14 September 2026

Enhanced HCV 2/ IFL requirements for Brazil, Canada, Peru, Republic of Congo-

Advice Note ADV-STD-60-004_02 Version 2 in public consultation (3rd public webinar)

FSC Policy Outcomes

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AGENDA

	Topic	Time
0	*Welcome*	*10 mins*
1	*Introduction*	
2	*Revision: main changes introduced in Version 2*	*15 min*
3	Q&A session	*30 mins*
4	Public Consultation and other engagement activities	*5 mins*

1. Introduction

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From Motion to Requirements:
Motion 45/2025 to Advice Note ADV-STD-60-004_02

Motion 45/2025 passed by members in October 2025 at the General Assembly

Meanwhile: implementation of M23 pilots

The Board (BM 104) gave the mandate to the Secretariat to develop interim measures, in collaboration with a TWG.

Constitution of a technical working group

Collaborative work with the Secretariat

Engagement and Consultation with Stakeholders

The Advice Note stipulates **enhanced requirements for managing and monitoring High Conservation Value 2/Intact Forest Landscapes** focusing on **maintaining ecological integrity and socio-cultural values**.

Fast paced work on M45 implementation

Dec 2025
BM 104
Establishes the approach to M45 implementation

Feb 2026
TWG starts

3 Jun 2026
PSC approves Version 1

Apr-May 2026
Public Consultation Version 1

1 Jul
Version 1 is published and becomes effective.
1 Aug- V1-1 with clarification on scope.

Sep-Oct
Version 2 Public Consultation

Dec 2026
PSC approval of Version 2-0

Jan 2027
Version 2-0 to become effective

New Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL) requirements for 4 countries: bridging M23 and M45

New IFL requirements for Canada, Peru, and the Republic of the Congo **effective on 1 July**. **Brazil effective from 18 August!**

1

Revised IFL indicators in the national standards (FSS)

(resulting from **Motion 23/2020** pilots on IFL landscape approaches)

2

ADV-STD-60-004_02 V1-0 on enhanced requirements for IFLs and High Conservation Values 2 (HCV 2)

(A first step toward implementing **Motion 45/2025**)

Version 2 under consultation focuses on regionalization and improving specificity and clarity for key requirements

Phase 2 – Advice Note V2-0, effective 1 Jan 2027

- Version 2 to replace version 1
- Until 30 Jun, conformity with Clauses 1-4 is expected
- From 1 July, conformity with all clauses is expected

The Advice Note is implemented in 2 phases to allow certificate holders to have an adaptation period. This approach is a result of the feedback of the first public consultation

Advice Note ADV-STD-60-004_02 is structured in 3 parts

Part I: Identifying and planning Clauses 1-4	Part II: Managing Clauses 5-9	Part III: Monitoring Clauses 10-12
• About identifying **ecological integrity features**, **socio-cultural values** and associated **risks and threats**.	• Set out provisions related to: **maintain ecological integrity features and socio-cultural values**; ensure **natural regeneration**, avoid **cumulative impacts**; minimize **site-level disturbances**; **recovery** towards the reference state. • **Prevent forest operations in certain areas (**where features and values cannot tolerate disturbance or where new socio-cultural values are identified). • Require **engagement measures within the Sphere of Influence** to contribute to IFL protection.	• **Set out the basis of the monitoring framework**, outlining what to monitor, how activities must be conducted, data sources, and provision for adaptive management.

2. Revision: main changes introduced in Version 2

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Revision: Changes introduced changes in Version 2

Revision

- Clause 2, 3, related to identification
- Clauses 5, 6, related to management
- Clause 10, 11, 12 related to monitoring
- Other: Scope, revision of definitions

Considering:

- Feedback of the Version 1
- TWG further revision and input
- M23 FSS and NPs collaboration

More specificity and orientation for identification of ecological integrity features and sociocultural values

Clause 2 provides more orientation for the identification of ecological integrity features in 3 categories

Clause 3 strengthens provisions concerning culturally appropriate engagement and FPIC , the use of community-based monitoring data and alternative terms for ICL.

Clause 2. Identification of ecological integrity features (extract)

	Boreal/Temperate	Tropical
Species	Apex predators Wide-ranging mammals;	Apex predators Large herbivores and seed dispersers
Habitats	Refuge from predation	Emergent trees
Ecological processes	Groundwater recharge	Faunal-mediated seed dispersal and pollination

Types of management measures for tropical and boreal/temperate contexts

Clauses 5 and 6, specifies types of measures and introduces a differentiation for boreal/temperate and tropical contexts under Clauses 5b and 6b.

AN does NOT prescribe specific thresholds but would require organizations to establish specific measures and report them along with the rationale for adopting them.

Clause 5b. Measures to avoid cumulative impact and maintenance of features (extract)

Common	Boreal/ Temperate	Tropical
Maintain structural complexity and stand age variation	Habitats representative of mature and overmature forest	Large reproductive/ seed trees
Determine an appropriate harvesting cycle length and harvesting intensity		
Maximum thresholds for the road area network		
Measures relative to appropriate spatial and temporal distribution to maintain connectivity		

Types of management measures for tropical and boreal/temperate contexts

Clause 6 specifies measures to minimize site-level disturbance and include areas that *MAY* be included to protect features that cannot sustain any level of disturbance differentiated by tropical and boreal/temperate contexts.

Common measures (extract):

- **Establish relevant recovery timeframes ;**
- **Ensure natural regeneration**

Note: areas in 6b additional to Conservation Area Network

Clause 6b. Areas that cannot sustain disturbances. Areas may include, but are not limited to:

Boreal/ Temperate	Tropical
b1. Ecological corridors connecting the MU and the broader landscape b2. Habitat(s) identified as Refugia for species identified under (a) in Clause 2 b3. Woodland Caribou and Reindeer critical habitat b4.Old-growth remnants b5.Fire refugia and other refugia	b1. Ecological corridors connecting the MU and the broader landscape b2. Nesting concentration areas for keystone species (e.g. Gorilla, Chimpanzee) b3. Refugia b4. Areas of highly erodible soils b5. Fragile steep slopes

Measures related to Monitoring

Revised Clause 10 and 11 and adds Table 1, outline key elements of monitoring to be adapted by organizations:

- categories related to ecological integrity features and socio-cultural values (Clause 10)
- state variables (Clause 10)
- Sampling design (Clause 11)
- Timeframes (Clause 11)
- Metrics (examples in Table 1)
- Data collection methods (examples in table 1)

Clause 11 adds a provision to document and make monitoring findings publicly available.

Clause 12 adds a provision to specify that the organization shall adapt the management measures when monitoring indicates that recovery is not being achieved.

Measures related to Monitoring

Table 1 is introduced to provide greater specificity and orientation to organizations regarding monitoring activities.

Table 1. Elements of Monitoring connected to Clauses 10 and 11. The elements in Table 1 may be adapted according to the Organization's size, location, and context.

Category (Clause 10)	State Variable (mentioned as examples in Clause 10)	Metrics	Examples of data collection methods	Sampling design (clause 11)	Time frame (clause 11)
1. Structure and function	Forest cover, forest loss, fragmentation, connectivity, fire occurrence, burned area, wood biomass, hydrological condition, regeneration, recovery, and other ecological process.	Area affected, patch size, edge density, relative connectivity, canopy continuity, road density, regeneration success, recovery rate, burn extent and indicators of process function.	GIS and remote sensing, field plots, permanent sample plots, hydrological monitoring sites, forest inventory.	Entire MU and affected IFL/HCV2 areas, complemented by reference areas and spatially replicated plots where needed, BACI (Before-After-Control-Impact), Before-After time series monitoring.	Annual
2. Biodiversity and species	Bioindicator, keystone, culturally important, sensitive species or species groups and NFTPs.	Abundance/relative abundance, population trend, probability of species occurrence in a given area/habitat (occupancy), multi species indices.	Field surveys, camera traps, acoustic monitoring, eDNA, community-based monitoring, traditional ecological knowledge.	Representative sampling within affected and reference areas, with spatial replication where feasible, BACI (Before-After-Control-Impact), Before-After time series monitoring.	At intervals relevant to species ecology and management decisions.
3. Socio-cultural values	Access and mobility, culturally important species and NTFPs, sacred and ceremonial sites, customary use areas, water bodies, livelihood resources, and other ecosystem services identified by affected Indigenous peoples and/or traditional peoples.	Condition, physical integrity, continued access, extent, availability (including of culturally important species and NTFPs), and cultural or livelihood function.	FPIC-based engagement, community-based monitoring, Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), participatory mapping, interviews, field verification, and agreed confidentiality safeguards.	Sampling design defined with affected rights holders, including protected handling of sensitive information.	Timeframes agreed with affected rights holders and aligned with management decisions, seasonal use, and monitoring needs.

3. Q&A session

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4. Public Consultation and other engagement activities

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How to participate in the Public Consultation

STEP 1 Access the consultation platform

STEP 2 Access the consultation in your preferred language (EN/ES, FR)
Select ADV-STD-60-004_02

STEP 3 Review the supporting documents (PDFs) available for the consultation

STEP 4 Answer the general questions (mandatory).
Required to submit your response.

STEP 5 Move to clause specific questions (optional).
You do not need to answer all the questions
Focus on topics relevant to your expertise or interest.

STEP 6 Save your progress and return at any time.

STEP 7 Submit your response by 10 October 2026

Thank you!
We are looking forward to your feedback!

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Upcoming activities

17 Sep – CB meeting
IFL Advice Note session for CBs

28 September PCI Consultative Forum *

Internal Sessions with SDGs/NPs during public consultation

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Thank you

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Bonus slides

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Other changes introduced changes in V2-0

Scope: Added paragraph, clarifying measures applicable to SLIMFs and Community Forests, which would be implemented in accordance with the scale, context, and resources of the Organization.

Timeline for the application of new IFL requirements

1 July 2026

On 1 July, FSS Canada, FSS Peru, and FSS Republic of Congo and on 18 August, FSS Brazil become effective, including revised IFL protection thresholds.

Regular **transition period of 18 months** to new FSS applies

Advice Note ADV-STD-60-004_02 V1-0 with only Clauses 1-4 becomes effective:
Identification of IFLs, ICLs, as well as ecological integrity features, socio-cultural values and their associated risks and threats.

1 Jan 2027

Advice Note ADV-STD-60-004_02 V2-0 becomes effective:
region-specific enhanced management and monitoring requirements for HCV 2/IFL.

Conformity with clauses 1-4 until 30 Jun 2027

1 July 2027

Organizations within the scope of **ADV-STD-60-004_02 V2-0** are expected to **demonstrate conformance** with all requirements from this date.

PCI revision until 31 Dec 2028

Connection to PCI revision process:
Opportunity to consider the requirements of ADV-STD-60-004_02 during the revision of the International Generic Indicators version 3 (Principle 9).

IFL protection thresholds in M23 Forest Stewardship Standards and Advice Note applicability

The Advice Note applies for organizations working with revised indicators, on the protection level of IFLs within the management unit.

Those organizations **choosing to apply previous indicators, are NOT required to apply the Advice Note.**

Brazil	Canada	Peru	Republic of Congo
9.2.5. 2) • **(a to c): 10-30% IFL protection depending on landscape classification** ➔ **Advice Note applies** • (d): +50% IFL protection outside legal Amazon.	• 9.2.4a : 80% IFL protection • **9.2.4b: 30–100% IFL protection defined through a collaborative engagement process.** ➔ **Advice Note applies**	**9.2.5** • (Option 1): **+50% IFL protection, when the organization does NOT apply (measures) the Sphere of Influence.** • (Option 2): **+20% IFL protection, when the organization do apply (measures in) the Sphere of Influence.** ➔ **Advice Note applies**	**9.2.8.** (1) +50% IFL protection, when the organization does NOT apply the Sphere of Influence. **(2, 3 and 4): 70% or more IFL protection in the [MU + Sphere of Influence] and 20% or more IFL protection inside the MU.** ➔ **Advice Note applies**