



Forest Stewardship Council®



The FSC® Forest Stewardship Standard for Canada for Small-Scale, Low Intensity and Community Forests

FSC-STD-CAN-01-2024-SIR EN



Photo credit

From left to right:

Photo 1: *Trillium grandiflorum* (Michx.) in Simcoe County Forest
(Elaine Marchand, FSC Canada).

Photo 2: FSC-certified forest, Regional Municipality of York
(FSC Canada).

Photo 3: Two People in a Canoe on Riley Lake
(Danny Wong).

NOTE ON THIS ENGLISH VERSION:

This is the official version of the Forest Stewardship Standard that is approved by FSC International, and it is available at <https://connect.fsc.org/document-centre>. Any translation of this version is not an official translation approved by FSC International. If there is any conflict or inconsistency between the approved English version and any translated version, the English version shall prevail.

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¹ The transition period is the timeline in which there is a parallel phase-in of the new version and phase-out of the old version of the standard. Six (6) months after the end of the transition period, certificates issued against the old version are considered invalid.

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A Preamble

A.1 Introduction

The Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) is an international non-profit organization founded in 1993 to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's *forests**. FSC does this by setting standards for responsible forest management, which are then used by accredited certification bodies to assess the performance of participating organizations. Forest operations that meet these standards are permitted to use the FSC label on their products in the marketplace, thereby enabling consumers to choose and purchase products that come from *forests** managed according to FSC standards.

FSC ensures the credibility of its certification systems for the responsible management of the world's *forest* through oversight by Assurance Services International (ASI), which is an assurance partner for leading voluntary sustainability standards and initiatives around the world (<http://www.asi-assurance.org/s/>) and a member of the ISEAL Alliance (<https://www.isealalliance.org/>).

This FSC Forest Stewardship Standard of Canada for Small *scale**, *Low-Intensity** and *Community Forests** represents the Canadian adaptation of FSC's global *Principles**, *Criteria** (FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2) and International Generic Indicators (IGIs) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0). The national adaptation of this international framework ensures that the specific standard requirements are locally relevant, applicable and workable in the context of small scale, low-intensity forests (SLIMF) and *Community Forests**, as well as guaranteeing its integrity across the broader FSC system.

A.1.1 Objectives of this Standard

The objective of this standard is to provide a set of requirements for:

1. The Organization to implement responsible forest management within their Management Unit and to demonstrate conformance.
2. FSC accredited certification bodies (CBs) to determine conformance against this standard as the basis for awarding or maintaining forest management certification.

A.1.2 Development of the FSC Canada Standard for Small Scale, Low-Intensity and Community Forests

In January 2013, FSC Canada membership voted in favour of developing one national standard for Canada, thus replacing Canada's four existing regional FSC Forest Management standards (i.e., National Boreal, Maritimes, British Columbia Standards and interim Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Standards) with a single standard that would apply to the whole country. The same approach applies for Small Scale, Low-Intensity and *Community Forests**. One standard will replace the Maritimes SLIMF, the British Columbia Small Operations and the draft Great Lakes – St. Lawrence standards.

The FSC Forest Stewardship Standard of Canada for Small Scale, Low-Intensity and *Community Forests** (hereafter referred to as the 'Standard') was developed by FSC Canada's Standard Development Group (SDG) and collaborators who worked to achieve *consensus** among a wide range of people, organizations and interests.

The drafting of individual *Indicators** was guided by these FSC International documents:

- FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0 EN International Generic Indicators;
- FSC-PRO-60-006 V1-0 EN Development and Transfer of NFSS to FSC P&C V5;
- FSC-STD-60-006 V1-2 EN Process Requirements for the Development and Maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards: and
- FSC-STD-60-002 V1-0 EN Structure and Content of National Forest Stewardship Standards.

These documents outlined how the SDG were to use the International Generic Indicators (IGIs) as a baseline for drafting the new Standard. Also known as the 'transfer process,' the SDG had four options for interpreting each IGI.

1. **Adopt:** The SDG copies an International Generic Indicator into the new FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard.
2. **Adapt:** The SDG reviews and revises an International Generic Indicator in order to address terminology, scope or effectiveness in measuring conformance to a *Criterion*^{*}.
3. **Drop:** The SDG may omit an International Generic Indicator where it is determined to be inapplicable or otherwise non-contributing in measuring conformance to a *Criterion*^{*}.
4. **Add:** The SDG may suggest additional *Indicators*^{*} in order to better establish conformance to a *Criterion*^{*} as appropriate in a Canadian context.

Two draft versions of the Standard were submitted for public consultation and comment. Another draft was also submitted for targeted consultation and discussion. In addition, a testing program evaluated the auditability and implementability of the Draft 3 of the Standard, as well as several key topics and *Indicators*^{*}.

The final draft Standard was submitted to the FSC Canada Board of Directors, who endorsed the submission of the Standard to FSC's Policy and Standards Committee for final approval.

A.1.3 Structure of the Standard

The FSC Canada Standard maintains the internationally established hierarchical structure where:

- **Principles**^{*} are at the highest organizational level. These are the essential rules or elements of forest stewardship. FSC's Standard includes 10 *Principles*^{*} as prescribed by FSC International. Each *Principle*^{*} contains a series of *Criteria*^{*}, which subdivide the *Principle*^{*}.
- **Criteria**^{*} provide the means of judging if a *Principle*^{*} has been fulfilled. Each *Criterion*^{*} contains one or more *Indicators*^{*}.
- **Indicators**^{*} are the components of the Standard that are directly applicable to *The Organizations*^{*}. *Indicators*^{*} contain the performance direction that *The Organizations*^{*} must meet or to which they must adhere.

Together, the *Principles*^{*} and *Criteria*^{*} are the foundation of FSC certification, and are not subject to revision at the national or regional levels. *Indicators*^{*} have been specifically customized and approved for application in the Canadian context. All *Principles*^{*}, *Criteria*^{*} and *Indicators*^{*} share equal status, validity and authority, and apply at the level of the *Management Unit*^{*}.

Some *indicators*^{*} have different requirements for Small scale and Low Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMF), than for Community Forests. Requirements only applicable to SLIMF are preceded with the mention "**Applicable to SLIMF**:", while *indicators*^{*} only applicable to Community Forests are preceded with the mention: "**Applicable to Community Forests**". When the *indicator*^{*} does not include any specific mention, the requirement is applicable to both SLIMF and Community Forests.

Throughout this Standard, Intent Boxes appear under some *Principles*^{*}, *Criteria*^{*} or *Indicators*^{*}. An Intent Box is meant to provide guidance and context for users.

Also, terms for which a definition is provided in the Glossary are *italicized* and are marked with an *asterisk* (*).

Normative^{*} elements in the standard are: Scope, effective date, validity period, glossary of terms, *Principles*^{*}, *Criteria*^{*}, *Indicators*^{*} and tables (as well as other addenda which might be produced in association with this standard) unless indicated otherwise).

Non-normative elements in the standard that can be used for guidance only, are: Intent boxes, notes, guideline and examples which are attached to some of the *indicators*^{*} (as well as other guidance/applicability notes which might be produced in association with this standard).

Annexes included in the Standard may or may not be *normative*** , depending on the compulsory language by which the Annex is referenced within the *Indicator** and/or within the Annex itself.

The compulsory nature of instructions found in the *Principles**, *Criteria** and *Indicators** is defined as follows:

- “Shall” indicates instructions that are to be strictly followed.
- “Should” indicates that among several possibilities, one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others.
- “May” indicates a course of action permissible within the limits of the Standard.
- “Can” is used for statements of possibility and capability, whether material, physical or causal.
- “Includes” implies that all elements in the list must be addressed.

While the *objectives**, thresholds or requirements for conformance are outlined within each *Indicator**, the specific collection of documentation and other evidence to demonstrate conformance is up to *The Organization**.

A.1.4 Scope and Application of the Standard

A.1.4.1 Scope

Geographic region	Canada
Forest types	All forest types
Ownership types	All types of ownerships, including public, private and others
Scale and intensity categories (according to section 6 of FSC-STD-60-002)	SLIMF <i>Community Forests</i> * (no scale & intensity limit)
Forest products (according to FSC-STD-40-004a)	Rough wood NTFP: Sap-based Food (N9.6)

This Standard only applies to *small-scale forests**, *low intensity forests** and *community forests**. The forest products from these forests that can be certified with this Standard are the rough wood and the sap-based food which includes “maple syrup and sugar” and “birch syrup and sugar”. The sap-based food is considered as a non-timber forest product (NTFP). The management and certification of NTFPs is optional and if a certificate holder wants to make an FSC claim about it, the NTFP will be added to the scope of its certificate. In that case, as being part of the Management Unit, the full Standard will be applicable, unless specified otherwise in the *indicators**.

Please note that some adjustments may occur to the *Indicators** of Criterion 10.7 following the approval of the version 3 of the FSC Pesticides Policy. Also, other *Indicators** may be altered in future as determined by FSC International changes to policies and/or because of the implementation of General Assembly Motions.

This document is subject to the review and revision cycle as described in FSC-PRO-01-001 EN *Development and revision of FSC normative documents*.

A.2 Application and use of the Standard

FSC forest management certification is designed to provide a credible guarantee that all *Management Units** (MUs) included in the scope of the certificate conform with the requirements of the Forest

Stewardship Standard specified on the certificate. FSC certification therefore applies to all MUs and all activities related to forest management that occurs within their boundaries.

*The Organization** is the entity holding or applying for certification. However, FSC certification does not apply solely to *The Organization's** activities, but to all activities within the MU. In the context of single certification, *The Organization** may be the forest owner, the forest manager, or both. It is the responsibility of *The Organization** to demonstrate that the Standard's requirements have been met within the MU.

In the context of group certification, *The Organization** refers to all parties involved in *forest management activities** within the MU, and not only the *Group Entity** holding or applying for certification. As per FSC-STD-30-005, each group can decide how to internally organize itself, and the Group Entity can decide how to divide the different responsibilities to conform with this standard. The actual division of responsibilities may differ greatly between different group certification schemes. When the Group Entity, or another actor in the group is responsible for conformance with a requirement and this conformance is implemented for all the group, and all the management units of the group, this is commonly referred to as 'implementation or conformance **at group level**'. This is possible and is mostly used for administrative or document-based requirements. It's important to highlight that the results of any analysis implemented at the group level, and any forest management activities associated with these requirements, must be implemented/conformed with in **each** management unit of the group. For example, the Group Entity can be responsible for conducting the HCV assessment and defining appropriate protection measures, while delegating implementation of those protection measures to the members of the group. In this example, conformance is a shared responsibility. In another example, the Group Entity can delegate the responsibility to conform with Criterion 10.12 about disposal of waste material to the members of the group. The members would be 'The Organization' in charge of conforming with this Criterion, although the Group Entity would be the ultimate responsible for this conformance.

In several instances, *The Organization** may also rely on the efforts of other parties who play a role in meeting certain requirements (e.g., government entities, *Indigenous Peoples** and *stakeholders**). However, where gaps in performance exist, it is the responsibility of *The Organization** to address these gaps, within their *sphere of influence**. In cases where discrete portions of the *forest** are beyond the management control of *The Organization**, *The Organization** may excise these areas from the scope of the certificate. Refer to FSC policies and procedures regarding excision (FSC-POL-20-003).

A.2.1 Scale, Intensity and Risk

This Standard shall be applied to a specific size and types of *forests** in Canada identified as:

- **Small-scale forests***: *Forests** that are less than or equal to 1,000 ha in size.
- **Low intensity forests***: *Forests** with a harvesting rate of less than 20% of the mean annual growth in timber, **and** either an annual harvest or an annual average harvest of less than 5,000 m³ (averaged over the 5-year certificate lifetime).
- **Community Forests***: Any *forest** managed by a local administration or government, community group, First Nation or community-held corporation for the benefit of the entire community, in which profits are cycled back into the community.

NOTES:

*Community Forests** that meet the *Small-scale forest** or the *Low intensity forests** requirements listed above can be considered as SLIMF and don't have to meet the additional requirements applicable to *Community Forests**.

Native *forests** used solely for harvesting *non-timber forest products** also qualify as *low intensity forests* regardless of size or *intensity**.

*Plantations** of *non-timber forest products** shall not be considered *low intensity forest** *Management Units** within the meaning of this Standard.

Since the requirements have been adapted for the specific contexts of smallholders and *community forests**, one shall not use this standard, nor extrapolate the new concepts developed exclusively for this standard,

for large scale forestry in Canada. The standard THE FSC® NATIONAL FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD OF CANADA FSC-STD-CAN-01-2018 shall be used when the forest does not qualify to any of the three types of forest described above.

A.3 Canadian Context of Small Size, Low Intensity and Community Forests

A.3.1 Land Ownership and Tenure

*Small size forests** (< 1000ha) in Canada are mainly owned by private companies, families or individuals¹. They are often supported by different organizations to help manage, harvest and commercialize forest products. These organizations include planning agencies, owner's association, marketing board, private consulting firms, etc.

*Low Intensity forests** are not limited to a particular type of property. Since they are defined by the intensity of forest management, they can be found on both public or private lands. They are often forests in which timber production is not the first objective, but where recreation or protection of a specific value (ex: *watershed**) are the main focus.

*Community forests** are also not limited to a particular type of property. They can be considered public or private land, depending on the particular *tenure** arrangement³. However, the two common elements of *community forests** are that management decisions are made by the community, or on behalf of the community, and for the benefit of the entire community³. Examples of *community forests** include municipal forests, county forests, demonstration forests, and Conservation Authority lands.

A.3.2 Regulatory Context

The federal and provincial/territorial governments have specific roles in the management of public forest lands. The federal government is responsible for issues related to the national economy, trade, international relations, federal lands and national parks, and has constitutional, treaty and *legal** responsibilities related to *Indigenous Peoples**. The provincial and territorial governments have legislative authority over the *conservation** and management of the forest resources on *Crown lands**², and are responsible for developing and enforcing forest-related laws, regulations and policies. Annex A of this Standard refers to documents outlining the minimum laws and regulations related to forest activities that apply federally and those that apply at the provincial and territorial levels.

Some provinces have laws and norms for forest management practices on private lands. However, in most cases, private land forestry is governed by municipal regulations and supported by provincial guidelines or voluntary programs⁴. Landowners address illegal activities on private land through Canadian laws governing property rights⁴.

A.3.2.1 FSC Requirements vs. Legal* and Regulatory Processes

*The Organization** is required to comply with all applicable forest laws and regulations. Efforts have been made to avoid known circumstances where the Standard's requirements are not consistent with *legal** and regulatory requirements. Where a conflict is identified between a requirement of this Standard and an *applicable law** or regulation, *The Organization** is not expected to violate the *legal** requirement, and must promptly notify FSC Canada of the conflict so that FSC may take steps to evaluate the related circumstances.

Alternatively, there may be circumstances where the Standard's requirements go beyond *legal** and regulatory requirements. Forest certification, as a voluntary system, expects *The Organization** to complement or even exceed *legal** and regulatory requirements to achieve the Standard's requirements and remain consistent with FSC's values and mission.

A.3.3 Indigenous Context

In Canada, the term most commonly used to represent the diversity of *Indigenous Peoples** is "Aboriginal peoples", as per the *Constitution Act, 1982*. For FSC, *Indigenous Peoples** includes many diverse First

Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, each whom possess unique histories, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

Most First Nations and Inuit peoples, as well as their representative institutions, are recognized by both federal and provincial levels of government. Databases related to their governance, reserve land-base and traditional territories are *publicly available**. The same cannot be said for Métis, as the *legal** framework to recognize Métis status is in development.

A.3.3.1 Existing Aboriginal and Treaty Rights

Aboriginal rights are *collective rights** which flow from Aboriginal peoples (i.e. *Indigenous Peoples**) continued use and occupation of certain areas⁵. They are inherent rights that have been practiced and enjoyed since before European settlement, for example, the right to hunt, fish and trap, self-government and/or a right to the land itself, i.e. Aboriginal title to land⁵. Treaty rights are Aboriginal rights set out in a treaty.

Section 35 of *Canada's Constitution Act, 1982*, provides constitutional protection to existing Aboriginal and treaty rights (First Nation, Inuit and Métis) in Canada. Extensive case law has documented efforts to explicitly define what these rights are and how they are to be protected. Progress has been made on defining obligations of governments in relation to consultation and accommodation requirements, but it is difficult to definitively list specific existing Aboriginal and treaty rights to an area without first conducting case-by-case assessments.

Section 35 also establishes that the Crown has a duty to consult and accommodate Aboriginal peoples when the Crown contemplates actions or decisions that may affect Aboriginal or treaty rights. This duty arises most often in the context of natural resource extraction, including forestry. This fiduciary duty cannot be delegated to third parties, including forest companies. However, the Crown may delegate certain aspects of consultation to a proponent (e.g. collection of information regarding a proposal, impact of a proposed project on potential or established Aboriginal or treaty rights, etc.) when it is in the best interest of all parties to do so. However, it remains the *legal** responsibility of the Crown to retain oversight of this delegated authority.

Despite this tripartite relationship, there exists a space in which third parties engage and collaborate with *Indigenous Peoples** to ensure Aboriginal and treaty rights are recognized and *upheld**. This Standard provides room for this engagement mainly through Principle 3, but through other *Indicators** as well. FSC recognizes that unresolved issues, such as how Aboriginal title and private ownership will be reconciled where they overlap, poses important challenges⁶ and will require innovative and flexible approaches as the Canadian *legal* framework evolves.

A.3.3.2 Customary Rights

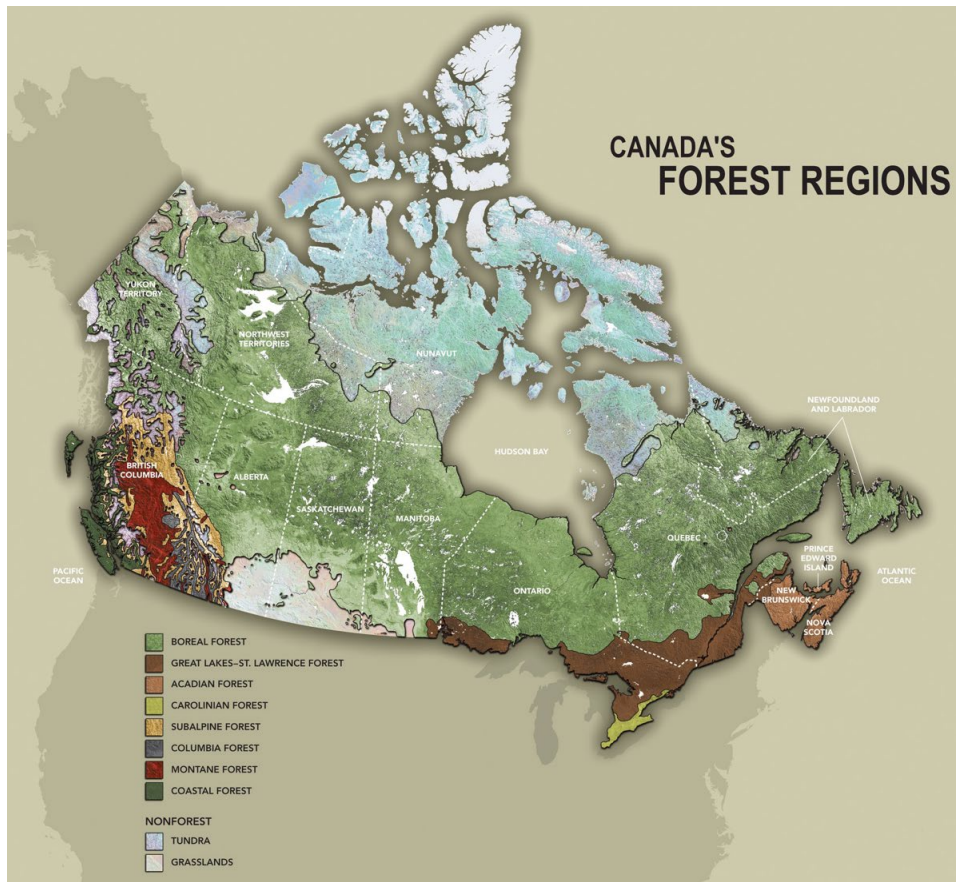
In Canada, the term “customary right” is not commonly used in Indigenous rights discourse. It is much more common to come across references to *customary law**, traditional law, Natural Law or *legal** traditions that are codified in written (e.g. wampum belts or sacred scrolls) and unwritten forms (e.g. songs, dances) and passed on through the generations. More importantly, the values, beliefs, and understanding of law are conveyed through the continuing practices, customs and traditions of the society. These practices, as defined in the Glossary, make up the *customary rights** of *Indigenous Peoples**. For more information on *customary rights**, refer to the FSC Canada Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Guidance document.

A.3.3.3 Free, Prior and Informed Consent

A core concept of international agreements recognizing the rights of *Indigenous Peoples** is the right of *Indigenous Peoples** to *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** (FPIC)*, and is embedded within FSC's *Principles** and *Criteria** (version 5). *FPIC** requirements are valid for Canada, and have been adapted in this Standard to recognize the modern-day context of Aboriginal rights discourse. To assist in the understanding of how *FPIC** is to be applied in a Canadian context, FSC Canada has developed a country-specific guideline for the implementation of *FPIC**. Refer to the *FSC Canada Guidance on Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)*.

A.3.4 Ecological Context

While Canada encompasses a wide range of *forest** types and ecological communities, this Standard is designed to apply to each of Canada's eight forest regions where *forest management activities** take place. However, the vast majority of Small Scale, Low-Intensity and Community Forests are located in the southern part of the country, where the majority of the population live and where private land ownership is predominant.



Source: Natural Resources Canada, Government of Canada. Accessed 2017.
<http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/measuring-reporting/classification/13179>

A.3.5 Social Context

*Small scale**, *Low-Intensity** and *Community Forests** are an important source of culture, recreation and economic opportunities for the people living in and around *forests**. They are normally found in rural and semi-urban contexts where people live and work. *Community forests**, by definition, must be managed by the community and for the benefit of the community. On the other hand, *small-scale** forests are often private woodlots owned by an individual or a family. It is also not uncommon for people to live directly on their woodlot, to use it as a hunting ground, while also managing their forest for a small complementary income. For these reasons, and others, forest management activities can have significant social impacts on the communities, both in term of providing a livelihood and a sanctuary for people to reconnect with nature.

A.3.5.1 Disputes* Between Parties

Invariably there are cases where people disagree on *management objectives**. This Standard includes various *dispute** resolution pathways, depending on the nature of the *dispute**. However, all *dispute** resolution pathways address the same general framework:

- identification of *complaints**;
- escalation to *dispute**;
- development and implementation of a dispute resolution process; and
- maintaining records of process and outcome.

Annex D describes the dispute resolution process and its application in greater detail.

A.4 Supporting Documentation to the Standard

While this Standard forms the backbone of the *normative** requirements of the FSC Forest Stewardship Standard of Canada for Small scale and Low Intensity Managed Forest and Community Forest, additional *normative** and non-*normative** documentation exists (both national and international), which is meant to provide direction and guidance regarding the implementation of the Standard. Refer to the Reference List (at the end of the Standard) for a list of the relevant FSC Standards, policies, directives and guidance that apply as of the effective date of this Standard. Additional *normative** and non-*normative** documents, as well as adaptations or modifications of this Standard may become available over time.

References:

- 1 Natural Resources Canada (2017-11-20) Forest land ownership. <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/canada/ownership/17495> (accessed April 18, 2019).
- 2 Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (2017) Sustainable Forest Management in Canada. Overview - Canada's Forests. <https://www.sfmcanada.org/en/canada-s-forests> (accessed April 18, 2019).
- 3 Teitelbaum, S., Beckley, T., and Nadeau, S. (2006) A national portrait of community forestry on public land in Canada. *The Forestry Chronicle* 82(3): 416-428. (Also available at <http://pubs.cif-ifc.org/doi/pdf/10.5558/tfc82416-3>, (accessed August 26, 2020).
- 4 Natural Resources Canada (2017-07-26) Canada's forest laws. <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/forests/canada/laws/17497> (accessed April 18, 2019).
- 5 University of British Columbia First Nations Studies Program. 2009. Indigenous Foundations: Aboriginal Rights. https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/aboriginal_rights/ (accessed April 18, 2019).
- 6 Borrows, J. (2015) Aboriginal title and private property. *The Supreme Court Law Review: Osgoode's Annual Constitutional Cases Conference* 71: 90-134.

PRINCIPLE 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

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

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

INTENT BOX

Refer to Annex A (under section 1. *Legal rights to harvest*) for a list of federal and provincial laws and regulations related to this *Criterion*.

- 1.1.1 *Legal registration** to carry out all activities within the scope of the certificate is documented.

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

INTENT BOX

Refer to Annex A (under section 1. *Legal rights to harvest*) for a list of federal and provincial laws and regulations related to this *Criterion**.

- 1.2.1 *Legal* tenure** or ownership to manage and use resources within the scope of the certificate is documented.
- 1.2.2 The boundaries of all *Management Units** within the scope of the certificate are clearly marked or documented and shown on maps.

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

INTENT BOX

Refer to Annex A for a minimum list of *applicable laws**, regulations and nationally *ratified** international treaties, conventions and agreements.

- 1.3.1 Activities covered by the *management plan** are carried out in compliance with:
1. *Applicable laws** and regulations;
 2. Administrative requirements;
 3. *Legal** rights; and
 4. Customary rights* of Indigenous Peoples*.

INTENT BOX

In Canada, the term “customary right” is not commonly used in Indigenous rights discourse. It is much more common to use *customary law**, traditional law, Natural Law or *legal** traditions that are codified in written (e.g., wampum belts or sacred scrolls) and unwritten forms (e.g., songs, dances) and passed on through the generations. More importantly, though, the values, beliefs, and understanding of law are conveyed through the continuing practices, customs and traditions of the society. These practices make up the *customary rights** of *Indigenous Peoples**.

Annex A refers to a minimum list of current laws and regulations which represent *legal** rights.

The identification of *customary rights** that are not recognized under Canadian laws and their consideration is achieved through Principle 3.

- 1.3.2 When *non-timber forest products** are intended for human or animal consumption, all applicable legal and administrative requirements for hygiene and food safety are met.
- 1.3.3 Payment is made in a *timely manner** of all applicable legally prescribed charges connected with forest management.
- 1.4 **The Organization* shall develop and implement measures, and/or shall engage* with regulatory agencies, to systematically protect the Management Unit* from unauthorized or illegal resource use, settlement and other illegal activities.**
- 1.4.1 *Reasonable** measures are taken, including collaboration with the responsible regulatory bodies, to identify, report, control and discourage illegal or unauthorised activities on the *Management Unit**.

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

INTENT BOX

Refer to Annex A for a minimum list of *applicable laws**, regulations and nationally *ratified** international treaties, conventions and agreements.

CITES requirements are covered by the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA) and other existing national legislation.

- 1.5.1 The transportation and trade of forest products complies with Section 5, Annex A Companion document.

INTENT BOX

The sections 5 “Trade and Transport” of the Annex A Companion document includes relevant regulations related to the transportation and trade of forest products, including CITES species. CITES requirements are covered by the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRIITA) and other existing national legislation.

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

INTENT BOX

Refer to Annex D for details regarding *disputes** resolution.

- 1.6.1 A system for receiving and documenting *complaints** from *local communities**, *Indigenous Peoples**, *affected stakeholders** and other *stakeholders** related to the impacts of *management activities** is in place.

- 1.6.2 Applicable to SLIMF:
The Organization* makes *best efforts** at resolving *complaints** through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *local communities**, *Indigenous Peoples**, *affected stakeholders** and other *stakeholders**.

Applicable to *Community Forests**:

A *publicly available** dispute resolution process that can be adapted through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *local communities**, *Indigenous Peoples**, *affected stakeholders** and other *stakeholders** is in place.

- 1.6.3 Applicable to SLIMF:
*Complaints** are responded to in a *timely manner**. *Complaints** that are not resolved are elevated to *disputes**. The Organization* makes *best efforts** at resolving *disputes** out of court.

Applicable to *Community Forests**:

*Complaints** are responded to in a *timely manner**. *Complaints** that are not resolved are elevated to *disputes** and are being addressed via a dispute resolution process established at *Indicator** 1.6.2.

INTENT BOX

FSC recognizes that *The Organization** may not have control over statutory or *legal** matters, or may not be directly involved in a *dispute** regarding the *Management Unit** especially on *Crown land**. In these cases, it would be reasonable for *The Organization** to work within its *sphere of influence** to encourage parties, where appropriate, to work together to resolve the *dispute**.

- 1.6.4 An up-to-date record of *complaints** and *disputes** is maintained and includes:
1. Steps taken to resolve *complaints** and *disputes**;
 2. Outcomes of all *complaints** and dispute resolution processes;
 3. Fair compensation* to local communities* and individuals with regard to the impact of management activities* of The Organization*, if applicable.
 4. Unresolved *disputes**, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.
- 1.6.5 Operations cease in areas where disputes of substantial magnitude* related to applicable laws* or customary law*, or to the impacts of management activities* on local communities* or Indigenous Peoples* exist.

INTENT BOX

This *indicator** does not require operations to cease for a *dispute** with *affected stakeholders**, unless prescribed by *applicable laws**.

- 1.7 *The Organization** shall publicize a commitment not to offer or receive bribes in money or any other form of corruption, and shall comply with anticorruption legislation where this exists. In the absence of anticorruption legislation, *The Organization** shall implement other anticorruption measures proportionate to the *scale** and *intensity** of management activities* and the *risk** of corruption.**
- 1.7.1 Applicable to SLIMF:
- A policy is implemented that:
1. Includes a commitment not to offer or receive bribes of any description;
 2. Meets or exceeds related legislation.
- Applicable to *Community Forests**:
- A policy is implemented that:
1. Includes a commitment not to offer or receive bribes of any description;
 2. Meets or exceeds related legislation; and
 3. Is *publicly available** at no cost.
- 1.7.2 Bribery, coercion and other acts of corruption do not occur.
- 1.7.3 Corrective measures are implemented if corruption does occur.

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

1.8.1 A *publicly available** statement, endorsed by *The Organization**, the forest owner and/or an individual with authority to implement the statement, demonstrates a *long-term** commitment to responsible *forest** management practices consistent with FSC *Principles** and *Criteria** and related Policies and Standards.

PRINCIPLE 2: WORKERS' RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

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

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

2.1.1 Employment practices and conditions for *workers** demonstrate compliance with federal and provincial labour laws and with the principles and rights of *workers** addressed in the ILO Core Labour Conventions, which Canada has *ratified**:

- ILO 29: Forced Labour Convention, 1930
- ILO 87: Freedom of association and protection of rights to organize convention, 1948
- ILO 98: Rights to organize and collective bargaining convention, 1949
- ILO 100: Equal remuneration convention, 1951
- ILO 105: Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957
- ILO 111: Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958
- ILO 138: Minimum Age Convention, 1973
- ILO 182: Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999

INTENT BOX

There are no known gaps between the core ILO conventions and the Canadian national/ provincial regulations so there is low risk for violation. See Annex A for more details.

Therefore, a certificate holder implementing all National and Provincial labor laws is de-facto meeting the requirements of these ILO Core convention.

2.1.2 *Workers** are able to establish or join worker organizations of their own choosing, subject only to the rules of the labour organization concerned, and are not discriminated or penalized for doing so.

2.1.3 Where *workers** are looking to establish a *collective bargaining** agreement, *The Organization** negotiates with lawfully established *workers'** organizations* and/or duly selected representatives in *good faith** and with the *best efforts** to reach a *collective bargaining** agreement.

INTENT BOX

This requirement applies to all *Organizations** who conduct forest *management activities** on the *Management Unit** (*group entity**, *resource manager**, contractors, forest owners, etc.) and who directly employ workers*.

2.1.4 *Collective bargaining** agreements are implemented where they exist.

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

- 2.2.1 Measures are implemented that promote *gender equality** and prevent *gender discrimination** in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of *engagement** and *management activities**.
- 2.2.2 Job opportunities are open to both women and men under the same conditions.
- 2.2.3 With consideration for *worker** experience, performance, and working conditions, women and men are paid equally using a direct and secure method of payment.
- 2.2.4 Maternity and paternity leave is available for *workers** no less than a six-week period after childbirth, and there is no penalty for taking it.
- 2.2.5 Women and men are encouraged and supported to actively participate in all levels of employment and decision-making.

INTENT BOX

Decision-making activities can vary within a business and at different levels of decision-making. They may include participation in forest management planning meetings, technical or strategic committees, decision-making forums, steering committees, membership on the board of directors, etc.

Support for the active participation in meetings may include scheduling the timing of meetings to accommodate family obligations, for example.

- 2.2.6 Cases of sexual harassment and *discrimination** based on gender, marital status, parenthood or sexual orientation can be confidentially reported and are effectively eliminated.

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

INTENT BOX

Refer to Annex A for a list of the main health and safety laws and regulations.

2.3.1 Compliance with relevant occupational health and safety regulations as specified in Annex A is demonstrated.

INTENT BOX

In this Standard, the requirements of the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work are covered by Canadian legislation. Refer to Annex A, section 3.4 of the tables.

Legislation in Canada is equal to (or sometimes exceeds) this ILO Code of Practice.

2.3.2 *Workers**, as well as forest owners, family members and volunteers conducting *forest management activities** on the *Management Unit**, wear or use personal protective equipment appropriate to their assigned tasks.

2.3.3 Use of personal protective equipment is enforced.

2.3.4 Records are kept on health and safety practices including, a description of the accidents and their causes.

2.3.5 Records of accidents and injuries at work demonstrate that the frequency and severity of accidents over time remain low or are declining.

2.3.6 The health and safety practices are reviewed and revised as required after major incidents or accidents.

2.3.7 *Workers** are covered by safety insurance, in accordance with provincial laws and regulations.

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

2.4.1 Wages received by *workers** meet or exceed:

1. the minimum *legal** wage; or
2. a production-based rate that is comparable to forestry standards.

2.4.2 Wages, salaries and contracts are paid on time as per the employment or contractual agreement.

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

- 2.5.1 Workers*, as well as forest owners, family members and volunteers conducting forest management activities* on the Management Unit*, have appropriate training and supervision such that they can safely and effectively implement the management plan* and forest management activities*.

INTENT BOX

The intent of this Indicator* is to ensure that anyone conducting work on the MU has received appropriate training allowing them to work safely in accordance to the management plan*, while allowing some flexibility in the way people are trained. It is understood that not all workers* are involved in every aspects of forest management activities*, hence the option to tailor the training program to each specific job/role/position. Annex B can be used to identify the training needs for each category of workers* based on the role they play in implementing management activities*.

- 2.5.2 Up-to-date training records are kept for all workers*, forest owners, family members and volunteers that have been trained.

2.6 The Organization*, through engagement* with workers*, shall have mechanisms for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation* to workers* for loss or damage to property, occupational diseases*, or occupational injuries* sustained while working for The Organization*.

- 2.6.1 A system for receiving and documenting complaints* from workers* related to their rights and employment conditions is in place.
- 2.6.2 A dispute resolution process that can be adapted through culturally appropriate* engagement* with workers* is in place.
- 2.6.3 Complaints* are responded to in a timely manner*. Complaints* that are not resolved are elevated to disputes* and are being addressed via a dispute resolution process.
- 2.6.4 An up-to-date record of complaints* and disputes* is maintained and includes:
1. Steps taken to resolve complaints* and disputes*;
 2. Outcomes of all complaints* and disputes resolution processes, including, where applicable, fair compensation* to workers* for loss or damage to property, occupational diseases*, or occupational injuries* sustained while working for The Organization*; and
 3. Unresolved disputes*, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.

PRINCIPLE 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS

The Organization* shall identify and ***uphold**** ***Indigenous Peoples**** ***legal**** and ***customary rights**** of ownership, use and management of ***land, territories**** and resources affected by ***management activities****.

INTENT BOX

*Indigenous Peoples** rights (i.e. Aboriginal and treaty rights) as per Section 35 (1) of the *Constitution Act, 1982*) are considered *collective rights** in that the rights belong to a group and not to an individual. As per the Constitution Act, 1982, “Aboriginal peoples” include First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

In addition to these *collective rights**, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and ILO 169 include the protection of basic human rights (i.e. individual rights) of *Indigenous Peoples**. Individual rights, held by *affected stakeholders** in this Standard who are also members of an Indigenous community, are addressed in Principle 1 (Criterion 1.6) and Principle 7 (Criterion 7.6), and are not subject to the requirements of *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** (FPIC*) and other national and international human rights instruments (e.g. Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms).

The right to FPIC* is a *collective right** held by *Indigenous Peoples** and recognized in international law. While FSC Canada has provided guidance on developing processes to *uphold** this right, it is preferable that *The Organization** remains open to discussing the definition, scope and nature of such a process with the rights holders.

The principle of *good faith** and the acceptance of a shared responsibility for meaningful consultation and accommodation is fundamental to the implementation of a FPIC* process. To ensure there is broad support for the implementation of a FPIC* process, initial and on-going *engagement** with *Indigenous Peoples** may also include governments and other *stakeholders** with whom the affected *Indigenous Peoples** have a fiduciary relationship.

The intent of Principle 3 is to ensure that all *management activities**, including the building of relationships between *The Organization** and *Indigenous Peoples**, are conducted for the benefit of the entire community. Economic and social benefits gained by a private enterprise from forest management opportunities offered by *The Organization** are addressed in Principle 5. In circumstances where *Indigenous Peoples** express concern or an interest in *management activities** not directly related to *legal** or *customary rights** of *Indigenous Peoples**, *The Organization** may address them through the requirements of Principle 4 – Community Relations.

Customary rights*: This term is defined in the Glossary. Canadian law has recognized certain customary practices and laws that may be unique to specific *Indigenous Peoples** or a shared custom across many groups. In the context of FSC certification, these practices constitute *customary rights**. Governments have recognized traditional forms of land governance through legally *binding agreements** such as government-to-government consultation agreements and agreements related to modern day treaty negotiation. Such agreements may provide examples of *customary rights** pertinent to the forestry context (refer to the Preamble for additional context).

The right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent*: The right to FPIC* is a key principle of international human rights law. It is intended to protect the *legal** and *customary rights** of *Indigenous Peoples** and prevent further destruction and alienation from lands, *territories** and resources upon which their cultures, livelihoods and lives depend. In the context of the FSC Standard, the right to FPIC* is attributed to identified *affected rights holders** as per *Indicator** 3.1.2. The rights that may be addressed through a FPIC* process in 3.2.4 are those rights that may be impacted by *management activities** as identified in *Indicator** 3.1.2 or defined in 3.2.4 directly.

Disputes*: This term is defined in the Glossary. *Complaints** and *disputes** regarding the legality of the forestry operation (e.g., forest *tenure** allocation or management regulations) are addressed in Criterion 1.6. Dispute resolution processes that are specific to negotiated agreements between *The*

*Organization** and affected *Indigenous Peoples**, but may not be *publicly available**, are addressed in *Indicators** 3.2.4 and 3.3.3. If *complaints** or *disputes** registered by affected *Indigenous Peoples**, related to the impact of the forest *management activities**, are not addressed in Criterion 1.6 and in Principle 3, they could be addressed in Criterion 4.6.

Culturally appropriate* engagement*: These terms are defined in the Glossary and further explained in Annex E. *The Organization** may wish to further clarify what this means in their own context (e.g., private land, small landholders, *community forests**). For example, *engagement** is not limited to *stakeholders** or *Indigenous Peoples**, but may also include government officials with responsibilities related to *management activities**. The purpose of the *engagement** is to ensure all relevant information is collected to fulfil the requirements of management planning and the Standard.

Private Lands: Canadian courts and legislation recognize that *legal** and *customary rights** (specifically *use rights**) and private property rights (i.e., right of ownership) may co-exist. This Standard does not abrogate or derogate from the right to property. The *legal rights** and *customary rights** addressed in Principle 3 are based on the pre-settlement conditions of the region (i.e., prior to the granting of land) and must be identified on a case-by-case basis, preferably through *culturally appropriate* engagement** and relationship building. The mechanisms (i.e., type of agreements) used to *uphold** these rights on private lands may differ from public lands. There is an evolving *legal** framework related to Aboriginal and treaty rights and private lands in Canada. FSC Canada will monitor and adapt the *FPIC Guidance* or provide *normative** direction when/if necessary.

FPIC Guidance: For more information on the nature and scope of *Indigenous Peoples** rights, including the right to *Free, Prior and Informed Consent**, refer to FSC Canada Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Guidance.

- 3.1 **The Organization*** shall identify the **Indigenous Peoples*** that exist within the **Management Unit*** or those that are affected by **management activities***. **The Organization*** shall then, through **engagement*** with these **Indigenous Peoples***, identify their rights of **tenure***, their rights of access to and use of forest resources and **ecosystem services***, their **customary rights*** and **legal*** rights and obligations, that apply within the **Management Unit***. **The Organization*** shall also identify areas where these rights are contested.
- 3.1.1 **Indigenous Peoples*** that may be affected by **management activities*** are identified, based on the **best available information***.
- 3.1.2 Through **culturally appropriate* engagement*** with the **Indigenous Peoples*** identified in 3.1.1, the following is documented and/or mapped using **best available information***:
1. Their main contact person;
 2. Their **legal* and/or customary rights*** of **tenure***, including access to, and **use rights***, of the forest resources and **ecosystem services***;
 3. Their other **legal* and/or customary rights*** and responsibilities that may be affected by **management activities*** in the **Management Unit***;
 4. The evidence supporting these rights and responsibilities, where available; and
 5. Areas where rights are contested between **Indigenous Peoples***, governments and/or others;
 6. Their concerns related to the impact of **management activities** on their rights.

INTENT BOX

*The Organization** is expected to maintain up-to-date knowledge of the information as it becomes available. Early and ongoing **engagement*** of **Indigenous Peoples*** is important to contribute to the collection of that information.

- 3.1.3 In a group certification, **The Organization*** provides general knowledge to **group members*** about local and regional **Indigenous Peoples***, and information, as collected in **Indicator*** 3.1.2, about their **legal* and/or customary rights* related to management activities***.

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

3.2.1 Through *culturally appropriate* engagement**, *Indigenous Peoples** are informed when, where and how they can comment on and request modification to *management activities** to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, *lands and territories**.

3.2.2 The *legal** and/or *customary rights** of *Indigenous Peoples** affected by *management activities** and identified at *Indicator** 3.1.2 are not violated by *The Organization**.

3.2.3 Where evidence exists that *legal** and/or *customary rights** of *Indigenous Peoples** related to *management activities** have been violated, the situation is corrected, if necessary, through *culturally appropriate* engagement** and/or through the dispute resolution process as required in Criterion 1.6.

3.2.4 *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** is addressed through an ongoing process with affected *Indigenous Peoples** that describes, at the minimum:

1. How affected *Indigenous Peoples** (identified in *indicator** 3.1.2) and *The Organization** will build/develop a relationship;
2. For which identified values/rights *Indigenous Peoples** seek consent;
3. When the process should be reviewed;
4. How a *dispute** over the process should be resolved.

When *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** has not been obtained, *best efforts** are demonstrated to support a *culturally appropriate* engagement** with affected *Indigenous Peoples** that is advancing in *good faith** with the intent of reaching consent on the process.

INTENT BOX

The right to *Free, Prior and Informed Consent**: Refer to the Intent Box for Principle 3 above.

It is possible that while a process is in place to obtain *Free, Prior and Informed Consent**, a formal agreement or consent may not be reached at the time of audit. It is also possible that, for some reason, there may be a lack of response or cooperation from affected *Indigenous Peoples**, and therefore no documented support for either the process or *management activities**.

However, the intent to obtain *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** can be demonstrated through other means. Some examples include through policy and procedures, work plans, and records of communication (or attempted communication) with *Indigenous Peoples**. Communication and support from government agencies with fiduciary and *legal** obligations to *Indigenous Peoples** may also be helpful to demonstrate *best efforts**, particularly when efforts by *The Organization** to *engage** *Indigenous Peoples** have been unsuccessful.

Good faith*: *Good faith** is defined in the Glossary. It is a term used in ILO Conventions and recognized as an auditable element. The principle of *good faith** implies that the parties make every effort to reach an agreement, conduct genuine and constructive negotiations, avoid delays in negotiations, respect concluded agreements, and give sufficient time to discuss and settle *disputes**.

Additional information is provided in the FSC Canada Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Guidance document (2019).

Recognizing that *Indigenous Peoples** may not want to grant *Free Prior and Informed Consent** and/or delegate control for their own reasons, *Indigenous Peoples** may choose to offer their support for *management activities** in a different way of their choosing (refer to *Indicators** 3.3.1 and 3.3.2).

Private Land: There is an expectation that the approach to obtaining *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** on private lands will be different. This may include:

- a lengthier process of *engagement** to reach agreement, especially if rights holders have been excluded from the *forest** land for a long time;
- *engagement** with individual rights holders (i.e. *customary rights**) who claim and express an interest in accessing private property to carrying out their *legal** and *customary rights** and responsibilities (e.g. collection of birch bark, medicinal plants, hunting or social gathering); and
- the development of a shared understanding of best practices to mutually recognize and respect each party's rights to property (e.g. securing permission to enter private property through agreement.)

- 3.3 In the event of delegation of control over *management activities**, a *binding agreement** between *The Organization** and the *Indigenous Peoples** shall be concluded through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent**. The agreement shall define its duration, provisions for renegotiation, renewal, termination, economic conditions and other terms and conditions. The agreement shall make provision for *monitoring by Indigenous Peoples** of *The Organization's** compliance with its terms and conditions.**

INTENT BOX

The result of the *indicator** 3.2.4 could be an FPIC process agreement or an FPIC agreement. Both type of agreements are examples of *binding agreements*.

- 3.3.1 A binding agreement* contains the terms and conditions on which *Free Prior and Informed Consent** is reached based on *culturally appropriate* engagement**.
- 3.3.2 Records of *binding agreements** are maintained.
- 3.3.3 The *binding agreement** defines the duration, provisions for renegotiation, renewal, termination, economic conditions, provisions for monitoring by *Indigenous Peoples** and dispute resolution.

- 3.4 ***The Organization** shall recognize and *uphold** the rights, customs and culture of *Indigenous Peoples** as defined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) and ILO Convention 169 (1989). (C3.2 P&C V4, revised to comply with FSC-POL-30-401, ILO 169 and UNDRIP)**

INTENT BOX

*Indigenous Peoples** may raise concerns related to UNDRIP and ILO 169. The ongoing *engagement** process set out in this Standard (Principle 1 and 3) provides an opportunity for *The Organization** to determine what is actionable through provisions elsewhere in Principle 3, or other parts of the Standard. The intent of *culturally appropriate engagement** is to prevent violations of *Indigenous Peoples** rights.

Additional supporting information for the implementation of this *Criterion** is available in the FSC Canada FPIC Guidance document.

- 3.4.1 There is no evidence that the rights, customs and culture of *Indigenous Peoples** as defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 are violated by *The Organization**.
- 3.4.2 Where evidence that rights, customs and culture of *Indigenous Peoples** as defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 have been violated by *The Organization**, the situation is documented, including steps to a just and fair redress for the violation of the rights, customs and culture of *Indigenous Peoples**, in keeping with the dispute resolution process in *Indicator** 3.2.3.

- 3.5** *The Organization**, through *engagement** with *Indigenous Peoples**, shall identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance and for which these *Indigenous Peoples** hold *legal** or *customary rights**. These sites shall be recognized by *The Organization** and their management, and/or *protection** shall be agreed through *engagement** with these *Indigenous Peoples**.

INTENT BOX

The intent of the *Indicators** in this Criterion is to (per *Indicator** 3.5.1) proactively identify sites of special significance for which *Indigenous Peoples** hold *rights** and (per *Indicator** 3.5.2) implement protective measures for those sites. These sites can be identified at several stages of the relationship between *The Organization** and *Indigenous Peoples**, at moments agreed between both parties.

- 3.5.1 *Best efforts** are made to *engage** with *Indigenous Peoples**, in a *culturally appropriate** manner, to identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance for which these *Indigenous Peoples** hold *legal** or *customary rights**.
- 3.5.2 *Best efforts** are used to find agreed upon measures to protect such sites through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *Indigenous Peoples** and these measures are implemented. *When Indigenous Peoples** determine that physical identification of sites in documentation or on maps would threaten the value or *protection** of the sites, other means are used.
- 3.5.3 Wherever sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance are newly observed or discovered and are threatened by *management activities**, the *management activities** in the vicinity are suspended or relocated until protective measures have been agreed to with the *Indigenous Peoples** and as directed by local and *national laws**.

INTENT BOX

- 3.2.1 Examples of serious *threats** could include:
- 3.2.2 Destruction of burial sites, spiritual sites, spawning areas, medicinal areas;
- 3.2.3 Severe disruption of livelihood;
- 3.2.4 Damage to community water supply; or,
Severe disruption of food chain to the community.

- 3.6 ***The Organization* shall uphold* the right of Indigenous Peoples* to protect and utilize their traditional knowledge* and shall compensate local communities* for the utilization of such knowledge and their intellectual property*. A binding agreement* as per Criterion 3.3 shall be concluded between The Organization* and the Indigenous Peoples* for such utilization through Free, Prior and Informed Consent* before utilization takes place, and shall be consistent with the protection of intellectual property* rights.***

INTENT BOX

The intent of this *Criterion** is to prevent the commercialization of *traditional knowledge** without compensation for the purposes of creating a product and/or service. It is not meant to prevent the sharing of information by *Indigenous Peoples** for the purposes of *management plan** development.

- 3.6.1 *Traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property** are protected and are only used when the acknowledged owners of that *traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property** have provided their *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** formalized through a *binding agreement**.
- 3.6.2 *Indigenous Peoples** are compensated according to the binding *agreement** reached through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** for the use of *traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property** for commercial purposes.

PRINCIPLE 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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

INTENT BOX

*Local Community** vs. *Indigenous Peoples**:

In this Standard, a *local community** refers to a non-indigenous group of people.

In general, Principle 4 addresses requirements regarding *local communities** unless the *Indicator** specifies *Indigenous Peoples** as in Criteria 4.5 and 4.6 or when it addresses social benefits as in Criteria 4.3 and 4.4. The topics covered by these *Criteria** are not implicitly included within the agreement requirements in Principle 3. However, it should be noted that *Indigenous Peoples** and *The Organization** may choose to address these topics through agreements and processes established in Principle 3.

Rights and other Concerns Related to *Stakeholders** & Individuals:

*Stakeholders** (if not a *local community**) and individual rights and concerns are not addressed in Principle 4. Instead, all *legal** or *customary rights** pertaining to *affected stakeholders** or individuals are addressed in Principle 1. Other *affected stakeholders**, *interested stakeholders** and individuals' concerns are addressed in Criterion 7.6.

Applicability of *Local Community** Rights and *Traditional Knowledge** in the Standard:

In the Canadian context of forest management and related activities, *local communities** have *legal** rights related to general human rights and access to public land. There are few known instances where *local communities** have *legal* collective rights** related to *management activities** on public land or private land (not owned by the community). However, as a group who inhabit a specific area, it is necessary to maintain the resources they utilize as well as their quality of life.

In Canada, *customary rights** (or *customary laws**) have been identified for:

- 1) communities established before colonization; and
- 2) communities who developed their own customs, practices, traditions and recognizable group identities separate from their First Nation, Inuit and European ancestors (e.g. Métis). (<https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100014419/1100100014420>)

No *customary rights** have been established for non-Indigenous *local communities**. However, the evolutionary nature of *legal** frameworks could potentially result in a Canadian *local community** gaining *customary rights** status for long-held practices. The intent of the *Indicators** related to *customary rights** in this *Principle** is to make them applicable only once a *local community** has established such *customary rights**.

In addition, according to the FAO and United Nations documents (*UN-REDD Guidelines on FPIC* interpretation), *FPIC** should apply to *Indigenous Peoples** and to minority groups who share common characteristics with *Indigenous Peoples**. *Local communities** in Canada do not share these characteristics.

Furthermore, no *traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property** have been knowingly identified and recognized for *local communities**. Criterion 4.8 is applicable when strong evidence is provided by the *local community** to demonstrate ownership of *traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property**.

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

4.1.1 *Local communities** that may be affected by forest *management activities** are identified.

4.1.2 Through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with the *local communities** identified in 4.1.1, the following are documented and/or mapped:

1. Their *legal** and *customary rights** that may overlap the *Forest Management Unit**;
2. A summary of means by which these rights identified in 4.1.2.1 are addressed;
3. Areas where there are conflicts affecting or related to *forest management activities**.

INTENT BOX

Refer to Annex E for more guidance related to *culturally appropriate* engagement**.

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

INTENT BOX

This *Criterion** applies to rights identified in 4.1.2.1, if any. Refer to the Intent Box at the beginning of Principle 4.

4.2.1 *Local communities** are informed, through *culturally appropriate* engagement**, of when, where and how they can comment on and request modification to *management activities** to the extent necessary to protect their rights identified in 4.1.2.1.

4.2.2 The *legal** and *customary rights** of *local communities** related to *management activities** are not violated by *The Organization**.

4.2.3 Where evidence exists that *legal** and *customary rights** of *local communities** related to *management activities** have been violated, the situation is corrected, if necessary, through *culturally appropriate* engagement** and/or through the dispute resolution process detailed in Criterion 1.6.

4.3 *The Organization** shall provide *reasonable** opportunities for employment, training and other services to *local communities**, contractors and suppliers proportionate to *scale** and *intensity** of its *management activities**.

4.3.1 *The Organization** demonstrates a preference to local employment, goods and services, and in the case of a group certification, a preference to group members.

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

4.4.1 Applicable to SLIMF:

Opportunities for local social and economic development brought forward to *The Organization** are openly and fairly considered and supported where possible.

Applicable to *Community Forests**:

Opportunities for local social and economic development are identified.

4.4.2 Applicable to *Community Forests**:

Projects and other activities that contribute to local social and economic benefits and are relative to the *scale** of the socio-economic impact of *forest management activities** are implemented and/or supported.

INTENT BOX

3.2.1 Examples of how *Community Forests** can contribute socio-economically could include:

- supporting local environmental education and/or cultural events;
- using local markets for their products and services; and/or
- participating in community events regarding economic development in the region.

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

4.5.1 Through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *local communities** and *Indigenous Peoples**, measures are implemented to identify, avoid and mitigate *significant** negative social, environmental and economic impacts of *forest management activities**.

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

NOTE

The requirements of this Criterion are covered in Criterion 1.6, *indicators** 1.6.1 to 1.6.5.
Refer to Annex D for details regarding *dispute** resolution.

- 4.7 ***The Organization****, through ***engagement**** with ***local communities****, shall identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance, and for which these ***local communities**** hold ***legal**** or ***customary rights****. These sites shall be recognized by ***The Organization****, and their management and/or ***protection**** shall be agreed through ***engagement**** with these ***local communities****.

4.7.1 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance for which ***local communities**** hold ***legal**** and/or ***customary rights**** are identified through ***culturally appropriate**** ***engagement**** and are recognized*.

4.7.2 Measures to protect such sites are agreed, documented and implemented through ***culturally appropriate**** ***engagement**** with ***local communities****. When ***local communities**** determine that physical identification of sites in documentation or on maps would threaten the value or ***protection**** of the sites, other means are used.

4.7.3 When sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance are newly observed or discovered, ***management activities**** in the vicinity will cease immediately until protective measures have been agreed to with the ***local communities****, and as directed by local and ***national laws****.

INTENT BOX

Newly observed or discovered sites of special significance should be recognized as a result of a credible process, such an archaeological excavation or other similar investigation.

- 4.8** *The Organization** shall *uphold** the right of *local communities** to protect and utilize their *traditional knowledge** and shall compensate *local communities** for the utilization of such knowledge and their *intellectual property**. A *binding agreement** as per Criterion 3.3 shall be concluded between *The Organization** and the *local communities** for such utilization through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** before utilization takes place, and shall be consistent with the protection of *intellectual property** rights.

INTENT BOX

Criterion 4.8 is applicable when strong evidence is provided by the *local community** to demonstrate ownership of *traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property**. Refer to the Intent Box at the beginning of Principle 4.

The use of *Indigenous Peoples** *traditional knowledge** is addressed in Criterion 3.6.

- 4.8.1 *Traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property** of the *local community** are protected and are only used when the *local community** has agreed through a *binding agreement** and compensation is provided according to the agreement.

PRINCIPLE 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST

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

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

5.1.1 A range of ***ecosystem services****, non-timber and timber forest products that could strengthen and diversify the local economy are identified.

5.1.2 Consistent with the forest ***management objectives****, products and services identified in 5.1.1 are considered for production to strengthen and diversify the local economy.

5.1.3 When ***The Organization**** makes FSC promotional claims regarding the provision of ***ecosystem services****, it is in conformance with the procedure FSC-PRO-30-006 on “Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools”.

INTENT BOX

This ***Indicator**** is applicable only if the applicant intends on making ***ecosystem service**** claims, otherwise, it is optional.

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

5.2.1 Applicable to SLIMF:

Timber harvesting levels* are based on an analysis of ***best available information**** on growth and yield; inventory of the ***forest****; mortality rates; and maintenance of ***ecosystem functions****.

Applicable to ***Community Forests****:

Analysis and calculation of harvest levels for timber forest products are done frequently enough (at least every 10 years) to ensure they remain current with respect to harvest activities, natural disturbances, ***management objectives****, and supporting information, such as inventories.

The analysis and calculation of harvest levels are based upon:

1. A ***precautionary approach**** that reflects the quality of information and assumptions used;
2. ***Management objectives**** and strategies as set out in the ***management plan****, including those for restoration*;
3. Current management practices, performance and success of ***silvicultural systems****;
4. ***Best available information**** on growth and yield;
5. ***Best available information**** on inventory data;

6. Volume and area reductions caused by mortality and decay, as well as natural disturbances, such as fire, insects and disease;
7. Adherence to all other requirements in this Standard;
8. Operational constraints;
9. Harvest projections or wood supply calculations that extend to a planning horizon long enough to provide quality results; and
10. Future *forest** condition objectives* as/if identified in the forest *management plan**.

INTENT BOX

It is acceptable for some issues, such as mortality and decay, not to be incorporated into the analysis and calculation of harvest levels, if these issues are considered through other means, such as during harvest level allocations or if they are already included in the yield curves.

5.2.2 Applicable to SLIMF:

Based on the analysis conducted at *Indicator** 5.2.1, *timber harvesting level** does not impair the ability of the *Management Unit** to continue to provide products and services, *ecosystem functions** and *ecosystem services** of the Unit.

INTENT BOX

For SLIMF, an *allowable annual cut** calculation is not required.

Applicable to *Community Forests**:

Based on the analysis conducted at *Indicator** 5.2.1, a maximum *allowable annual cut** for timber is determined, with respect to these conditions:

1. The maximum *allowable annual cut** (AAC) does not impair the ability of the *Management Unit** to continue to provide the products and services, *ecosystem functions** and *ecosystem services** of the unit.
2. Temporary or *long-term** changes in the yield or standing volumes of any specific forest product arising from *management activities** are permitted, provided that these fluctuations do not impair the achievement of the objectives* described in the *management plan** through the mid- and *long-term**.

INTENT BOX

Fluctuations in the yield and in harvest rates can be the consequence of disturbances or of a planned management strategy. It is expected that in situations of major disturbance, fluctuations could be more *significant** and occur over a longer period.

5.2.3 Applicable to SLIMF:

Actual annual *timber harvesting levels** are recorded.

Applicable to *Community Forests**:

Actual annual *timber harvesting levels** are recorded and the average level of harvest over a defined period (maximum of 10 years) does not exceed the allowable cut determined in *Indicator** 5.2.2 over the same defined period.

- 5.2.4 Management of forest-related services and harvest of commercial *non-timber forest products* under control of *The Organization** does not exceed a level that can be sustained. Sustainable harvest levels for *non-timber forest products* are based on *best available information**.
- 5.3 ***The Organization** shall demonstrate that the positive and negative externalities* of operations are included in the management plan*.**
 - 5.3.1 Management planning takes into account the *long-term** positive and negative environmental and social impacts of *management activities**.
- 5.4 ***The Organization** shall use local processing, local services, and local value adding to meet the requirements of *The Organization** where these are available, proportionate to *scale, intensity and risk**. If these are not locally available, *The Organization** shall make *reasonable** attempts to help establish these services.**

INTENT BOX

The intent of this *Criterion** is for *The Organization** to promote further socio-economic benefits through economic opportunities beyond direct employment by *The Organization**. The desired outcome is that *The Organization** stimulates the local economy through the purchase of relevant local services and products, or supports the creation of relevant new local services and supply of relevant local products. In areas where local service providers are already in place, the preference is to support these businesses before hiring other service providers who are not local.

- 5.4.1 Where cost, quality and capacity of non-local and local options are at least equivalent, local goods, services, processing and value-added facilities are used.
- 5.4.2 *Reasonable** attempts are made to encourage and/or support capacity where local goods, services, processing and value-added facilities are not available.
- 5.5 ***The Organization** shall demonstrate through its planning and expenditures proportionate to *scale, intensity and risk**, its commitment to *long-term* economic viability**.**
 - 5.5.1 Sufficient expenditures and investments are made to implement the *management plan** in order to meet this Standard and to ensure *long-term* economic viability**.

INTENT BOX

If *The Organization** is a for-profit business, *economic viability** means that *The Organization** has the *objective** to be profitable over time. The intent of this *Indicator** is that *The Organization** generates a return on invested capital that is sufficient to ensure stable operations and investment in the business.

PRINCIPLE 6: ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND IMPACTS

The Organization* shall maintain, conserve* and/or restore* ecosystem services* and environmental values* of the Management Unit*, and shall avoid, repair or mitigate negative environmental impacts.

INTENT BOX

Best Available Information*

Several *Indicators** in this *Principle** require that *best available information** be used to provide a baseline for *management activities** or as a basis for analyses in subsequent *Indicators**. *Organizations** are expected to implement these requirements in consideration of an *FPIC** process, as described in Principle 3, that is inclusive of information sharing related to *legal** and *customary rights** as well as site, *stand**, and *landscape values** of economic, social, and cultural significance to *Indigenous Peoples**.

The definition of *best available information** provides general direction on the type of information to be gathered and the extent of effort required to gather the information. To place appropriate limits on what should be involved in gathering *best available information**, the definition notes that it should be constrained by *reasonable** effort and cost. The intent of the term *reasonable** is to emphasize that limits, such as cost and practicality, exist on the expectations of the effort required to gather information.

Refer to the Glossary for a full definition of *best available information**.

Maps

Where maps or mapped information is required by this *Principle**, evidence of digital files, instead of hard-copy maps, is sufficient.

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

INTENT BOX

Information required by the *Indicators** in this *Criterion** is used in the assessment of other *Indicators**, primarily in Principle 6 and Principle 9. Conformance with these *Indicators**, that require gathering or collating of information, 'queues up' subsequent analyses or management actions required in later *Indicators**.

- 6.1.1 *Best available information** is used to identify *environmental values** within the *Management Unit**, and, where potentially affected by *management activities**, outside of the *Management Unit**.
- 6.1.2 Assessments of *environmental values** are conducted with a level of detail and frequency so that:
 1. Impacts of *management activities** on the identified *environmental values** can be assessed as per Criterion 6.2;
 2. Risks* to *environmental values** can be identified as per Criterion 6.2;

3. Necessary *conservation** measures to protect values can be identified as per Criterion 6.3; and,
4. Monitoring of impacts or environmental changes can be conducted as per Principle 8.

INTENT BOX

As with many *Indicators**, the requirements of this *Indicator** are to be addressed consistent with the *scale, intensity and risk** of the operation. The nature of some of the values identified in this *Indicator** may be transitory. For example, stick nests are not permanent features on the *landscape**, therefore, it is *reasonable** for those requirements to be addressed only relative to the operations identified within the short-term planning horizon (which is typically one to ten years). This is consistent with the approach taken in *Indicator** 6.2.1, which requires impacts of *stand*-level values be assessed prior to implementing *management activities**.

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

6.2.1 Applicable to SLIMF:

The impacts of proposed *forest management activities** on *environmental values** determined in 6.1.1 are identified and assessed before operations are implemented, in a manner appropriate to the scale of the operations and the sensitivity of the site.

Applicable to *Community Forests**:

Appropriate to the *scale, intensity and risk** of the operation and prior to site disturbing activities, the potential present and future impacts of proposed *forest management activities** on *environmental values** determined in 6.1.1 are identified and assessed, from the *stand** level to the *landscape** level.

INTENT BOX

This *Indicator** does not require that measurements of the listed values be provided for each *stand** in which operations are undertaken. The assessment may be a comparison of predicted levels of post-operational values with those determined to be appropriate for the *forest** or *forest types** based on *reasonable** benchmarks (e.g. for values such as standing dead and live trees) or efforts to ensure no impairment of important values (e.g. riparian values and HCVs).

The requirement of this *Indicator** to assess impacts “prior to implementing *management activities*” can be addressed by assessing impacts at the start of the forest management planning period, or at the start of annual planning of operations.

Identified impacts should reflect the *silvicultural system** used in managing *harvest areas**.

- 6.3 The Organization* shall identify and implement effective actions to prevent negative impacts of *management activities** on the *environmental values**, and to mitigate and repair those that occur, proportionate to the *scale, intensity and risk** of these impacts.**
- 6.3.1 Forest management operations, *management plans** or associated documents (e.g. Standard Operating Procedures) are based on *best management practice** that identify measures to avoid or minimize physical damage to soils (e.g. rutting, compaction, erosion), nutrient loss and loss of productive area.
- 6.3.2 The measures identified in *Indicator** 6.3.1 to minimize physical damage to soils, nutrient loss and loss of productive area are effectively implemented.
- 6.3.3 Where negative impacts to soil, nutrient or productive land occur, measures are adopted to prevent further damage, and negative impacts are mitigated and/or repaired.
- 6.4 The Organization* shall protect *rare species** and *threatened species** and their *habitats** in the *Management Unit** through *conservation zones**, *protection areas**, *connectivity** and/or (where necessary) other direct measures for their survival and viability. These measures shall be proportionate to the *scale, intensity and risk** of *management activities** and to the *conservation** status and ecological requirements of the *rare* and threatened species**. The Organization* shall take into account the geographic range and ecological requirements of *rare* and threatened species** beyond the boundary of the *Management Unit**, when determining the measures to be taken inside the *Management Unit**.**

INTENT BOX

Official FSC language related to Criterion 6.4 requires that it address *rare species* and threatened species**. This is somewhat confusing because these phrases have different meaning in a Canadian context from those identified in FSC reference material. For this *Criterion**, the term *species at risk** is used rather than *rare species* and threatened species**, as it is more clearly embodied in Canada's language regarding species whose survival is of concern. The two parts of this *Indicator** correspond to the differences between those species that have been regulated (or listed) as *species at risk** in federal or provincial legislation (see point 1 in this *Indicator**), and those species that have been assessed as *species at risk** by COSEWIC or a similar provincial assessment body, as indicated in point 2.

This *Indicator** requires that the *habitats** of *species at risk** be identified. In most circumstances, it is not practical to identify the specific *habitats** of wide-ranging *species at risk**, other than to note their broad *habitat** affiliations. In these circumstances, it would be *reasonable** for the locations of particular *species at risk** features (such as nests or concentrations of plants) to be identified (while taking into account the requirements of *Indicator** 9.1.3 regarding the need to keep information on sensitive sites confidential).

*Species at risk** that are of concern to *Indigenous Peoples** have been identified by the Aboriginal *Traditional Knowledge** Subcommittee of COSEWIC.

- 6.4.1 *Best available information** is used to develop a list of *species at risk** known or strongly suspected to exist within and adjacent to the *Management Unit**, and to identify the *habitats** of the *species at risk**. The list of *species at risk** is updated annually. The list of *species at risk** includes:
1. All species, subspecies, and designated populations formally listed in schedules referenced in federal or provincial endangered species/*species at risk** legislation, or provincial wildlife/biodiversity legislation that have

- been classified as Endangered, Threatened, Vulnerable, Special Concern or similar designations; and
2. All species that have been assessed as ‘at-risk’ designation by bodies formally recognized in federal or provincial endangered species legislation (e.g. the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), and equivalent provincial bodies).

6.4.2 Plans are developed by *qualified specialists** to protect and manage the *habitat** of those *species at risk** identified in *Indicator** 6.4.1 that may be affected by *forest management activities**. The plans address the following:

1. Identification of potential impacts of *management activities** on *species at risk**, their *conservation** status and *habitat** associations;
2. Means to address protection of *species at risk** and *their habitats**.

INTENT BOX

Plans to address the needs of *species at risk** do not need to be approved federal or provincial agencies or plans, but can be documents written to fill a gap in existing direction from governments and their regulatory agencies. Plans written specifically for a *Management Unit**, however, should not conflict with higher-level plans that have regulatory approval unless they exceed requirements of those higher-level plans.

As described in Criterion 6.5, there is no expectation that owners of private lands will cede ownership of any portion of their property to create *protected areas**; therefore, it is not expected that *protected areas** will be a mechanism used in plans to protect *species at risk** on private lands.

Refer to the Glossary for a fuller definition of *plans for species at risk**.

- 6.4.3 *Species at risk** and their *habitats** are protected through implementation of plans mentioned in *Indicator** 6.4.2 and/or in collaboration with government resource management agencies, other land managers and *Indigenous Peoples**.
- 6.4.4 Effective measures are taken to prevent hunting, fishing, trapping and collection of *species at risk**.
- 6.4.5 Applicable to *Community Forests** > 100 000ha and within Boreal Woodland Caribou Range:

*Indicator** 6.4.5 of the FSC® National Forest Stewardship Standard of Canada is implemented.

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

CAUTION

The definition of *Conservation Areas Network** used for this standard differs from the definition included in Forest Stewardship Council Standard of Canada. For this standard, the IGI definition was retained, which does not include the concept of Area of ecological influence.

- 6.5.1 A *Conservation Areas Network** that achieves objectives associated with maintenance or restoration of natural systems, while considering contributions to regional, provincial, national and international *conservation** and *protected area** targets, is established, using *best available information**. This network can include:
1. Representative sample areas* of native ecosystems*;
 2. *Conservation zones**
 3. Protected areas
 4. *Connectivity** areas
 5. Retention system of unmanaged and ageing forests;;
 6. Areas of *High Conservation Value** from categories 1, 3 and 4 (Principle 9);
 7. Areas restored to *natural conditions**;
 8. Other elements of *habitats** and *protection areas** defined and mapped in Criteria 3.5, 6.4, 6.6 and 6.7.
- 6.5.2 Large and undisturbed areas, where they exist, as well as *ecosystems** of *significant** value at the *landscape** level are prioritized when selecting areas to be included in the *Conservation Areas Network** at *Indicator** 6.5.1.
- 6.5.3 The *Conservation Areas Network** covers a minimum of 10% of the area of the *Management Unit** or the entire group of SLIMF *Management Units**.

NOTES

Note 1: Management Unit < 50 ha can meet set-aside requirements using protected areas located outside the certified forest (see: Interpretation of the normative framework, Forest Management, INT-STD-01-001_09).

Note 2: SLIMF MUs within a group certification scheme, regardless of the MU size, can meet the requirement of minimum 10% *Conservation Area Network** at the level of the *group entity** as per INT-STD-01-001_09.

Note 3: *Community Forests** within a group certification scheme that don't qualify for the SLIMF status need to meet this requirement at the MU level. In addition, their Conservation Area Network can't be used by the rest of the group towards meeting this requirement.

- 6.5.4 Forest operations are undertaken within the *Conservation Areas Network** only when the activities maintain, or *restore** the areas recognized under *Indicator** 6.5.1.
- 6.6 *The Organization** shall effectively maintain the continued existence of naturally occurring *native species** and *genotypes**, and prevent losses of *biological diversity**, especially through *habitat** management in the *Management Unit**. *The Organization** shall demonstrate that effective measures are in place to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting.**
- 6.6.1 *Management activities** maintain, enhance or *restore** the plant communities and *habitat features** found within *native ecosystems** in which the *Management Unit** is located.
- 6.6.2 Where past management has eliminated, or degraded plant communities or *habitat features**, *management activities** aimed at re-establishing such *habitats** are implemented.
- 6.6.3 Effective measures are taken to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting activities for which there are known concerns.
- 6.7 *The Organization** shall *protect or restore** natural watercourses, *water bodies**, *riparian zones** and their *connectivity**. *The Organization** shall avoid negative impacts on water quality and quantity and mitigate and remedy those that occur.**
- 6.7.1 *Best management practices** are in place that identify measures to protect *water bodies**, *riparian zones** and their *connectivity**, water quality, and quantity.
- 6.7.2 The *best management practices** identified in *Indicator** 6.7.1 are being implemented.
- 6.7.3 Where natural watercourses, *water bodies**, *riparian zones** and their *connectivity**, water quantity or water quality have been damaged by *The Organization** or by past activities on the *Management Unit**, measures are implemented to prevent, mitigate or *restore** the degradation.
- 6.7.4 Where *management activities** that are not within its direct control have the potential to significantly affect *water bodies** and/or *riparian zones**, *The Organization** works within its *sphere of influence** to attempt to prevent degradation, implement protective measures and remedy instances in which past measures are no longer effective.
- 6.8 *The Organization** shall manage the *landscape** in the *Management Unit** to maintain and/or *restore** a varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales and regeneration cycles appropriate for the *landscape values** in that region, and for enhancing environmental and economic *resilience**.**
- 6.8.1 A varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales, and regeneration cycles is maintained appropriate to the *landscape**, or restored when it has not been maintained.

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

- a. Affects a *very limited portion** of the area of the *Management Unit**, and
- b. Will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure *long-term* conservation** benefits in the *Management Unit**, and
- c. Does not damage or threaten *High Conservation Values**, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those *High Conservation Values**. (C6.10 P&C V4 and Motion 2014#7)

INTENT BOX

Refer to the Glossary to understand how the word *plantation** is used in this Standard.

This *Criterion** applies to current and future or planned conversion. Past conversion is covered in Criterion 6.10.

If the *plantation** site was a *natural forest** immediately prior to being converted to a *plantation**, then it may not be converted to non-forest uses. However, if the *plantation** site was non-forest immediately prior to being converted to a *plantation**, then it may be converted back to non-forest uses.

The construction of forest *roads**, other essential *infrastructure** for forest *management activities** and essential public utilities, such as powerlines, pipelines and railways, are not considered to be conversion processes.

In this *Criterion**, *forest** is also meant to be *natural forest**, such as a wooded *ecosystem** or savannah, for example. As such, non-forest uses or non-forest land uses are not constrained by the meaning of *forest** as simply a “tract of land dominated by trees.”

6.9.1 The Organization* does not convert *natural forest to *plantations**, nor convert *natural forests** to non-forest land use, nor convert *plantations** on sites directly converted from *natural forest** to non-forest land use, except when the conversion affects a *very limited portion** of the *Management Unit**.**

Where conversion is undertaken by *The Organization**, the conversion:

1. Will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure, *long-term* conservation** benefits in the *Management Unit**; and
2. Does not damage or threaten *High Conservation Values**, or any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those *High Conservation Values**.

- 6.10 Management Units* containing plantations* that were established on areas converted from natural forest* after November 1994 shall not qualify for certification, except where:**
- a. Clear and sufficient evidence is provided that *The Organization** was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion, or
 - b. The conversion affected a *very limited portion** of the area of the *Management Unit** and is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure *long-term*conservation** benefits in the *Management Unit**. (C10.9 P&C V4)
- 6.10.1 Based on *best available information**, accurate data related to prior land use and *forest type** present before and after conversion is compiled on all conversions from *natural forest** since 1994.
- 6.10.2 Areas converted from *natural forest** to *plantation** since November 1994 are not certified, except where:
1. The *Organization** provides clear and sufficient evidence that it was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion; or
 2. The conversion is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure, *long-term* conservation** benefits in the *Management Unit**; and
 3. The total area of *plantation** on sites converted from *natural forest** since November 1994 is less than 5% of the total area of the *Management Unit**.

PRINCIPLE 7: MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The Organization* shall have a **management plan*** consistent with its policies and **objectives*** and proportionate to **scale, intensity and risks*** of its **management activities***. The **management plan*** shall be implemented and kept up-to-date based on monitoring information in order to promote **adaptive management***. The associated planning and procedural documentation shall be sufficient to guide staff, inform **affected stakeholders*** and **interested stakeholders*** and to justify management decisions.

INTENT BOX

*Management plan** refers to the collection of documents, reports, records and maps that justify and regulate activities carried out on the *Management Unit**. *Management plan** documentation can build from existing planning processes, and is not solely confined to provincially regulated or required documents. Refer to the Glossary for the full definition of *management plan**.

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

INTENT BOX

For this *Criterion**, values refer to the *long-term** values of *The Organization** regarding conformance with the FSC *Principles** and *Criteria**, at a minimum.

- 7.1.1 Vision, values and strategic objectives* that support the *management plan* are aligned with the requirements of this Standard.
- 7.1.2 Operational *management objectives** that support the implementation of this Standard are described in the *management plan**.

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

- 7.2.1 The *management plan** includes management actions, procedures, strategies and other measures to achieve the *management objectives**.
- 7.2.2 The *management plan** includes the applicable *legal** forest management planning requirements and addresses the following elements:
 1. Management objectives*;
 2. Description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, and profile of adjacent lands;
 3. Results of assessments and monitoring programs;
 4. Planned *management activities** and *silvicultural systems** used, based on the ecology of the *forest** and its social context;

5. Rationale for *timber harvesting levels** and species selection;
6. Measures to prevent and mitigate negative impacts of *management activities**;
7. Measures to conserve and/or *restore** values identified throughout the other Principles* of the Standard;
8. Maps describing the forest resources, key *infrastructure**, land use and management designations (including HCVs*), and planned *management activities**.

INTENT BOX

The information required for adjacent lands primarily refers to shared values, resources, and services. It may not be possible in all circumstances to provide a profile of adjacent lands. The expectation is that information regarding adjacent lands will be provided only in cases where the information is *publicly available**, such as within a forest *management plan** on a neighbouring *Crown land* Management Unit**.

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

- 7.3.1 *Verifiable targets**, and the frequency that they are assessed, are established for monitoring the progress towards each management objective*.

INTENT BOX

Examples of verifiable targets*:

- The terms and conditions of the agreement with the snowmobile club are met;
- Rutting does not exceed 5% of the *harvest area** per year;
- *Merchantable** wood left on cut block does not exceed 3 cubic meter/ha;
- 100% of the riparian buffers are left intact.

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

- 7.4.1 The *management plan** is revised and updated periodically to consider:
1. Monitoring and evaluation results, including results of audits;
 2. *Stakeholder* engagement** results;
 3. New scientific and technical information; and
 4. Changing environmental, social, or economic circumstances.

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

7.5.1 Applicable to SLIMF:

A summary of the *management plan** including vision, values and *management objectives**, maps and excluding *confidential information**, in a format comprehensible to stakeholder is made *publicly available** upon request, at no cost.

Applicable to *Community Forests**:

A summary of the *management plan** including vision, values and *management objectives**, maps and excluding *confidential information**, in a format comprehensible to *stakeholders**, is made *publicly available** at no cost.

INTENT BOX

Information “available on request” may be provided as a paper document, electronically or verbally. At the discretion of *The Organization**, the entire *management plan** can be provided, if this reduces the administrative burden.

7.5.2 Relevant components of the *management plan**, excluding *confidential information**, are provided upon request, at cost for production and handling.

7.6 *The Organization** shall, proportionate to *scale, intensity and risk** of *management activities**, proactively and transparently *engage** *affected stakeholders** in its management planning and monitoring processes, and shall *engage** *interested stakeholders** on request.

NOTE

The requirements of this Criterion related to *complaints**, *disputes** and dispute resolution process are covered in Criterion 1.6, *indicators** 1.6.1 to 1.6.4.

Refer to Annex D for details regarding *dispute** resolution.

7.6.1 Applicable to SLIMF

Upon request, *affected rights holders** and *affected stakeholders** are provided with an opportunity for *culturally appropriate* engagement** in planning processes of *management activities** in which they are affected.

Applicable to *Community Forests**:

*Affected rights holders** and *affected stakeholders** are provided with an opportunity for *culturally appropriate* engagement** in planning processes and monitoring programs of *management activities** in which they are affected.

7.6.2 Applicable to SLIMF:

Upon request, *interested stakeholders** are provided with an opportunity for *engagement** in planning processes of *management activities** that affect their interests.



Applicable to *Community Forests**:

Upon request, *interested stakeholders** are provided with an opportunity for *engagement** in planning processes and monitoring programs of *management activities** that affect their interests.

PRINCIPLE 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

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

INTENT BOX

The main *objective** of monitoring is to allow *The Organization** to implement *adaptive management**. This *objective** also determines the *intensity**, frequency, scheme, schedules and procedures for monitoring. There is flexibility regarding all these factors, as long as the monitoring enables *adaptive management**. Monitoring should be consistent and replicable over time, suitable for quantifying *significant** social, economic and environmental changes over time, and suitable for identifying *risks** and unacceptable impacts.

The overall setup of the monitoring system also depends on the *scale, intensity and risk** of *management activities**. Some monitoring variables deal with issues with high levels of *risk**. Examples include variables for which there is a high *risk** of not achieving targets, or *management activities** that could cause negative social, economic or environmental impacts. *Risk** is also high when knowledge of the likelihood of negative impacts is weak. Such variables need to receive priority in monitoring systems.

- Criterion 8.1 addresses requirements to monitor the implementation of the *management plan**.
- Criterion 8.2 addresses requirements to monitor and evaluate the *significant** environmental (8.2.1) and social and economic (8.2.2) impacts of *management activities**, as well as changes in the environmental condition (8.2.3) of the *Management Unit**.
- Criterion 8.3 deals with the analysis of the results of monitoring and evaluation for feedback into the periodic revision of the *management plan**, as required by Criterion 7.4. The *objective** is to ensure lesson-learning and continuous improvement in the quality of management, consistent with the *adaptive management** approach described in Principle 7. Monitoring results should be used in decision-making at an early stage in the planning process for the next *management plan**.

In all provinces, some aspects of forest monitoring are the responsibility of the provincial government. Some of the monitoring responsibilities identified in this Principle* may be carried out by provincial governments through existing programs. It is not the intent of this Principle* that The Organization* should duplicate established regulatory monitoring practices. Even though the wording used to articulate the *Indicators** in Criterion 8.2 is directed toward The Organization*, The Organization* may rely on other agencies where those agencies have responsibility for relevant monitoring. Furthermore, it is recognized that provincial governments and forest stakeholders* can influence or constrain The Organization's* ability to independently meet FSC monitoring requirements. It is intended that there is cooperation between agencies so that The Organization* can demonstrate progress in achieving management plan* objectives* through sufficient forest monitoring.

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

8.1.1 Procedures are documented and executed for monitoring the implementation of the *management plan** including its policies and *management objectives** and achievement of *verifiable targets**.

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

INTENT BOX

For the *Indicators** below, the monitoring method is not specified. *The Organization** may choose the type of monitoring best suited to meet the requirements of each *Indicator**.

The monitoring procedures should be designed in a way to focus on the identification of *significant** and adverse impacts, and consider the cost of implementing monitoring initiatives, as well as a *reasonable** timeframe by which changes in conditions can be detected. The information used to fulfill the monitoring requirements can be obtained from various sources, including *The Organization**.

- 8.2.1 Monitoring is sufficient to identify *significant** environmental impacts of *management activities**, including (where applicable):
1. Poor regeneration (Criteria 10.1 and 10.5);
 2. Invasiveness or other adverse impacts associated with *alien species** (Criterion 10.3);
 3. Adverse effects of *fertilizers** (Criterion 10.6);
 4. Adverse effects of pesticides* (Criterion 10.7);
 5. Adverse effects of biological control agents* (Criterion 10.8);
 6. Physical damage to soil, loss of soil nutrient and loss of *productive forest** area (Criterion 6.3);
 7. Adverse effects of *infrastructure** development (*Indicator** 6.2.1);
 8. Site level damage of harvesting and extraction on residual trees and on *environmental values** (Criterion 10.11);
 9. Damage caused by inappropriate storage or disposal of *waste materials** (Criterion 10.12).
- 8.2.2 A system is in place to monitor the social and economic aspects of *management activities**, including (where applicable):
1. Illegal or unauthorized activities identified by The Organization* (Criterion 1.4);
 2. Resolution of *disputes** (Criteria 1.6, 2.6, 4.6, 7.6);
 3. Sexual harassment and gender *discrimination** (Criterion 2.2);
 4. Occupational health and safety (Criterion 2.3);
 5. Timely payment of wages (Criterion 2.4);
 6. Health of *workers** related to the exposure to *pesticides** or *fertilizers** (Criterion 2.5 and *Indicator** 10.7.7);
 7. Full implementation of the terms in *binding agreements** (Criterion 3.3);
 8. *Protection** of sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to *Indigenous Peoples** and *local communities** (Criteria 3.5 and 4.7);
 9. Actual annual harvests compared to projected annual harvests of timber and *non-timber forest products* (Criterion 5.2); and
 10. *Economic viability** of *The Organization** (as required by *Indicator** 5.5.1).
- 8.2.3 Systems are in place to obtain up-to-date monitoring information identifying *significant** changes in environmental conditions caused by *forest management activities**, including (where applicable):

1. The maintenance and/or enhancement of *ecosystem services** (Criterion 5.1) (when *The Organization** makes FSC promotional claims regarding the provision of *ecosystem services**, or receives payment for the provision of *ecosystem services**);
2. *Species at risk** and their *habitats** (Criterion 6.4);
3. Naturally occurring *native species** and plant communities (Criterion 6.6);
4. *Water bodies**, *riparian zones**, water quality and quantity (Criterion 6.7);
5. *Forest types** and age classes (Criterion 6.8); and
6. Conversion of *natural forest** to *plantations** (Criterion 6.10) or conversion to non-forest cover (Criterion 6.9).

8.3 *The Organization shall analyze the results of monitoring and evaluation and feed the outcomes of this analysis back into the planning process.**

- 8.3.1 The results of monitoring are incorporated into relevant procedures and/or the *management plan** through periodic updates.
- 8.3.2 If monitoring results show inconsistencies with the FSC Standard, then *management objectives**, *verifiable targets** and/or *management activities** are revised.

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

- 8.4.1 Monitoring results covered in *Indicators** 8.2.1, 8.2.2 and 8.2.3 are made *publicly available** on request, at no cost in a format comprehensible to *stakeholders** and excluding *confidential information**.

INTENT BOX

At the discretion of *The Organization**, the entire results, or a summary of monitoring can be provided if this reduces the administrative burden.

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

INTENT BOX

Forest products must be covered by a valid Chain-of-Custody (CoC) or joint Forest Management/Chain-of-Custody (FM/CoC) certificate to be considered FSC-certified or to carry the FSC logo. The tracking and tracing system referred to in this *Criterion** is the basis for assessing whether products leaving the *Management Unit** meet CoC requirements, and can be passed on to the purchaser as FSC-certified material. Therefore, this *Criterion** only applies to situations where the intent is that the products from the *Management Unit** are sold or marketed as FSC-certified.

The *Criterion** requires the demonstration of the source and volume of all products leaving the *Management Unit** to ensure that any FSC-certified material claimed by the purchaser can be verified as originating from a valid FSC-certified *Management Unit**. This is needed as one of the checks against 'greenwashing' of uncertified products entering the certified supply chain.

- 8.5.1 A system is implemented to track and trace all products transported from the *Management Unit** that are marketed as FSC-certified. As part of that:

1. 1. *Transaction verification** is supported by providing *FSC transaction** data, as requested by the certification body;
2. 2. *Fibre testing** is supported by surrendering samples and specimens of materials and information about species composition for verification, as requested by the certification body.

8.5.2 Information about all timber products that leave the *Management Unit**, and information about all *non-timber forest products** sold or delivered by *The Organization** is compiled and documented, including:

1. Species name;
2. Product name or description;
3. Volume (or quantity) of product;
4. Information to trace the material to the point of origin;
5. Logging date, reference date or period;
6. If basic transformation activities take place in the *forest**, the date and volume produced; and
7. Whether the material was sold or delivered as FSC-certified.

INTENT BOX

For group certification, this information can be compiled and documented by each group member, who then make the information available to the *group entity** or *Resource Manager** upon request.

The reference date or period refers to the timeframe by which the timber was harvested, hauled outside the forest gate, or delivered to the purchaser.

Basic transformation activities do not include tree de-limbing, topping or chipping.

8.5.3 Sales invoices or similar documents are kept for a minimum of five years for all FSC certified products sold or delivered.

These documents identify at a minimum, the following information:

1. Name and address of purchaser;
2. The date of sale;
3. Species name;
4. Product description;
5. The volume (or quantity) sold;
6. Certificate code; and
7. The FSC Claim “FSC 100%” identifying products sold as FSC-certified.

PRINCIPLE 9: HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES

***The Organization** shall maintain and/or enhance the *High Conservation Values** in the *Management Unit** through applying the *precautionary approach**.**

INTENT BOX**HCV assessment**

FSC recognizes Principle 9 may be challenging in some situations. It is expected that the assessment of *high conservation values** may be completed at the group level (if applicable), or completed by an external organization or person such as a consultant-expert, an NGO, a purchaser or a government agency, acting on behalf of, or providing assistance to the people involved in *management activities**. Those people should be aware of the assessment and of any values identified.

Some requirements of Principle 9 may overlap with requirements of other Principles of this Standard. For example, this could be the case of Criterion 6.4 addressing *species at risk** (also HCV 1), Criterion 6.5 addressing *Conservation Areas Network** (which may include HCV 1, 3, 4), Criteria 3.5 and 4.7 (which could be HCV 5 or 6). When such overlap exists, the information collected, and the measures taken to meet other requirements can be used to meet the requirements of Principle 9.

The Annex C: *HCV** Framework provides direction on appropriate interpretation and implementation of *HCV** categories. However other external assessments addressing the *HCV** categories may be used.

Engagement** with *Indigenous Peoples*

As with other *Principles** in the Standard, several *Indicators** in Principle 9 require *engagement** with *Indigenous Peoples**. *The Organization** is expected to implement these in a manner consistent with the specific requirements of *Indicator** 3.1.2.

Maps

Where maps or mapped information is required by this *Principle*, evidence of digital files, instead of hard-copy maps, is sufficient.

Common Guidance

The Organization and auditors should refer to the [Common Guidance for the Management and Monitoring of High Conservation Values](#) (Brown and Senior 2014) or relevant reference material provided by FSC for advice regarding implementation of the *Indicators** addressed in this *Principle*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9.1.1 A *HCV** assessment is completed using *best available information** of the status of *HCV** Categories 1-6 as defined in Criterion 9.1, the *HCV areas** they rely on, and their condition. The assessment is completed using the National Framework (Annex C).

9.1.2 The *HCV** assessment considers input based on *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *Indigenous Peoples**, other *affected rights holders** and *affected** and *interested stakeholders** with an interest in the *conservation** and management of *HCVs** and *HCV areas**, and *qualified specialists**.

9.1.3 All *HCV Areas** identified within the *Management Unit** which are definable based on location, are delineated on maps. Information regarding the location and identity of sensitive sites is held in confidence.

INTENT BOX

Sensitive sites referred to in this *Indicator** are *HCVs** that are especially vulnerable to human presence. These sites may include cultural values of spiritual or historic importance and ecological values that are sensitive to damage or disruption.

9.1.4 The *HCV** assessment is reviewed every five years. When significant changes are identified, portions of the assessment are updated.

INTENT BOX

When significant changes to the *HCV assessment** report are implemented or when the report is reviewed after five years, the expectation is that the review process includes *engagement** with *stakeholders** and *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *Indigenous Peoples**.

Examples of significant changes include: recognition of *ecosystems** that have declined markedly in abundance (HCV 3), change in the recognition that the *forest** plays in meeting the needs of *local communities** (HCV 5), or when the boundaries of the certified *forest** are expanded to encompass additional area.

9.1.5 Applicable to *Community Forests**:

The *HCV** assessment results are made *publicly available**, including in electronic format.

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

9.2.1 *Threats** to *HCVs** are identified using *best available information**.

9.2.2 Management strategies and actions are developed to maintain and/or enhance the identified *High Conservation Values** and to maintain associated *High Conservation Value Areas** prior to implementing potentially harmful *management activities*.

9.2.3 *Indigenous Peoples**, *affected right holders**, *affected** and *interested stakeholders**, and *qualified specialists** and/or *experts** are engaged in the development of management strategies and actions to maintain and/or enhance the identified *HCVs** and *HCV Areas**.

INTENT BOX

The extent to which the *stakeholders** listed at *indicator** 9.2.3 play a role in defining the *HCVs* management strategies will depend on the technical expertise needed, as well as their interest, abilities, and capacity to participate.

9.2.4 Management strategies are reviewed and updated in conjunction with updates to the assessment report as described in *Indicator** 9.1.4.

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

9.3.1 The management strategies that maintain and/or enhance *HCVs** and *HCV areas** developed in *Indicator** 9.2.2 are implemented.

9.3.2 Strategies and actions prevent damage and avoid risks to *High Conservation Values**, based on the *best available information**, even when the vulnerability and sensitivity of *High Conservation Values** are uncertain.

9.3.3 Activities underway that harm *HCVs** or *HCV Areas** cease immediately and actions are taken to *restore** and protect the *HCV** or *HCV Areas**.

9.3.4 Applicable to *Community Forests**:

Where a specific *HCV** or *HCV area** abuts or straddles a *Management Unit** boundary, or is potentially affected by activities outside of the *Management Unit**, The *Organization** works within its *sphere of influence** to inform or collaborate with managers and users of adjacent lands to maintain and/or enhance the *HCVs** or *HCV areas**.

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

9.4.1 A program of periodic monitoring assesses:

1. Implementation of management strategies;
2. The status of *HCVs** including the *HCV areas** on which they depend; and
3. The effectiveness of management strategies and actions for the protection of *HCVs**, to fully maintain and/or enhance the *HCVs**.

9.4.2 The monitoring program involves *affected rights holders*, affected* and interested stakeholders*, Indigenous Peoples*, and experts* and/or qualified specialists**, upon request.

INTENT BOX

Affected rights holders, affected* and interested stakeholders*, Indigenous Peoples*, and experts* and/or qualified specialists** should be involved or consulted in the design of the *HCVs* monitoring program. The extent to which they play a role in implementation of monitoring will depend on the technical expertise needed, their interest, abilities, and capacity required to participate, and the confidentiality of the information being collected.

9.4.3 The monitoring program has sufficient scope, detail and frequency to detect changes in *HCVs**, relative to the initial assessment and status identified for each *HCV**.

INTENT BOX

Monitoring can have *significant** costs. It is *reasonable** that *The Organizations** look for efficiencies in their efforts to design practical monitoring programs.

Monitoring periodicity should be based on:

1. The period over which there may be a *reasonable** expectation of change in the status of *HCVs**.
2. The period over which it is possible to detect the effects of management strategies and actions; and
3. The *risk** and *intensity** of the forestry operations.

9.4.4 Management strategies and actions are adapted when monitoring or other new information shows that these strategies and actions are ineffective at addressing the maintenance and/or enhancement of *HCVs**.

PRINCIPLE 10: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Management activities* conducted by or for **The Organization*** for the **Management Unit*** shall be selected and implemented consistent with **The Organization's** economic, environmental and social policies and **objectives*** and in compliance with the **Principles*** and **Criteria*** collectively.

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

INTENT BOX

The period required for regeneration is typically shorter for areas to be planted or seeded (artificial regeneration) than areas selected for natural regeneration. This *Criterion* does not give preference to planting as a way to shorten the period for regeneration, because in certain cases, natural regeneration approaches are more suitable.

- 10.1.1 Harvested sites are regenerated in a *timely manner** to maintain *environmental values**.
- 10.1.2 Regeneration activities are implemented in a manner that:
 1. Is suitable to recover or improve overall pre-harvest or *natural forest** composition and structure; or
 2. According to the *best available information**, promote or enhance the *resilience** of the future *stand** while considering climate change.
- 10.2** **The Organization*** shall use species for regeneration that are ecologically well-adapted to the site and to the **management objectives***. **The Organization*** shall use **native species*** and **local genotypes*** for regeneration, unless there is clear and convincing justification for using others.
 - 10.2.1 Species chosen for regeneration are ecologically well-adapted to the site, are *native species** and are of local provenance, unless clear and convincing justification is provided for using non-local *genotypes** or non-*native species**.
 - 10.2.2 Species chosen for regeneration are consistent with the regeneration *objectives**.
- 10.3** **The Organization*** shall only use **alien species*** when knowledge and/or experience have shown that any invasive impacts can be controlled and effective mitigation measures are in place.
 - 10.3.1 An *alien species** is used only when direct experience or the results of scientific research demonstrate that the species is not invasive.
 - 10.3.2 The introduction of all new *alien species** is carefully monitored to prevent the spread of *invasive species** and controlled measures are implemented, if necessary.
 - 10.3.3 **Management activities*** are implemented in cooperation with regulatory bodies and/or *experts** where these exist, with the aim to minimize or control the most *significant** negative impacts of *invasive* alien species** that were not introduced

by *The Organization** but that are within the scope of *The Organization's* management activities**.

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

10.4.1 *Genetically modified organisms** (GMOs) are not used.

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

10.5.1 Silvicultural practices which are suited to the site and its associated fauna and flora, as well as to *management objectives**, are implemented.

INTENT BOX

This *Indicator** is complementary to *Indicators** 10.1.1 and 10.1.2 as it applies to all silvicultural practices, such as site preparation, spacing, cleaning and pruning.

10.6. The Organization* shall minimize or avoid the use of fertilizers*. When fertilizers* are used, The Organization* shall demonstrate that use is equally, or more ecologically and economically beneficial, than use of silvicultural systems* that do not require fertilizers*, and prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values*, including soils. (C10.7 P&C V4 and Motion 2014#7)

INTENT BOX

These *Indicators** apply to *fertilizer** application directly on the *Management Unit**. *Fertilizer** used in the growing of nursery stock, including remaining residues found on or around the plant, or *fertilizer** added to the growing medium (e.g. commercial peat pellets), are not the focus of these *Indicators**.

10.6.1 The use of *fertilizers** is minimized or avoided.

10.6.2 When *fertilizers** are used:

1. Measures are employed to avoid contamination of surface and ground water, protect non-timber forest values and maintain *long-term** soil health, such as soil organic matter, pH balance, and so on;
2. Buffer zones are used to protect rare plant communities, *riparian zones**, *watercourses** and *water bodies**;
3. Their types, application rates and frequencies, and sites of application are documented;
4. Damage to *environmental values** resulting from *fertilizer** use is mitigated or repaired; and
5. The ecological and economic benefits of using them are equal to or higher than the benefits of *silvicultural systems** that do not require *fertilizers**.

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

INTENT BOX

The FSC Guide to Integrated Pest, Disease and Weed Management in FSC Certified Forests and Plantations (2009) is an optional generic framework that can assist managers in demonstrating that they have a strategy for reducing, minimizing or eliminating the impacts of *pesticide* use. It can also assist managers in preventing and minimizing impacts from pests, diseases, fire and invasive plant introductions with prevention and alternative control methods rather than the use of chemical *pesticides**.

The Use of Herbicides in Canada

Vegetation management is crucial to meeting *management objectives**. In certain circumstances, the use of chemical *pesticides** may be an acceptable practice. When chemical *pesticides** are used, a rationale needs to be provided, as described in *Indicator** 10.7.2. *Pesticides** are potentially acceptable when used for:

1. Controlling composition: The use of herbicides could increase artificially regenerated *stands** reaching free-to-grow status. (OMNR, 1986; OMNR, 1988; Armson et al., 2001).
2. Controlling *alien* invasive species**: The control of *alien* invasive species** may include an integrated pest management (IPM) approach involving chemical treatments. (Wikeem & Miller, 2006). In certain situations (including the impact of climate change), it may be acceptable to temporarily increase the use of pesticides until an acceptable level of control of the *alien* invasive species** has been reached.
3. Increasing *forest** yield: While the use of intensive mechanical release combined with early reforestation of tall planting stock may be an asset in the implementation of ecosystem-based management, it could also pose problems where the *objective** is to maximize wood production (Thiffault & Roy, 2011). Herbicides in some cases have positive impacts on coniferous growth (Thiffault et al., 2003; Comeau, 2014; Homagain et al., 2011).

The use of herbicide spraying on public and private forests has been, and continues to be, contentious across Canada (Wagner 1994; Buse et al., 1995; Wagner et al., 1998; Thompson et al., 2012). Many communities, including *Indigenous Peoples*, have expressed concern about the application of glyphosate-based herbicides (Kayahara and Armstrong, 2015), particularly its potential impacts on non-timber forest values such as the harvest of wildlife, fish and edible wild plants. It is important to consider these concerns when developing a vegetation management strategy. This aspect should be kept in mind and addressed through Criterion 4.5 that identify, avoid and mitigate impacts of *management activities* on *local communities* and through Criteria 7.5 and 7.6, which require the *management plan* to be made available to the public and requires *complaints** related to *management activities** to be addressed. Furthermore, human and *environmental values** and health are also addressed in *Indicators** 10.7.6 and 10.7.7.

- 10.7.1 Integrated pest management, including selection of *silvicultural systems**, is used to avoid or reduce the frequency, extent and amount of chemical *pesticide** applications, and result in non-use or overall reduction in applications.
- 10.7.2 When chemical *pesticides** are used, a rationale for using them is developed and includes:
1. A description of all circumstances where *pesticides** are being considered;

2. The identification and documentation (using *best available information**) of potentially effective non-*pesticide** methods of control, including their impacts on various factors such as tree growth, *forest** composition, *worker's** health and safety, and *habitats** for *species at risk**;
 3. A clear preference for non-*pesticide** control methods when their effects meet *management objectives** and they are not cost prohibitive;
 4. Objective evidence demonstrating that the *pesticide** is the only effective, practical and cost-effective way to control the pest; and
 5. If *pesticides** are used, and two or more *pesticides** are equally effective, the lesser hazardous *pesticide** is used.
- 10.7.3 Chemical *pesticides** listed as prohibited *highly hazardous pesticide** by FSC's Pesticide Policy are not used or stored in the *Management Unit**.
- 10.7.4 Records of *pesticide** usage including trade name, active ingredient, quantity of active ingredient used, date of use, location of use, and reason for use are maintained.

INTENT BOX

It is advisable to maintain records for 10 years or more to be able to track the management usage and history, and to demonstrate the reduction of the quantity of *pesticides** through time. In addition, ten years should be a sufficient length of time for products used in Canada to track the toxicity levels of *pesticides** that remain in the environment over long periods of time.

The *Organization** is expected to maintain records, but it is acknowledged that while not desirable, it may be possible that some records are lost if ownership changes.

- 10.7.5 The use of *pesticides** complies with all *legal** requirements of Annex A related to the transport, storage, handling, application and emergency procedures for cleanup following accidental spillages of dangerous products.

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In this Standard, the ILO requirements of the document "Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work" regarding transport, storage, handling, application and emergency procedures for cleanup following accidental spillages are included in Canadian legislation. Refer to Annex A, sections 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 of the tables.

- 10.7.6 When *pesticides** are used:
1. Measures are employed to avoid contamination of surface and ground water;
 2. The selected *pesticide**, application method, timing and pattern of use offers the least *risk** to humans and *environmental values**; and
 3. While achieving effective results, quantities of *pesticide** used are minimized.
- 10.7.7 Damage to *environmental values** from *pesticide** use is prevented and mitigated or repaired. Impacts on human health are avoided.

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

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In this Standard, *internationally accepted scientific protocols** refers to the FAO Code of Conduct for the Import and Release of Exotic Biological Control Agents that has been adopted as International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The Code sets out internationally agreed procedures for agents capable of self-replication for research, for field release for biological control, or for use as biological *pesticides**. The Code is addressed to entities, to be followed where national legislation does not exist or is inadequate. In Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is Canada's representative to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Canada is a contracting party to the IPPC and ensures the compliance with the Convention.

- 10.8.1 The use of *biological control agents** is minimized, monitored and controlled in compliance with *internationally accepted scientific protocols**.
- 10.8.2 The use of *biological control agents** is recorded including type, quantity used, period of use, location of use and reason for use.
- 10.8.3 Damage to *environmental values** caused by the use of *biological control agents** is prevented and mitigated or repaired where damage occurs.
- 10.9** *The Organization** shall assess *risks** and implement activities that reduce potential negative impacts from *natural hazards** proportionate to *scale, intensity, and risk**.
- 10.9.1 *Management activities** mitigate the potential impacts of *natural hazards** that are relevant to the *management unit**.
- 10.9.2 *Management activities** do not cause an increase in frequency, distribution or severity of *natural hazards** that are relevant to the *management unit**.
- 10.10** *The Organization** shall manage infrastructural development, transport activities and *silviculture** so that water resources and soils are protected, and disturbance of and damage to *rare** and *threatened species**, *habitats**, *ecosystems** and *landscape values** are prevented, mitigated and/or repaired.

NOTE

The requirements to protect *environmental values** are covered in Principle 6 and include specific measures related to *forest management activities** which include the development, maintenance and use of *infrastructure** and *silviculture**. If a certificate holder is in conformance with the *Indicators** listed below, they will have met the requirements of Criterion 10.10:

- Water resources: *Indicators** 6.7.1 to 6.7.4.
- Soils: *Indicators** 6.3.1 to 6.3.3.
- *Species at risk**: 6.4.2 and 6.4.3.
- Rare and threatened *habitats** & ecosystems values: 6.4.2, 6.4.3, 6.6.1 to 6.6.3.
- Rare and threatened landscape values: 6.8.1.

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

NOTE

Certificate holders will meet the requirements of Criterion 10.11 if they conform with the four *Indicators** below, with the *Indicators** 9.2.2, and 9.3.1 as well as the *Indicators** mentioned in the Note of Criterion 10.10.

10.11.1 Harvesting practices optimize the use of *forest** products and *merchantable** materials, in keeping with *management objectives**.

INTENT BOX

The harvesting of *merchantable** but non-*marketable* trees should be minimized.

10.11.2 Appropriate consideration for protection of residual trees and maximum acceptable damage thresholds are included in standard operating procedures (SOPs) or other written materials.

10.11.3 Harvesting and silvicultural operations are conducted in such a way as to avoid or minimize damage to residual trees (crown, trunk and root), including non-*merchantable/non-marketable* trees and trees being left for future harvest.

10.11.4 *Selection cutting** and *partial cutting** methods maintain or improve *stand** quality, thus avoiding *high grading**, while ensuring that native tree species are maintained at an ecologically appropriate *scale**, unless an alternative yet sound rationale is provided.

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

10.12.1 Applicable to SLIMF:

Collection, clean up, transportation and disposal of all *waste materials** is done in an environmentally appropriate way.

Applicable to *Community Forests**:

Operational procedures related to handling of chemicals, liquid and solid non-organic *waste materials**, including fuel, oil, batteries and containers are in place and are implemented. At a minimum, the procedures address:

1. Collection, storage, and disposal of waste in an environmentally appropriate manner;
2. Adherence to a waste recycling program, where it exists;
3. Measures to prevent spills;
4. Emergency plans for cleanup and treatment of injuries following spills or other accidents;
5. Refueling constraints, including buffers around *riparian zones** and *water bodies**;
6. Removal of used materials, including machinery and equipment; and

7. Securing abandoned buildings on the *Management Unit**.

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There is no obligation for *The Organization** to develop its own procedures to address topic 1 to 7. *The Organization** can rely on an already existing procedure developed and/or implemented by another organization (for example, if a municipal program exists for collection of fuel and oil). However, *The Organization** remains responsible for conformance with the *indicator**.

Annex A Minimum list of applicable laws, regulations and nationally *ratified* international treaties, conventions and agreements

A minimum list of *applicable laws**, regulations and nationally *ratified** international treaties, conventions and agreements is provided to facilitate the use of this Standard, with special relevance for FSC Principle 1 and Principle 2. Because of its size, this list is available in a separate Companion Document to Annex A that can be accessed from the FSC Canada website at: <https://ca.fsc.org/en-ca> and look for “*Annex A Companion Document*”.

The status of the laws, regulations and nationally *ratified** international treaties, conventions and agreements listed in the Annex A Companion Document are up-to-date at the time of publication of FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Canada, but are subject to change. An update of the Companion Document will be made available periodically. Efforts were made to identify the key treaties, laws and regulations that apply to forest management in Canada, however, the list provided should not be assumed to be exhaustive. *The Organization** is required to comply with all *applicable laws** and regulations, whether or not they are listed in the Companion Document.

Annex B Training Requirements

Training as required by *indicator** 2.5.1 can include, where relevant, the following elements:

1. Implementation of *forest** activities to comply with applicable *legal** requirements (*Criterion** 1.5);
2. Worker's rights and obligations (*Criterion** 2.1);
3. Recognize and report on instances of sexual harassment and gender *discrimination** (*Criterion** 2.2);
4. Safe handling and disposal of hazardous substances (*Criterion** 2.3);
5. Health and safety requirements (*Criterion** 2.3);
6. Identification of *local communities** and *Indigenous Peoples** rights* related to *management activities** (*Criterion** 3.2, & 4.1)
7. Identification of sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to *Indigenous Peoples** and implementing the necessary measures to protect them before the start of *forest management activities** to avoid negative impacts (*Criterion** 3.5 and *Criterion** 4.7);
8. Implementation of appropriate mitigation measures to reduce social, economic and environmental impacts (*Criterion** 4.5);
9. Safe handling, application and storing of *pesticide** (*Criterion** 10.7); and
10. Implementation procedures for cleaning up spills of *waste materials** (*Criterion** 10.12).

Annex C High Conservation Value (HCV) Framework

With the vast and unique representation of *High Conservation Values** (HCV*) in Canada, it would be challenging for FSC Canada to identify all of the six HCVs* categories and sub-categories.

The HCV* framework assists *The Organization** in identifying HCVs* in the *Management Unit**. Organized as a series of questions and using *best available information** (BAI*), the framework guides the assessment process that is then verified by the certification body.

Upon the successful identification of a HCV*, *The Organization** is required to conform to Principle 9 *Criteria** and *Indicators** to assess *threats**, and manage and monitor the identified HCVs*. Important for meeting Principle 9 is using a *precautionary approach**, seeking input from *experts**, and engaging with *Indigenous Peoples**, other *rights holders**, and *affected** and *interested stakeholders**. For additional guidance for *The Organization** refer to FSC-GUI-60-009 and FSC-GUI-60-009a.

Use of the Framework

Each of the six categories of HCV* contain a series of questions. Negative answers mean that the *forest** does not include HCV* based on current information. Positive answers lead to further investigation through additional questions.

A positive response to any question that is labelled DEFINITIVE means that the elements under consideration are HCVs*. However, a negative response to a question labelled DEFINITIVE should not be interpreted to mean that the HCV* threshold has not been reached. Rather, *The Organization** should then answer the questions labelled GUIDANCE. Positive answers indicate the potential presence of HCVs*. If questions labelled GUIDANCE are answered positively, it strengthens the potential for the presence of HCVs*. It is then expected that *The Organization** will provide a summary substantiating why the *forest** area was identified as an HCV* or not.

The framework is not intended to be a prescriptive approach. Guidance in interpreting the six components of the HCV* definition leads the investigation to develop the evidence and thresholds for making an HCV* designation. If an HCV* designation is determined, *The Organization** should provide a rationale for the decision. Ultimately, the decision for designating a HCV* resides with the forest manager, based on the input of *experts** and *engagement** with *stakeholders** and *Indigenous Peoples**. Where community needs (HCV 5) or cultural values (HCV 6) specific to *Indigenous Peoples** are identified on behalf of the *Indigenous Peoples**, then as a *precautionary approach**, *engagement** processes based on the right to *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** (FPIC)* should be used (refer to Principle 3 and FSC Canada Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Guidance).

The Issue of Scale*

Criterion 9.1 of Principle 9 states that assessments for the presence of HCVs* will be appropriate to the *scale, intensity and risk** of the operation. This implies that expectations for smaller or less intensively managed forest operations would be lower than for larger or more intensively managed operations.

- The FSC definition implies that there are multiple *scales** at which HCVs* are identified. For example, a *globally or nationally significant** designation would be applied to broad *landscapes** or at an *ecoregional scale**, with *forests** that are *significant** on a global, continental or national (Canadian) level, while *regionally significant** might apply to a

*watershed** or a specific *ecosystem** that is *significant** at the provincial or regional level. At *scales** where *forests** are under 1000 ha, a landowner with a rare old growth *stand** in a highly developed *landscape** would be required to designate the *forest** as a *HCV** and ensure the same *conservation** approach as for a large land holder.

- The FSC definition also identifies differing *scales** between the various *HCVs**. For example, a large *landscape** level *forest** (Category 2) tends to be large in geographic *scale** (e.g. greater than 50,000 ha), and therefore the thresholds used to describe the *HCV** and related *conservation** attributes must be relevant to that large *scale**. Identification of an *HCV area** based on concentrations of biodiversity values (Category 1) may be large, medium or small (e.g. less than 1000 ha in geographic *scale**), and should be appropriate to the biology of the species or groups of species. *Forest** areas identified as *HCVs** based on being in or containing rare, threatened or endangered *ecosystems** (Category 3) might encompass a range of *scales**, from large areas to single *stands** or ecosites. *Forests** identified as providing basic services of nature (Category 4), and basic needs of communities (Category 5) might be medium to large in *scale** with *conservation** actions relevant to those *scales**.
- *HCVs** are environmental, ecological and social in nature and do not necessarily follow administrative boundaries. The *HCV** and the area where it is located may be smaller or larger than the actual *forest** being assessed or audited. The forest manager's direct responsibility is for the lands over which she/he controls, however *Indicators** in Principle 9 require *The Organization** to work within their *sphere of influence** to maintain or enhance *HCVs** that are beyond their boundaries.

The *Precautionary Approach**

An important component to the management of *HCVs** is the application of a *precautionary approach**. As *HCVs** are values that are deemed to be regionally, nationally or internationally *significant** and thus require the highest “duty of care”, the application of a *precautionary approach** is one way of helping to ensure that these values are maintained.

For its use in this Standard, FSC defines the *precautionary approach** as:

An approach requiring that when the available information indicates that management activities* pose a *threat** of severe or irreversible damage to the environment or a *threat** to human welfare, *The Organization** will take explicit and effective measures to prevent the damage and avoid the *risks** to welfare, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of *environmental values** are uncertain.

Category and Elements	Rationale	Possible Sources of BAI*	Guidance on Assessing HCV*
<p>HCV 1 - Species Diversity</p> <p>Concentrations of <i>biological diversity</i>* including <i>endemic</i>* species, and <i>rare</i>*, <i>threatened</i>* or endangered <i>species</i>, that are <i>significant</i>* at global, regional or national levels.</p>			
<p>1. Does the <i>forest</i>* contain <i>species at risk</i>* or potential <i>habitat</i>* of <i>species at risk</i>* as listed by international, national or territorial/provincial authorities?</p>	<p>Ensures the maintenance of vulnerable and/or irreplaceable elements of biodiversity.</p> <p>This <i>Indicator</i>* allows for a single species or a concentration of species to meet <i>HCV</i>* thresholds.</p>	<p>Global:</p> <p>CITES (Appendix I and II AND III)², IUCN red data list³, Conservation Data Centre G1 and G2 element occurrences.</p> <p>Regional/National:</p> <p>Species designated as <i>rare</i>*, <i>threatened</i>* or endangered by provincial, territorial or national legislation (e.g. provincial red lists and COSEWIC⁴ list in Canada). Information is managed in each province by Conservation Data Centers.</p>	<p>A single species with <i>habitat</i>* in the <i>forest</i>* is a <i>HCV</i>* in the Canadian context.</p> <p>Are any <i>rare</i>*, <i>threatened</i>* or endangered species in the <i>forest</i>*? (DEFINITIVE)</p> <p>The assessment of whether a species is a <i>HCV</i>* is not dependent on whether there is a <i>risk</i>* from forest operations. Management and <i>risk</i>* to a value is not relevant to the significance of the value. Once it is designated as a <i>HCV</i>*, the specific management requirements are determined. In some cases, no management will be required because there is no <i>risk</i>* from forestry. (DEFINITIVE)</p>

² <https://www.cites.org/eng/app/index.php>

³ <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

⁴ Information on Canadian federally listed species can be obtained at: <http://www.cosewic.gc.ca/index.htm>

Category and Elements	Rationale	Possible Sources of <i>BAI</i> *	Guidance on Assessing <i>HCV</i> *
		<p>The list of species representative of <i>habitat</i>* types naturally occurring in the <i>Management Unit</i>* is determined or reviewed by qualified ecologist <i>expert</i>*(s).</p>	<p>Is there <i>critical habitat</i>* for <i>rare</i>*, <i>threatened</i>* or endangered species in the <i>forest</i>*? (DEFINITIVE)</p> <p>Are there any ecological or taxonomic groups of <i>rare species</i>* that would together constitute a <i>HCV</i>*? (GUIDANCE)</p>
<p>2. Does the <i>forest</i>* contain <i>endemic</i>* species?</p>	<p>Ensures the maintenance of vulnerable and/or irreplaceable elements of biodiversity.</p>	<p>Provincial Data Centers will record any <i>endemic</i>* species.</p>	<p>Does the <i>forest</i>* contain an <i>endemic</i>* species or concentration of <i>endemic</i>* species? (DEFINITIVE)</p>

Category and Elements	Rationale	Possible Sources of BAI*	Guidance on Assessing HCV*
<p>3. Does the <i>forest*</i> include <i>critical habitat*</i> containing globally, nationally or regionally <i>significant*</i> seasonal concentration of species (one or several species, e.g. concentrations of wildlife in breeding sites, wintering sites, migration sites, migration routes or corridors - latitudinal as well as altitudinal)?</p>	<p>Addresses wildlife <i>habitat*</i> requirements <i>critical*</i> to maintaining population viability (regional “hot spots”).</p>	<p>Global: BirdLife International ⁵, Audubon Society ⁶, Conservation International</p> <p>Regional/National: National and local agencies with responsibility for wildlife <i>conservation*</i>; Results from <i>habitat*</i> models.</p> <p>Local experts*, traditional knowledge*</p> <p>Bird Studies Canada.⁷ Ducks Unlimited Canada⁸</p>	<p>Are there any <i>landscape*</i> features or <i>habitat*</i> characteristics that tend to correlate with <i>significant*</i> temporal concentrations of a species or groups of species (e.g. where species occurrence data is limited)? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Is there an IBA (Important Bird Area) in the <i>forest*</i>? (DEFINITIVE)</p>

⁵ BirdLife International provides maps and lists of Important Bird Areas. Current level of coverage varies between regions and in countries within regions. Information (including data sources), can be found at <http://www.birdlife.net/sites/index.cfm>

⁶ Audubon Society. Information on Important Bird Areas in America can be found at: <http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/index.html>

⁷ Bird Studies Canada maintains information on identified Important Bird Areas at: <http://www.ibacanada.ca/>

⁸ Ducks Unlimited Canada: <http://www.ducks.ca/>

Category and Elements	Rationale	Possible Sources of <i>BAI</i> *	Guidance on Assessing <i>HCV</i> *
<p>4. Does the <i>forest</i>* contain <i>critical habitat</i>* for regionally <i>significant</i>* species (e.g., species declining regionally)?</p>	<p>Meta-population viability</p>	<p>Regionally <i>significant</i>* species are determined using the sources below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservation Data Centre G3, S1-S3 species and communities. 2. Range and population estimates from national or local authorities and local <i>experts</i>* for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) red listed species (see sources above); b) <i>species at risk</i>* (in existing legislation and/or policy); c) results from <i>habitat</i>* models, d) species representative of <i>habitat</i>* types naturally occurring in the <i>Management Unit</i>* or <i>focal species</i>*; and, e) species identified as ecologically <i>significant</i>* through <i>engagement</i>*. <p>The list of species representative of <i>habitat</i>* types naturally occurring in the <i>Management Unit</i>* is determined or reviewed by qualified ecologist <i>experts</i>*.</p>	<p>Is there known <i>critical habitat</i>* for a regionally <i>significant</i>* species (including aquatic species)? (DEFINITIVE)</p> <p>One reason for a species being regionally <i>significant</i>* is that there has been a decline over time. This can include aquatic species that are within the <i>forest</i>*. Some species may be declining but are still common. Beaver and deer in some areas can undergo steep declines for a period and may be identified as regionally <i>significant</i>*.</p> <p>Is the population of regionally <i>significant</i>* species locally at <i>risk</i>* (e.g., continuing trend is declining rather than stable or improving)? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Does the <i>forest</i>* contain limiting <i>habitat</i>* for regionally <i>significant</i>* species? (GUIDANCE)</p>

Category and Elements	Rationale	Possible Sources of <i>BAI</i> *	Guidance on Assessing <i>HCV</i> *
<p>5. Does the <i>forest</i>* support concentrations of species at the edge of their natural ranges or outlier populations?⁹</p>	<p>Relevant <i>conservation</i>* issues include vulnerability against range contraction and potential genetic variation at range edge. Outlier and edge of range populations may also play a <i>critical</i>* role in genetic/population adaptation to global warming.</p>	<p>Range and population estimates from national or local authorities and local <i>experts</i>* for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) red listed species (see sources above); b) major <i>forest</i> (tree species) <i>types</i>*; and c) species identified as ecologically <i>significant</i>* through <i>engagement</i>*. <p>The list of species representative of <i>habitat</i>* types naturally occurring in the <i>Management Unit</i>* is determined or reviewed by qualified ecologist <i>experts</i>*.</p>	<p>Are any of the range edge or outlier species representative of <i>habitat</i>* types naturally occurring in the <i>Management Unit</i>*? (DEFINITIVE)</p> <p>Are there any ecological or taxonomic groups of range edge and/or outlier species/sub-species that would together constitute a globally, nationally or regionally <i>significant</i>* concentration? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Are there naturally occurring outlier populations of commercial tree species? (DEFINITIVE)</p> <p>Commercial species are highlighted here because of their combined importance, biologically and economically.</p>

⁹ NatureServe provides searchable databases and other information on species and ecosystem distribution in North America (www.natureserve.org) and distribution of birds and mammals in Latin America at www.infonatura.org

<p>6. Does the <i>forest*</i> lie within, adjacent to, or contain a <i>conservation*</i> area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) designated by an international authority, b) legally designated or proposed by relevant federal/provincial/ territorial legislative body, or c) identified in regional land use plans or <i>conservation*</i> plans. 	<p>Ensures compliance with the <i>conservation*</i> intent of a designated <i>protected area*</i>.</p>	<p>International designations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNESCO World Heritage Sites¹⁰ RAMSAR sites¹¹ International Biological Program sites Legally designated sites in Canada: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCAD (available from GeoGratis) WWF Designated Areas Data Base Areas under deferral pending completion of land use planning and-or completion of <i>protected areas*</i> system. Local government land use plans. Other <i>conservation*</i> planning exercises (e.g., Previous WWF-Canada conservation suitability analysis). Where there is conflicting information regarding the location and/or <i>conservation*</i> status of a conservation area designated by an international authority, then the 	<p>Are the values for which the conservation area has been identified, consistent with the assessment of <i>HCVs*</i> in this framework? (DEFINITIVE)</p> <p>To illustrate, a park may not have any values that would qualify it as a <i>HCV*</i>, as in a purely recreational park, although this would be unusual. If it is not designated as a conservation value, a park may have social or economic significance and be designated elsewhere in the <i>HCV*</i> framework.</p> <p>Are there <i>forest*</i> areas important to connect conservation areas to maintain the values for which the conservation areas were identified? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Are there <i>forest*</i> areas important to safeguard conservation areas to maintain the values for which the conservation areas were identified? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Most parks or other areas legally protected from industrial use are not part of a forest license. In that case, the value in need of <i>protection*</i> by forest companies could be the boundary line to ensure no trespassing occurs, or visual considerations. Whether a “buffer” is needed or important is a local decision depending on several factors. See Criterion 6.5 of the Standard for further guidance.</p>
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Category and Elements	Rationale	Possible Sources of <i>BAI</i> *	Guidance on Assessing <i>HCV</i> *
		forest manager should assume that the <i>forest</i> * contains <i>HCVs</i> *.	
<p>HCV 2 – <i>Landscape</i>*-level <i>ecosystems</i>* and mosaics.</p> <p><i>Intact Forest Landscapes</i>* and large <i>landscape</i>*-level <i>ecosystems</i>* and <i>ecosystem</i>* mosaics that are <i>significant</i>* 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.</p>			
7. Does the <i>forest</i> * constitute or form part of a globally, nationally, or regionally <i>significant</i> * forest <i>landscape</i> * that	Large, intact <i>ecosystems</i> * are genetic and population reservoirs for the surrounding lands, and provide areas of sufficient size	Global Forest Watch Canada; GIS-related information from forest companies and government resource-management agencies;	Are there contiguous forest <i>landscapes</i> * that have the following characteristics? (DEFINITIVE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • at least 50,000 ha in size; • minimal width of 10 km; • free of permanent <i>infrastructure</i>* and less than 5% non-permanent anthropogenic disturbance;

¹⁰ UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Information can be obtained from: <http://en.unesco.org/>

¹¹ RAMSAR sites. Maps of wetlands of international importance in Canada can be obtained from: www.wetlands.org

Category and Elements	Rationale	Possible Sources of <i>BAI</i> *	Guidance on Assessing <i>HCV</i> *
includes populations of most <i>native species</i> *?	for <i>landscape</i> *-scale natural processes to occur.	Global Forest Watch International.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • free of large-scale industrial resource extraction activities; • dominated by <i>forest</i>*, but inclusion of other <i>ecosystems</i>* to a <i>reasonable</i>* extent is permissible; • dominated by native plants and communities; • not necessarily dominated by <i>old forest</i>* communities. <p>If unfragmented forest <i>landscapes</i>* exist that are larger than 5,000 ha but smaller than 50,000 ha, the area may be considered a <i>landscape</i>* level <i>forest</i>* and addressed through Question 10 of HCV 3.</p>
<p>HCV 3 – Ecosystems* and habitats*. Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystem*, habitats* or refugia*.</p>			

Category and Elements	Rationale	Possible Sources of <i>BAI</i> *	Guidance on Assessing <i>HCV</i> *
<p>8. Does the <i>forest</i>* contain naturally rare <i>ecosystem</i>* types?</p>	<p>These <i>forests</i>* contain many unique species and communities that are adapted only to the conditions found in these rare <i>forest types</i>*.</p>	<p>Conservation Data Centre G1-G3 community types;</p> <p>WWF Ecoregion Conservation Assessments;</p> <p>Conservation International National vegetation surveys and maps;</p> <p>Local research institutions</p> <p>Authorities on Biodiversity (e.g. NatureServe)</p>	<p>Are there <i>ecosystems</i>* that have been officially classified as being rare, threatened or endangered by a relevant national or international organization? (DEFINITIVE)</p> <p>Is a <i>significant</i>* amount of the global extent of these <i>ecosystems</i>* present in the country and/or <i>ecoregion</i>*? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Application note: Mapping of these areas may not be precise because of limited information. Mapping may not be required unless forestry operations are to occur in the vicinity.</p>

<p>9. Are there <i>ecosystem*</i> types within the <i>forest*</i> or <i>ecoregion*</i> that have significantly declined or under sufficient present and/or future development pressures that they will likely become rare in the future (e.g., old seral stages)?</p>	<p>Vulnerability and meta-population viability.</p> <p>This <i>Indicator*</i> includes anthropogenically rare forest <i>ecosystem*</i> types (e.g. late seral red and white pine in eastern Canada).</p>	<p>Relevant government authorities;</p> <p>WWF Ecoregion Conservation Assessments;</p> <p>Suitable <i>forest*</i> or vegetation inventories;</p> <p>Potential vegetation mapping;</p> <p>Regional and local <i>experts*</i>;</p> <p>Conservation Data Centre S1-S3 community types.</p>	<p>Does the <i>forest*</i> consist of mature and/or <i>old forest* stands*</i>, where the amount of <i>old forest*</i> remaining in that <i>ecosystem*</i> type has been reduced to less than 50% of estimated natural occurrence of <i>old forest*</i>? (DEFINITIVE)</p> <p>Is the <i>forest*</i> within an <i>ecoregion*</i> with little remaining original <i>forest type*</i>? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Have these <i>ecosystems*</i> significantly declined (e.g. less than 50% loss)? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Application note: Targets for the previous two questions should be based on <i>landscape*</i> dynamics (e.g. <i>range of natural variation*</i>).</p> <p>Is there a <i>significant*</i> proportion of the declining <i>ecosystem*</i> type within the <i>Management Unit*</i> in comparison to the broader <i>ecoregion*</i>? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Application note: If a type is abundant in adjacent <i>protected area*</i>, there may be less need for HCV designation.</p> <p>Does potential vegetation mapping identify areas within the <i>Management Unit*</i> that can support the declining <i>ecosystem*</i> type (i.e., regeneration potential)? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>How well is each <i>ecosystem*</i> effectively secured by the <i>protected area*</i> network and the national/regional legislation? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Application note: This question is based on the premise that managers should maintain all <i>forest types*</i> and ages within a <i>reasonable*</i> balance considering <i>natural conditions*</i>. Although this can be very difficult on some historically damaged <i>forests*</i>, <i>restoration*</i> should be the</p>
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			<p><i>long-term*</i> goal. For example, the historic old white pine <i>forests*</i> of central Ontario are often designated HCVs and are slowly recovering after many decades of <i>high grading*</i> in the 19th and early 20th centuries.</p>
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Category and Elements	Rationale	Possible Sources of <i>BAI</i> *	Guidance on Assessing <i>HCV</i> *
<p>10. Are large <i>landscape</i>* level <i>forests</i>* (i.e., large unfragmented <i>forests</i>*) rare or absent in the <i>forest</i>* or <i>ecoregion</i>*?</p>	<p>In regions or <i>forests</i>* where large functioning <i>landscape</i>* level <i>forests</i>* are rare or do not exist, as in highly fragmented <i>forests</i>*, many of the remnant forest patches require consideration as potential <i>HCVs</i>* (i.e. 'best of the rest').</p> <p>Identifies remnant forest patches/blocks where unfragmented (by permanent <i>infrastructure</i>*) <i>landscapes</i>* do not exceed size thresholds.</p>	<p>Global Forest Watch intactness mapping;</p> <p>Forest cover data provided by companies/government.</p>	<p>Are moderate to large remnant patches (thousands of hectares) the best examples of intact <i>forest</i>* for their community and landform types? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Does the <i>Management Unit</i>* contain intact or undeveloped <i>watersheds</i>* over 5,000 ha in size? (Guidance)</p> <p>Do the largest remnant forest patches include a <i>significant</i>* proportion of climax species (i.e. not dominated by pioneer species)? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Application note: 'Remnant', here describes the remaining patches of the <i>natural forest</i>* that still contain the original <i>ecosystem</i>* characteristic species and structure.</p> <p>Application note: In designating remnant <i>landscape</i>* level <i>forests</i>*, managers should consider structural features such as woody debris and standing dead trees (i.e. structurally complex), late seral <i>stands</i>*, known populations of <i>significant</i>* species, or species representative of <i>habitat</i>* types naturally occurring in the <i>Management Unit</i>*.</p>
<p>11. Are there nationally /regionally <i>significant</i> diverse or unique forest <i>ecosystems</i> or <i>forests</i></p>	<p>Vulnerability; species diversity; <i>significant</i> ecological processes.</p>	<p>Relevant government authorities;</p> <p>WWF <i>Ecoregion</i>* Conservation Assessments;</p>	<p>Are there important and/or unique geological areas that strongly influence vegetation cover or wildlife features, such as serpentine soils, marble outcrops, karst hot springs for bat hibernacula? (GUIDANCE)</p>

Category and Elements	Rationale	Possible Sources of <i>BAI</i> *	Guidance on Assessing <i>HCV</i> *
associated with unique aquatic <i>ecosystems</i> ?		<p>Regional environmental background studies;</p> <p>Ducks Unlimited Canada;</p> <p>Government databases (e.g. Areas of Natural & Scientific Interest (ANSI) in Ontario).</p>	<p>Are there important and/or unique microclimatic conditions that strongly influence vegetation cover, such as high rainfall, protected valleys? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Do these <i>ecosystems</i>* possess any exceptional characteristics, including exceptional species richness, <i>critical</i>* species, etc.? (GUIDANCE)</p>
<p>HCV 4 – <i>Critical</i>* ecosystem services*.</p> <p>Basic <i>ecosystem services</i>* in <i>critical</i>* situations, including <i>protection</i>* of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.</p>			
12. Does the <i>forest</i> * provide a <i>significant</i> * source of drinking water?	The potential impact to human communities is so <i>significant</i> * as to be catastrophic, leading to <i>significant</i> * loss of productivity, or sickness and death.	The forest manager should obtain the information from the relevant authorities - resource management studies, relevant economic development studies, traditional occupancy studies, regional land use plans, etc. - to determine if the wrong actions or management could cause serious cumulative or catastrophic impacts on these basic services.	<p>Is the <i>watershed</i>* or <i>recharge area</i>* <i>critical</i>* to maintaining the quality, quantity and seasonal flows of the primary drinking water source for a community or group of individuals? (DEFINITIVE)</p> <p>Is the <i>watershed</i>* or <i>recharge area</i>* <i>critical</i>* to maintaining the quality, quantity and seasonal flows of agricultural irrigation water sources, or water for other <i>significant</i>* economic activities? (GUIDANCE)</p>
13. Are there <i>forests</i> * that provide a <i>significant</i> * ecological service in mediating	<i>Forest</i> * areas play a <i>critical</i> * role in maintaining water quantity and quality	Hydrological maps;	Are there high- <i>risk</i> * areas for flooding or drought? (DEFINITIVE)

Category and Elements	Rationale	Possible Sources of BAI*	Guidance on Assessing HCV*
flooding and/or drought, controlling stream flow regulation, and water quality?	and the service breakdown has catastrophic impacts or is irreplaceable.	Hydrologists in government departments or local research institutions.	<p>Are there particular <i>forest*</i> areas that potentially affect a <i>significant*</i> or major portion of the water flow? For example, 75% of water in a larger <i>watershed*</i> is funneled through a specific catchment area, river channel, or other <i>critical*</i> sub-<i>watershed*</i> area. (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Does the <i>forest*</i> occur within a sub-<i>watershed*</i> that is critically important to the overall catchment basin? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Are there particular <i>forest*</i> areas that are <i>critical*</i> sub-<i>watersheds*</i> that potentially affect water supplies for other services, such as reservoirs, irrigation, river recharge or hydroelectric schemes? (GUIDANCE)</p>
14. Are there <i>forests critical*</i> to erosion control?	Soil, terrain or snow stability, including control of erosion, sedimentation, landslides, or avalanches.	Maps, remote sensing data, aerial photos, Governmental departments, <i>engagement*</i> with <i>relevant experts*</i> .	<p>Are there <i>forest*</i> areas where the degree of slope carries high <i>risk*</i> of erosion, landslides and avalanches that affect human <i>infrastructure*?</i> (DEFINITIVE)</p> <p>Are there soil and geology site types that are particularly prone to erosion and terrain instability? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Is the spatial extent of erosion-prone or unstable terrain such that the <i>forest*</i> is at high <i>risk*</i> of impact and of cumulative impacts? (GUIDANCE)</p>
15. Are there <i>forests*</i> that provide a <i>critical*</i> barrier to destructive fire (in areas where fire is not a common	Recent forest fire events in Canada have raised the		<p>Are there <i>forest*</i> areas where there is a high <i>risk*</i> of uncontrolled, destructive fire and in which <i>forest*</i> areas or <i>forest types*</i> can act as a barrier to the spread of fires?</p>



Category and Elements	Rationale	Possible Sources of <i>BAI</i> *	Guidance on Assessing <i>HCV</i> *
natural agent of disturbance)?	interest in this concept.		<p>Do these <i>forest</i>* areas contain or are they adjacent to human settlements or communities that would be at <i>risk</i>* from uncontrolled, destructive forest fire?</p> <p>Managers should accept HCV designations for <i>forests</i>* adjacent to communities and manage using the precautionary principle in consideration of the safety of the inhabitants. How this is defined should be determined locally.</p>

Category and Elements	Rationale	Possible Sources of <i>BAI</i> *	Guidance on Assessing <i>HCV</i> *
<p>16. Are there forest <i>landscapes</i>*, or regional <i>landscapes</i>*, that have a critical impact on agriculture or fisheries?</p>	<p>Mediating wind and microclimate at an ecoregional scale affecting agricultural or fisheries production. Riparian <i>forests</i>* play a <i>critical</i>* role in maintaining fisheries by providing bank stability, sediment control, nutrient inputs, and microhabitats.</p> <p>More local effects of <i>forest</i>* areas adjacent to agriculture and fisheries production may be more relevant in the <i>HCV</i>* component regarding meeting basic needs of <i>local communities</i>*.</p>	<p>Agricultural and Fisheries scientists in university and research institutions;</p> <p>Governmental Departments (e.g. Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada);</p> <p>Local and provincial government departments.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are there agricultural or fisheries production areas in the <i>forest</i>* that are potentially severely negatively affected by changes in wind and microclimate and microhabitat, such as woody debris from riparian vegetation? (GUIDANCE) - Are there fisheries areas, spawning areas or other <i>critical</i>* fish <i>habitat</i>* - either commercial or tourism outfitters - dependent on the larger <i>landscape</i>* condition? - Are there other non-timber resources such as fur trap lines, wild rice production areas, mushroom <i>harvest areas</i>*, berry <i>harvest areas</i>* that are dependent on the larger <i>landscape</i>*?
<p>HCV 5 - Community needs.</p> <p>Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of <i>local communities</i>* or <i>Indigenous Peoples</i>* (for example for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water), identified through <i>engagement</i>* with these communities or <i>Indigenous Peoples</i>*.</p>			

Category and Elements	Rationale	Possible Sources of <i>BAI</i> *	Guidance on Assessing <i>HCV</i> *
<p>17. Are there <i>local communities</i>*? This should include both people living inside the <i>forest</i>* area and those living adjacent to it.</p>	<p>There is a distinction being made between the use by individuals and where use of the <i>forest</i>* is fundamental for <i>local communities</i>*.</p>	<p><i>Engagement</i>* with the communities themselves is the most important way of collecting information.</p> <p>Literature sources, such as reports and papers, can be very useful sources of information.</p> <p>Knowledgeable people and organizations such as <i>local community</i>* organizations, NGOs, or academic institutions. This type of group can often provide a quick introduction to the issues and provide support for further work.</p> <p>Review of studies of traditional land use and non-timber use of the <i>forest</i>*.</p> <p>Review of socio-economic profiles of communities.</p>	<p>Having established that the community uses the <i>forest</i>* to fulfill some needs it is now necessary to assess whether it is fundamental to meeting any basic needs. This question applies to all livelihoods, not just subsistence. The way that this assessment can be done is variable, depending on the socio-economic context and the need. However, it will always involve <i>engagement</i>* with the community itself.</p> <p><i>Engagement</i>* can be conducted by people other than the forest managers directly. <i>Engagement</i>* should use locally appropriate language, and not FSC technical terminology, such as <i>HCV</i>*, threshold, etc.).</p> <p>The following are general guidance questions to assess whether the value meets <i>HCV</i>* thresholds.</p> <p>Is this the sole source of the value(s) for the <i>local communities</i>*? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Is there a <i>significant</i>* impact to the <i>local communities</i>* because of a reduced supply of these values? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>If community members make use of the <i>forest</i>* for basic needs or livelihoods, such as food, medicine, fodder, fuel, building, craft materials, and income, it should be assumed that this is an important value and a possible <i>HCV</i>*.</p>

Category and Elements	Rationale	Possible Sources of BAI*	Guidance on Assessing HCV*
<p>HCV 6 - Cultural values.</p> <p>Sites, resources, <i>habitats</i>* and <i>landscapes</i>* of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of <i>critical</i>* cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of <i>local communities</i>* or <i>Indigenous Peoples</i>*, identified through <i>engagement</i>* with these <i>local communities</i>* or <i>Indigenous Peoples</i>*. (Source: FSC 2011).</p>			
<p>18. Is the traditional cultural identity of the <i>local community</i>* particularly tied to a specific <i>forest</i>* area?</p>	<p>In this context of this standard “<i>local community</i>” is defined as: (Human) communities that are in or adjacent to the <i>Management Unit</i>*, and also those that are close enough to have a <i>significant</i>* impact on the economy or the <i>environmental values</i>* of the <i>Management Unit</i>* or to have their economies, <i>collective rights</i>*, or environments values significantly affected by the <i>forest management activities</i>* on the <i>Management Unit</i>*.”</p>	<p><i>Engagement</i>* with the communities themselves is the most important way of collecting information. This is difficult to do and may require professional help in the planning or implementation.</p> <p>Knowledgeable people and organizations such as <i>local community</i>* organizations or academic institutions. Literature sources such as reports and papers, where available.</p> <p>Review studies of traditional land use and non-timber use of the <i>forest</i>*.</p> <p>Review of socio-economic profiles of communities.</p>	<p>Assessors will be presented with a wide range of <i>HCVs</i>* as culturally <i>significant</i>*. The practice in Canada is acceptance of this range of values as <i>HCVs</i>*. Some forest inhabitants consider the entire <i>forest</i>* to be of <i>significant</i>* value, while others have a small area with a local well-known value. There are several examples of values that may not meet the threshold (or significance level) for FSC definition but which functionally must use precautionary management.</p> <p>Do the communities consider the <i>forest</i>* to be culturally <i>significant</i>*? Possible indications for cultural importance include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Names for <i>landscape</i>* features; 2. Stories about the <i>forest</i>*; 3. Sacred or religious sites; 4. Historical associations; and, 5. Amenity or aesthetic value.

Category and Elements	Rationale	Possible Sources of <i>BAI</i> *	Guidance on Assessing <i>HCV</i> *
	<p>In Canada, communities to be considered are the ones officially identified as a municipality by the Canada Revenue Agency who lists them and shows their qualified donees status under the Income Tax Act (http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/qlfd-dns/mncplts-eng.html). The respective provincial lists may be also used.</p>	<p>Review of websites, community promotional material, brochures, etc.</p>	
<p>19. Is there a <i>significant</i>* overlap of values, such as ecological and/or cultural values, that individually did not meet HCV thresholds, but collectively constitute HCVs?</p>	<p>Consideration of several spatially overlapping values is important in optimizing <i>conservation</i>* management.</p> <p>Individual values that do not meet the threshold for <i>critical</i>* and/or outstanding</p>	<p>Neighbourhood analysis can be used to summarize point values, such as species occurrences, feeding areas, mineral licks, or spawning areas, within a spatial window of a size that is relevant for the <i>ecosystem</i>* type and values under consideration.</p> <p>If concentration of single values was not undertaken in any of the previous steps (e.g. S1-S3 species</p>	<p>- Are there several overlapping conservation values? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Application note: When there are two or more events or values that may not meet an <i>HCV</i>* threshold individually, managers should use their discretion in assessing the combined value as <i>HCV</i>*.</p> <p>Do the overlapping values represent multiple themes, as species distribution, <i>significant</i>* <i>habitat</i>*, concentration</p>

Category and Elements	Rationale	Possible Sources of <i>BAI</i> *	Guidance on Assessing <i>HCV</i> *
	<p>may collectively meet the threshold.</p>	<p>occurrences), then include this in the analysis.</p> <p>Overlays of multiple values to assess spatial coincidence.</p>	<p>area, relatively unfragmented <i>landscape</i>*, for example? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Are the overlapping values within, adjacent to, or near an identified <i>HCV</i>* or existing <i>designated conservation lands</i>* or secondary conservation lands? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Are the overlapping values adjacent or near an existing <i>protected area</i>*? (GUIDANCE)</p> <p>Do the overlapping values provide an option to meet <i>protected areas</i>* representation requirements, that is, can one overlap an under-represented <i>landscape</i>* as assessed using a <i>protected areas</i>* gap analysis? (GUIDANCE)</p>

Annex D Dispute Resolution

A key outcome of implementing this Standard is the avoidance and/or mitigation of *disputes**. All *disputes** that need to be addressed through this Standard are related to, or a consequence of, *The Organization's** activities. Requirements throughout the Standard are designed to foster dialogue, and involvement in management planning is intended to build agreement and support. However, a *dispute** may still occur and the dispute resolution process should be used only after other measures have been exhausted.

Please note this Standard is making an important distinction between a *dispute** and a *dispute of substantial magnitude**. As per the Glossary:

Dispute. Represent a formal disagreement, after the initial attempts to resolve a *complaint** have not been achieved.

Dispute of substantial magnitude: Is a *dispute** that involves one or more of the following:

- Where the negative impact of *management activities** on *local communities** or on *Indigenous Peoples' legal** or *customary rights** is of such a scale that it cannot be reversed or mitigated;
- Physical violence;
- Significant destruction of property;
- Presence of law enforcement or military bodies;
- Acts of intimidation against *workers** and *stakeholders**.

A *dispute** can become of substantial magnitude if it is of substantial duration, implies a significant number of interest and has a significant negative impact to the forest resource / value.

*Disputes of substantial magnitude** are not common and represent the exception.

Background on the Structure of the Dispute Resolution Criteria*

This Standard requires *The Organization** to have a system in place to identify, prevent and resolve *dispute** related to:

- Statutory or *customary law** (Criterion 1.6);
- Working conditions while working on the *Management Unit** (Criterion 2.6);
- Impacts of management activities* on local communities* and Indigenous Peoples* (Criterion 4.6); and
- Impacts of management activities* on other affected stakeholders* (excludes local communities* and Indigenous Peoples*) (Criterion 7.6).

While the structure of the *Criteria** addressing *disputes** throughout the Standard (Criteria 1.6, 2.6, 4.6 and 7.6) is designed to address the various types of concerns raised by individuals or communities, the same dispute process framework can be used to address the requirements of these *Criteria**. For this reason, the *Indicators** addressing *disputes** have been placed under a single *Criterion** (Criterion 1.6), except for the ones related to *workers** and working conditions which remain under Criterion 2.6 because the types of *disputes** and relationship related to *workers** are of a different nature.

A Step-by-Step Approach (Criterion 1.6)

In the everyday operation of *The Organization**, enquiries, such as requests for information or a request for a solution to an issue, from *stakeholders** are common and most often *The Organization** can easily and expeditiously address these. If a *stakeholder** is not satisfied with the outcome of its query or is not receiving a response within a *reasonable** time, the stakeholder may lodge a *complaint** internally with *The Organization**. If the *complaint** has not been resolved to the satisfaction of the *stakeholder**, and if the *stakeholder** wishes to pursue the matter further, the issue escalates to a *dispute**.

In this Standard, this escalation process is designed as below:

Applicable to SLIMF:

1. A system is in place for receiving and documenting *complaints**.
2. *Best efforts** are made to resolve the *complaints** through culturally appropriate* engagement*.
3. *Complaints** are responded to in a *timely manner**. If not, they become a *dispute** and the *best efforts** are made to resolve them out of court.
4. Records of *complaints** and *disputes** are kept, as well as outcomes of actions taken.
5. Where a *dispute of substantial magnitude** related to *applicable laws** or *customary law**, or to the impacts of *management activities** on *local communities** or Indigenous Peoples* exist, operations will cease in these areas. It is important to note that *dispute** with *affected stakeholders** does not require a cease of operation from this standard, unless prescribed by applicable laws.

Applicable to *Community Forest**:

1. A system is in place for receiving and documenting *complaints**.
2. The development of a general dispute resolution process framework, which needs to be adapted through *culturally appropriate* engagement** prior to implementation.
3. *Complaints** are responded to in a *timely manner**. If not, they become a *dispute** and the dispute resolution process is then adapted and implemented.
4. Records of *complaints** and *disputes** are kept, as well as outcomes of actions taken.
5. Where a *dispute of substantial magnitude** related to *applicable laws** or *customary law**, or to the impacts of *management activities** on *local communities** or Indigenous Peoples* exist, operations will cease in these areas. It is important to note that *dispute** with *affected stakeholders** does not require a cease of operation from this standard, unless prescribed by applicable laws.

*Workers** related *Disputes** (Criterion 2.6)

A similar approach is required for *workers** and working conditions issues. Considering the nature of *disputes** on that matter, the same approach is required for both SLIMF and *Community Forests**. The approach requires a dispute resolution process adapted through *culturally appropriate* engagement** and does not require a cease of operations.

Dispute Resolution Processes and *Indigenous Peoples**

*Complaints** from *Indigenous Peoples** are dealt with using system developed as described above for *complaints*/disputes** related to statutory or *customary law**, working conditions, and to impacts of *forest management activities**. However, *Indigenous Peoples** may also have *dispute** related to the implementation of agreements they may have with *The Organization** that are

covered in Principle 3. On that regard, the Standard requires to agree on how *dispute** should be resolved.

Disputes of Substantial Magnitude*

If the *dispute**, related to the impacts of *management activities* on *local community** or *Indigenous Peoples** or related to *applicable laws** or *customary law**, escalates and becomes a dispute of *substantial magnitude**, operations may be required to cease in the area directly related to where the *dispute** exists. However, ceasing operations should be used as a last resort when the previous actions have failed to resolve the issue, and where there is a real danger associated to the continuation of forest operations.

Existing Dispute Resolution Processes

Where local or *national laws** for resolving grievances and/or compensation exist, implementation of these provisions might suffice to conform with these *Criteria**, if agreed through *engagement** with the party involved. If there is no agreement that these laws suffice, then additional mechanisms developed through *engagement** with the party involved, are required.

*Disputes** Beyond the Control of *The Organization**

It is recognized that *The Organization** may not have the control over statutory or *legal** matters or they may not be directly involved in the *dispute** on the *Management Unit**, specially on *Crown land**. Where the *dispute** is between a complainant and another party, it would be reasonable for *The Organization** to work within its *sphere of influence** to encourage parties, where appropriate, to work together to resolve the *dispute**.

FSC Procedures to Process *Disputes** and Appeals

Lastly, FSC has its own dispute resolution system and procedures for processing *disputes** and appeals (see FSC-PRO-01-005 and FSC-PRO-01-008). Certifying bodies also have dispute resolution systems in place for addressing concerns related to conformance to FSC standards. These are available to any *stakeholder** or interested party to enact. *Stakeholders** or interested parties are encouraged to first attempt to bring the issue forward to *The Organization** for resolution prior to enacting FSC's or the certifying body's dispute resolution systems.

Annex E Engagement and culturally appropriate engagement

Throughout the Standard, it is required to engage with various parties and sometime, in a *culturally appropriate** way. This Annex intends to give some guidance to facilitate the implementation of *engagement** approaches and to ensure efficient involvement of some specific groups through *culturally appropriate* considerations*.

The level of *engagement** required and the *culturally appropriate** approaches used can vary depending on the intended group and the context.

A) Engagement*

Different levels of *engagement** exist. They include the following:

- **Inform:** To provide information primarily in one direction, with limited opportunity for dialogue.
- **Consult:** To obtain feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision.
- **Involve:** To work directly, throughout the process, to ensure that intended group issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered.
- **Collaborate:** To partner with the intended group in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.
- **Empower:** To place final decision-making in the authority of the intended group.

The level of *engagement** may be variable depending on the intended group, the rights and responsibilities of the group and the level of impact of the activity on the intended group. In the Standard, the level of *engagement** is also partly defined by the specific required action of the Standard, such as *inform, develop, etc., as described in the Indicator**.

B) *Culturally appropriate** approach:

The approach can be adapted to the level of *engagement** required and adjusted to meet the needs of the intended group, as appropriate.

A *culturally appropriate** approach should consider, but not be restricted to:

- The language
- The mean of communication (the efficient one to “hit” the intended group)
- The proper tool / technology
- Consideration for the lifestyle, like holidays, hunting breaks, etc.

Annex F List of contributors

This Standard would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of volunteers and contributors whose provided expertise and experience, and who provided comments on the various drafts of the Standard. FSC Canada thanks those listed below and many others who may not have been listed.

FSC Canada Board of Directors:

- Louis Bégin, Fédération de l'industrie manufacturière (CSN) (2019-2023)
- Louis Bélanger, Nature Québec (2022-2023)
- Tyler Bellis, Council of the Haida Nation (2017-2018)
- Arnold Bercov, Public and Private Workers of Canada (2013-2017)
- Julee Boan, Ontario Nature (2016-2018)
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- David Flood, Individual (2017-2021)
- Renaud Gagné, Unifor (2016)
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- André Gravel, Domtar Inc. (2019-2021)
- Satnam Manhas, Ecotrust Canada (2014-2016)
- Chris McDonell, Tembec Inc. (2011-2016)
- Chris Miller, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (2013-2015)
- Orrin Quinn, Ecotrust Canada (2011– 2013)
- Lorraine Rekmans, Individual (2018-2020)
- Colin Richardson, Haida Nation (2016-2017)
- Nadine Roach, Individual (2020-2023)
- Steven Sage, Kruger Products L.P. (2013-2015)
- Cameron Shiell, Public and Private Workers of Canada (2017-2019, 2023)
- M. A. (Peggy) Smith, Individual Member (2021-2023)
- Brenda St-Denis, Wolf Lake First Nation (2013-2017)
- Gerard Szaraz, Nature Quebec (2018-2022)
- Andrew Tremblay, Domtar Inc. (2015-2019)
- Arthur Tsai, Canfor (2020-2021)
- Kalin Uhrich, Canfor (2022-2023)
- Étienne Vézina, Resolute Forest Products (2021-2023)
- Cliff Wallis, Alberta Wilderness Association (2019-2023)
- Bradley Young, National Aboriginal Forestry Association (2011-2016)

Standard Development Group (SDG):

The SDG was responsible for developing the FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Canada with common *Indicators** and a version for Small-Scale, Low Intensity & *Community Forests**. Through the transfer and adaptation of FSC International Generic *Indicators** (IGIs), Canadian specific SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Rational, Timebound) *Indicators** were developed.

- Isabelle Allen, Wahkohtowin Development (ON) – Aboriginal Chamber (2023-ongoing)
- Tina Biro, Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (AB) – Economic Chamber (2023-ongoing)
- Nicolas Blanchette, INCOS Strategies (QC) - Social Chamber (2017-ongoing)
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- Dave Pearce, Wildlands league / CPAWS (ON) - Environment Chamber (2013-ongoing)
- M.A. (Peggy) Smith, Lakehead University (ON) - Aboriginal Chamber (2013-ongoing)
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- Guy Tremblay, Resolute Forest Products (QC) - Economic Chamber (2013-2017)
- Cliff Wallis, Alberta Wilderness Association (AB) - Environmental Chamber (2014-2020)
- Chris Wedeles, ArborVitae Environmental Services Ltd. (ON) – Environmental Chamber (2023-ongoing)

Technical Expert Panels:

Technical Expert Panels (TEPs) were created to assist in providing scientific, cultural and auditing expertise and technical input on critical topics to be considered when developing *normative** measures within this Standard and the FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Canada (NFSS). These topics were identified through early public outreach efforts and surveys.

- Species at Risk* (Caribou):
 - Elston Dzus, Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (AB)
 - Christine Korol, Independent Consultant, formerly from Rainforest Alliance (ON)
 - Steve Morel, Mashteuiatsh's Environment Department (QC)
 - Justina Ray, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada (ON)
- Principles 6, 9 and 10 (as per new P&Cs): Ecological & Operational Consideration:
 - Tom Clark, Independent Consultant (ON) (P9 only)

- Patrick Garneau, Tembec Inc. (QC)
- Louis Imbeau, Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (QC)
- Kevin Gillis, Mistik Management Ltd. (SK) (also SDG)
- Dave Pearce, CPAWS, Wildlands League (ON) (also SDG)
- Chris Ridley-Thomas, KPMG Performance Registrar Inc. (BC)
- Kari Stuart-Smith, Canadian Forest Products Ltd. (BC)
- Principle 3: Aboriginal Rights: *Free, Prior and Informed Consent**:
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- Community and *Stakeholder** Rights:
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 - Harry Nelson, University of British Columbia (BC)
 - Cindy Pearce, Mountain Labyrinths Consulting (BC)
- *Scale, Intensity and Risk** (SIR): small and low intensity managed forests (SLIMF):
 - Olivier Côté, Syndicat des producteurs forestiers du Sud du Québec (QC)
 - Kari Easthouse, Cape Breton Private Land Partnership / NSLFFPA (NS)
 - Erik Leslie, Harrop-Procter Community Co-operative (BC)
 - Simon Mitchell, Woodland Steward (NB)
 - Dave Puttock, SilvEcon Ltd. (ON)
- Pesticides*, Conversion and Invasive Species*:
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 - Thom Erdle, University of New Brunswick (NB)
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- HCV Framework Revision Sub-Committee:
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 - Kari Stuart-Smith, Canadian Forest Products Ltd. (BC)
- *Intact Forest Landscape** and Indigenous Cultural Landscapes Sub-Committee:
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 - Louis Imbeau, Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue (QC)
 - Christine Korol, Independent Consultant (ON)
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 - Dave Pearce, CPAWS, Wildlands League (ON) (also SDG)
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¹² FSC Canada extends deep appreciation to Rob Booth for his active participation and long-term contribution to forest management and certification in Canada. He is warmly remembered and missed.

- M.A. (Peggy) Smith, Lakehead University (ON) (also SDG)

Standard Testing:

In total, 5 tests were conducted, including 1 field test of the entire Standard and 4 desk/ scenario tests that explored key topics. The goal was to systematically and objectively evaluate the practicality and implementation of proposed Draft 3 *Indicators** by a Forest Management Enterprise.

FSC Canada thanks those organizations and their staff who participated:

- Forêts privées certifiées du Québec
- Eastern Ontario Model Forest
- Nova Scotia Association for Woodland Certification

And the participation of the testing auditors:

- Éric Forget, Nova Sylva Inc.
- Jeremy Williams, ArborVitae Environmental Services Ltd

Consultants:

- Mélodie Benoît-Lamarre, Traductions Hermès
- Meagan Joan Curtis, Independent Consultant
- Liana de Francesco, Independent Consultant
- Éric Forget, Nova Sylva
- Christine Korol, Independent Consultant
- Dominic Lessard, Independent Consultant
- Pamela Perreault, Independent Consultant
- Chris Wedeles, ArborVitae Environmental Services Ltd.

FSC Canada staff

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- François Dufresne, President (2013-ongoing)
- Elaine Marchand, Regional Manager, Eastern Canada (2013-ongoing)
- Monika Patel, Director of Programs & Communications (2013- ongoing)
- Vivian Peachey, Director of Standards (2013- ongoing)
- Orrin Quinn, Regional Manager, Western Canada (2013-2017)
- Marie-France Thompson (2019-ongoing)
- Josh Zangwill, Business Management Manager (2013-2017)

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 - Ivey Foundation
 - Kimberley Clark
 - Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service
 - Procter & Gamble
 - Quebec Forest Industry Council
-

- Toronto Dominion Bank
- World Wildlife Fund U.S.
- First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute (FNQLSDI)
- National Aboriginal Forestry Association (NAFA)

Stakeholder Engagement**

FSC Canada thanks everybody who participated during the many consultations, surveys and events.

Note: Some of the processes listed below contributed to the development of both, the National Forest Stewardship Standard of Canada (NFSS) and the version for Small-Scale, Low Intensity & *Community Forests** (identify in black, and some of the processes were specific to the development of the Small-Scale, Low Intensity & *Community Forests** version of the Standard (identified in blue)

- Surveys:
 - Process design and identification of values important to *stakeholders** (August 2012);
 - Strategic Direction Survey and Motion (February 2013);
 - Identification of Key *Indicators** (Spring-Summer 2013);
 - Designing a Small and Community Standard for Canada (May 2018)
- Regional workshop on Forest Management Standards Revision Process (2013):
 - North Bay, ON on April 3-4: 19 participants (SFL certificate holders);
 - Stouffville, ON on June 19: 9 participants (SLIMF certificate holders);
 - Vancouver, BC on June 27: 13 participants;
 - Quebec City, QC on July 3: 13 participants (certificate holders);
 - Fredericton, NB on July 10, 2013: 26 participants (*stakeholders**);
 - Halifax, NS on July 11: 19 participants (*stakeholders**);
 - Wendake, QC on July 18: 25 participants (FNQLSDI & Indigenous Peoples Expert Group);
 - Webinar in French on August 6: 12 participants;
 - Webinar in English on August 8: 5 participants.
- Forest Management Standard, Draft 1 (2015-2016):
 - Consultation from December 1, 2015 to February 2, 2016: 49 submissions;
 - Information webinars:
 - English session on January 11, 2016: 48 participants;
 - French session on January 12, 2016: 33 participants.
 - Regional meetings:
 - Quebec session in Quebec City, QC, on January 14, 2016: 35 participants;
 - Industry-led session in North Bay, ON, on January 19-20, 2016: 30 participants;
 - Maritimes session in Amherst, NS on January 20, 2016: 19 participants;
 - Ontario webinar on January 22, 2016: 17 participants;
 - British Columbia webinar on January 26, 2016: 17 participants.
 - National Aboriginal Forestry Association Forum on April 14, 2016 - FSC Canada workshop on FSC Draft 1 National Standard Review and FSC Canada FPIC Guidance Development: 35 participants.

- Topic oriented webinar on Free, Prior and Informed Consent on April 29, 2016: approximately 20 participants.
- FSC Canada Scale, Intensity and Risk (SIR) *Indicators**, Draft 1(2016):
 - Consultation from August 3 to September 5, 2016: 9 submissions;
 - Information webinars:
 - English session for Western Canada on August 16, 2016: 3 participants
 - English session for Ontario & Quebec on August 18, 2016: 8 participants
 - French session on August 23, 2016: 7 participants
 - English session for Maritimes on August 25, 2016: 4 participants
- Forest Management Standard, Draft 2, and *Free, Prior and Informed Consent Guidance* (2016-2017):
 - Consultation from November 24 1 2016 to February 17, 2017: 30 submissions.
 - Questions & Answers - Information webinars:
 - Two English sessions on February 1st and 2nd, 2017: 10 and 11 participants;
 - French session on February 3rd, 2017: 12 participants.
 - Industry-led session in North Bay, ON, on January 24-25, 2017: 29 participants.
 - FSC Canada AGM June 28-29, 2017 in Montreal. FSC Forest Management Forum: 75 participants.
- FSC Canada Scale, Intensity and Risk (SIR) *Indicators**, Draft 2 (2016-2020):
 - 'Innovation Lab' Workshop to design & develop FSC Canada's Small and Community Forest Management Standard on May 31 to June 1, 2018: 10 participants
 - Targeted consultation with experts – Regional Workshops:
 - Belleville, ON, on October 23, 2019: 10 participants;
 - Truro, NS, on December 12, 2019: 15 participants;
 - Quebec City, QC, on January 22, 2020: 12 participants.
- FSC Forest Stewardship Standard of Canada for Small-Scale, Low Intensity and *Community Forests**, Draft 3 (2020):
 - Consultation from May 26 to July 26, 2020: 6 submissions;
 - Information webinars:
 - English session on May 10, 2020: 20 participants
 - French session on May 11, 2020: 9 participants

Annex G Glossary of terms

This Glossary includes internationally accepted definitions whenever possible. These sources include, for instance, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) as well as definitions from online glossaries as provided on the websites of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Invasive *Alien Species** Programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity. When other sources have been used they are referenced accordingly.

The term 'based on' means that a definition was adapted from an existing definition as provided in an international source.

Words used in this Standard, if not defined in this Glossary or other *normative** FSC documents, are used as defined in the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary or the Concise Oxford Dictionary.

Adaptive management: A systematic process of continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of existing measures.

(Source: Based on World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Affected Rights Holder: Persons and groups, including *Indigenous Peoples**, *traditional peoples** and *local communities** with legal or *customary rights** whose *free, prior and informed consent** is required to determine management decisions.

(Sources: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

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

- Local communities*
- Indigenous Peoples*
- Workers*
- Forest dwellers
- Neighbors
- Downstream landowners
- Local processors
- Local businesses
- *Tenure** and *use rights** holders, including landowners
- Organizations authorized or known to act on behalf of affected stakeholders, for example social and environmental NGOs, labor unions, etc.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Age-class: A distinct group of trees or portion of the growing stock of a *forest** recognized based on similar age or similar successional stage.

(Source: Adapted from FSC Canada National Boreal Standard 2004)

Alien species: A species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce.

(Source: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Invasive Alien Species Programme. Glossary of Terms as provided on CBD website) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Allowable Annual Cut (AAC): The amount of timber that is permitted to be cut annually from a particular area. AAC is used as the basis for regulating harvest levels to ensure a sustainable supply of timber.

(Source: Natural Resources Canada)

Applicable law: Means applicable to *The Organization** as a *legal** person or business enterprise in or for the benefit of the *Management Unit** and those laws which affect the implementation of the FSC *Principles** and *Criteria**. This includes any combination of *statutory law** (Parliamentary-approved) and case law (court interpretations), subsidiary regulations, associated administrative procedures, and the national constitution (if present) which invariably takes *legal** precedence over all other *legal** instruments.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Best available information (BAI): Data, facts, documents, *expert** opinions, and results of field surveys or consultations with *stakeholders** and *engagement** with *Indigenous Peoples** that are most credible, accurate, complete, and/or pertinent and that can be obtained through *reasonable** effort and cost, subject to the *scale** and *intensity** of the *management activities** and the *Precautionary Approach**.

(Source: Adapted from FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Best efforts: Persistent and sincere attempts by *The Organization** to address a requirement. *Best efforts* are not always met with success, but to address the *Indicators** requirements for best efforts, evidence must be presented that continuing efforts by various means have been attempted.

(Source: FSC Canada Technical Expert Panel)

Best management practice: Best management practices (BMPs) are methods or techniques based on known science found to be the most effective and practical and that, if followed, should meet the requirements of *Indicators** or achieve *objectives**.

(Source: Adapted from BC Ministry of the Environment (2015) and Business Dictionary (2015))

Binding agreement: A deal or pact, written or not, which is compulsory to its signatories and enforceable by law. Parties involved in the agreement do so freely and accept it voluntarily.

(FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Biological diversity: The variability among living *organisms** from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic *ecosystems** and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of *ecosystems**.

(Source: Convention on Biological Diversity 1992, Article 2) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Biological control agents: *Organisms** used to eliminate or regulate the population of other *organisms**.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0 and World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website)

Child: any person under the age of 18 (ILO Convention 182, Article 2).

(Sources: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Collective bargaining: a voluntary negotiation process between employers or employers' organization and workers' organization*, with a view to the regulation of terms and conditions of employment by means of collective agreements (ILO Convention 98, Article 4).

(Sources: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Collective rights: Shared or joint rights held by a *local community** and that are not the mere aggregation of rights held individually by members of the group.

(Source: FSC Canada Standard Development Group, based on Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)

Community forest: Any *forest** managed by a local administration or government, community group, First Nation or community-held corporation for the benefit of the entire community, in which profits are cycled back into the community.

(Source: Adapted from BC Community Forest Association definition)

Complaint: The expression of dissatisfaction or concern by any person or organization presented to *The Organization**, relating to its *management activities** or its conformity with the FSC *Principles** and *Criteria**, where a response is expected.

(Source: Adapted from FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0 definition of dispute and Merriam-Webster)

Confidential information: Private facts, data and content that, if made *publicly available**, might put at *risk** *The Organization**, its business interests or its relationships with *stakeholders**, clients and competitors.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Conflict of interest: Situation in which a party has an actual or perceived interest that gives, or could have the appearance of giving, that party an incentive for personal, organizational, or professional gain, such that the party's interest could conflict, or be perceived to conflict with, the conduct of an impartial and objective certification process.

(Source: FSC-STD-20-001 V4-0)

Connectivity: The degree to which *habitat** patches or environments are linked by single or multiple corridors or broad expanses of *habitat**. Connectivity recognizes the need for *habitats** to address several kinds of movements: 1) daily movements among *habitat** patches; 2) migrations/movement between seasonal ranges/use areas; and 3) dispersal movements of young animals. Conditions necessary for connectivity and its effectiveness will depend on the specific purpose of the connectivity and the requirements of species or *ecosystems** considered.

(Source: Adapted from FSC Regional Certification Standards for British Columbia 2005)

Consensus: General agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process that involves

seeking to consider the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments.
Note: Consensus need not imply unanimity.

(Source FSC-PRO-01-003 V3-1)

Conservation/Protection: These words are used interchangeably when referring to *management activities** designed to maintain the identified environmental or cultural values in existence *long-term**. *Management activities** may range from zero or minimal interventions to a specified range of appropriate interventions and activities designed to maintain, or compatible with maintaining, these identified values.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Conservation Areas Network: Those portions of the *Management Unit* for which *conservation** is the primary and, in some circumstances, exclusive *objective**; such areas include *representative sample areas**, *conservation zones**, *protection areas**, *connectivity** areas and *High Conservation Value Areas**.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Conservation zones [and protection areas]: Defined areas that are designated and managed primarily to safeguard species, *habitats**, *ecosystems**, natural features or other site-specific values because of their natural environmental or cultural values, or for purposes of monitoring, evaluation or research, not necessarily excluding other *management activities**. For the purposes of the *Principles** and *Criteria**, these terms are used interchangeably, without implying that one always has a higher degree of *conservation** or *protection** than the other.

(Source: Adapted from FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Criterion (pl. Criteria): A means of judging if a *Principle** (of forest stewardship) has been fulfilled.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0)

Critical: The concept of criticality or fundamentality in Principle 9 and *HCVs** relates to irreplaceability and to cases where loss or major damage to this HCV would cause serious prejudice or suffering to *affected stakeholders**. An *ecosystem service** is critical (HCV 4) where a disruption of that service is likely to cause, or threaten, severe negative impacts on the welfare, health or survival of *local communities**, on the environment, on *HCVs**, or on the function of *significant infrastructure**, such as *roads**, dams, buildings etc. The notion of criticality here refers to the importance and *risk** for natural resources and environmental and socio-economic values.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Crown land: In Canada, public lands are often referred as Crown lands. The federal and provincial/territorial governments have specific responsibilities regarding public lands so these lands can be administered differently in each province.

(Source: FSC Canada)

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

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Customary law: Interrelated sets of *customary rights** may be recognized as customary law. In some jurisdictions, customary law is equivalent to *statutory law**, within its defined area of

competence and may replace the *statutory law** for defined ethnic or other social groups. In some jurisdictions customary law complements *statutory law** and is applied in specified circumstances (Source: Based on N.L. Peluso and P. Vandergeest. 2001. *Genealogies of the political forest and customary rights in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, Journal of Asian Studies* 60(3):761–812).

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Customary rights: Rights which result from a long series of habitual or customary actions, constantly repeated, which have, by such repetition and by uninterrupted acquiescence, acquired the force of a law within a geographical or sociological unit.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0)

Cutblock: A contiguous area of *forest** that has been harvested except for individual trees and patches left either for silvicultural purposes or to provide ecological benefits.

(Source: FSC Canada Technical Expert Panel)

Designated conservation lands: Areas identified through the process of addressing the requirements of Criterion 6.5 that are to be managed through the exclusion of *forest management activities** (except in rare instances when necessary to achieve *objectives** associated with *restoration** or maintenance of *natural conditions**) in recognition of their ecological and/or cultural values.

(Source: FSC Canada Standard Development Group)

Discrimination: includes- a) any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction, social origin, sexual orientation*, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation; b) such other distinction, exclusion or preference which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation as may be determined by the Member concerned after consultation with representative employers' and *workers' organization** where such exist, and with other appropriate bodies (adapted from ILO Convention 111, Article1). *'Sexual orientation' was added to the definition provided in Convention 111, as it has been identified as an additional type of discrimination which may occur. (Sources: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Dispute. Represent a formal disagreement, after the initial attempts to resolve a *complaint** have not been achieved.

(Source: FSC Canada, based on Merriam-Webster)

Dispute of substantial duration: *Dispute** that continues for more than twice as long as the predefined timelines in the FSC System (this is, for more than 6 months after receiving the *complaint**, based on FSC-STD-20-001).

(Sources: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Dispute of substantial magnitude: A dispute of substantial magnitude is a *dispute** that involves one or more of the following:

- Where the negative impact of *management activities** on local communities or on *Indigenous Peoples** *legal** or *customary rights** is of such a scale that it cannot be reversed or mitigated;

- Physical violence;
- *Significant** destruction of property;
- Presence of law enforcement or military bodies;
- Acts of intimidation against *workers** and *stakeholders**.
A *dispute** can become of substantial magnitude if it is of substantial duration, implies a *significant** number of interests and has a *significant** negative impact to the forest resource / value.

(Source: Adapted from FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Economic viability: The capability of developing and surviving as a relatively independent social, economic or political unit. Economic viability may require but is not synonymous with profitability.

(Source: Based on the definition provided on the website of the European Environment Agency) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Ecoregion/Ecodistrict: Large unit of land or water containing a geographically distinct assemblage of species, natural communities, and environmental conditions

(Source: WWF Global 200. <https://www.worldwildlife.org/biomes>)

Ecosystem: A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit.

(Source: Convention on Biological Diversity 1992, Article 2) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Ecosystem function: An intrinsic *ecosystem** characteristic related to the set of conditions and processes whereby an *ecosystem** maintains its integrity (such as primary productivity, food chain, biogeochemical cycles). Ecosystem functions include such processes as decomposition, production, nutrient cycling, and fluxes of nutrients and energy. For FSC purposes, this definition includes ecological and evolutionary processes such as gene flow and disturbance regimes, regeneration cycles and ecological seral development (succession) stages.

(Source: Based on R. Hassan, R. Scholes and N. Ash. 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Series. Island Press, Washington DC; and R.F. Noss. 1990. Indicators for monitoring biodiversity: a hierarchical approach. Conservation Biology 4(4):355–364) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Ecosystem services: The benefits people obtain from *ecosystems**. These include:

- provisioning services, such as food, forest products and water;
- regulating services, such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, air quality, climate and disease;
- supporting services, such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and
- cultural services and cultural values, such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other non-material benefits.

(Source: Based on R. Hassan, R. Scholes and N. Ash. 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Series. Island Press, Washington DC) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Employee: Anyone who is on the payroll of a specific business, in a full-time, part-time or seasonal capacity, for whom the *resource manager** withholds and remits taxes in accordance with federal and provincial laws.

(Source: Adapted from FSC Canada Great Lakes St. Lawrence Standard 2010)

Employment and Occupation: includes access to vocational training, access to employment and to particular occupations, and terms and conditions of employment (ILO Convention 111, Article 1.3). (Sources: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Endemic: A species or subspecies that is restricted to a defined geographical area.

(Source: FSC Canada HCV Sub-committee)

Engagement: The process by which *The Organization** communicates, consults and/or provides for the participation of interested and/or *affected stakeholders** and *Indigenous Peoples**, ensuring that their concerns, desires, expectations, needs, rights and opportunities are considered in the establishment, implementation and updating of the *management plan**.

(Source: Adapted from FSC-SDT-01-001 V5-2)

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

- *ecosystem functions** (including carbon sequestration and storage);
- biological diversity*;
- water resources;
- soils;
- atmosphere;
- *landscape values** (including cultural and spiritual values).

The actual worth attributed to these elements depends on human and societal perceptions.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Expert: 1. An individual whose knowledge or skill is specialized and profound as the result of much practical or academic experience. 2. A recognized authority on a topic by virtue of the body of relevant material published on the topic, their stature within the professional community, and the broadly-recognized accumulated related experience. 3. An individual who possess a wealth of experience on a topic such as may be accumulated through practical means including the accumulation of *traditional knowledge**.

(Source: FSC Canada National Boreal Standard 2004)

Externalities: The positive and negative impacts of activities on *stakeholders** that are not directly involved in those activities, or on a natural resource or the environment, which do not usually enter standard cost accounting systems, such that the market prices of the products of those activities do not reflect the full costs or benefits.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Fair compensation: An action or process (which may include *remuneration**) offered to redress a harm that is proportionate to the magnitude and type of harm experienced or services rendered by another party to reconcile the harm.

(Source: Adapted from FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Fertilizer: Mineral or organic substances, most commonly N, P₂O₅ and K₂O, which are applied to soil for enhancing plant growth.

(FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Fibre Testing: a suite of wood identification technologies used to identify the family, genus, species and origin of solid wood and fibre based products.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Focal species: Species whose requirements for persistence define the attributes that must be present if that *landscape** is to meet the requirements of the species that occur there.

(Source: Lambeck, R., J. 1997. Focal Species: A multi-species Umbrella for Nature Conservation. Conservation Biology vol. 11 (4): 849-856) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Forced or compulsory labour: work or service exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself/ herself voluntarily (ILO Convention 29, Article 2.1).

(Sources: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Forest: A tract of land dominated by trees.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2. Derived from FSC Guidelines for Certification Bodies, Scope of Forest Certification, Section 2.1 first published in 1998, and revised as FSC-GUI-20-200 in 2005, and revised again in 2010 as FSC-DIR-20-007 FSC Directive on Forest Management Evaluations, ADVICE-20-007-01). (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Forest Management Activities: see *Management Activities**.

Forest type: Forest type is a group of forest *ecosystems** of generally similar composition that can be readily differentiated from other such groups by their tree and under-canopy species composition, productivity and/or crown closure.

(Source: Convention on Biological diversity)

Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC): A *legal** condition whereby a person or community can be said to have given consent to an action prior to its commencement, based upon a clear appreciation and understanding of the facts, implications and future consequences of that action, and the possession of all relevant facts at the time when consent is given. Free, prior and informed consent includes the right to grant, modify, withhold or withdraw approval.

(Source: Based on the Preliminary working paper on the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples (...) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2004/4 8 July 2004) of the 22nd Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 19–23 July 2004). (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

FSC Transaction: Purchase or sale of products with FSC claims on sales documents (Source: ADV-40-004-14).

(Sources: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Gender equality: Gender equality or gender equity means that women and men have equal conditions for realizing their full human rights and for contributing to, and benefiting from, economic, social, cultural and political development.

(Source: Adapted from FAO, IFAD and ILO workshop on 'Gaps, trends and current research in gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment: differentiated pathways out of poverty', Rome, 31 March to 2 April 2009.). (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Genetically modified organism: An *organism** in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination.

(Source: Based on FSC-POL-30-602 FSC Interpretation on GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms)). (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Genotype: The genetic constitution of an *organism**.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0))

Good faith: The principle of good faith implies that the parties make every effort to reach an agreement, conduct genuine and constructive negotiations, avoid delays in negotiations, respect concluded agreements, and give sufficient time to discuss and settle *disputes**.

(Source: FSC Policy Motion 40/2017)

Good Faith in negotiation: *The Organization** (employer) and *workers' organization** make every effort to reach an agreement, conduct genuine and constructive negotiations, avoid unjustified delays in negotiations, respect agreements concluded and give sufficient time to discuss and settle collective *disputes** (Gerning B, Odero A, Guido H (2000), Collective Bargaining: ILO Standards and the Principles of the Supervisory Bodies. International Labour Office, Geneva).

(Sources: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Grassland: Land covered with herbaceous plants with less than 10% tree and shrub cover. (Source: UNEP, cited in FAO. 2002. Second Expert Meeting on Harmonizing Forest-Related Definitions for use by various stakeholders) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

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

(Source: FSC-STD-30-005)

Group member: forest owner or forest manager who participates in a group scheme for the purpose of FSC forest management certification. Group members are responsible for implementing any requirements of group membership. Group members do not hold individual FSC certificates, but as long as they comply with all the requirements of group membership, their forest properties are covered by the forest management certificate issued to the group entity.

(Source: FSC-STD-30-005 V1-0)

Habitat: The place or type of site where an *organism** or population occurs.

(Source: Based on the Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 2) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Habitat features: *Forest** *stand** attributes and structures, including but not limited to:

- Old commercial and non-commercial trees whose age noticeably exceeds the average age of the main canopy;
- Rare plant communities;
- Trees with special ecological value;
- Vertical and horizontal complexity;
- Standing dead trees;
- Dead fallen wood;
- *Forest** openings attributable to natural disturbances;
- Nesting sites;
- Small *wetlands**, bogs, fens;
- Ponds;
- Areas for procreation;
- Areas for feeding and shelter, including seasonal cycles of breeding;
- Areas for migration;
- Areas for hibernation.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Harvest area: A *forest** area in which harvesting operations have taken place. A harvest area often consists of more than one *cutblock**. *Cutblocks** within a harvest area are usually close enough so that they are planned and implemented as part of the same forestry operation. *Cutblocks** within a harvest area are generally separated by patches or linear stretches of contiguous *forest** so that there is not an uninterrupted cut area between the *cutblocks**.

(Source: FSC Canada Technical Expert Panel)

High Conservation Value (HCV): Any of the following values:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

High Conservation Value areas: Zones and physical spaces which possess and/or are needed for the existence and maintenance of identified *High Conservation Values**.

(FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

High grading: High grading is a tree removal practice in which only the best quality, most valuable timber trees are removed, often without regenerating new tree seedlings or removing the remaining poor quality and suppressed understory trees and, in doing so, degrading the ecological health and commercial value of the *forest**. High grading *stands** as a counterpoint to sustainable resource management.

(Source: based on Glossary of Forest Management Terms. North Carolina Division of Forest Resources. March 2009) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Highly hazardous pesticide (HHP): Chemical *pesticides** that are acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health and environment according to internationally accepted classification systems, or are listed in relevant binding international agreements or conventions, or contain dioxins, or heavy metals. In addition, *pesticides** that appear to cause severe or irreversible harm to health or the environment under conditions of use in a country may be considered to be and treated as highly hazardous (**Source: Based on FAO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management**). FSC distinguishes between FSC prohibited HHPs, FSC highly restricted HHPs and FSC restricted HHPs.

(Source: FSC Pesticides Policy FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0)

ILO Core (Fundamental) Conventions: these are labour standards that cover fundamental principles and rights at work: freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to *collective bargaining**; the elimination of all forms of *forced or compulsory labour**; the effective abolition of *child** labour; and the elimination of *discrimination** in respect of *employment and occupation**.

The eight Fundamental Conventions are:

- o Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)
- o Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)
- o Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- o Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
- o Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
- o Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)
- o Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
- o Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)

(Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017.)

ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up, adopted by the International Labour conference at its Eighty-sixth Session, Geneva, 18th June 1998 (Annex revised 15 June 2010): is a resolute reaffirmation of ILO principles (art 2) which declares that all Members, even if they have not *ratified** the Conventions in question, have an obligation, arising from the very fact of membership in the organization, to respect, to promote and to realize, in *good faith** and in accordance with the Constitution, the principles concerning the fundamental rights which are the subject of those Conventions, namely:

- o Freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to *collective bargaining**;
- o The elimination of all forms of *forced or compulsory labour**;
- o The effective abolition of *child** labour; and
- o The elimination of discrimination* in respect of *employment and occupation**.

(Source: FSC report on generic criteria and indicators based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017.)

Independent expert: An *expert** who is not employed by *The Organization** or government and has no apparent *conflict of interest**.

(Source: FSC Canada Technical Expert Panel)

Indicator: A quantitative or qualitative variable which can be measured or described, and which provides a means of judging whether a *Management Unit** complies with the requirements of an *FSC Criterion**. Indicators and the associated thresholds thereby define the requirements for responsible forest management at the level of the *Management Unit** and are the primary basis of forest evaluation.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-002 V1-0)

Indigenous Peoples: The following criteria may be used to identify Indigenous Peoples:

- The key characteristic or criterion is self-identification as Indigenous Peoples at the individual level and acceptance by the community as their member;
- Historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies;
- Strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources;
- Distinct social, economic or political systems;
- Distinct language, culture and beliefs;
- Form non-dominant groups of society;
- Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities.

(Source: Adapted from United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous, Factsheet 'Who are Indigenous Peoples' October 2007; United Nations Development Group, 'Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues' United Nations 2009, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 13 September 2007). (Adapted from FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Infrastructure: In the context of forest management, *roads**, bridges, culverts, log landings, quarries, impoundments, buildings and other structures required while implementing the *management plan**.

(IFSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Intact Forest Landscape: 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). (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0) (*Methodological flexibility for delineating IFLs in Canada is provided in FSC Canada 2017 « Interim Guidance for the Delineation of Intact Forest Landscapes», May 25, 2017*)

Intellectual property: Practices as well as knowledge, innovations and other creations of the mind.

(Source: Based on the Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 8(j); and World Intellectual Property Organization. What is Intellectual Property? WIPO Publication No. 450(E)) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

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

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Interested stakeholder: Any person, group of persons, or entity that has shown an interest, or is known to have an interest, in the activities of a *Management Unit**. The following are examples of *interested stakeholders**.

- Conservation organizations, for example environmental NGOs;
- Labor (rights) organizations, for example labor unions;
- Human rights organizations, for example social NGOs;
- Local development projects;
- Local governments;
- National government departments functioning in the region;
- FSC National Offices;
- *Experts** on specific issues, for example *High Conservation Values**.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Internationally accepted scientific protocol: A predefined science-based procedure which is either published by an international scientific network or union, or referenced frequently in the international scientific literature.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Invasive species: Species that are rapidly expanding outside of their native range. Invasive species can alter ecological relationships among *native species** and can affect *ecosystem function** and human health.

(Source: Based on World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Lands and territories: For the purposes of the *Principles** and *Criteria** these are lands or territories that *Indigenous Peoples** or *local communities** have traditionally owned, or customarily used or occupied, and where access to natural resources is vital to the sustainability of their cultures and livelihoods.

(Source: Based on World Bank safeguard OP 4.10 Indigenous Peoples, section 16 (a). July 2005.) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Landscape: A geographical mosaic composed of interacting *ecosystems** resulting from the influence of geological, topographical, soil, climatic, biotic and human interactions in a given area.

(Source: Based on World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Landscape values: Landscape values can be visualized as layers of human perceptions overlaid on the physical *landscape**. Some landscape values, like economic, recreation, subsistence value or visual quality are closely related to physical *landscape** attributes. Other landscape values, such as intrinsic or spiritual value are more symbolic in character and are influenced more by individual perception or social construction than physical *landscape** attributes.

(Source: Based on website of the Landscape Value Institute) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

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

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Legally competent: Mandated in law to perform a certain function.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Legal registration: National or local *legal** license or set of permissions to operate as an enterprise, with rights to buy and sell products and/or services commercially. The license or permissions can apply to an individual, a privately-owned enterprise or a publicly-owned corporate entity. The rights to buy and sell products and/or services do not carry the obligation to do so, so legal registration applies also to *The Organizations** operating a *Management Unit** without sales of products or services; for example, for unpriced recreation or for *conservation** of biodiversity or *habitat**.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Legal status: The way in which the *Management Unit** is classified according to law. In terms of *tenure**, it means the category of *tenure**, such as communal land or leasehold or freehold or State land or government land, etc. If the *Management Unit** is being converted from one category to another, for example, from State land to communal indigenous land, the status includes the current position in the transition process. In terms of administration, *legal status** could mean that the land is owned by the nation, and is administered on behalf of the nation by a government

department, and is leased by a government Ministry to a private sector operator through a concession.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Living wage: The *remuneration** received for a standard work week by a *worker** in a particular place that sufficient to afford a decent standard of living for the *worker** and her or his family. Elements of a decent standard of living include food, water, housing, education, health care, transport, clothing, and other essential needs including provision for unexpected events.

(Source: A Shared Approach to a Living Wage. ISEAL Living Wage Group. November 2013)
(FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Local communities: (Human) Communities that are in or adjacent to the *Management Unit**, and also those that are close enough to have a *significant** impact on the economy or the *environmental values** of the *Management Unit** or to have their economies, *collective rights** or environments values significantly affected by the *forest management activities** on the *Management Unit**. In Canada, communities to be considered are the ones officially identified as a municipality by the Canada Revenue Agency which list them and shows their qualified donees status under the Income Tax Act (<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/qlfd-dns/mncplts-eng.html>). The respective provincial lists may be also used.

(Source: Adapted from FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Local laws: The whole suite of primary and secondary laws (acts, ordinances, statutes, decrees) which is limited in application to a geographic district within a national territory, as well as secondary regulations, and tertiary administrative procedures (rules/ requirements) that derive their authority directly and explicitly from these primary and secondary laws. Laws derive authority ultimately from the Westphalian concept of sovereignty of the Nation State.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Long-term: For *Indicators** that refer to long-term or longer-term as a basis for defining when modelled quantitative *objectives** or targets of *Indicators** should be achieved, the term means the longest modelling horizon of the existing forest *management plan**. The term is also used to refer to the time-scale of the forest owner or manager as manifested by the *objectives** of the *management plan**, the rate of harvesting, and the commitment to maintain permanent *forest** cover. The length of time involved will vary according to the context and ecological conditions, and will be a function of how long it takes a given *ecosystem** to recover its natural structure and composition following harvesting or disturbance, or to produce mature or primary conditions.

(Source: Adapted from FSC-STD-01-002 V1-0)

Low intensity forest: *Forests** with a harvesting rate of less than 20% of the mean annual growth in timber, and either an annual harvest or an annual average harvest of less than 5,000 m³ (averaged over the certificate lifetime).

(Source: Based on FSC-STD-01-003)

Management activities: Any or all operations, processes or procedures associated with managing a *forest**, including, but not limited to: planning, consultation, harvesting, access construction and maintenance, silvicultural activities (planting, site preparation, tending), monitoring, assessment, and reporting.

(Source: FSC Canada National Boreal Standard 2004)

Management objective: Specific management goals, practices, outcomes, and approaches established to achieve the requirements of this Standard.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Management plan: The collection of documents, reports, records and maps that describe, justify and regulate the activities carried out by any manager, staff or organization within or in relation to the *Management Unit**, including statements of *objectives** and policies.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Management Unit: A spatial area or areas submitted for FSC certification with clearly defined boundaries managed to a set of explicit *long-term* management objectives** which are expressed in a *management plan**. These areas include:

- all facilities and areas within or adjacent to this spatial area or areas under *legal** title or management control of, or operated by or on behalf of *The Organization**, for contributing to the *management objectives**; and
- all facilities and area(s) outside, and not adjacent to this spatial area or areas and operated by or on behalf of *The Organization**, solely for contributing to the *management objectives**.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Marketable: A product that can be sold or exchanged because one or more buyers exist.
(Source: FSC Canada National Boreal Standard, 2004)

Merchantable: A log or tree which meets or exceeds minimum size requirements and contains a proportion of sound wood in excess of minimum requirements, as determined according to applicable scaling (wood measurement) standards.

(Source: FSC Canada National Boreal Standard, 2004)

Mutually agreed: The parties undertake obligations to each other to do, or not to do, one or more actions to address legitimate concerns of individuals in a group decision-making process. Evidence of an agreement can be oral or put in writing (and may be referred to as a contract).

(Source: FSC Canada, based on <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/mutual> and <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/agree>)

National laws: The whole suite of primary and secondary laws (acts, ordinances, statutes, decrees), which is applicable to a national territory, as well as secondary regulations, and tertiary administrative procedures (rules/ requirements) that derive their authority directly and explicitly from these primary and secondary laws.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Native ecosystem: See *natural conditions**.

Native species: Species, subspecies, or lower taxon, occurring within its natural range (past or present) and dispersal potential (that is, within the range it occupies naturally or could occupy without direct or indirect introduction or care by humans).

(Source: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Invasive Alien Species Programme. Glossary of Terms as provided on CBD website). (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Natural conditions: For the purposes of the *Principles** and *Criteria** and any applications of *restoration** techniques, terms such as ‘more natural conditions’, ‘*native ecosystem**’ provide for managing sites to favour or *restore** *native species** and associations of *native species** that are typical of the locality, and for managing these associations and other *environmental values** so that they form *ecosystems** typical of the locality. Further guidelines may be provided in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Natural forest: A *forest** area with many of the principal characteristics and key elements of *native ecosystems**, such as complexity, structure and *biological diversity**, including soil characteristics, flora and fauna, in which all or almost all the trees are *native species**, not classified as *plantations**.

Natural forest includes the following categories:

- *Forest** affected by harvesting or other disturbances, in which trees are being or have been regenerated by a combination of natural and artificial regeneration with species typical of natural forests in that site, and where many of the above-ground and below-ground characteristics of the natural forest are still present. In boreal and north temperate *forests** which are naturally composed of only one or few tree species, a combination of natural and artificial regeneration to regenerate *forest** of the same *native species**, with most of the principal characteristics and key elements of *native ecosystems** of that site, is not by itself considered as conversion to *plantations**;
- Natural forests which are maintained by traditional silvicultural practices including natural or assisted natural regeneration;
- Well-developed secondary or colonizing *forest** of *native species** which has regenerated in non-forest areas;
- The definition of natural forest may include areas described as wooded *ecosystems**, woodland and savannah.

The description of natural forests and their principal characteristics and key elements may be further defined in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards, with appropriate descriptions or examples.

Natural forest does not include land which is not dominated by trees, was previously not *forest**, and which does not yet contain many of the characteristics and elements of *native ecosystems**. Young regeneration may be considered natural forest after some years of ecological progression. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may indicate when such areas may be excised from the *Management Unit**, should be *restored** towards more *natural conditions**, or may be converted to other land uses.

FSC has not developed quantitative thresholds between different categories of *forests** in terms of area, density, height, etc. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may provide such thresholds and other guidelines, with appropriate descriptions or examples. Pending such guidance, areas dominated by trees, mainly of *native species**, may be considered as natural forest.

Thresholds and guidelines may cover areas such as:

- Other vegetation types and non-forest communities and *ecosystems** included in the *Management Unit**, including *grassland**, bushland, *wetlands**, and open woodlands;
- Very young pioneer or colonizing regeneration in a primary succession on new open sites or abandoned farmland, which does not yet contain many of the principal characteristics and key elements of *native ecosystems**. This may be considered as natural forest through ecological progression after the passage of years;
- Young natural regeneration growing in natural forest areas may be considered as natural forest, even after logging, clear-felling or other disturbances, since many of the principal characteristics and key elements of *native ecosystems** remain, above-ground and below-ground;
- Areas where deforestation and forest degradation have been so severe that they are no longer ‘dominated by trees’ may be considered as non-forest, when they have very few of the principal above-ground and below-ground characteristics and key elements of natural forests. Such extreme degradation is typically the result of combinations of repeated and excessively heavy logging, grazing, farming, fuelwood collection, hunting, fire, erosion, mining, settlements, *infrastructure**, etc. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may help to decide when such areas should be excised from the *Management Unit**, should be *restored** towards more *natural conditions**, or may be converted to other land uses.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Natural hazards: disturbances that can present *risks** to social and *environmental values** in the *Management Unit** but that may also comprise important *ecosystem functions**; examples include drought, flood, fire, landslide, storm, avalanche, etc.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Non-timber forest products (NTFP): All forest products other than timber derived from the *Management Unit**.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Normative: In the context of *normative* requirements, they are the required elements to be demonstrated and met. Conversely, non-normative means elements are not required, but provide information, context and/or guidance to a concept such as an Intent Box.

(Source: FSC Canada)

Objective: The basic purpose laid down by *The Organization** for the forest enterprise, including the decision of policy and the choice of means for attaining the purpose.

(Source: Based on F.C. Osmaston. 1968. The Management of Forests. Hafner, New York; and D.R. Johnston, A.J. Grayson and R.T. Bradley. 1967. Forest Planning. Faber & Faber, London) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Obligatory codes of practice: A manual or handbook or other source of technical instruction which *The Organization** must implement by law.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Occupational accident: An occurrence arising out of, or during, work which results in fatal or non-fatal injury.

(Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). Bureau of Library and Information Services. ILO Thesaurus as provided on ILO website) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Occupational disease: Any disease contracted because of an exposure to *risk** factors arising from work activity.

(Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). Bureau of Library and Information Services. ILO Thesaurus as provided on ILO website) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Occupational injuries: Any personal injury, disease or death resulting from an *occupational accident**.

(Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). Bureau of Library and Information Services. ILO Thesaurus as provided on ILO website) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Old forest: Later stages in *forest** development which may be distinctive in composition, but are always distinctive in structure from earlier (young and mature) successional stages.

(Source: FSC Canada National Boreal Standard 2004)

Organism: Any biological entity capable of replication or of transferring genetic material (**Source: Council Directive 90/220/EEC**). (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

The Organization: The person or entity holding or applying for certification and therefore responsible for demonstrating compliance with the requirements upon which FSC certification is based.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Partial cutting: Removal of only part of a stand for purposes other than regenerating a new age class.

Peatland: Is constituted by flooded and soggy areas, with large accumulations of organic material, covered by a layer of poor vegetation associated with a certain degree of acidity, and which presents a characteristic amber colour.

(Source: Aguilar, L. 2001. About Fishermen, Fisherwomen, Oceans and tides. IUCN. San Jose (Costa Rica)) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Pesticide: Any substance or preparation prepared or used in protecting plants or wood or other plant products or human health or livestock or biodiversity from pests; in controlling pests; or in rendering such pests harmless. (This definition includes insecticides, rodenticides, acaricides, molluscicides, larvaecides, fungicides and herbicides).

(Source: FSC-POL-30-001 FSC Pesticides Policy (2005))

Plans for species at risk: In this Standard, these plans are documented strategies and procedures for managing *species at risk** and/or their *habitats**. Plans can consist of a range of documents including those that have been developed and approved in accordance with federal or provincial legislation, sometimes called “Action Plans” or “Recovery Strategies”. Plans can also include documents written by *qualified specialists** specifically to direct management in the *Forest Management Unit** and included in forest *management plans**. Plans written specifically for the *Forest Management Unit** should not conflict with approved Actions Plans or Recovery Strategies. Plans written specifically for the *Management Unit** are not intended to replicate the detail and scope of Action Plans or Recovery Strategies, but simply to outline the ways in which the manager

is taking a *precautionary approach** to mitigating the impact of its activities on the species and/or allowing for its recovery. Measures may involve *habitat protection**, *conservation zones**, seasonal closures, etc. They will not necessarily require a stand-alone plan or strategy for each species, and may be reflected in measures to implement other requirements of this Standard.

(Source: Adapted from FSC Canada National Boreal Standard 2004)

Plantation: A *forest** area established by planting or sowing with using either *alien** or *native species**, often with one or few species, regular spacing and even ages, and which lacks most of the principal characteristics and key elements of *natural forests**. The description of plantations may be further defined in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards, with appropriate descriptions or examples, such as:

- Areas which would initially have complied with this definition of ‘plantation’ but which, after the passage of years, contain many or most of the principal characteristics and key elements of *native ecosystems**, may be classified as *natural forests**.
- Plantations* managed to *restore** and enhance biological and *habitat** diversity, structural complexity and *ecosystem** functionality may, after the passage of years, be classified as *natural forests**.
- Boreal and north temperate *forests** which are naturally composed of only one or few tree species, in which a combination of natural and artificial regeneration is used to regenerate *forest** of the same *native species**, with most of the principal characteristics and key elements of *native ecosystems**s of that site, may be considered as *natural forest**, and this regeneration is not by itself considered as conversion to plantations.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Precautionary approach: An approach requiring that when the available information indicates that *management activities** pose a *threat** of severe or irreversible damage to the environment or a *threat** to human welfare, *The Organization** will take explicit and effective measures to prevent the damage and avoid the *risks** to welfare, even when the scientific 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) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Pre-industrial forest: A *native forest** that has not been subjected to large *scale** harvesting. A *forest** that provides for traditional uses by *Indigenous Peoples** is a pre-industrial forest if it is not also used for large *scale** harvesting. Pre-industrial forests may have characteristics that exist because of *Indigenous Peoples** use.

(Source: Adapted from FSC Canada National Boreal Standard 2014)

Pre-industrial condition (PIC): A natural condition representative of a *pre-industrial forest**. As used in Principle 6, a pre-industrial condition analysis is a data-based assessment generally providing insight into the *forest types**, age classes and *landscape** condition. Sources of information used in pre-industrial condition analyses may include scientific literature, historical records (e.g. inventories, cruises, harvest volumes, dues payments), mill records, fire history, early surveyors’ notebooks and maps, and using computer models to ‘backcast’ the composition of the *pre-industrial forest**.

(Source: FSC Canada Standard Development Group)

Principle: An essential rule or element; in FSC's case, of forest stewardship.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0)

Productive forest: All *forest** areas which are capable of growing commercial trees.

(Source: Adapted from Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources 2009. Forest Management Planning Manual)

Protection: See definition of *Conservation**.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Protected area: An area protected for *conservation** purposes by legislation, regulation, or government land-use policy to permanently control human occupancy or activity.

(Source: Adapted from FSC Canada National Boreal Standard 2004)

Protection areas: See definition of *Conservation Zone**.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Publicly available: In a manner easily accessible to people generally. Confidential or proprietary information is not included in material made publicly available.

(Source: Adapted from Collins English Dictionary, 2003 Edition) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Qualified specialist(s): Individuals whose expertise qualifies them to carry out work (e.g. assessments, design of management practices, etc.) required by the FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard, considering the following:

- professional ethics;
- accountability;
- experience;
- training;
- formal qualifications;
- familiarity with the FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard.
- familiarity with the *ecosystem** condition and/or cultural/social/Indigenous factors relevant to the *Management Unit**.

(Source: Adapted from FSC Regional Certification Standards for British Columbia 2005)

Rare species: Species that are uncommon or scarce but not classified as threatened. These species are in geographically restricted areas or specific *habitats**, or are scantily scattered on a large *scale**. They are approximately equivalent to the IUCN (2001) category of Near Threatened (NT), including species that are close to qualifying for, or are likely to qualify for, a *threatened** category in the near future. They are also approximately equivalent to imperilled species.

(Source: Based on IUCN. (2001). IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.)

Ratified: The process by which an international law, convention or agreement, including multilateral environmental agreement, is legally approved by a national legislature or equivalent *legal** mechanism, such that the international law, convention or agreement becomes

automatically part of national law or sets in motion the development of national law to give the same *legal** effect.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Reasonable: Judged to be fair or appropriate to the circumstances or purposes, based on general experience.

(Source: Shorter Oxford English Dictionary) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Recharge area: Area in which groundwater recharge occurs – where water moves downward from the surface to groundwater. An area in which water reaches the zone of saturation by surface infiltration.

(Source: Heath, R.C., 1984. *Ground-water regions of the United States*. U.S. Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 2242. U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey. <http://pubs.usgs.gov/wsp/wsp2242/#pdf>)

Refugia: An isolated area where extensive changes, typically due to changing climate or by disturbances such as those caused by humans, have not occurred and where plants and animals typical of a region may survive.

(Source: Glen Canyon Dam, Adaptive Management Program Glossary as provided on website of Glen Canyon Dam website) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Remuneration: includes the ordinary, basic or minimum wage or salary and any additional emoluments whatsoever payable directly or indirectly, whether in cash or in kind, by the employer to the worker and arising out of the *workers** employment (ILO Convention 100, Article 1a).

(Sources: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Representative sample areas: Portions of the *Management Unit** delineated for conserving or restoring viable examples of an *ecosystem** that would naturally occur in that geographical region.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Resilience: The ability of a system to maintain key functions and processes in the face of stresses or pressures by either resisting or adapting to change. Resilience can be applied to both ecological systems and social systems.

(Source: IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA). 2008. *Establishing Marine Protected Area Networks – Making it Happen*. Washington D.C.: IUCN-WCPA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and The Nature Conservancy.) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Resource manager: A person or *The Organization** that has been given the responsibilities by forest owners for the utilization of their forest resources, including operational planning and harvesting operations. In a group scheme, resource manager and *group entity** may be the same person/ organization. This is often referred to as 'resource manager type of group' or 'Type II Group').

(Source: FSC-STD-30-005)

Resource Management Unit (RMU): Set of FMUs managed by the same managerial body (e.g. the same *resource manager**). In the case of small operations, RMUs may be used as the basis for sampling.

(Source: FSC-STD-30-005 V1-0)

Restore / Restoration: In some cases, restore means to repair the damage done to *environmental values** that resulted from *management activities** or other causes. In other cases, restore means the formation of more *natural conditions** in sites which have been degraded or converted to other land uses. **(Source: Adapted from FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)**

*The Organization** is not necessarily obliged to restore those *environmental values** that have been affected by factors beyond the control of *The Organization**, for example by natural disasters, by climate change, or by the legally authorized activities of third parties, such as public *infrastructure**, mining, hunting or settlement. *FSC-POL-20-003 The Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification* describes the processes by which such areas may be excised from the area certified, when appropriate.

Riparian zone: Interface between land and a *water body**, and the vegetation associated with it.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

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

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Road: A constructed linear feature capable of supporting use by a pickup truck.

(Source: FSC Canada Technical Expert Panel)

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, an activity with a small or low temporal scale occurs only at long intervals.

(Source: FSC-STD- 01-001 V5-2)

Scale, intensity and risk (SIR): See individual definitions of the terms *scale**, *intensity**, and *risk**.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Selection cutting: The annual or periodic cutting of trees chosen individually or by groups, in an uneven-aged stand, in order to recover the yield and develop a balanced uneven-aged stand structure, while providing the cultural measures required for tree growth and seedling establishment.

Significant: For the purposes of Principle 9, HCVs 1, 2 and 6 there are three main forms of recognizing significance.

- A designation, classification or recognized *conservation** status, assigned by an international agency such as IUCN or Birdlife International;
- A designation by national or regional authorities, or by a responsible national conservation organization, based on its concentration of biodiversity;
- A voluntary recognition by the manager, owner or *The Organization**, based on available information, or of the known or suspected presence of a significant biodiversity concentration, even when not officially designated by other agencies.

Any one of these forms will justify designation as HCVs 1, 2 and 6. Many regions of the world have received recognition for their biodiversity importance, measured in many ways. Existing maps and classifications of priority areas for biodiversity *conservation** play an essential role in identifying the potential presence of HCVs 1, 2 and 6.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Silvicultural system: A planned series of treatments for tending, harvesting, and re-establishing a *stand**.

(Source: Dictionary of Forestry, Presse de l'Université Laval, 2000)

Silviculture: The art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health and quality of *forests** and woodlands to meet the targeted diverse needs and values of landowners and society on a sustainable basis.

(Source: Nieuwenhuis, M. 2000. Terminology of Forest Management. IUFRO World Series Vol. 9. IUFRO 4.04.07 SilvaPlan and SilvaVoc) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Small-scale forest: *Forests** managed for timber that are less than or equal to 1000 ha in size. (Source: Based on FSC-STD-01-003)

Species at risk: All species or subspecies or designated populations formally listed in schedules referenced in federal or provincial endangered species/SAR legislation or provincial wildlife/biodiversity legislation that have been classified as Endangered, Threatened, Vulnerable, Special Concern or similar designations. For this Standard the term species at risk also includes all species that have been assessed as 'at risk' designation by bodies formally recognized in federal or provincial endangered species legislation (e.g. the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada – COSEWIC, plus equivalent provincial bodies).

(Source: FSC Canada Species at Risk Technical Expert Panel)

Sphere of influence: Professional associations with colleagues or businesses, agencies and *Indigenous Peoples** with whom individuals or businesses or agencies interact. When required by *Indicators** to work within one's *sphere of influence*, *The Organizations** and forest managers shall interact with their colleagues, other professionals, *Indigenous Peoples**, businesses and agencies, including government Ministries, Departments and other agencies, to achieve the *Indicators** objectives*.

(Source: FSC Canada Species at Risk Technical Expert Panel)

Stakeholder: See definitions for the terms *affected stakeholder** and *interested stakeholder**.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Stand: A community of trees possessing sufficient uniformity in composition, constitution, age, arrangement or condition to be distinguishable from adjacent communities.

(Source: FSC Canada National Boreal Standard 2004)

Statutory law or statute law: The body of law contained in Acts of Parliament (national legislature).

(Source: Oxford Dictionary of Law) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Tenure: Socially defined agreements held by individuals or groups, recognized by *legal** statutes or customary practice, regarding the ‘bundle of rights and duties’ of ownership, holding, access and/or usage of a particular land unit or the associated resources there within (such as individual trees, plant species, water, minerals, etc.).

(Source: World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions provided on IUCN website) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Threat: An indication or warning of impending or likely damage or negative impacts.

(Source: Based on Oxford English Dictionary) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

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

(Source: Adapted from IUCN. (2001). IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.)

Timber harvesting level: The actual harvest quantity executed on the *Management Unit**, tracked by either volume (e.g. cubic meters or board feet) or area (e.g. hectares or acres) metrics for comparison with calculated (maximum) allowable harvest levels.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Timely manner: As promptly as circumstances reasonably allow; not intentionally postponed by *The Organization**; in compliance with *applicable laws**, contracts, licenses or invoices.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Traditional knowledge: Information, know-how, skills and practices that are developed, sustained and passed on from generation to generation within a community, often forming part of its cultural or spiritual identity.

(Source: based on the definition by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Glossary definition as provided under Policy / Traditional Knowledge on the WIPO website) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Transaction verification: Verification by certification bodies and/or Accreditation Services International (ASI) that FSC output claims made by certificate holders are accurate and match with the FSC input claims of their trading partners (Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V3-0).

(Sources: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Uphold: To acknowledge, respect, sustain and support.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Use rights: Rights for the use of resources of the *Management Unit** that can be defined by local custom, mutual agreements, or prescribed by other entities holding access rights. These rights may restrict the use of resources to specific levels of consumption or harvesting techniques.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2)

Verifiable targets: Specific statement, describing a desired future state or condition of an *Indicator**, established to measure progress towards the achievement of each of the *management objectives**. They are expressed as clear outcomes, such that their attainment can be verified, and it is possible to determine whether they have been accomplished or not.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Very limited portion: The area affected shall not exceed 0.5% of the area of the *Management Unit** in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% of the area of the *Management Unit**.
(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0, based on FSC-STD-01-002 V1-0)

Waste materials: Unusable or unwanted substances or by-products, such as:

- Hazardous waste, including chemical waste and batteries;
- Containers;
- Motor and other fuels and oils;
- Rubbish including metals, plastics and paper; and
- Abandoned buildings, machinery and equipment.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Water bodies (including water courses): Seasonal, temporary, and permanent brooks, creeks, streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Water bodies include riparian areas, *wetlands** lakes, swamps, bogs and springs.

(Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Watershed: An area of land that feeds water to a river, draining through the *landscape** into tributaries and main river channels. Also called catchments, drainage basins or river basins.

(Source: IUCN Definitions Document:
https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/en_iucn_glossary_definitions.pdf)

Wetlands: Transitional areas between terrestrial and aquatic systems in which the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water.

(Source: Cowardin, L.M., Carter, V., Golet, F.C., Laroe, E.T. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. DC US Department: Washington) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Under the Ramsar Convention, wetlands can include tidal mudflats, natural ponds, marshes, potholes, wet meadows, bogs, *peatlands**, freshwater swamps, mangroves, lakes, rivers and even some coral reefs.

(Source: IUCN, No Date, IUCN Definitions – English) (FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Workers: All employed persons (including men and women) including part-time and seasonal *employees** of *The Organization**, of all ranks and categories, as well as contractors, subcontractors and overlapping or other forest license holders who are directly involved with the forest operations on the *Management Unit*(s)** within the scope of the certificate (e.g. forest management, planning, harvesting, *road** building, on-site processing, hauling, timber sales, etc.).

(Source: Adapted from FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Workers' Organization: any organization of *workers** for furthering and defending the interest of *workers** adapted from ILO Convention 87, Article 10). It is important to note that rules and



guidance on composition of workers' organization vary from country to country, especially in relation to those who are considered as rank-and-file members, as well those who are deemed to have power to "hire and fire". Workers' organizations tend to separate association between those who can "hire and fire" and those who cannot (Source: FSC report on generic criteria and *indicators** based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017).

(Sources: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0)

Annex H Reference List

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Relevant FSC Documents

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

FSC-DIR-20-007 FSC Directive on FSC Forest Management Evaluations

FSC-POL-01-004 Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC

FSC-POL-20-003 The Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification

FSC-POL-30-001 FSC Pesticides Policy

FSC-POL-30-401 FSC Certification and the ILO Conventions

FSC-POL-30-602 FSC Interpretation on GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms)

FSC-PRO-01-001 The Development and Revision of FSC Normative Documents

FSC-PRO-01-005 Processing Appeals

FSC-PRO-01-008 Processing Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme

FSC-PRO-01-009 Processing Policy for Association Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme

FSC-PRO-30-006 Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools

FSC-PRO-60-006 Development and Transfer of NFSS to FSC P&C V5-1

FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship V5-2 EN

FSC-STD-01-002 FSC Glossary of Terms

FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria

FSC-STD-30-005 FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups

FSC-STD-60-002 Structure and Content of National Forest Stewardship Standards

FSC-STD-60-006 Process requirements for the development and maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards

FSC-STD-CAN-01-2018 V 1-0 The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Canada

FSC-GUI-60-002 SIR Guideline for Standard Developers

FSC-GUI-60-005 Promoting Gender Equality in National Forest Stewardship Standards

FSC-GUI-60-009 Guidance for Standard Development Groups: Developing National High Conservation Value Frameworks

FSC-GUI-60-009a Template for National High Conservation Value Frameworks

FSC Technical Series No. 2009-001. FSC Guide to integrated pest, disease and weed management in FSC certified forests and plantations



FSC-STD-CAN-Maritimes-SLIMF-2008 Certification Standards for Best Forestry Practices in the Maritimes Region, Standard for Small and Low Intensity Forests

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Regional Certification Standards for British Columbia, Small Operations Standards, 2005

FSC Forest Stewardship Standard Great Lakes St. Lawrence Region, Draft 3, 2010