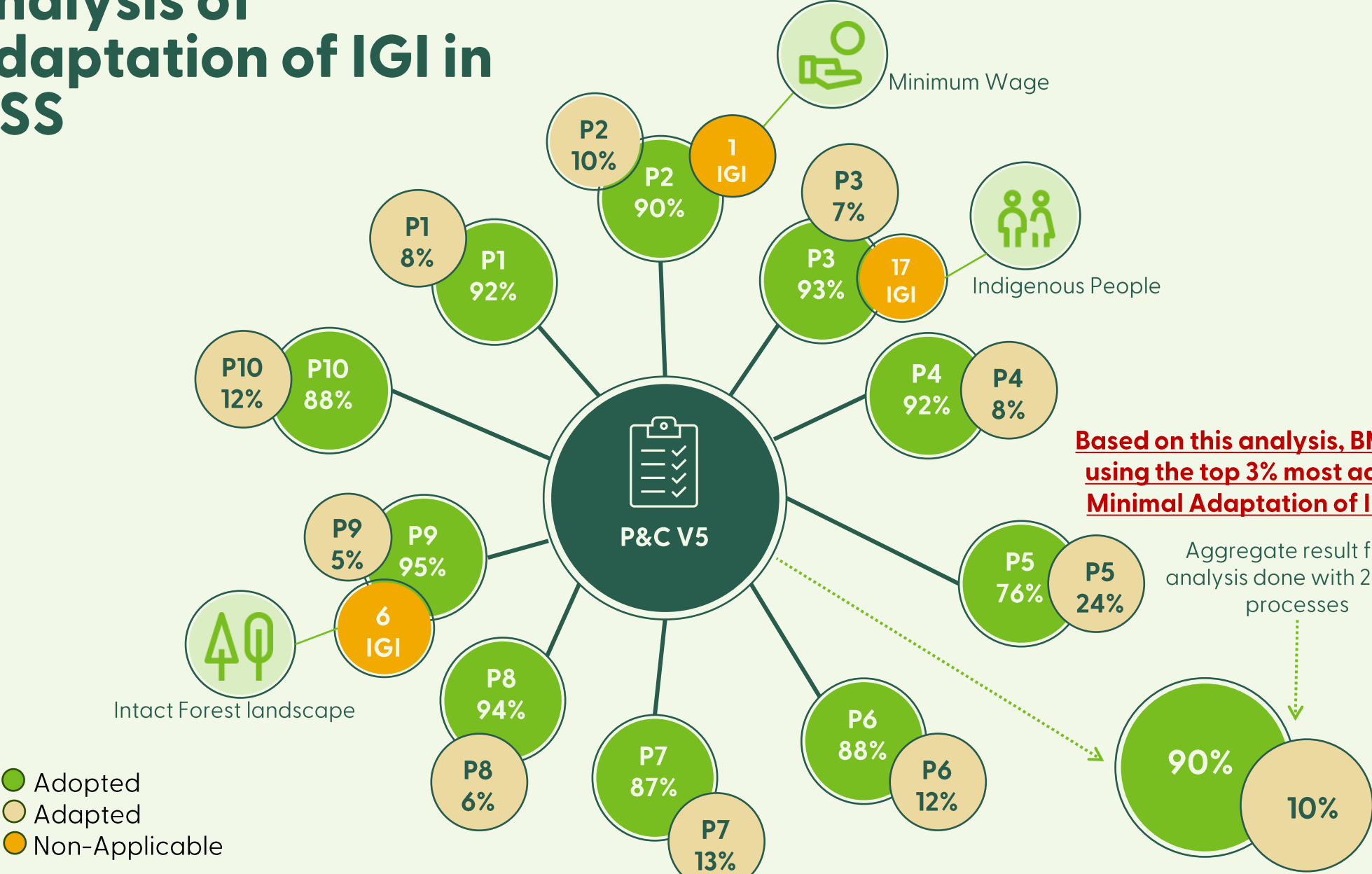


# Principles and Criteria for responsible forest stewardship





# Analysis of Adaptation of IGI in IFSS



**Based on this analysis, BM99 approved using the top 3% most adapted IGI for Minimal Adaptation of IGI Approach.**

# Minimal adaptation of IGI approach

Approach currently tested in Hungary, North Macedonia, and South Africa.

## **FSC-PRO-60-006a**

Draft includes the following requirements:

- 5.16 The approach of 'minimal adaptation of IGI' can be applied by the responsible body under the following **conditions**:
- a) **Inability to conduct a major or regular process** in a country despite all efforts or the development or revision of an FSS is of high importance to ensure FSC certification; or
  - b) the **process is stalled**.
- 5.17 When using minimal adaptation approach, the following requirements shall apply:
- a) IGI 5.2.1, 5.2.4, 6.4.1 , 10.6.4 , 10.12.1 and Annex I according to <FSC-STD-60-004 FSC International Generic Indicators> shall be adapted;
  - b) IGI 2.1.1.2, 5.2.3, 7.6.1, Annex A and Annex D according to <FSC-STD-60-004 FSC International Generic Indicators> may be adapted; and
  - c) All other IGI and annexes shall be adopted

# Key proposals



**Alignment with PRO-01-001**



**New approach for stalled processes**



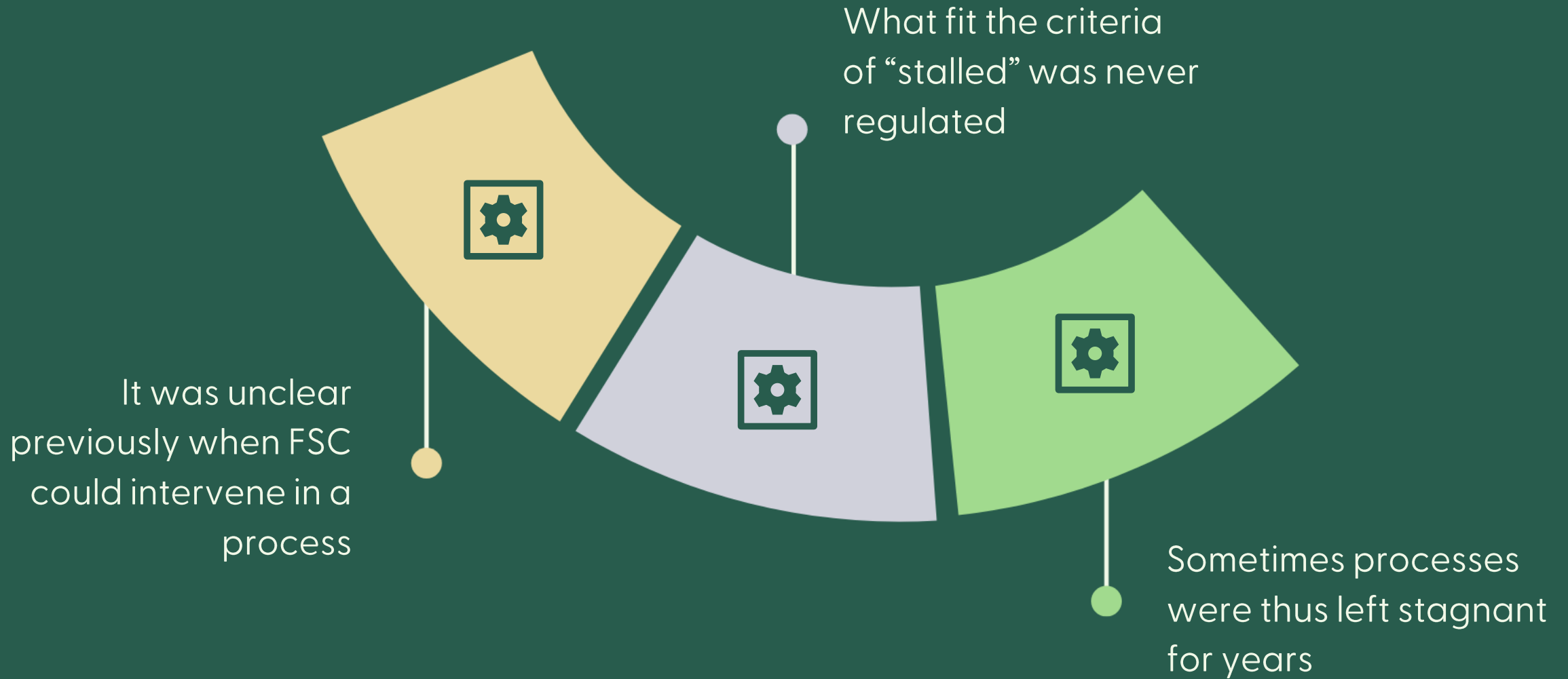
**Streamlining for outcome orientation and risk-based approaches**



**Streamlining the process**



# Stalled processes

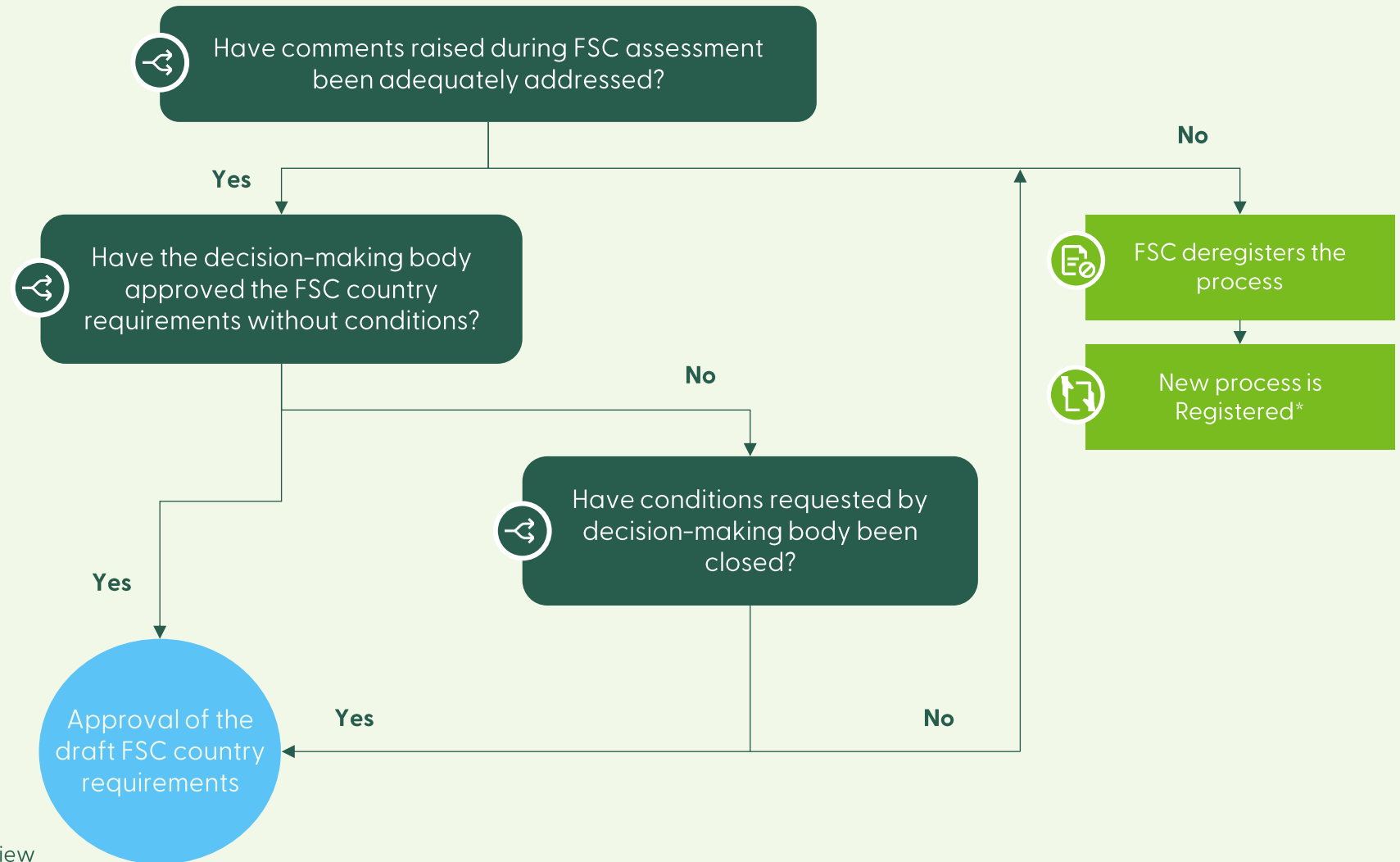


# Defining and overcoming a “stalled process”

**Example:** After submission of assessment draft to FSC

## Grounds to designate a processes as ‘stalled’ can include:

- a) Process lead fails to adhere to agreed timelines;
- b) WG fails to reach consensus on the drafts;
- c) Process lead fails to address FSC comments; or
- d) WG and process lead fail to address conditions issued by the decision-making body



\*Last draft produced serves as the starting point for the new process.

# Key proposals



**Alignment with PRO-01-001**



**New approach for stalled processes**



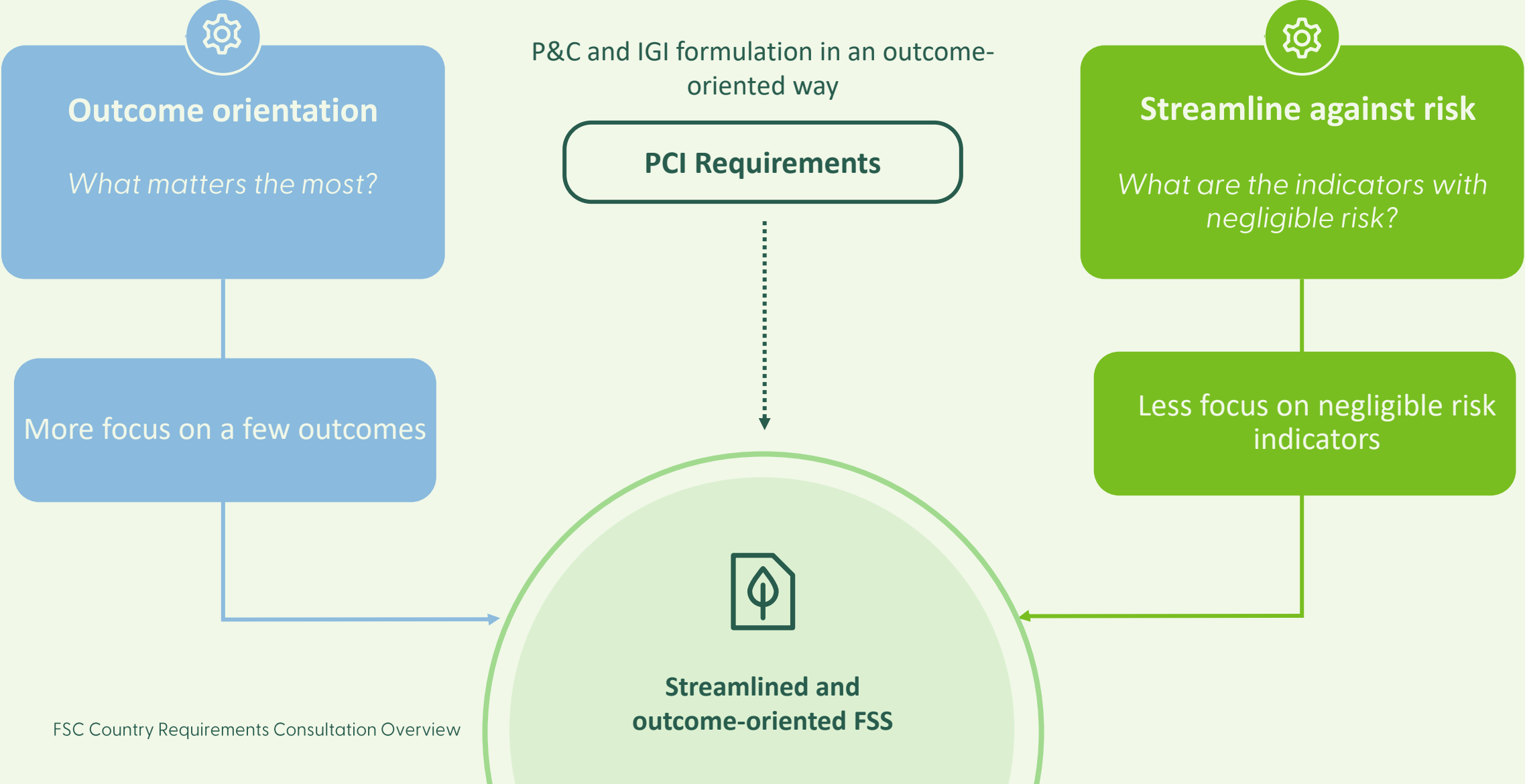
**Streamlining for outcome orientation and risk-based approaches**



**Streamlining the process**



# Streamlining standards towards outcome orientation



# Streamlining FSS towards outcomes

## Potential outcome:

BoD has given the mandate to explore including Risk Based Approaches and results of FSC RA into FSS development

a) FSS indicators designated as negligible or non-negligible risk based on potential non-conformities

b) FSS indicators designated as negligible risk will not be subject to evaluation

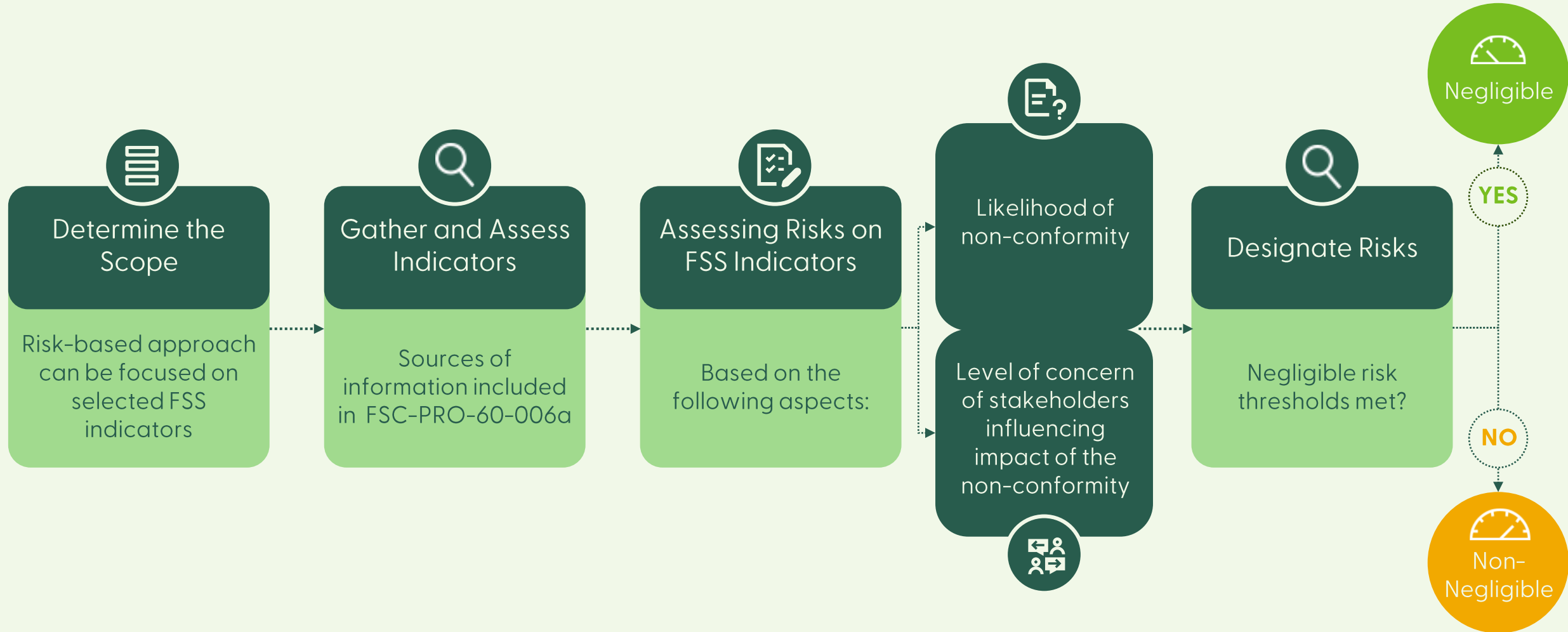


# How is “risk” identified





# Risk based approach



# Empowering working groups



FSC will provide updated  
FSC Risk Assessments



Will provide working groups with the  
country/regional data that we have access  
to (complaints, non-conformities, etc)



# Q & A





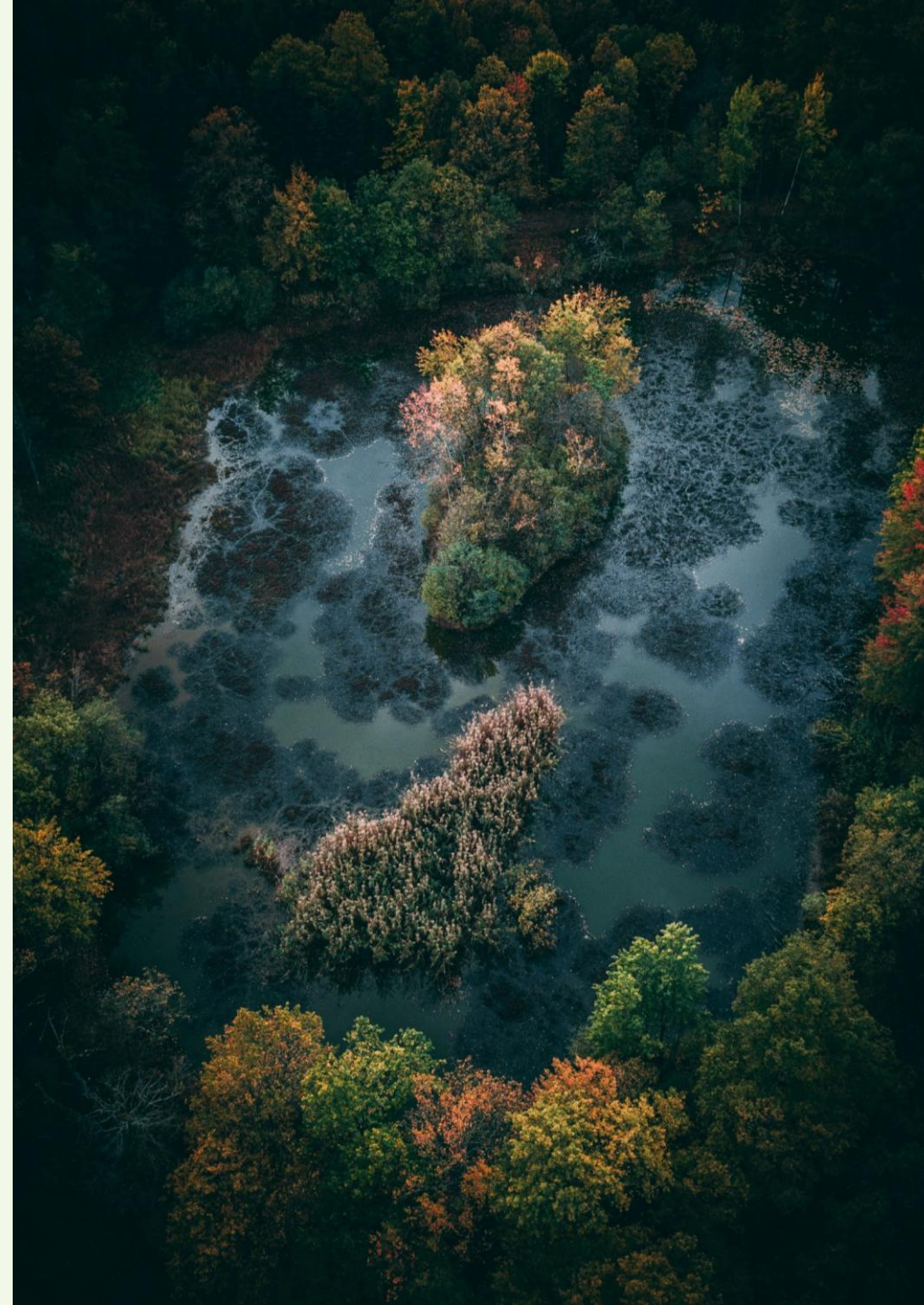
# OUTCOME ORIENTATION IN FSC FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARDS

# FSC Global Strategy 2021-2026

## Goal 1.2: Streamline policies and standards towards outcome orientation

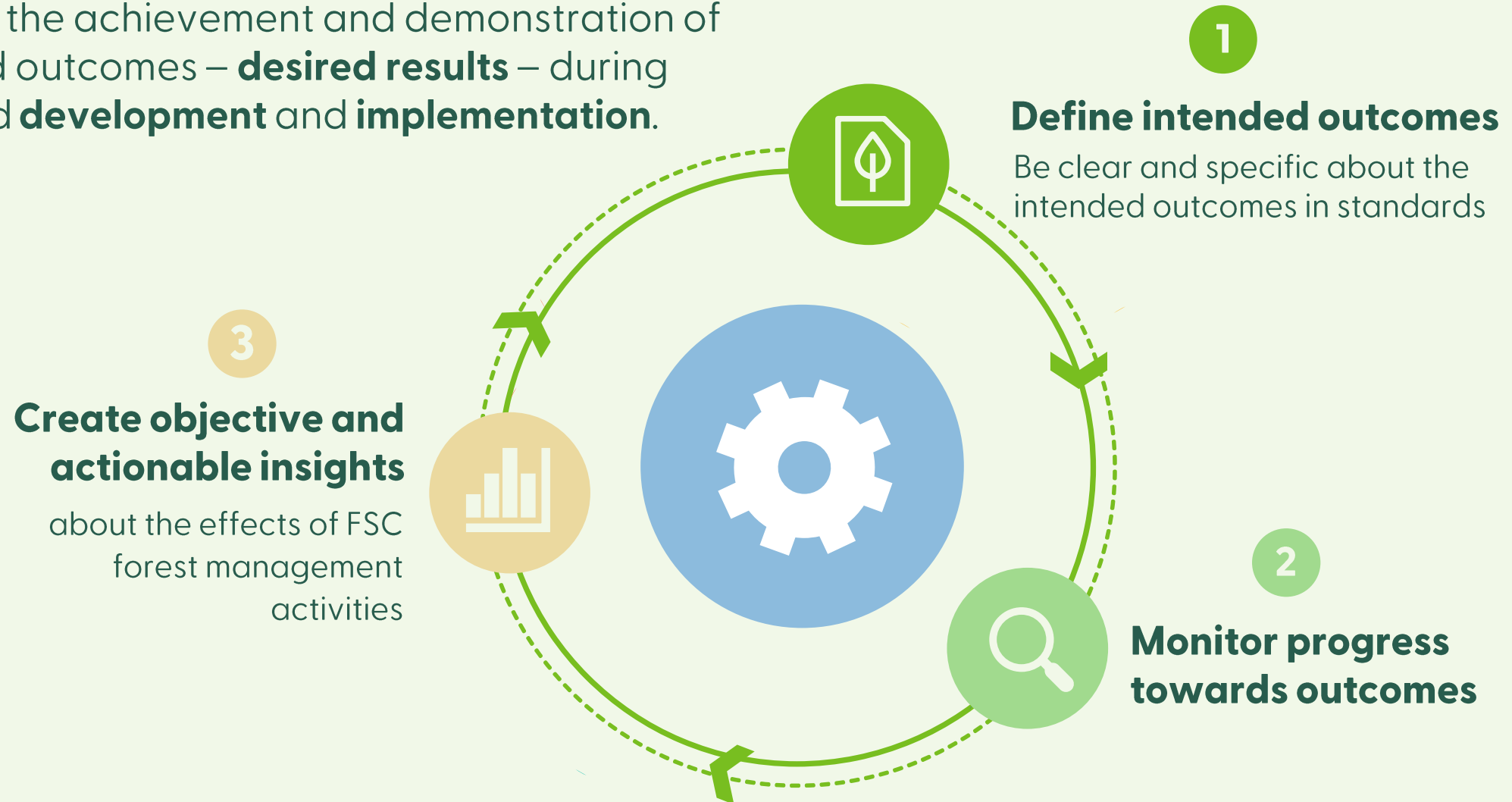
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“policies and standards are based on clear and **consistent principles of streamlining** and **outcome-orientation**...ensure high integrity, credibility and balance global consistency with local adaptability... are **risk-based**, clear, relevant, reliable, user-friendly and efficient, and **demonstrate and communicate positive changes**”



# Outcome orientation: **the concept**

Outcome orientation means putting **more focus** towards the achievement and demonstration of intended outcomes – **desired results** – during standard **development** and **implementation**.





# Outcome orientation: **objectives**

Outcome orientation means putting **more focus** towards the achievement and demonstration of intended outcomes – **desired results** – during standard **development** and **implementation**.

**3**  
**Create objective and actionable insights**  
about the effects of FSC  
forest management  
activities



Fosters the **demonstration** of **positive** outcomes of certification

Fosters the **improvement** of **standards**

Foster the **improvement** of forest management **practises**

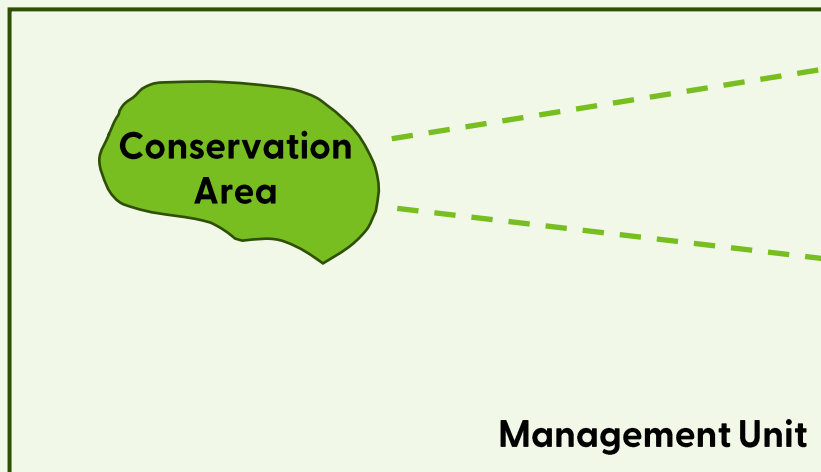


# Outcome orientation: **why?**

## 1 FSC Forest Management Standards are predominantly **practise-based**.

- It prescribes **what to do** considering the implementation of **activities** expected to deliver positive outcomes, but it is **not** designed to **quantify** outcomes and **track** progress.

**Requirement:** *Representative Sample Areas\** in combination with other components of the *conservation areas network\** **comprise a minimum 10% area of the Management Unit\***.



### Outcomes

**Water quality** of the rivers within the conservation area increase.

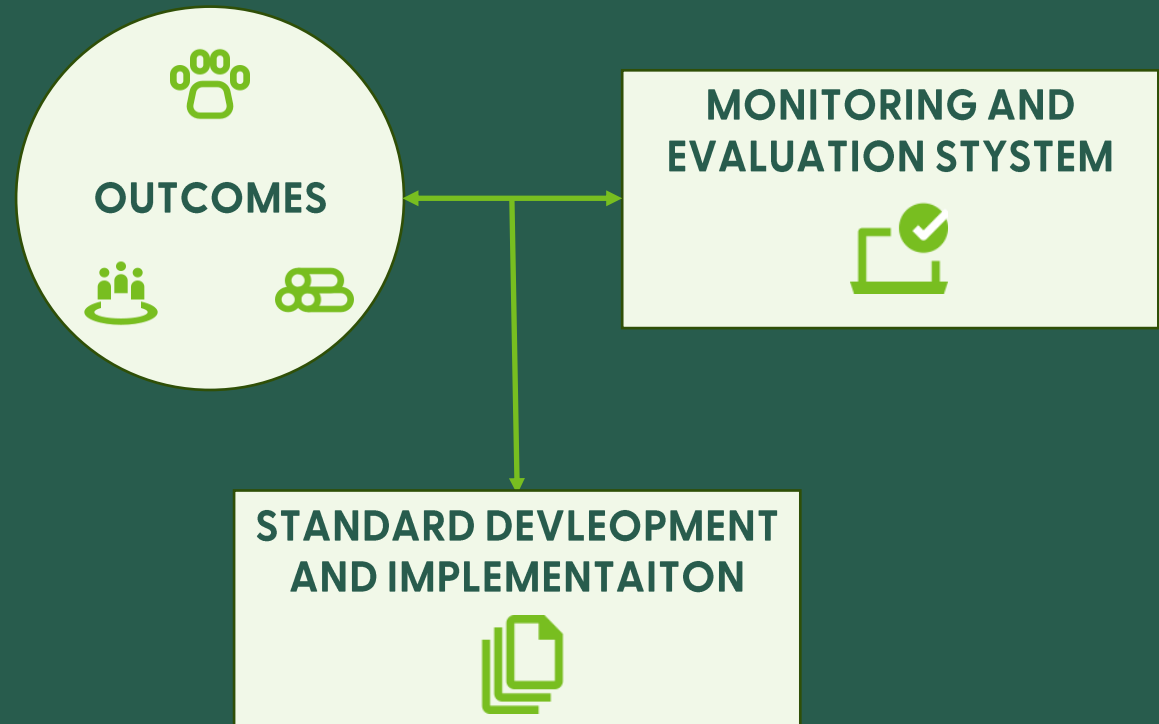
**Carbon storage** in forests within the conservation area is maintained.

# Outcome orientation: **why?**

2

FSC monitoring and evaluation system is **not fit** for purpose.

- Large **number** of sustainability **outcomes** covered by the PCI and **variation** across countries on how to monitor these outcomes.



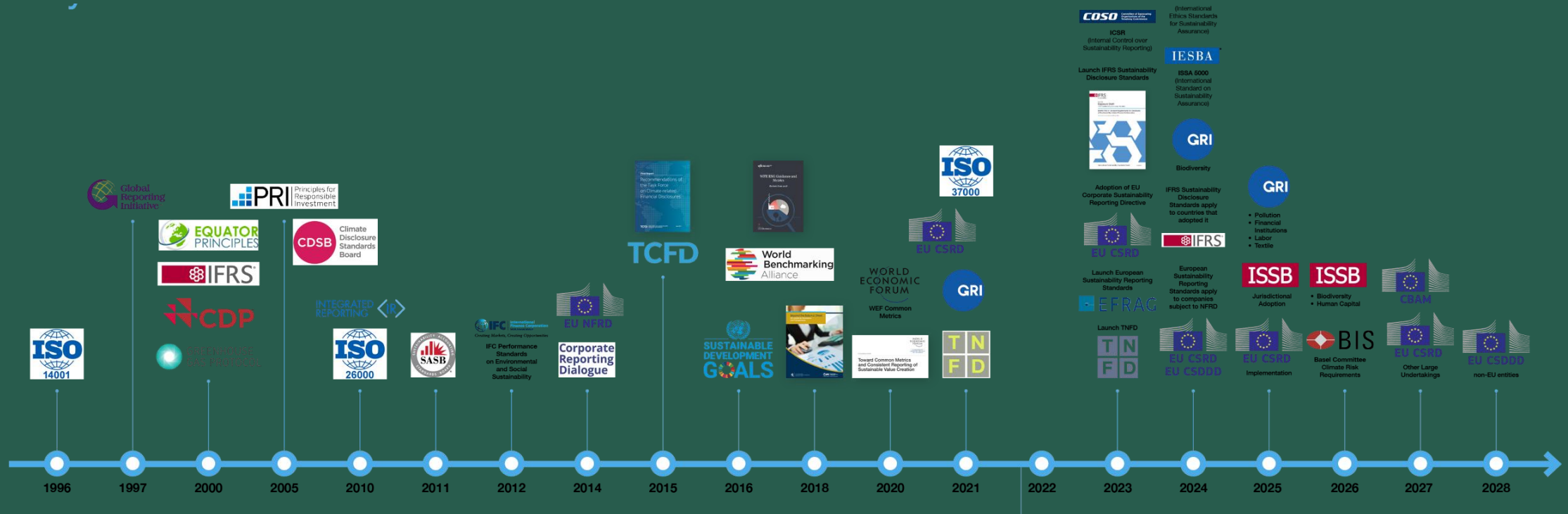


# Outcome orientation: **why?**

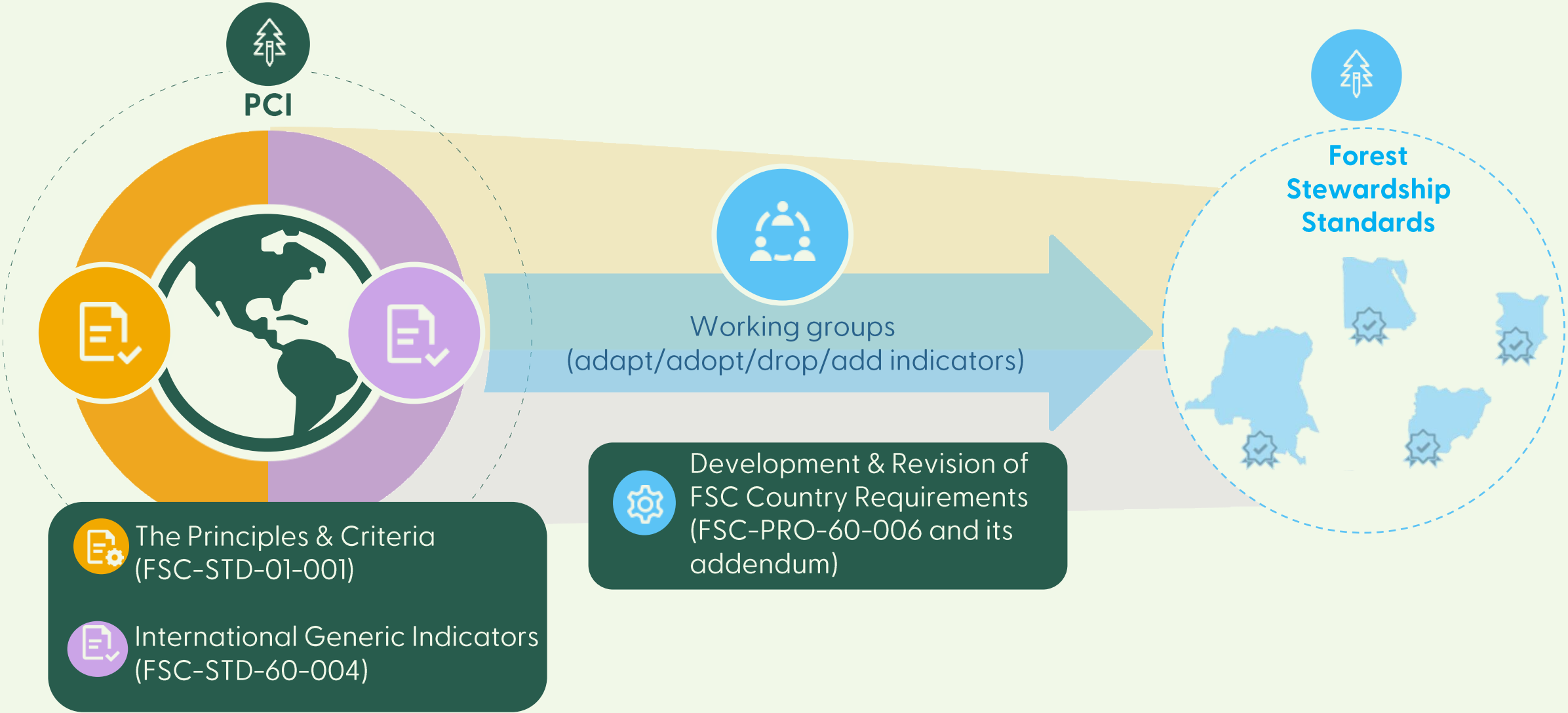
3

Society and markets are **evolving**.

- More legislations and frameworks requiring **data** and evidence of impacts and increasing consumers' **awareness** towards sustainability issues.



# Outcome orientation: The deployment



# Outcome Orientation implementation on the ground



# Outcome orientation in the Forest Stewardship Standards



FSS development offers the opportunity to **prioritize** intended outcomes for **a given FSS**.

*What **matters the most** in your **country**?*

*For what outcomes is it particularly crucial to **demonstrate positive change**?*

**Insights**  
about the effects of FSC  
forest management  
activities



Foster the **demonstration** of **positive**  
outcomes of certification

Foster the **improvement** of  
**standards**

Foster the **improvement** of forest  
management **practises**

**This is all  
country-specific**



# Outcome orientation in the FSS

## Proposal

Standard developers:

1. Select **3-5 key intended outcomes** for the entire FSS.
2. Define **indicators** that clearly focus on activities that to contribute to the intended outcomes.

## Benefits

1. Enhance focus.
2. Allows better managing burden and costs of monitoring.
3. Ensures progress towards outcomes is made.

+  
Guidance

# Outcome orientation in the FSS

## Proposal

Local experts define **monitoring requirements** for each outcome:

- Monitoring indicators (featured under P8),
- Data collection method,
- Sampling,
- Report.

## Benefits

1. Build on local scientific expertise to develop practical and cost-effective monitoring requirements.
2. Ensure valuable insights are gathered.

+  
Guidance

# Examples

## Key Intended Outcome

Workers have safe working conditions



## Monitoring Indicator

Number of working days lost due to work-related injuries

+ other  
monitoring  
requirements

# Examples

## Key Intended Outcome

## Monitoring Indicator

Workers have safe working conditions



Number of working days lost due to work-related injuries

Workers have equitable working conditions and benefits irrespective of their gender



Gender wage gap by work category

+ other  
monitoring  
requirements



# Examples

## Key Intended Outcome

## Monitoring Indicator

Workers have safe working conditions



Number of working days lost due to work-related injuries

Workers have equitable working conditions and benefits irrespective of their gender



Gender wage gap by work category

Natural forest cover is maintained



Area of natural forest cover

+ other  
monitoring  
requirements

## ✓ What Outcome Orientation is

## ✗ What Outcome Orientation is NOT

### Outcome orientation...

Aims to:

- make clear and explicit what intended outcomes of forest stewardship are, and
- quantify progress against them.

Draws focus on a few key intended outcomes.

Aims to generate insights about the effectiveness of forest management requirements to progress towards intended outcomes.

Aims to benefit:

- all FSC stakeholders to better demonstrate positive outcomes of FSC certification.
- certificate holders and standard developers to better understand the effects of forest management requirements / activities on sustainability outcomes.

Aims to foster improvements in forest management standards over time and will generate benefits for the FSC system gradually.

Is part of a broader monitoring and evaluation system that will continue to collect data and evaluate the impact of FSC centrally, build on and complement the insights gained.

Does not aim to raise the bar of certification. The performances to be achieved by certificate holders for certification should not increase because of outcome orientation.

Does not imply that monitoring and data collection should be done on every aspect of forest management.

Is not data centric. It does not aim to collect data for the sake of collecting data without clarity on what we want to learn from them.

Is not FSC-centric. It does not aim to only serve FSC International for communication purposes at a global scale.

Is not a one-off solution that will ensure all positive impacts of FSC are generated and demonstrated on the short-term.

Is not an attempt to transfer all monitoring activities and associated burden to FSC stakeholders.

# PARTICIPATE!



# About the consultation



**28** questions  
total



Let us know  
what you think



# Consultation topics

Process types

Involved parties

Conceptual  
Phase

Consultation

Process steps  
and duration

Decision making

Stalled  
processes

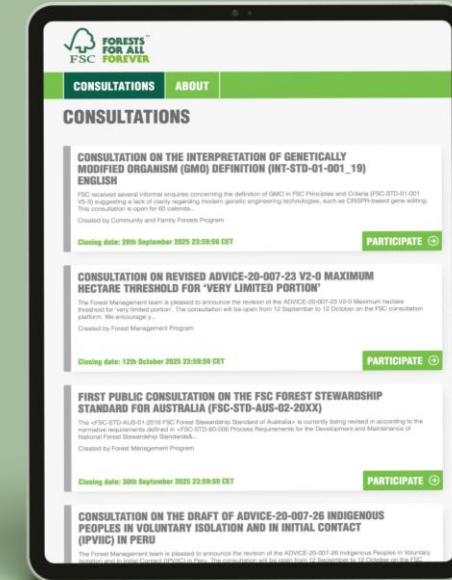
Outcome  
orientation

Risk-based  
approach

Minimal  
adaptation to  
IGI

# How to participate

## Questions on FSC Consultation Platform



All can register for platform and participate

# Your voice matters



Stakeholder  
input directly  
shapes  
standards



FSC values  
diversity of  
perspectives



International  
standards to  
reflect  
international  
and  
chamber-  
balanced  
opinions



We will  
share  
consultation  
report by  
April 2026 to  
show how  
feedback  
heard

# Next steps

## Upcoming webinars

PCI Revision: 20 November

## Open Consultations

Both consultations open until 30  
November 2025





# Where to find more information



## Supporting tools



[Process page](#)



[Consultation material](#)



[Upcoming webinars](#)



[Outcome orientation material](#)



[FSC General Assembly](#)



Let's hear  
from you  
once more

Developing & Revising Country  
Requirements webinar



**How to reach us**

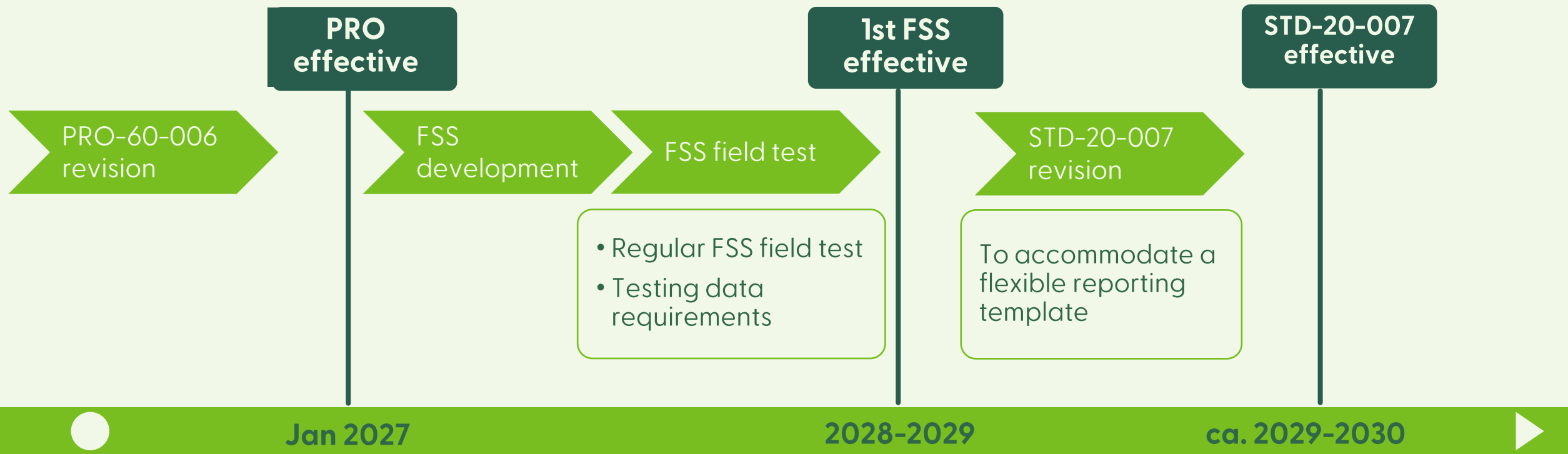
[country\\_requirements@fsc.org](mailto:country_requirements@fsc.org)

# Q & A

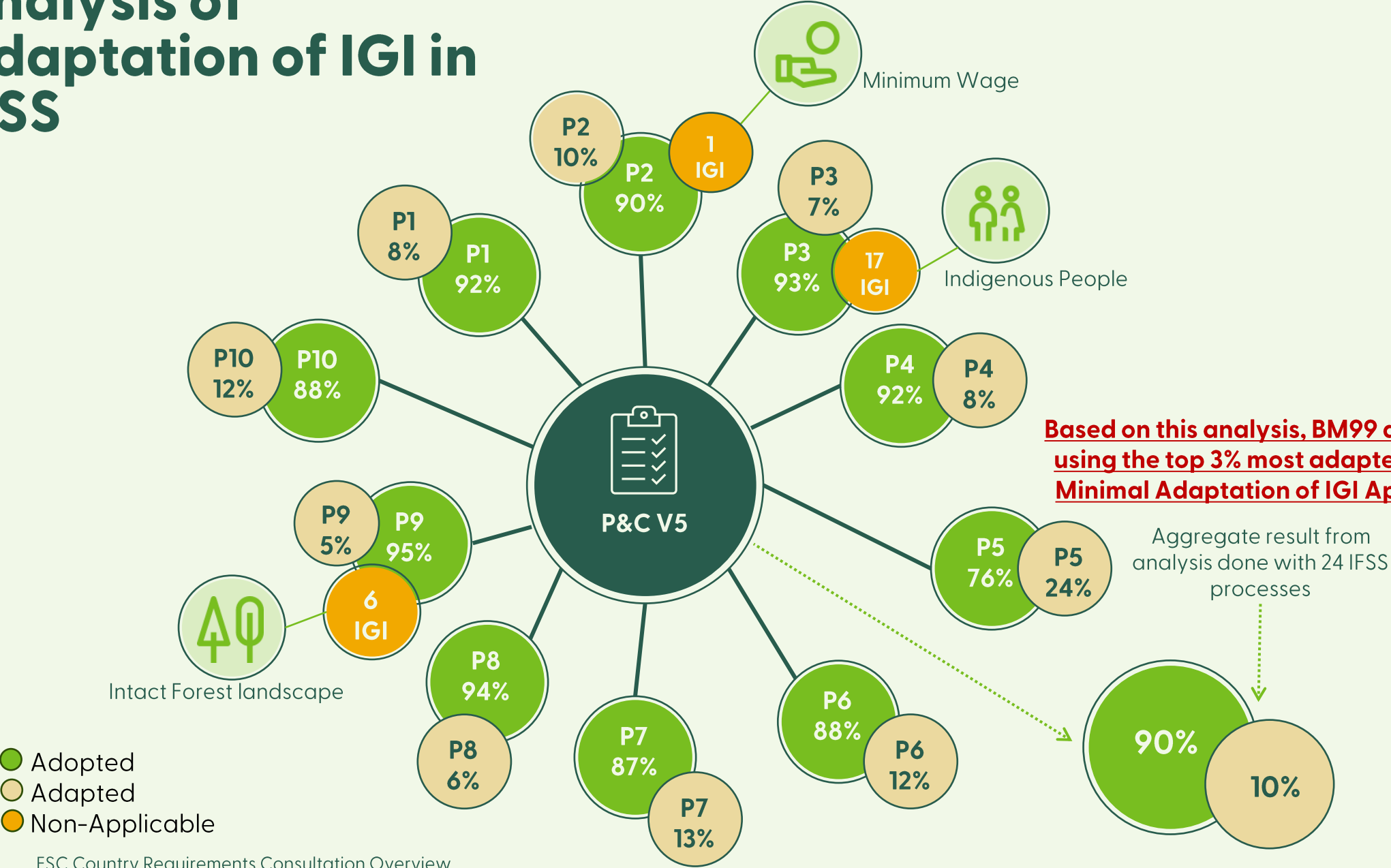




# Outcome orientation: **implementation timeline**



# Analysis of Adaptation of IGI in IFSS



# Minimal adaptation of IGI approach

Approach currently tested in Hungary, North Macedonia, and South Africa.

## FSC-PRO-60-006a

Draft includes the following requirements:

- 5.16 The approach of ‘minimal adaptation of IGI’ can be applied by the responsible body under the following **conditions**:
- a) **Inability to conduct a major or regular process** in a country despite all efforts or the development or revision of an FSS is of high importance to ensure FSC certification; or
  - b) the **process is stalled**.
- 5.17 When using minimal adaptation approach, the following requirements shall apply:
- a) IGI 5.2.1, 5.2.4, 6.4.1 , 10.6.4 , 10.12.1 and Annex I according to <FSC-STD-60-004 FSC International Generic Indicators> shall be adapted;
  - b) IGI 2.1.1.2, 5.2.3, 7.6.1, Annex A and Annex D according to <FSC-STD-60-004 FSC International Generic Indicators> may be adapted; and
  - c) All other IGI and annexes shall be adopted