



Forest Stewardship Council®



The FSC Interim National Standard of Belgium

FSC-STD-BEL-01-2021 EN



Photo credit

From left to right:

Photo 1: Savinja river, Slovenia, ©Milan Reška.

Photo 2: Pile of sawn boards. ©Arturo Escobar.

Photo 3: Worker in a forest operation. ©Arturo Escobar.

NOTE ON THIS ENGLISH VERSION:

This is the official version of the National Forest Stewardship Standard that is approved by FSC International, and it is available at www.fsc.org. 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.

Table of Contents

A	Objective.....	4
B	Scope	4
C	Note on the use of indicators, annexes and verifiers	4
D	References	6
E	Principles, criteria and indicators.....	7
	PRINCIPLE 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS.....	7
	PRINCIPLE 2: WORKERS RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS ...	10
	PRINCIPLE 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS.....	14
	PRINCIPLE 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS	17
	PRINCIPLE 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST	21
	PRINCIPLE 6: ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND IMPACTS	23
	PRINCIPLE 7: MANAGEMENT PLANNING.....	32
	PRINCIPLE 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT	36
	PRINCIPLE 9: HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES	38
	PRINCIPLE 10: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	41
F	Annexes.....	47
	Annex A Minimum list of applicable laws, regulations and nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements (Principle 1)	47
	Annex B Training requirements for workers (Principle 2).....	59
	Annex C Conservation Area Network Conceptual Diagram (Principle 6).	60
	Annex D List of rare, threatened and endangered species (Principle 6) .	61
	Annex E Elements of the Management Plan (Principle 7)	62
	Annex F Conceptual Framework for Planning and Monitoring (Principle 7)	64
	Annex G Monitoring Requirements (Principle 8).....	66
	Annex H HCV Framework for Belgium (Principle 9)	68
	Annex I Glossary of Terms.....	89

A Objective

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 conformity against this standard as the basis for awarding or maintaining forest management certification.

B Scope

This standard shall be applied in the following scope:

Geographic region	Belgium
Forest types	All forest types (Plantations and natural forests)
Ownership types	All types of ownerships, including public, private and others.
Management scale categories (according to section 6 of FSC-STD-60-002)	All categories of Management Units, including Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMFs) <i>(Note: see section C for the applicable SLIMF eligibility criteria for this country).</i>
Forest products (according to FSC-STD-40-004a)	Rough wood NTFPs not included

Intention note: The term '*natural forest*' as defined in the glossary covers the characteristics of all the forests encountered in Belgium, excluding plantations.

C Note on the use of indicators, annexes and verifiers

The following elements of this standard are normative:

Scope, effective and validity dates, glossary of terms, principles, criteria and indicators, directives, tables and annexes.

The following elements of this standard are provided for guidance only and are not normative:

Verifiers, notes (*when existing*).

Precisions on the intention and applicability of the requirements: In order to facilitate interpretation by forest owners and managers, non-normative notes have been added to some criteria and indicators. There are two types of notes:

- Intention notes: they give further clarification of the objective of the requirements in the Belgian context;

- Applicability notes: they provide guidance regarding the concrete implementation of the requirements on the ground/in practice.

Normative elements that have been greyed out are not applicable in the country but are kept in the standard for transparency.

Organizations managing Management Units qualifying as SLIMF shall conform with all indicators in the standard, except those indicated as “Not applicable for SLIMF”. Where specific SLIMF indicators exist (marked as e.g. “SLIMF 3.5.1.1”), these Organizations shall conform with them instead.

SLIMF eligibility criteria	National threshold
Small Management Units	Up to 100 hectares
Low intensity Management Units	The rate of harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI) within the total production forest area of the unit, AND EITHER the annual harvest from the total production forest area is less than 5000 cubic metres, OR the average annual harvest from the total production forest is less than 5000 m ³ / year during the period of validity of the certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits.

Verbal forms for the expression of provisions

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

“shall”: indicates requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform with the standard.

“should”: indicates that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required. The Organization can meet these requirements in an equivalent way provided this can be demonstrated and justified.

“may”: indicates a course of action permissible within the limits of the document.

“can”: is used for statements of possibility and capability, whether material, physical or causal.

Terms for which a definition is provided in the Glossary of terms are formatted in *italics* and marked with an *asterisk** in sections E and F.

This document is subject to the review and revision cycle as described in *FSC-PRO-60-007 Structure, Content and Development of Interim National Standards*.

D References

The following referenced documents are relevant for the application of this standard. For references without a version number, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

FSC-POL-20-003	<i>FSC Policy on the Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification</i>
FSC-POL-30-001	<i>FSC Pesticides Policy</i>
FSC-POL-30-602	<i>FSC Interpretation on GMOs: Genetically Modified Organisms</i>
FSC-STD-20-007	<i>Forest Management Evaluations</i>
FSC-STD-30-005	<i>FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups</i>
FSC-PRO-01-008	<i>Processing Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme</i>
FSC-PRO-30-006	<i>Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools</i>
FSC-DIR-20-007	<i>FSC Directive on FSC Forest Management Evaluations</i>
FSC-GUI-30-003	<i>FSC Guidelines for the implementation of the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)</i>
FSC-GUI-60-005	<i>Promoting Gender Equality in National Forest Stewardship Standards</i>

Note: When applying this standard, consider relevant interpretations by inquiring with local FSC representatives (e.g., National Offices or representatives, or FSC's Performance and Standards Unit, if no national FSC presence exists), or your certification body. International interpretations are available through the FSC Document Centre (<https://fsc.org/en/document-centre>).

E Principles*, criteria* and indicators*

PRINCIPLE* 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

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

Applicability note: Annex A presents a minimum list of *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.
 - 1.1.1 *Legal registration** to carry out all activities within the scope of the certificate is documented and unchallenged.
 - 1.1.2 *Legal registration** is granted by a *legally competent** authority according to legally prescribed processes.
- 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.
 - 1.2.1 *Legal* tenure** to manage and use resources within the scope of the certificate is documented.
 - 1.2.2 *Legal* tenure** is granted by a *legally competent** authority according to legally prescribed processes.
 - 1.2.3 The boundaries of all *Management Units** within the scope of the certificate are clearly marked or documented and clearly 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.
 - 1.3.1 All activities undertaken in the *Management Unit** are carried out in compliance with:
 - 1) *Applicable laws** and regulations and administrative requirements,
 - 2) *Legal** and *customary rights**; and
 - 3) *Obligatory codes of practice**.
 - 1.3.2 Payment is made in a *timely manner** of all applicable legally prescribed charges connected with forest management.
 - 1.3.3 Activities covered by the *management plan** are designed to comply with all *applicable laws**.

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 Measures are implemented to provide *protection** from unauthorized or illegal harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering, settlement, construction and other unauthorized activities.

1.4.2 Where *protection** is the *legal** responsibility of competent authorities and their representatives (forest ranger, environmental inspection, etc.), a system is in place for the detection and reporting of unauthorized or illegal activities towards those competent authorities, as well to control and discourage such activities.

1.4.3 If illegal or unauthorized activities are detected, measures are implemented to address them.

Applicability note: Measures that can be implemented when unauthorized activities are detected can include for example:

- 1) Proper registration of findings, supported by proof (e.g., pictures, documents, etc.)
- 2) Systematic notification of offenses to relevant competent authorities to assure further follow-up where needed.

1.5 The Organization* shall comply with the applicable national laws*, local laws*, 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.

1.5.1 Compliance with *applicable national laws**, *local laws**, *ratified** international conventions and *obligatory codes of practice** relating to the transportation and trade of forest products up to the point of first sale is demonstrated.

1.5.2 Compliance with CITES provisions is demonstrated, including through possession of certificates for harvest and trade in any CITES species.

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*.

1.6.1 A procedure for handling and resolving *disputes** has been developed, in consultation with *affected stakeholders** where they exist, and is available publicly or upon request.

1.6.2 *Disputes** related to issues of *applicable laws** or *customary law** that can be settled out of court are responded to in a timely *manner**, and are either resolved or are in the *dispute** resolution process.

1.6.3 Up to date records of *disputes** related to issues of *applicable laws** or *customary law**, are held including:

- 1) Steps taken to resolve *disputes**;
- 2) Outcomes of all *dispute** resolution processes; and
- 3) Unresolved *disputes**, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.

- 1.6.4 Operations cease in areas where *disputes** exist:
- 1) Of *substantial magnitude**; or
 - 2) Of *substantial duration**; or
 - 3) Involving a *significant** number of interests.
- 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 anti-corruption legislation where this exists. In the absence of anti-corruption legislation, *The Organization** shall implement other anti-corruption measures proportionate to the *scale** and *intensity** of management activities and the *risk** of corruption.**
- 1.7.1 A commitment or policy to comply with anti-corruption legislation exists and eventual measures related to this commitment / policy are implemented.
- SLIMF 1.7.1 A written or verbal declaration not to give or receive bribes (money) or to engage in other forms of corruption is communicated to relevant *stakeholders** (e.g. neighbours and customers).
- 1.7.2 The policy meets or exceeds related legislation.
- 1.7.3 The policy is *publicly available** at no cost.
- 1.7.4 Bribery, coercion and other acts of corruption do not occur.
- 1.7.5 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 written policy, endorsed by an individual with authority to implement the policy, includes a *long-term** commitment to forest management practices consistent with FSC *Principles** and *Criteria** and related Policies and Standards.
- 1.8.2 The policy is *publicly available** at no cost.

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 The Organization* shall not use *child** labour.

2.1.1.1 The Organization* shall not employ *workers** below the age of 15, or below the *minimum age** as stated under national, or *local laws** or regulations, whichever age is higher, except as specified in 2.1.1.2.

2.1.1.2 In countries where the *national law** or regulations permit the employment of persons between the ages of 13 to 15 years in *light work** such employment should not interfere with schooling nor, be harmful to their health or development. Notably, where children are subject to compulsory education laws, they shall work only outside of school hours during normal day-time working hours.

2.1.1.3 No person under the age of 18 is employed in *hazardous** or *heavy work** except for the purpose of training within approved *national laws** and regulation.

2.1.1.4 The Organization* shall prohibit worst forms of *child** labour.

2.1.2 The Organization* shall eliminate all forms of forced and compulsory labour.

2.1.2.1 Employment relationships are voluntary and based on mutual consent, without *threat** of a penalty.

2.1.2.2 There is no evidence of any practices indicative of *forced or compulsory labour**, including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1) Physical and sexual violence
- 2) Bonded labour
- 3) Withholding of wages /including payment of employment fees and or payment of deposit to commence employment
- 4) Restriction of mobility/movement
- 5) Retention of passport and identity documents
- 6) Threats* of denunciation to the authorities.

2.1.3 The Organization* shall ensure that there is no *discrimination** in employment and *occupation**.

2.1.3.1 *Employment and occupation** practices are non-discriminatory.

2.1.4 The Organization* shall respect freedom of association and the right to *collective bargaining**.

2.1.4.1 *Workers** are able to establish or join *worker organizations** of their own choosing.

2.1.4.2 The Organization* respects the rights of workers to engage in lawful activities related to forming, joining or assisting a *workers'*

*organization**, or to refrain from doing the same; and will not discriminate or punish *workers** for exercising these rights.

2.1.4.3 *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.

2.1.4.4 *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 Systems 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, and women are encouraged to participate actively in all levels of employment.

2.2.3 Work typically carried out by women (nurseries, *silviculture**, *Non-Timber Forest Product** harvesting, weighing, packing, etc.) is included in training and health & safety programs to the same extent as work typically carried out by men.

2.2.4 Women and men are paid the same wage when they do the same work.

2.2.5 Women are paid directly and using mutually agreed methods (e.g. direct bank transfer, etc.) to ensure they safely receive and retain their wages.

2.2.6 Maternity leave is no less than a six-week period after childbirth.

2.2.7 Paternity leave is available and there is no penalty for taking it.

2.2.8 Meetings, management committees and decision-making forums are organized to include women and men, and to facilitate the active participation of both.

2.2.9 Confidential and effective mechanisms exist and are being implemented for reporting, sanctioning, stopping and preventing cases of sexual harassment and *discrimination** based on gender, marital status, parenthood or sexual orientation.

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.**

2.3.1 Health and safety practices are developed and implemented that meet or exceed the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.

Applicability note: Legal requirements are listed in Annex A, Section 3.4. Where needed measures are taken in practice to assure 'Health & Safety' in the *forest**, e. g; through the following non-limitative examples:

- 1) (Flanders) *The Organization** (or its members) only work(s) with forest contractors that are formally recognized by the Flemish system (<https://www.houtverkopen.be/erkenning-regeling-voor-bosexploitanten>), in which safety requirements and their implementation are part of the recognition procedures.
- 2) Specific requirements related to safety are implemented for staff and included in agreements with forest contractors, and where feasible this is checked (e.g. presence of evacuation plan, presence of First Aid qualified person within team, checking certificates of inspection of forest machinery, etc.).

2.3.2 *Workers** have 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 accident rates and lost time to accidents.

SLIMF 2.3.4 The use of health and safety measures by *workers** is checked and known.

2.3.5 The frequency and severity of accidents are consistently low compared to national forest industry averages.

SLIMF 2.3.5 Accident level is compared to national forest industry averages. In case the level is not lower, the reasons are analyzed and the necessary measures taken.

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

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 paid by *The Organization** in all circumstances meet or exceed *legal** minimum wage rates, where such rates exist.

2.4.2 Wages paid meet or exceed recognized wage agreements or *salary scales** in the forest industry.

2.4.3 When no minimum wage levels exist, wages are established through *culturally appropriate* engagement* with workers* and/or formal and informal workers' organizations**.

Applicability note: Minimum wage levels exist in Belgium, as per legislation. For this reason, this *indicator** is considered as not applicable.

2.4.4 Wages, salaries and contracts are paid on time.

- 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** have job specific training consistent with Annex B and supervision to safely and effectively contribute to the implementation of the *management plan** and all management activities.
- 2.5.2 Up to date training records are kept for all relevant *workers**.
- 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 *dispute** resolution process is in place, developed through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *workers**.
- 2.6.2 *Workers** grievances are identified and responded to and are either resolved or are in the *dispute** resolution process.
- 2.6.3 Up-to-date records of *workers** grievances related to *workers** loss or damage of property, *occupational diseases** or injuries are maintained including:
- 1) Steps taken to resolve grievances;
 - 2) Outcomes of all *dispute** resolution processes including *fair compensation**; and
 - 3) Unresolved *disputes**, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.
- 2.6.4 *Fair compensation** is provided to *workers** for work-related loss or damage of property and *occupational disease** or injuries.

PRINCIPLE* 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES* RIGHTS [not applicable for Belgium]

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.

Applicability note: According to the United Nation definition, there are no *Indigenous Peoples** in Belgium. An analysis and sources of *best available information** is included in FSC-CNRA-BE V1-0, *indicator* 2.3*. This *principle** therefore does not apply. Aspects of this *principle** that are transferable to the interests of the local population are considered under *Principle* 4* (relations with the *local community**) and *Principle* 9* (*protection** of sites of cultural and historical value).

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.

3.1.2 Through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with the *Indigenous Peoples** identified in 3.1.1, the following are documented and/or mapped:

- 1) Their legal* and customary rights* of *tenure**;
- 2) Their *legal** and *customary** access to, and *use rights**, of the forest resources and *ecosystem services**,
- 3) Their *legal** and *customary rights** and obligations that apply;
- 4) The evidence supporting these rights and obligations;
- 5) Areas where rights are contested between *Indigenous Peoples**, governments and/or others;
- 6) Summary of the means by which the *legal** and *customary rights** and contested rights, are addressed by *The Organization**; and
- 7) The aspirations and goals of *Indigenous Peoples** related to management activities, *Intact Forest Landscapes** and *Indigenous cultural landscapes**.

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 customary rights* of *Indigenous Peoples** are not violated by *The Organization**.

- 3.2.3 Where evidence exists that legal* and 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 Criteria* 1.6 or 4.6.
- 3.2.4 *Free, prior and informed consent** is granted by *Indigenous Peoples** prior to management activities that affect their identified rights through a process that includes:
- 1) Ensuring *Indigenous Peoples** know their rights and obligations regarding the resource;
 - 2) Informing the *Indigenous Peoples** of the value of the resource, in economic, social and environmental terms;
 - 3) Informing the *Indigenous Peoples** of their right to withhold or modify consent to the proposed management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, *lands and territories**; and
 - 4) Informing the *Indigenous Peoples** of the current and future planned forest management activities.
- 3.2.5 Where the process of *Free Prior and Informed Consent** has not yet resulted in an FPIC agreement, *the Organisation** and the affected *Indigenous Peoples** are engaged in a mutually agreed FPIC process that is advancing, in *good faith** and with which the community is satisfied.
- 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.**
- 3.3.1 Where control over management activities has been granted through *Free Prior and Informed Consent** based on *culturally appropriate* engagement**, the *binding agreement** contains the duration, provisions for renegotiation, renewal, termination, economic conditions and other terms and conditions.
- 3.3.2 Records of *binding agreements** are maintained.
- 3.3.3 The *binding agreement** contains the provision for monitoring by *Indigenous Peoples** of *The Organization**'s compliance with its terms and conditions.
- 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).**
- 3.4.1 The rights, customs and culture of *Indigenous Peoples** as defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 are not 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 *restore** these rights, customs and culture of *Indigenous Peoples**, to the satisfaction of the rights holders.

- 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**.
- 3.5.1 Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance for which *Indigenous Peoples** hold *legal** or *customary rights** are identified through *culturally appropriate* engagement**.
- 3.5.2 Measures to protect such sites are agreed, documented and implemented through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *Indigenous Peoples**. When *Indigenous Peoples** determine that physical identification of sites in documentation or on maps would *threaten** the value or *protection** of the sites, then other means will be used.
- 3.5.3 Wherever sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance are newly observed or discovered, management activities cease immediately in the vicinity until protective measures have been agreed to with the *Indigenous Peoples**, and as directed by local and *national laws**.
- 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.
- 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**.

PRINCIPLE* 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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

Intention note: *Local communities** are identified as groups of rights holders and users. These groups differ depending on the ownership of the *forest**, as follows:

1	All forests*	Hunters with hunting rights
2	All forests*	Persons with an authorization provided by the owner or his representative for picking (mushrooms, ...) or in the framework of specific (scientific) research.
3	Municipality owned forests*	Inhabitants of the municipality and holders of <i>use rights*</i> in the <i>forest*</i> (e.g. estover rights).
4	Any part of the <i>forest*</i> accessible to the public	Associations of users of the <i>forest*</i> for recreational purposes (walkers, cyclists, youth movements, etc.) if <i>forests*</i> are considered accessible to these users
5	Public forests*	Any local resident or associations of local residents involved in the area
6	All forests*	Any owner (public or private) with a plot adjacent to the <i>forest*</i> and likely to be impacted by its management
7	All forests*	Local authorities of the entities in which the <i>forest*</i> area is located and / or adjacent
8	All forests*	Any other specific target group included in the definition of ' <i>local community*</i> ' identified by the <i>organization*</i> , if applicable

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** whose *legal** and *customary use rights** may be affected by management activities are identified.

4.1.2 *Legal** and *customary use rights** (e.g. regarding *tenure**, access, *use rights** such as estovers) are identified in consultation with the *local communities** concerned and, when appropriate, with the relevant municipalities.

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*.

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

- 4.2.2 *The legal* and customary rights* of local communities* to maintain control over 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 in Criteria* 1.6 or 4.6.*
- 4.2.4 When management activities have an impact on the identified rights (4.1), the *local communities** grant their *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** before the start of management operations. *The Organization** makes sure that their contact person(s) are known by the *local communities**.

Applicability note: Where there is a conflict between *customary rights** and the *Principles** and *Criteria** this is considered. This includes situations where *customary rights** have a negative impact on biodiversity, e.g. burning of residual woody debris in the *forest**.

- 4.2.5 Where the process of *Free Prior and Informed Consent** has not yet resulted in an FPIC agreement, *The Organization** and the affected *local communities** are engaged in a mutually agreed FPIC process that is advancing, in *good faith** and with which the community is satisfied.

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 *Reasonable* opportunities are communicated and provided to local communities*, local contractors and local suppliers for:*

- 1) Employment,
- 2) Training, and
- 3) Other services.

SLIMF 4.3.1 Where skills are equal, preference is given to local people and services.

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 Opportunities for local social and economic development are identified through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *local communities** and other relevant organizations.

SLIMF 4.4.1 Opportunities for local social and economic development are identified and encouraged.

- 4.4.2 Projects and additional activities are implemented and/or supported that contribute to local social and economic benefit and are proportionate to the socio-economic impact of management activities.

SLIMF 4.4.2 The use of local products and services is considered.

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 When drafting its *management plan**, *The Organization** identifies *significant** negative social, environmental and economic impacts of management activities. Furthermore, measures are defined and implemented through *stakeholder* engagement** to avoid or attenuate each *significant** negative impact identified.

4.5.2 When a revision of the *management plan** takes place, an analysis is made of possible *significant** negative social, environmental and economic impacts caused by revised elements. Where needed and/or legally required, measures are defined and implemented through *stakeholder* engagement** to avoid or attenuate each *significant** negative impact identified.

Intention note: Where consultation for management planning is required by law, the existing processes should be used or adapted to meet this requirement. In any case, this requirement only concerns *significant** impacts. In the context of this *indicator** this includes impacts which have effects on neighbouring sites or when the local population is directly impacted. These may include, for example, the following:

- 1) Construction measures such as forest road construction necessary to create *infrastructure** within larger areas.
- 2) Forestry operations affecting neighbouring properties or property not owned by *The Organization** in any form or that are of relevance for larger areas.
- 3) Harvesting measures affecting neighbouring properties or where roads located on the property of others must be used for transport activities.
- 4) The designation of *protection areas** and *representative sample areas**.

SLIMF 4.5.2.1 Measures are implemented to avoid and mitigate *significant** negative social, environmental and economic impacts of management activities on affected communities.

SLIMF 4.5.2.2 Upon request, these measures are communicated to neighbours and adjacent landowners before their implementation.

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*.

4.6.1 A *publicly available* dispute** resolution process is in place, developed through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *local communities**.

4.6.2 Grievances related to the impacts of management activities are responded to in a *timely manner**, and are either resolved or are in the *dispute** resolution process.

- 4.6.3 An up-to-date record of grievances related to the impacts of management activities is held including:
- 1) Steps taken to resolve grievances;
 - 2) Outcomes of all *dispute** resolution processes including *fair compensation** to *local communities** and individuals; and
 - 3) Unresolved *disputes**, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.
- 4.6.4 Operations cease in areas while *disputes** exist of:
- 1) *Substantial magnitude**;
 - 2) *Substantial duration**; or
 - 3) Involving a *significant** number of interests.
- 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** or *customary rights** are identified through *culturally appropriate* engagement** and are recognized by *The Organization**.
- 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, then other means will be used.
- 4.7.3 Whenever sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance are newly observed or discovered, management activities cease immediately in the vicinity until protective measures have been agreed to with the *local communities**, and as directed by local and *national laws**.
- 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.**
- 4.8.1 *Traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property** are protected and are only used when the owners of that *traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property** have provided their *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** formalized through a *binding agreement**.
- 4.8.2 *Local communities** are compensated according to the *binding agreement** reached through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** for the use of *traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property**.

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 The range of resources and *ecosystem services** that could strengthen and diversify the local economy are identified.

Applicability note: The resources and *ecosystem services** may, for example, include (non-exhaustive list): *non-timber forest products**, firewood, municipal watersheds, commercial and recreational fisheries or the supply of water to downstream fisheries, visual quality, contributions to regional biodiversity, recreation and tourism.

SLIMF 5.1.1 The *organization** is aware of the range of resources and ecosystem services* that could strengthen and diversify the local economy.

5.1.2 Consistent with *management objectives**, the benefits and products derived from the resources and *ecosystem services** identified are supplied and/or made available in order to enable others to produce them.

SLIMF 5.1.2 Consistent with *management objectives**, *The Organization** considers supplying the services and products derived from the resources and *ecosystem services** and/or making them available in order to enable others to produce them.

5.1.3 When *The Organization** uses FSC *Ecosystem Services** Claims, *The Organization** conforms with applicable requirements in FSC-PRO-30-006.

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 *Timber harvesting levels** are based on a qualified method to determine the timber quantities that can be used sustainably (allowable cut) guaranteeing the sustainability of the forest resource, its capacity for regeneration in the long term and the maintenance of *ecosystem functions** in the *long-term**.

5.2.2 Based on the *timber harvesting level** analysis, the average of the planned annual cut for the planning period does not exceed the timber quantity that can be harvested sustainably.

5.2.3 Actual annual harvest levels for timber are recorded. Following unplanned forest use (e.g., after calamities) that cannot be counterbalanced over the planning period, the allowable harvest levels are adjusted accordingly.

5.2.4 The commercial supply and marketing of services and *non-timber forest products** takes place on the basis of sustainable harvest levels and in accordance with the law.

- 5.3 *The Organization** shall demonstrate that the positive and negative externalities* of operations are included in the *management plan**.**
- 5.3.1 Costs (known costs, budgeted costs or estimates) incurred by *The Organization** and collective benefits available (tax benefits, subsidies, etc.) related to preventing, mitigating or compensating for negative social and environment impacts of management activities are considered if relevant and documented in the *management plan** and/or associated documentation.
- 5.3.2 Benefits related to positive social and environment impacts of management activities are identified and included in the *management plan**.
- 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.**
- 5.4.1 Where cost, quality and capacity are equivalent, local products and services are given priority if this is legally allowed.
- 5.4.2 *Reasonable** attempts are made to establish and encourage 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 funds are allocated to implement the *management plan** in order to meet this standard and to ensure *long-term* economic viability**.
- 5.5.2 Expenditures and investments are made to implement the *management plan** in order to meet this standard and to ensure *long-term* economic viability**.

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.

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.

6.1.1 *Best Available Information** is used to identify *environmental values** within, and, where potentially affected by management activities, outside of the *Management Unit**.

Applicability note: The sources of *best available information** (also see Annex I, HCV Framework) for this Criterion include:

- 1) Field surveys (e.g. using tools such as the Potential Biodiversity Index, PBI)
- 2) Information from *Representative Sample Areas** (Criterion 6.5) and *High Conservation Values** (*Principle** 9)
- 3) Interactions with *stakeholders**
- 4) Consultation with other experts
- 5) *Publicly available** databases and maps
- 6) The assessment of values outside the *Management Unit** will be limited to the *landscape** and will concern other *environmental values** only where a pre-existing framework or recognized role of the *Management Unit** exists (e.g. existence of an ecological network, etc.).

SLIMF 6.1.1 *Best Available Information** is used to identify *environmental values** within, and, where potentially affected by management activities, outside of the *Management Unit**.

Applicability note: SLIMF may use for *Best Available Information** (also see Annex H, HCV Framework) what the forest manager and/or *group entity** knows and observes, and what they learn from neighbours and other local *stakeholders**, together with existing assessments and mapping.

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.

Applicability note: The level of detail and frequency of these evaluations will be proportional to the *scale** and *intensity** of its management activities and the *risks** that they engender.

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 An *environmental impact assessment** identifies potential present and future impacts of management activities on *environmental values**, from the stand level to the *landscape** level.

Applicability note: The level of detail of the *environmental impact assessment** will be proportional to *the scale**, *intensity** and *risk** of potential impacts. Particularly for SLIMF the *landscape** level will generally not have to be addressed.

6.2.2 The *environmental impact assessment** identifies and assesses the impacts of the management activities prior to the start of site-disturbing activities.

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 Management activities are planned and implemented to prevent negative impacts and to protect *environmental values**.

Applicability note: The following measures for supporting the prevention of negative impacts and the *protection** of *environmental values** are recommended:

- 1) Diversification of the vertical and horizontal structure of forest timber stands within the *Management Unit**.
- 2) Diversification of species composition.
- 3) Preference is given to selective or *small-scale** felling instead of *clear-cuts** (see *Indicator** 10.11.1).

6.3.2 Management activities prevent negative impacts to *environmental values**.

6.3.3 Where negative impacts to *environmental values** 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**.**

6.4.1 *Best Available Information** is used to identify *rare and threatened species**, and their *habitats** that are present or likely to be present within and adjacent to the *Management Unit**.

Applicability note: *Best Available Information** includes the information sources listed in Annex D as well as the relevant national and regional legislation listed in Annex A, 3.2.

SLIMF 6.4.1 *Best Available Information** is used to identify *rare and threatened species**, and their *habitats** that are present or likely to be present within and adjacent to the *Management Unit**.

Applicability note: *Best Available Information** includes what the forest manager and/or *group entity** knows and observes, and what they learn from neighbours and other local *stakeholders**, together with existing assessments and mapping (also see Annex D).

6.4.2 Potential impacts of management activities on *rare and threatened species** and their *conservation** status and *habitats** are identified and management activities are modified to avoid negative impacts.

6.4.3 The *rare and threatened species** and their *habitats** are protected, including through the provision of *conservation zones**, *protection areas**, *connectivity**, and other direct means for their survival and viability, such as species' recovery programs.

6.4.4 Hunting, fishing, trapping and collection of *rare or threatened species** is prevented.

SLIMF 6.4.4 *The Organization** supports the competent authorities to prevent illegal hunting, fishing, trapping and collection of *rare or threatened species**.

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.

Applicability note: Compliance with the requirements of this *Criterion** can be verified at group level.

Intention note: The *representative sample areas** mentioned in the *Criterion** are meant to participate in the preservation (6.5.2) and restoration (6.5.3) of the ecological dynamics of naturally occurring *ecosystems** in the *Management Unit**. In the Belgian context, the retention of unmanaged areas (e.g. Unmanaged climax vegetation) can be considered as *Representative sample areas**.

6.5.1 *Best Available Information** (also see Annex H, HCV Framework) is used to identify *native ecosystems** that exist, or would exist under *natural conditions**, within the *Management Unit**. Those *natural conditions** are found in particular in the *conservation areas network** which includes:

- 1) Retention system of *Representative Sample Areas**,
- 2) *Ageing areas**

- 3) Areas of *High Conservation Value** from categories 1, 3 and 4 (*Principle** 9),
- 4) Forest reserves, nature reserves
- 5) Habitat types as defined by the EU *habitats** directive within and outside of Natura 2000 areas
- 6) Other elements of *habitats** and *protection areas** defined and mapped in 6.4, 6.6 and 6.7 (key *habitats**, riparian *forest**, buffer zones, forest associated *habitats**, etc.), as well as diversified forest edges (vertical structure and composition), the areas of which must be estimated and verifiable in the field.

6.5.2 *Representative Sample Areas** of *native ecosystems** are protected, where they exist.

6.5.3 Where *Representative Sample Areas** do not exist, or where existing sample areas inadequately represent *native ecosystems**, or are otherwise insufficient, a proportion of the *Management Unit** is *restored** to more *natural conditions**.

6.5.4 The size of the *Representative Sample Areas** and/or *restoration** areas is proportionate to the *conservation** status and value of the *ecosystems** at the *landscape** level, the size of the *Management Unit** and the *intensity** of forest management.

SLIMF 6.5.4 The size of the *Representative Sample Areas** and/or *restoration** areas should be proportionate to the *conservation** status and value of the *ecosystems** at the *landscape** level, the size of the *Management Unit** and the *intensity** of forest management.

6.5.5 *Representative Sample Areas** represent at least 5% of the area of the certificate and in combination with other components of the *conservation areas network** represent together at least 10% of the area in the scope of the certificate.

Intention note: The minimum of 10% dedicated to the *Conservation Area Network** is generally expected to increase from the 10% minimum as the size, *intensity** of management, and/or the status and value of *ecosystems** at the *landscape** level each increase.

Applicability note: Conformity with this requirement can be demonstrated across *Management Units** rather than at the level of the individual *Management Unit** for SLIMF *Management Units** in forest management groups. Non-SLIMF *Management Units** always need to conform with this requirement in each *Management Unit**.

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 the plant communities and *habitat features** found within *native ecosystems** in which the *Management Unit** is located. This includes:

a) An operational biotope wood and dead wood strategy is adopted and integrated within the *management plan**. Minimum requirements:

- 1) All dead trees standing or on the ground are maintained in order to have at least 4% of standing volume in dead wood (which may correspond to 5 representative trees, that is around 10m³/ha, as an indicative basis).
- 2) *Biotope trees** that are to remain in the forest *long-term** and left to age naturally: a minimum average of 2 living *biotope-trees**/ha with a *long-term objective** of 5 living biotope-trees*/ha.
- 3) *Ageing areas**, which are normally demarcated around *biotope trees** or dead wood are identified.

b) A strategy to improve structural variation is adopted and integrated within the *management plan**. Minimum requirements:

- 1) A guiding value of an average of at least 10 % of the area of the *Management Unit** belonging to the group 'uneven aged forest' is sought.
- 2) Taking into account existing natural open areas and their retention as an added value for the forest *ecosystem**.

c) An operational strategy is adopted and integrated within the *management plan** in order to maintain the various *native species** and their genetic diversity consistent with the characteristics of the sites. Minimum requirements:

- 1) The use of stands is adapted to the site.
- 2) In natural forest stands, the promotion of a composition, dynamic and structure that is close to that of *natural* forest associations.
- 3) In *natural* forest stands, the proportion (%) of *alien species** is not increased by natural regeneration or enrichment, and is reduced in the case where the presence of *alien species** impacts the state of conservation.
- 4) In *Management Units** comprising mostly or exclusively of *plantations**, the promotion of methods of management and stand renewal that will take the proportion of *native species** within the *Management Unit** to a minimum of 10% of the surface area.

Applicability note: a) *Biotope tree** designation for biodiversity conservation purposes depends on the *silvicultural** practices applied and on the maturity of the stands concerned. Two cases may arise:

- 1) stands whose maturity is sufficient for there to be existing *biotope trees** or to favour their natural emergence in the short term (within the *management plan** period);
- 2) stands whose actual age and/or harvest age is less than 75 years, which compromises the presence or natural emergence of *biotope trees** in the short term.

In the first case, *biotope trees** are designated gradually over successive interventions (inventory, marking of trees for felling, definitive cutting or thinning). The targeted average density (minimum 2 trees/ha) is calculated on stands where maturity is sufficient for there to be habitat-trees present.

In the second case, a realistic strategy for *biotope tree** designation is defined and the targeted average density to be reached is revised in the medium term (longer than the *management plan** period).

In any case, *biotope tree** designation will focus on maximizing the impact for biodiversity and will take into account *risks** related to the safety of property and people, any phytosanitary *risks** identified, collective dieback and natural disasters.

6.6.2 Where past management has eliminated plant communities or *habitat features**, management activities aimed at re-establishing such *habitats** are implemented.

6.6.3 Management maintains, enhances, or *restores** *habitat features** associated with *native ecosystems**, to support the diversity of naturally occurring species and their genetic diversity.

6.6.4 Effective measures are taken to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting activities to ensure that naturally occurring *native species**, their diversity within species and their natural distribution are maintained. This includes:

a) Where other forest uses (e.g., hunting, fishing, gathering and recreation) impair *rare species** or *endangered species** or *biotopes**, *The Organization** works towards adapting these activities accordingly.

b) The presence of big game (wild boar and deer) and their density must be balanced with the regeneration capacity of tree species and vegetation associated with the *natural forest**. To ensure this, the following measures must be adopted:

- 1) Evaluate the forest-game balance by using all the possibilities that are within the scope of / available to the forest manager such as, for example, and without being exhaustive: the regular recording of browsing and bark damage by recognized methods, the use of 'fenced enclosures'* devices, the identification of measures taken for the *protection** of regeneration and *plantations**.
- 2) Based on the evaluations made at the previous point and in case of imbalance, the owner must mobilize all possible actions in order to reduce the pressure of the big game on his property, including:
 - i. ensure that the provisions of the hunting lease are properly implemented, in particular in terms of damage compensation, the costs of *protection** measures, replanting;
 - ii. determine, in consultation with hunting rights holders, minimum hunting quota in order to reduce the pressure of big game and restore target densities;
 - iii. Ensure compliance with regulatory hunting plans or fixed quota when they are included in the hunting lease;
 - iv. if necessary, work towards augmenting the hunting quota or where relevant and possible (like currently in Wallonia), activate a "demand for the destruction of big game";
 - v. any other relevant action
- 3) Artificial or 'hidden' feeding (e.g. corn parcel with no agricultural purpose) under the control of the owner/manager is prohibited in order to avoid maintaining or even developing a too high density of

big game in or outside the *Management Unit**. Any current hunting lease that, in accordance with the law, would authorize feeding must be reviewed accordingly at the latest when it is renewed. Baiting is allowed where the need is justified to enable efficient hunting.

Applicability note: The analysis of the pressure of big game, its density and the balance of forest and game be done on a case-by-case basis and take into account the specifics of the environment: type of habitat (poor, intermediate, rich), densities identified by the administration, factor of tranquility, place of passage, presence of feeding place/refuge zone, etc.

For SLIMF forests (<100ha), the use of one or more 'fenced enclosure(s)' is recommended. For non-SLIMF forests (> 100ha) in which game pressure is observed, the establishment of a network of 'fenced enclosures' is recommended on the basis of an average target of minimum 5 'fenced enclosures' / 1000ha. This type of device (on indicative basis, corresponding to a 'fenced area' of at least 4 meters by 4 meters and 2 meters high) should be installed in the most relevant areas (areas with high regeneration potential).

For properties over 200 hectares, the owner should be responsible for the clauses of the specifications that would allow him to terminate the hunting lease in case of forest-game imbalance and non-cooperation of the lease taker.

Intention note: As problems related to forest-game imbalance should be managed at the *forest massif** level, it is clear that forest owners and managers may only have partial control of the regulation of game populations. This *indicator** is intended to encourage owners and managers to maximize the opportunities for intervention afforded to them within the existing regulatory framework.

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 *Protection** measures are implemented to protect natural watercourses, *water bodies**, *riparian zones** and their *connectivity**, including water quantity and water quality. This includes but is not limited to:

- 1) Natural watercourses and *water bodies**, wetlands and *riparian zones** are identified and mapped, and are the subject of *protection** measures.
- 2) A minimum 10-meter-wide buffer zone is maintained along the banks of natural *water bodies** and watercourses. The necessary restrictions for forestry operations to avoid negative impacts there are defined and no *clear-cutting** is performed there. Exceptions are only possible in case of *legal** obligations, e.g. related to maintenance work along *water bodies**.
- 3) *The Organization** promotes the build-up of continuous cover of tree species of the *natural* forest association along watercourses and open water surfaces, alternating with natural open areas where they exist.

- 4) *The Organization** gradually removes trees of species not belonging to the *natural forest association* from alongside *water bodies** and watercourses.
 - 5) As long as the safety and protective functions as well as obligations toward third parties are guaranteed, no drainage systems will be constructed, maintained, or improved.
 - 6) No obstacle to water flow and fish movement is created.
 - 7) Existing artificial blockages are removed or eliminated when *The Organization** has the authority to do so.
 - 8) Prior to the start of any activity with potential negative impact on natural watercourses or *water bodies**, existing recognized participatory management structures (like 'river contract') are consulted.
- 6.7.2 Where implemented *protection** measures do not protect watercourses, *water bodies**, *riparian zones** and their *connectivity**, water quantity or water quality from impacts of forest management, restoration activities are implemented.
- 6.7.3 Where natural watercourses, *water bodies**, *riparian zones** and their *connectivity**, water quantity or water quality have been damaged by past activities on land and water by *The Organization**, *restoration activities** are implemented.
- 6.7.4 Where continued degradation exists to watercourses, *water bodies**, water quantity and water quality caused by previous managers and the activities of third parties, measures are implemented that prevent or mitigate this degradation.
- 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**.
- 6.8.2 The mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales*, and regeneration cycles is *restored** where it has not been maintained appropriate to the *landscape**.
- 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**.**

6.9.1 There is no conversion of *natural forest** to *plantations**, nor conversion of *natural forests** to non-forest* land use, nor conversion of *plantations** on sites directly converted from natural forest* to non-forest* land use, except when:

- 1) the conversion meets at least one of the following three options:
 - a) It does not affect more than 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**; or
 - b) It is carried out in order to restore *High Conservation Value Areas** or areas of recognized social or ecological value; or
 - c) It is performed within the framework of conversion to another use that is the subject of compensatory afforestation enshrined in law.

and

- 2) resultant disadvantages for nature *protection** are compensated clearly, securely and in the *long-term** within *The Organization**; and
- 3) The conversion does not damage or threaten *High Conservation Values**, nor 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**.**

6.10.1 Based on *Best Available Information**, accurate data is compiled on all conversions 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.

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.

7.1.1 *The Organization** possesses a written policy with ecological, social and economic **objectives*** that contribute to the implementation of this standard.

SLIMF 7.1.1 Policies (visions and values) that contribute to meeting the requirements of this standard are either defined in the management instruments or at least voiced verbally.

7.1.2 Specific, operational **management objectives*** that address the requirements of this standard are defined.

7.1.3 Summaries of the defined policies and **management objectives*** are included in the **management plan*** and publicized.

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 measures to achieve the **management objectives*** over a minimum period of 20 years.

7.2.2 *The management plan** addresses the elements listed in Annex E and is implemented.

SLIMF 7.2.2 *The management plan** and/or supporting documents address the elements listed in Annex E as far as the element applies to *The Organization**, and is implemented.

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***.

Applicability note: The variables for which targets are established may, for example, include (non-exhaustive list):

- 1) Site productivity, yield of all products harvested;
- 2) Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the vegetation;
- 3) Composition and possible observed changes in the flora and fauna;
- 4) Water quality and quantity;
- 5) Soil erosion, compaction, fertility and carbon content;
- 6) Wildlife populations, *biodiversity** and status of *High Conservation Values**;
- 7) The capacity of the *forest** to ensure and to deliver the diversity of the intrinsic functioning of *ecosystems** (state *indicators**) and the diversity of services (impact *indicators**) in the *long-term**.

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 incorporate:

- 1) Results of monitoring and evaluation, including results of certification audits;
- 2) *Stakeholder* engagement** results;
- 3) New scientific and technical information, and
- 4) Changing environmental, social, or economic circumstances.

Applicability note: See Annex F for information about the periodicity for revision of the various management planning and monitoring documents.

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 *The management plan**, or a summary thereof in a format comprehensible to *stakeholders** including maps and excluding *confidential information** is made *publicly available** at no cost.

7.5.2 Relevant components of the *management plan**, excluding *confidential information**, are available to *affected stakeholders** on request at the actual costs of reproduction 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.

7.6.1 *Culturally appropriate* engagement** is used to ensure that *affected stakeholders** are proactively and transparently engaged in the following processes:

- 1) *Dispute** resolution processes (*Criterion** 1.6, *Criterion** 2.6, *Criterion** 4.6);
- 2) Identification of rights (*Criterion** 4.1), sites (*Criterion** 4.7) and impacts (*Criterion** 4.5);
- 3) *Local communities*** socio-economic development activities (*Criterion** 4.4); and
- 4) *High Conservation Value** assessment, management and monitoring (*Criterion** 9.1, *Criterion** 9.2, *Criterion** 9.4).

SLIMF 7.6.1 *Culturally appropriate* engagement** is used to ensure that *affected stakeholders** are able to provide input into development of the following elements:

- 1) *Dispute** resolution processes (*Criterion** 1.6, *Criterion** 2.6, *Criterion** 4.6);
- 2) Identification of rights (*Criterion** 4.1), sites (*Criterion** 4.7) and impacts (*Criterion** 4.5);
- 3) *Local communities*** socio-economic development activities (*Criterion** 4.4); and
- 4) *High Conservation Value** assessment, management and monitoring (*Criterion** 9.1, *Criterion** 9.2, *Criterion** 9.4)

7.6.2 *Culturally appropriate* engagement** is used to:

- 1) Determine appropriate representatives and contact points (including where appropriate, local institutions, organizations and authorities);
- 2) Determine mutually agreed communication channels allowing for information to flow in both directions;
- 3) Ensure all actors (women, youth, elderly, minorities) are represented and engaged equitably;
- 4) Ensure all meetings, all points discussed and all agreements reached are recorded;
- 5) Ensure the content of meeting records is approved; and
- 6) Ensure the results of all *culturally appropriate* engagement** activities are shared with those involved.

7.6.3 *Affected rights holders** and *affected stakeholders** are provided an opportunity for *culturally appropriate* engagement** in monitoring and planning processes of management activities that affect their interests.

SLIMF 7.6.3 *Culturally appropriate* engagement** is completed with *affected stakeholders** to ensure that their concerns are addressed in the development and implementation of management and monitoring activities.

- 7.6.4 On request, *interested stakeholders** are provided with an opportunity for *engagement** in monitoring and planning processes 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**.

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.

8.2.1 The social and environmental impacts of management activities are *monitored** consistent with Annex G.

8.2.2 Changes in environmental conditions are *monitored** consistent with Annex G.

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 *Adaptive management** procedures are implemented so that monitoring results feed into periodic updates to the planning process and the resulting *management plan**.

8.3.2 If monitoring results show non-conformities 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 A summary of the monitoring results consistent with Annex G, in a format comprehensible to *stakeholders** including maps and excluding *confidential information** is made *publicly available** at no cost.

8.5 **The Organization*** shall have and implement a tracking and tracing system proportionate to *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.

8.5.1 A system is implemented to track and trace all products that are marketed as FSC certified. As part of that:

- 1) *Transaction verification** is supported by providing *FSC transaction** data, as requested by the certification body;
- 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.

SLIMF 8.5.1 A system is implemented to track and trace all products that are marketed as FSC certified.

- 8.5.2 Information about all products sold is compiled and documented, including:
- 1) Common and scientific species name;
 - 2) Product name or description;
 - 3) Volume (or quantity) of product;
 - 4) Information to trace the material to the source of origin logging block;
 - 5) Logging date;
 - 6) If basic processing activities take place in the *forest**, the date and volume produced; and
 - 7) Whether or not the material was sold as FSC certified.

SLIMF 8.5.2 Information about all products sold is available (e.g. in the form of sales invoices or product summaries), including:

- 1) Common and scientific species name;
- 2) Product name or description;
- 3) Volume (or quantity) of product;
- 4) Information to trace the material to the source of origin logging block;
- 5) Logging date;
- 6) If basic processing activities take place in the *forest**, the date and volume produced; and
- 7) Whether or not the material was sold as FSC certified.

8.5.3 Sales invoices or similar documentation are kept for a minimum of five years for all products sold with an FSC claim, which identify at a minimum, the following information:

- 1) Name and address of purchaser;
- 2) The date of sale;
- 3) Common and scientific 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***.

Applicability note: *Intact Forest Landscapes** as defined in the FSC International Generic *Indicators** and by Global Forest Watch are not present in Belgium. All *indicators** related to *Intact Forest Landscapes** have been greyed out because they are not applicable.

9.1 The Organization*, through **engagement*** with **affected stakeholders***, **interested stakeholders*** and other means and sources, shall assess and record the presence and status of the following **High Conservation Values*** in the **Management Unit***, proportionate to the **scale***, **intensity*** and **risk*** of impacts of management activities, and likelihood of the occurrence of the **High Conservation 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** and large *landscape**-level *ecosystems** and *ecosystem** mosaics that are *significant** at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.**

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 livelihoods, 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 An assessment is completed using *Best Available Information** and in accordance with the Annex H (HCV Framework) that records the location and status of *High Conservation Value** Categories 1-6, as defined in *Criterion** 9.1; the *High Conservation Value Areas** they rely upon, and their condition.

9.1.2 [not applicable for Belgium] This assessment includes identification of *Intact Forest Landscapes**, as of January 1, 2017.

9.1.3 The assessment uses results from *culturally appropriate** *engagement** with *affected rights holders** and *affected** and *interested stakeholders** with an interest in the *conservation** of the *High Conservation Values**.

SLIMF 9.1.3 The assessment uses results from *culturally appropriate** *engagement** with *affected** and *interested stakeholders** with an interest in the *conservation** of the *High Conservation Values** based on *Best Available Information** (Annex H).

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 *High Conservation Values** 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.

Applicability note: This is done in accordance with the Annex H (HCV Framework).

9.2.3 *Affected rights holders**, *affected** and *interested stakeholders** and experts are engaged in the development of management strategies and actions to maintain and/or enhance the identified *High Conservation Values**.

9.2.4 [not applicable for Belgium] Management strategies are developed to *protect* core areas**.

9.2.5 [not applicable for Belgium] The vast majority* of each *Intact Forest Landscape** is designated as *core area**.

9.2.6 The strategies developed are effective to maintain and/or enhance the *High Conservation Values**.

9.2.7 [not applicable for Belgium] Management strategies allow limited *industrial activity** within *core areas** only if all effects of *industrial activity** including *fragmentation**:

1) Are restricted to a *very limited portion** of the *core area**;

2) Do not reduce the *core area** below 50,000 ha, and

3) Will produce clear, substantial, additional, *long-term** conservation and social benefits

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 *High Conservation Values** and the *High Conservation Value Areas** on which they depend are maintained and/or enhanced, including by implementing the strategies developed.

9.3.2 The strategies and actions prevent damage and avoid *risks** to *High Conservation Values**, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of *High Conservation Values** are uncertain.

SLIMF 9.3.2 The strategies and actions prevent damage and avoid *risks** to *High Conservation Values** based on a *precautionary approach**.

9.3.3 [not applicable for Belgium] *Core areas** are *protected** consistent with *Criterion** 9.2.

9.3.4 [not applicable for Belgium] Limited *industrial activity** in *core areas** is consistent with *Indicator** 9.2.7.

9.3.5 Activities that harm *High Conservation Values** cease immediately and actions are taken to *restore** and protect the *High Conservation Values**.

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 strategies;
- 2) The status of *High Conservation Values**, including *High Conservation Value Areas** on which they depend; and
- 3) The effectiveness of the management strategies and actions for the *protection** of *High Conservation Values**, to fully maintain and/or enhance the *High Conservation Values**.

9.4.2 The monitoring program includes *engagement** with *affected rights holders**, *affected* and *interested stakeholders** and experts.

SLIMF 9.4.2 The monitoring program includes *engagement** with local *stakeholders** and experts, together with existing monitoring and mapping.

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

9.4.4 Management strategies and actions are adapted when monitoring or other new information show that these strategies and actions are insufficient to ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of *High Conservation Values**.

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**.

10.1.1 Harvested sites are regenerated in a *timely manner** that:

- 1) Protects affected *environmental values**; and
- 2) Is suitable to recover overall *pre-harvest** or *natural forest** composition and structure.

10.1.2 Regeneration activities are implemented in a manner that:

- 1) For harvest of existing *plantations**, regenerate to the vegetation cover that existed prior to the harvest or to more *natural conditions** using ecologically well-adapted species;
- 2) For harvest of *natural forests**, regenerate to *pre-harvest** or to more *natural conditions**; or
- 3) For harvest of degraded natural *forests**, regenerate to more *natural conditions**.

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**. Justification should include:

- 1) Latest recommendations made by forest research bodies, particularly where climate change is concerned (in terms of adaptability).
- 2) Growth rates of adapted and *native species** are below the *management objectives**
- 3) Afforestation of agriculture and range lands
- 4) Maintenance of *protection** functions

10.2.1.1 When non-*native species** are chosen, their potential negative impact is known and minimized.

Intention note: On an indicative basis, the following impacts in particular should be studied:

- 1) Impacts on soil structure and fertility;
- 2) Impacts on the quality and quantity of water resources;
- 3) Impacts on *landscapes** at relevant *scales**;
- 4) Impacts on vegetation dynamics, *habitat** conservation and species composition (e.g. entomofauna, birdlife and mycorrhizal fungi);

- 5) Local socio-economic impacts (employment, recreational use, etc.).

Applicability note: In Wallonia, artificial regenerations are made in accordance with the 'Fichier écologique des essences' <https://fichierecologique.be/>. In addition, *The Organization** will take into account the recommended provenances implicitly updated by the regular edition of the Dictionary of recommended provenances for forestry in Wallonia

<http://environnement.wallonie.be/orvert/dictionnaire.html>

- 10.2.2 Species chosen for regeneration are consistent with the regeneration *objectives** and with the *management 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 *Alien species** are used only when direct experience and/or the results of scientific research demonstrate that invasive impacts can be controlled.

- 10.3.2 *Alien species** are used only when effective mitigation measures are in place to control their spread outside the area in which they are established.

- 10.3.3 The spread of *invasive species** introduced by *The Organization** is controlled.

- 10.3.4 Management activities are implemented, preferably in cooperation with separate regulatory bodies where these exist, with an aim to control the invasive impacts of *alien species** that were not introduced by *The Organization**.

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

- 10.4.1 *Genetically modified organisms** 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 are implemented that are ecologically appropriate for the vegetation, species, sites and *management objectives**.

Intention note: Continuous cover forestry practices are preferred wherever possible. In all cases, the choice of *silvicultural** practices is justified on the basis of the ecological impacts expected. Also see recommended measures in *Indicator** 6.3.1.

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.

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

10.6.2 When *fertilizers** are used, their ecological and economic benefits are equal to or higher than those of *silvicultural** systems that do not require *fertilizers**.

10.6.3 When *fertilizers** are used, their types, rates, frequencies and site of application are documented.

10.6.4 When *fertilizers** are used, *environmental values** are protected, including through implementation of measures to prevent damage. *Protection** measures include:

1) The prohibition of use less than 10m from the edge of protected areas, watercourses, *water bodies**, ditches, permanent or intermittent water sources and wetlands. Where the legislation requires wider buffer zones, this is respected.

2) The prohibition of the use of chemical *fertilizers**.

On degraded sites (e.g acidification) in protected areas and their buffer zones it is allowed to add (non-artificial) soil amendments in the planting hole to increase the survival chances of the plants.

10.6.5 Damage to *environmental values** resulting from *fertilizer** use is mitigated or repaired.

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.

10.7.1 Integrated pest management, including selection of *silviculture** systems, is used to avoid, or aimed to eliminate, the frequency, extent and amount of chemical *pesticide** applications, and result in non-use or overall reductions in applications. *Pesticides** are only used and justified in the following circumstances:

1) The need for them is recognized by an *expert** with authority (forest administration or other competent authorities),

2) The vitality and future of target species are compromised,

3) *The Organization** notifies the certifier of the use of *pesticides** in advance and justifies and documents this for the purposes of subsequent assessment.

4) *The Organization** also demonstrates compliance with *legal** regulations.

Applicability note: Further information on the FSC Pesticides Policy, as well as the list of *pesticides** whose use is banned, is available on the dedicated website <https://fsc.org/en/details-page/pesticides-policy>. A database including alternative strategies, practices or products is available on <http://pesticides.fsc.org/>.

- 10.7.2 Chemical *pesticides** prohibited by FSC's Pesticide Policy are not used or stored in the *Management Unit** unless FSC has granted derogation.
- 10.7.3 Records of *pesticide** usage are maintained, including trade name, active ingredient, quantity of active ingredient used, period of use, location and area of use and reason for use.
- 10.7.4 The use of *pesticides** complies with legislation applicable in Belgium or by default with the ILO document "Safety in the use of chemicals at work" regarding requirements for the transport, storage, handling, application and emergency procedures for cleanup following accidental spillages.

Applicability note: For more information about the authorized pesticides and their conditions of use, consult the website: <http://www.fytoweb.fgov.be> as well as the website of the Regional Committee PHYTO (for Wallonia): www.crphyto.be.

- 10.7.5 If *pesticides** are used, application methods minimize quantities used, while achieving effective results, and provide effective *protection** to surrounding *landscapes**.
- 10.7.6 Damage to *environmental values** and human health from *pesticide** use is prevented and mitigated or repaired where damage occurs.
- 10.7.7 When *pesticides** are used:
 - 1) The selected *pesticide**, application method, timing and pattern of use offers the least *risk** to humans and non-target species; and
 - 2) *Objective** evidence demonstrates that the *pesticide** is the only effective, practical and cost-effective way to control the pest.

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**.**

- 10.8.1 The use of *biological control agents** is minimized, monitored and controlled.
- 10.8.2 Use of *biological control agents** complies with national legislation and the scientific protocols accepted at national level.

Intention note: *The Organization** advocates that priority be given to *biological control agents** over chemical *pesticides**.

- 10.8.3 The use of *biological control agents** is recorded including type, quantity, period, location and reason for use.
- 10.8.4 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 Potential negative impacts of *natural hazards**, mainly fire, drought, erosion, flooding, storms and insect or disease outbreaks on *infrastructure**, forest resources and *local communities** in the *Management Unit** are assessed.

10.9.2 Management activities mitigate these impacts.

SLIMF 10.9.2 Where capacity and resources allow, management activities mitigate potential unacceptable negative impacts of natural hazards. If capacity or resources do not allow, *The Organization** or manager communicates with government or relevant local organizations about mitigation capacity and possibilities.

10.9.3 The *risk** for management activities to increase the frequency, distribution or severity of *natural hazards** is identified for those *hazards** that may be influenced by management.

10.9.4 Management activities are modified and/or measures are developed and implemented that reduce the identified *risks**.

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.

10.10.1 Development, maintenance and use of *infrastructure**, as well as transport activities, are managed to protect *environmental values** identified in *Criterion** 6.1.

10.10.2 *Silviculture** activities are managed to ensure *protection** of the *environmental values** identified in *Criterion** 6.1.

10.10.3 Disturbance or damages to watercourses, *water bodies**, soils, *rare and threatened species**, *habitats**, *ecosystems** and *landscape values** are prevented, mitigated and repaired in a *timely manner**, and management activities modified to prevent further damage.

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.

10.11.1 Harvesting and extraction practices for timber and *non-timber forest products** are implemented in a manner that conserves *environmental values** as identified in *Criterion** 6.1 and *High Conservation Values** identified in *Criteria** 9.1 and 9.2. This includes:

- 1) Benzene-free fuels and biologically degradable oils / hydraulic fluids are used in machines and equipment if it's technically possible to use them.
- 2) All employees and contractors working in the *forest**, especially machine operators, are familiar with emergency measures to bind and dispose of leakage of oil and chemicals. All machines with oil hydraulic parts are equipped with so-called 'emergency kits' (binder, collecting vessels, etc.) in case of damage.

- 3) Soil damage and compaction whilst harvest or any other activity is minimised. The logging must be done according to a planned and systematic method. Driving should be done mainly on skidding lines.
- 4) Grubbing is prohibited except for sanitary reasons (soil pathogens) justified by an expert authority.
- 5) Eventual soil preparation measures do not extend to the mineral soil. When in exceptional cases in order to prepare for regeneration with site-appropriate tree species of the *natural forest** association any exposure of the mineral soil is present, then this exposure is limited to planting holes or strips.
- 6) Preference is given to selective or small-scale* felling instead of *clear-cuts**. *Clear-cuts**, if they occur, should be limited to 1 ha in broadleaved *forests** and 3 ha in conifer *forests** or *plantation** of poplars. *Clear-cuts** for converting non-native stands into native stands should also be limited to a maximum of 3 hectares. *Clear-cuts** on slopes should be limited to 1 ha for slopes between 15-30° and to 0.5 ha for slopes above 30°.
- 7) In order to preserve a certain continuity of forest cover, the potential negative impacts of *clear-cuts** are assessed and mitigated, e.g. regarding habitat *connectivity**, *landscape values** or *risk** of wind damage for the remaining stand. Whenever possible connecting corridors are maintained.

10.11.2 Harvesting practices optimize the use of forest products and merchantable materials and prevent or reduce damage caused to other products and services.

Applicability note: Examples of other products and services see Criterion 5.1.

10.11.3 Sufficient amounts of dead and decaying biomass and forest structure are retained to conserve *environmental values**.

10.11.4 Harvesting practices avoid damage to standing residual trees, the natural regeneration, residual woody debris on the ground and other *environmental values**. *The Organization** ensures that:

- 1) Residual woody debris up to 7cm diameter must remain in the stand so that the *long-term** nutrient supply is not endangered.
- 2) For extractions up to a diameter of 4cm, it is demonstrated that such practices do not decrease soil fertility.

Applicability note: It is allowed to collect woody debris into piles within the forest stand if this is justified, e.g. for the maintenance of open spaces, for recreational purposes or in preparation of planting.

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

10.12.1 Collection, clean up, transportation and disposal of all *waste materials** is done in compliance with environmental safety methods and *legal** requirements and in an environmentally appropriate way that conserves *environmental values** as identified in *Criterion** 6.1.

F Annexes

Annex A Minimum list of *applicable laws**, regulations and *nationally-ratified** international treaties, conventions and agreements (*Principle* 1*)

Intention note: The following non-exhaustive list of references needs to be considered as the best available sources at the time of the development of this standard. Changes over time are expected and are taken into consideration. If any additional legislation applies, *The Organization** shall also comply with it.

Note: Information in italics is based on the analysis in FSC-CNRA-BE V1-0 EN 2017-05-18

1. Legal* rights to harvest	
1.1 Land <i>tenure*</i> and management rights	<p>Legislation covering land <i>tenure*</i> rights, including <i>customary rights*</i> as well as management rights, that includes the use of <i>legal*</i> methods to obtain <i>tenure*</i> rights and management rights. It also covers <i>legal*</i> business registration and tax registration, including relevant legally required licenses.</p> <p>Belgium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Civil Law ('Burgerlijk Wetboek' / 'Code Civil' 21.03.1804), Book II, Title IV, art. 516-710 (goods and limits of property), specifically articles 637 and the following (customary rights*)</i>; - <i>Wet van 4 November 1969 and subsequent amendments – Civil Law, Book III, Title VIII, Chapter II, Section 3 (rules on land lease)</i> - <i>Veldwetboek / Code rural 1886, article 29</i>; - <i>Boswetboek / Code forestier 1854 (Title XI)</i>; - <i>Wetboek van Strafvordering / Code d'instruction criminelle 17.11.1808 and more recent amendments (articles 16-21, partly abrogated)</i>. - <i>Law on income taxes ('Wetboek van de Inkomstenbelastingen' / 'Code des impôts sur les revenus') 1992 – including Title IX. 'Kadastraal inkomen van onroerende goederen' / 'Le 47dminis cadastral des biens immobiliers'</i> <p>Specifically for Flanders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Forest Decree 1990 (Chapter IX), art. 51 (rights of forest use) and art. 10 (accessibility of the forest)</i> - <i>Besluit erkenning exploitanten 2002 (recognition of companies harvesting wood)</i> <p>Specifically for Wallonia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Décret du 15 juillet 2008 relatif au Code forestier (Forest Code)</i> - <i>Code des droits d'enregistrement, d'hypothèque et de greffe, Title I. Droit d'enregistrement, Chapter IV, Section I. Transmissions à titre onéreux de biens immeubles (on registration fees for immovables)</i>
1.2 Concession licenses	<p>Legislation regulating procedures for issuing forest concession licenses, including the use of <i>legal*</i> methods to obtain concession licenses. Bribery, corruption and nepotism are particularly well-known issues that are connected with concession licenses.</p> <p><i>N/A. There are no concessions for harvesting wood from the forest*, only concessions for hunting and for the use of real estate in forests*</i></p>

	<p><i>owned by the government and managed by the forest* and nature administration.</i></p>
1.3 Management and harvesting planning	<p>Any national or sub-national <i>legal*</i> requirements for Management Planning, including conducting forest inventories, having a forest <i>management plan*</i> and related planning and monitoring, impact assessments, consultation with other entities, as well as approval of these by <i>legally competent*</i> authorities.</p> <p>Belgium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Federal law of 6 May 1999 on the creation of forest owner groups (“Loi visant à promouvoir la 48minist de sociétés civiles de groupements forestiers”)</i> <p>Flanders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Forest Decree (‘Bosdecreet’) 1990, article 41b (on forest owner groups, ‘bosgroepen’), article 41quater (on forest inventories), articles 43 and 47 (on management plans);</i> - <i>Besluit van de Vlaamse Regering betreffende de beheerplannen van bossen van 27 juni 2003 (on forest management plans);</i> - <i>Nature Decree (‘Natuurdecreet’) 1997, for forests situated in the Flemish Ecological Network (‘Vlaams Ecologisch Netwerk’, VEN)</i> - <i>Decree of 25 april 2014 ‘tot wijziging van de regelgeving betreffende natuur en bos’ (amending act to the Forest Decree 1990, Nature Decree 1997 and other decrees)</i> <p>Wallonia :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Décret du 15 juillet 2008 relatif au Code forestier (Forest Law) –</i> <i>Chapitre II, Articles 8 – 11 (on the permanent inventory of forest resources) and Article 31 (on forest protection* in the management plan)</i> <i>Chapitre III, Articles 57 – 70 (on management plans)</i>
1.4 Harvesting permits	<p>National or sub-<i>national laws*</i> and regulations regulating procedures for issuing harvesting permits, licenses or other <i>legal*</i> documents required for specific harvesting operations. This includes the use of <i>legal*</i> methods to obtain the permits. Corruption is a well-known issue that is connected with the issuing of harvesting permits.</p> <p>Belgium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Veldwetboek / Code rural 1886 (art. 90)</i> - <i>Strafwetboek / Code d’instruction criminelle 1808 (art. 537)</i> <p>Flanders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Forest Act (‘Bosdecreet’) 1990 (articles 20, 50, 62, 66, 79, 81 and 97)</i> - <i>Decreet Ruimtelijke Ordening (1999) article 99 (on urbanism permits)</i> - <i>B.VI. Reg. of 8 November 2002 (on admission/recognition of wood buyers and harvesters)</i>

	<p>Wallonia :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Décret du 15 juillet 2008 relatif au Code forestier – Titre IV, Chapitre VI (on forest exploitation), Article 80 (harvesting permit)</i> - <i>Cahier des charges pour la vente des coupes de bois dans les forêts de la Région wallonne (Forêts domaniales) et dans les forêts des administrations subordonnées, particularly chapter V, article 28 (on the harvesting permit for exploitation in public forests owned by the Walloon Region and other administrations)</i>
2. Taxes and fees	
2.1 Payment of royalties and harvesting fees	<p>Legislation covering payment of all legally required forest harvesting specific fees such as royalties, stumpage fees and other volume-based fees. This includes payments of the fees based on the correct classification of quantities, qualities and species. Incorrect classification of forest products is a well-known issue that is often combined with bribery of officials in charge of controlling the classification.</p> <p><i>N/A. There are no legally required forest harvesting specific fees in Belgium.</i></p>
2.2 Value added taxes and other sales taxes	<p>Legislation covering different types of sales taxes which apply to the material being sold, including the sale of material as growing forest* (standing stock sales).</p> <p>Belgium:</p> <p><i>Law concerning the introduction of legislation on value added tax (1969) and subsequent law amendments</i></p>
2.3 Income and profit taxes	<p>Legislation covering income and profit taxes related to profit derived from the sale of forest products and harvesting activities. This category is also related to income from the sale of timber and does not include other taxes generally applicable for companies and is not related to salary payments.</p> <p>Belgium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Law on income taxes ('Wetboek van de Inkomstenbelastingen' / 'Code des impôts sur les revenus') 1992 – including Title IX.</i> - <i>'Kadastraal inkomen van onroerende goederen' / 'Le revenu cadastral des biens immobiliers'</i>
3. Timber harvesting activities	
3.1 Timber harvesting regulations	<p>Any <i>legal</i>* requirements for harvesting techniques and technology including selective cutting, shelter wood regenerations, clear felling, transport of timber from the felling site, seasonal limitations, etc. Typically this includes regulations on the size of felling areas, minimum age and/or diameter for felling activities, and elements that shall be preserved during felling, etc. Establishment of skidding or hauling trails, road construction, drainage systems and bridges, etc., shall also be considered as well as the planning and monitoring of harvesting activities. Any legally binding codes for harvesting practices shall be considered.</p>

	<p>Flanders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest Decree ('Bosdecreet') 1990, articles 54, 64, 70, 71 - Besluit Vlaamse Regering van 27.06.2003 'tot vaststelling van de criteria voor duurzaam bosbeheer voor bossen gelegen in het Vlaamse gewest' (on the criteria for sustainable forest management) - Nature Decree ('Natuurdecreet') 1997, article 13 § 4 (on 'nature license') and article 25 § 1, 2nd part, 1° and 5° (on criteria for sustainable forest management in the Flemish Ecological Network) - Beheervisie Openbaar Bos (2001) – management vision for public forests* - Code goede natuurpraktijk (omzendbrief 10.11.1998) – 'Code for good nature practice' - Besluit erkenning exploitanten 2002 (recognition of harvesting companies) <p>Wallonia :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Décret du 15 juillet 2008 relatif au Code forestier (Forest Code) : Titre IV, Chapitre VI (on forest exploitation), Articles 81 – 91 Titre IV, Chapitre IV (on forest conservation) Article 71 - Cahier des charges pour la vente des coupes de bois dans les forêts de la Région wallonne (Forêts domaniales) et dans les forêts des administrations subordonnées, particularly chapters V, VI and VII (on forest exploitation in public forests* owned by the Walloon Region and other administrations) - Circulaire n° 2718 du 24.09.2013 relative aux mesures sylvicoles à suivre pour une gestion selon la sylviculture Pro Silva - Legislation related to hunting : http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/dnf/chasse.htm
3.2 Protected sites and species	<p>International, national, and sub national treaties, laws, and regulations related to protected areas, allowable forest uses and activities, and/or rare, <i>threatened*</i>, or endangered species, including their <i>habitats*</i> and potential <i>habitats*</i>.</p> <p>International agreements:</p> <p><i>Belgium has signed/ratified* the Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD) 1992, as well as the Ramsar, Bern and Bonn Conventions.</i></p> <p><i>European Union:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora ('Habitats Directive') - Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds ('Birds Directive') <p>Belgium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Royal Decree on protected animal species, 1980 (modified in 1987, 1992 and 2001), - Law on the protection* of birds, 1981

- *Several Royal Decrees on the protection* of natural areas, including e.g. the Sonian Forest**

Flanders:

- *Forest Decree ('Bosdecreet' 1990) articles 22 – 30 on forest reserves*

- *Landscape Decree ('Decreet van 16 april 1996 betreffende de landschapszorg'), articles 14 and 16*

- *Nature Decree ('Natuurdecreet') of 21 oktober 1997, article 14 ('zorgplicht'), articles 2 and others on Natura 2000 special areas of conservation (Habitat Directive and Bird Directive areas) and articles 48 and 50 on the 'natuurrichtplan'*

- *Decree of 25 april 2014 'tot wijziging van de regelgeving betreffende natuur en bos' (amendment to the Forest Decree 1990, Nature Decree 1997 and other decrees)*

- *Decree on archeological heritage (Decreet van 30 juni 1993 houdende bescherming van het archeologisch patrimonium)*

- *Besluit van de Vlaamse regering van 24 mei 2002 (on designation of special areas of conservation according to the Habitat Directive)*

- *Onroerenderfgoeddecreet van 12 juli 2013*

- *Various Flemish decrees/acts to designate Natura 2000 areas.*

Wallonia :

- *Décret du 6 décembre 2001 relatif à la conservation des sites Natura 2000 ainsi que de la faune et de la flore sauvages (on protection* of Natura 2000 sites and natural fauna and flora)*

- *24 mars 2011 – Arrêté du Gouvernement wallon portant les mesures préventives générales applicables aux sites Natura 2000 ainsi qu'aux sites candidats au réseau Natura 2000*

- *19 mai 2011 – Arrêté du Gouvernement wallon fixant les types d'unités de gestion susceptibles d'être délimitées au sein d'un site Natura 2000 ainsi que les interdictions et mesures préventives particulières qui y sont applicables, modifié par l'arrêté du Gouvernement wallon du 30 avril 2014*

- *23 octobre 2008 – Arrêté du Gouvernement wallon fixant certaines modalités du régime préventif applicable aux sites Natura 2000*

- *Décret du 15 juillet 2008 relatif au Code forestier : Titre IV, Chapitre IV (on forest protection*), Article 71*

- *Code wallon de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Urbanisme et du Patrimoine, Livre III, Articles 185 – 252 and Livre IV, Article 450 (partim) and 477 – 529 (protection* of heritage, including archeological sites)*

- *Décret wallon relatif aux Parcs naturels du 16 juillet 1985 modifié le 3 juillet 2008 (on Natural Parks)*

- *Various Walloon decrees/acts to designate Natura 2000 areas.*

- *Legislation related to nature conservation :*
<http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/consnat.htm>

3.3 Environmental requirements

National and sub *national laws** and regulations related to the identification and/or *protection** of *environmental values** including but not limited to those relating to or affected by harvesting, acceptable levels for soil damage, establishment of buffer zones (e.g., along watercourses, open areas and breeding sites), maintenance of retention trees on the felling site, seasonal limitations of harvesting time, environmental requirements for *forest machineries*, use of *pesticides** and other chemicals, biodiversity *conservation**, air quality, *protection** and *restoration** of water quality, operation of recreational equipment, development of non-forestry *infrastructure**, mineral exploration and extraction, etc.

Flanders:

- *'Milieuvergunningdecreet' (1985) – on environmental permits*
- *'Decreet Algemene Bepalingen Milieubeleid' (1995) – general regulations on environmental policy*
- *Decreet Ruimtelijke Ordening (1999) – on spatial planning*
- *Forest Decree ('Bosdecreet') 1990, articles 90, 96 and 97 – on forest protection**
- *Nature Decree (1997)*
- *Besluit van de Vlaamse regering van 10 december 2004 houdende vaststelling van de categorieën van projecten onderworpen aan milieueffectrapportage (on environmental impact assessment in case of deforestation)*
- *Besluit erkenning exploitanten 2002 (on recognition of companies harvesting wood)*

Wallonia :

- *Décret du 15 juillet 2008 relatif au Code forestier –*
 - Titre 3, Chapitre VI, Articles 31 – 51 (on forest protection*)*
 - Titre 4, Chapitre III, Article 57 (environmental requirements in management plans)*
 - Titre 4, Chapitre IV, Article 71 (on conservation)*
- *Code wallon de l'aménagement du territoire, de l'urbanisme, du patrimoine, et de l'énergie (Décret du 19 avril 2007) –*
 - Book I, Title V, Chapitre III, Section VII (procedure for urbanism permit and environmental impact assessment) and Book V, Title 1, Chapter I bis, Section 1, Article 254 (procedure)*
- *Circulaire n° 2556 of 14 april 1995 and Circulaire n° 2619 of 22 september 1997 'relative aux aménagements dans les bois soumis au régime forestier' – on specific measures for the protective role of public forests**
- *Normes de gestion pour favoriser la biodiversité dans les bois soumis au régime forestier complément à la circulaire n° 2619 du 22 septembre 1997 relative aux aménagements dans les bois soumis au régime forestier :*
<http://environnement.wallonie.be/publi/dnf/normes.pdf>

	<p>- Prohibition of drainage ist described in « Code Forestier wallon “(article 43)</p>
3.4 Health and safety	<p>Legally required personal <i>protection*</i> equipment for persons involved in harvesting activities, implementation of safe felling and transport practices, establishment of <i>protection*</i> zones around harvesting sites, safety requirements for machinery used, and legally required safety requirements in relation to chemical usage. The health and safety requirements that shall be considered relevant to operations in the <i>forest*</i> (not office work, or other activities less related to actual forest operations).</p> <p>International agreements:</p> <p>As an ILO member, Belgium has <i>ratified*</i> all fundamental and governance conventions and about half of the technical conventions.</p> <p>Belgium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law of 4 August 1996 on well-being of <i>workers*</i> in the performance of their work - Relevant Royal Decrees, as summarized in the ‘Codex on well-being at work’ (2012) - General regulations on the <i>protection*</i> of <i>workers*</i>, 1947 (partly abrogated) - Authorized <i>pesticides*</i> and their conditions of use in Belgium : http://www.fytoweb.fgov.be and also (for Wallonia) : www.crphyto.be <p>Flanders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Besluit erkenning exploitanten 2002 (on recognition of companies harvesting wood in the <i>forest*</i>) <p>Wallonia :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cahier des charges pour la vente des coupes de bois dans les forêts de la Région wallonne (Forêts domaniales) et dans les forêts des administrations subordonnées, particularly chapter IX, article 48 on prevention of accidents at work during forest exploitation in public <i>forests*</i> owned by the Walloon Region and other administrations, which refers to the regulations on <i>protection*</i> of <i>workers*</i> (‘Règlement général sur la <i>Protection*</i> du Travail’)
3.5 <i>Legal*</i> employment	<p><i>Legal*</i> requirements for employment of personnel involved in harvesting activities including requirements for contracts and working permits, requirements for obligatory insurance, requirements for competence certificates and other training requirements, and payment of social and income taxes withheld by the employer. Also covered are the observance of minimum working age and minimum age for personnel involved in <i>hazardous work*</i>, legislation against forced and compulsory labor, and <i>discrimination*</i> and freedom of association.</p>

	<p>International agreements:</p> <p><i>As an ILO member, Belgium has ratified* all fundamental and governance conventions and about half of the technical conventions.</i></p> <p>Belgium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Labour Law of 16 March 1971 - Law of 3 July 1978 on work contracts (and subsequent amendments) <p>Flanders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Besluit Vlaamse Regering betreffende de erkenning van exploitanten 2002 (on recognition of companies harvesting wood in the forest*)
<p>4. Third parties' rights</p>	
<p>4.1 Customary rights*</p>	<p>Legislation covering <i>customary rights*</i> relevant to forest harvesting activities, including requirements covering the sharing of benefits and indigenous rights.</p> <p>Belgium:</p> <p><i>Civil Law ('Burgerlijk Wetboek' / 'Code Civil' 21.03.1804), Book II, Title IV, art. 516-710 (goods and limits of property), specifically articles 637 and the following on customary rights* ('Erfdienstbaarheden' / 'Servitudes');</i></p>
<p>4.2 Free Prior and Informed Consent*</p>	<p>Legislation covering "free prior and informed consent*" in connection with the transfer of forest management rights and <i>customary rights*</i> to <i>The Organization*</i> in charge of the harvesting operation.</p> <p><i>N/A. There is no transfer of forest management rights or customary rights* to organizations harvesting in the forest*.</i></p>
<p>4.3 Indigenous Peoples* rights</p>	<p>Legislation that regulates the rights of <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i> as far as it is related to forestry activities. Possible aspects to consider are land <i>tenure*</i>, and rights to use certain <i>forest*</i> related resources and practice traditional activities, which may involve forest lands.</p> <p><i>N/A. There are no indigenous people in Belgium, according to UN definition (refer also to ILO convention 169).</i></p>
<p>5. Trade and transport</p> <p>NOTE: This section covers requirements for forest management operations as well as processing and trade.</p>	
<p>5.1 Classification of species, quantities, qualities</p>	<p>Legislation regulating how harvested material is classified in terms of species, volumes and qualities in connection with trade and transport. Incorrect classification of harvested material is a well-known method to reduce or avoid payment of legally prescribed taxes and fees.</p> <p>European Union:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council Regulation (EEC) number 2913/92 of 12 October 1992 establishing the Community Customs Code

	<p>- Commission Regulation (EEC) number 2454/93 of 2 July 1993 (implementing provisions)</p>
5.2 Trade and transport	<p>All required trading and transport permits shall exist as well as <i>legally*</i> required transport documents which accompany the transport of wood from forest operations.</p> <p>International agreements:</p> <p>- CMR convention (Convention Relative au Contrat de Transport International de Marchandises par Route) – Convention on the contract for the international carriage of goods by road, 1956 (modified in 1978)</p> <p>European Union:</p> <p>- Resolution number (EC) 1071/2009 of the European Parliament and the Council of 21 October 2009 (on common rules for the conditions applicable to the profession of road haulage undertaker, and access to the market for international carriage of goods by road)</p> <p>- Directive 2006/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels and repealing Council Directive 82/714/EEC</p> <p>- Council Directive 95/ 18/EC of 19 June 1995 on the licensing of railway undertakings</p> <p>Belgium:</p> <p>- Belgium signed the CMR convention on 19 May 1956 and ratified* the convention on 18 September 1962.</p> <p>- Law of 15 July 2013 on the carriage of goods by road, and including execution of the Resolution (EC) number 1071/2009 of the European Parliament and the Council of 21 October 2009 (on establishing common rules concerning the conditions to be complied with to pursue the occupation of road transport operator, and access to the market for international carriage of goods by road)</p> <p>- Royal Decree of 22 May 2014 on the carriage of goods by road</p> <p>- Royal Decree of 4 April 2014 – Amending act to the Royal Decree of 15 October 1935 concerning the general regulations for shipping waterways of the Kingdom and amending the Royal Decree of 24 September 2006 concerning the general police regulations for shipping on the inland waterways of the Kingdom</p> <p>- Each waterway (canal, river, or part thereof) has its own specific shipping regulations and police regulations</p> <p>- Royal Decree of 30 September 2005 on the promotion of combined transport of goods</p>
5.3 Offshore trading and transfer pricing	<p>Legislation regulating offshore trading. Offshore trading with related companies placed in tax havens, combined with artificial transfer prices is a well-known way to avoid payment of legally prescribed taxes and fees to the country of harvest and is considered to be an important source of funds that can be used for payment of bribery to the forest operations and personnel involved in the harvesting operation. Many countries have established legislation covering transfer pricing and offshore trading. It <i>should*</i> be noted that only</p>

	<p>transfer pricing and offshore trading, as far as it is legally prohibited in the country, can be included here.</p> <p>Belgium :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Law of 10 February 1999 on 56dministra of corruption ('Wet betreffende de bestraffing van corruptie' / 'Loi relative à la répression de la corruption')</i> <p><i>Legislation relevant to corruption/bribery:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Penal Code, Articles 5, 7bis, 41bis, 246 (§2), 250</i> - <i>Code of Criminal Procedure, Articles 21, 21ter and 22 of the Preliminary Title, Article 10quater (§1 and 2), Article 29</i> - <i>Income Tax Code, Article 53 (§24), Article 219</i>
5.4 Custom regulations	<p>Custom legislation covering areas such as export/import licenses and product classification (codes, quantities, qualities and species).</p> <p>European Union:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Council Regulation (EEC) number 2913/92 of 12 October 1992 establishing the Community Customs Code, and subsequent amending acts</i> - <i>Commission Regulation (EEC) number 2454/93 of 2 July 1993 (implementing provisions)</i> <p>Belgium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Ministerial Decision of 11 January 2007 (explanation of the common customs document, 'Enig document' / 'Document 56dministrative unique')</i>
5.5 CITES	<p>CITES permits (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Washington Convention).</p> <p>International:</p> <p><i>Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) – Washington, 3 March 1973</i></p> <p>European Union:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Regulation (EG) number 338/97 of the Council of 9 December 1996 (and subsequent amendments)</i> - <i>Regulation (EG) number 865/2006 of the Commission of 4 May 2006 on export regulations</i> - <i>Regulation (EU) number 750/2013 of the Commission of 29 July 2013 (update of the Annexes, change of Regulation (EG) number 338/97 of the Council)</i> <p>Belgium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Law of 28 July 1981 (and subsequent amending acts) on the approval of the CITES convention and of the Annexes, as well as the amendment to the Convention of Bonn of 22 June 1979</i> - <i>Royal Decree of 9 April 2003 on protection* of species of wild fauna and flora through control of the trade</i>

6. Due diligence / due care	
6.1 Due diligence / due care procedures	<p>Legislation requiring due diligence/due care procedures, including, e.g., due diligence/due care systems, declaration obligations, and/or the keeping of trade related documents, etc.</p> <p>European Union:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulation (EU) number 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market ('EU Timber Regulation') - Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 363/2012 of 23 February 2012 (on the procedural rules for the recognition and withdrawal of recognition of monitoring organizations) - Commission implementing Regulation (EU) No 607/2012 of 6 July 2012 (detailed rules concerning the due diligence system and the frequency and nature of the checks on monitoring organizations) <p>Belgium:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law of 21 December 1998 on product standards to foster sustainable production and consumption patterns and to protect the environment, public health and workers* - Royal Decree of 16 November 2000 (on designation of officials of the Federal Public Service Environment to carry out inspection activities) - Law of 25 April 2014, amending to the 'product standards law' of 21 December 1998 - Royal Decree of 2 July 2014 on the regulation of control measures for the enforcement of the 'product standards law' of 21 December 1998
7. Ecosystem Services	
	<p>Legislation covering ecosystem services* rights, including customary rights* as well as management rights that include the use of legal* methods to make claims and obtain benefits and management rights related to ecosystem services*. National and subnational laws and regulations related to the identification, protection* and payment for ecosystem services*. Also includes legal* business registration and tax registration, including relevant legal* required licenses for the exploitation, payment, and claims related to ecosystem services* (including tourism).</p> <p>Code forestier 2008/ Natuur & Bos, Bosdecreet 1990, (forest law)</p> <p>Wallonia forest law; http://environnement.wallonie.be/legis/dnf/forets.htm</p> <p>Belgium drinkingwater regulations; http://www.belgium.be/nl/gezondheid/gezond_leven/voeding/voedselveiligheid/water</p> <p>Brussels capital region, Forest law; http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi_loi/change_lg.pl?language=nl&la=N&cn=2004031839&table_name=wet</p>

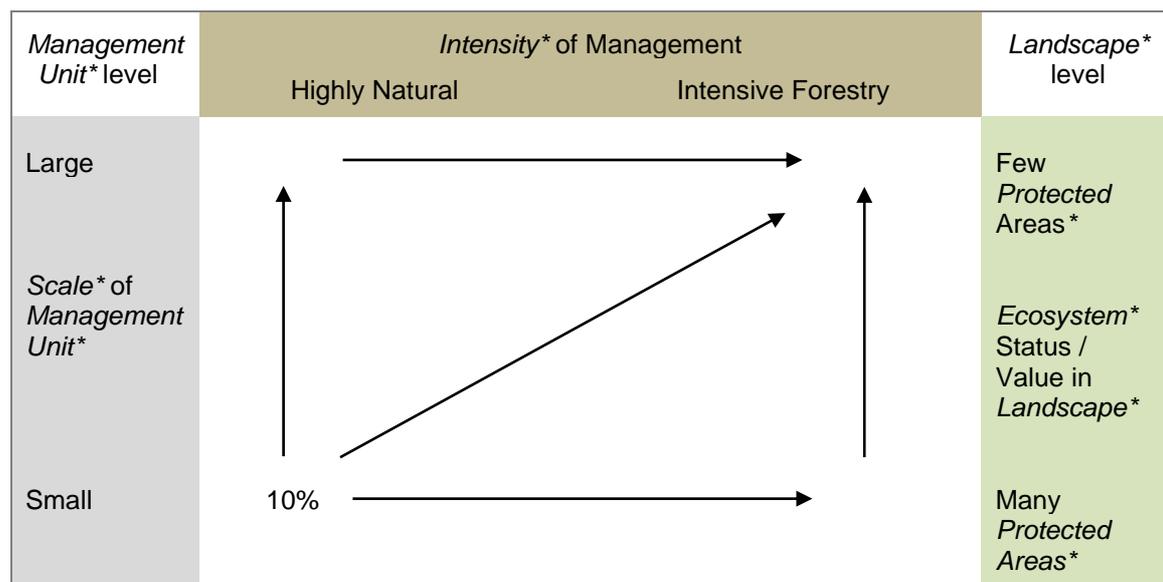
	<i>EU Habitats Directive, About protected habitats* and EU countries ; http://biodiversity.europa.eu/mtr/countries/belgium</i>
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Annex B Training requirements for workers* (*Principle* 2*)

Insofar as relevant and proportionate to the *scale**, *intensity** and *risk** of activities, *Workers** with specific job responsibilities related to the implementation of this standard shall be able to:

- 1) Implement forest activities to comply with applicable *legal** requirements (*Criterion* 1.5*);
- 2) Understand the content, meaning and applicability of the eight ILO Core Labour Conventions (*Criterion* 2.1*);
- 3) Recognize and report on instances of sexual harassment and gender *discrimination** (*Criterion* 2.2*);
- 4) Safely handle and dispose of hazardous substances to ensure that use does not pose health *risks** (*Criterion* 2.3*);
- 5) Carry out their responsibilities for particularly dangerous jobs or jobs entailing a special responsibility (*Criterion* 2.5*);
- 6) Identify sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance and implement the necessary measures to protect them before the start of forest management activities to avoid negative impacts (*Criterion* 4.7*);
- 7) Identify where *local communities** have *legal** and *customary rights** related to management activities (*Criterion* 4.2*);
- 8) Carry out social, economic and *environmental impact assessments** and develop appropriate mitigation measures (*Criterion* 4.5*);
- 9) Implement activities related to the maintenance and/or enhancement of *ecosystem services**, when FSC *Ecosystem Services** Claims are used (*Criterion* 5.1*);
- 10) Handle, apply and store *pesticides** (*Criterion* 10.7*); and
- 11) Implement procedures for cleaning up spills of *waste materials** (*Criterion* 10.12*).

Annex C Conservation Area Network* Conceptual Diagram (*Principle* 6*)



The diagram shows how the area of the *Management Unit** included in the *Conservation Area Network** is generally expected to increase from the 10% minimum as the size, *intensity** of management, and/or the status and value of *ecosystems** at the *landscape** level each increase. The arrows and their direction represent these increases.

The far-right column titled '*Ecosystems* Status/Value in Landscape**' signifies the extent to which *native ecosystems** are protected at the *landscape** level and the relative requirements for further *protection** in the *Management Unit**.

The far left column titled '*Scale* of Management Unit**' shows that as the *Management Unit** area increases, the *Management Unit** will itself be at the *landscape** level and so will be expected to have a *Conservation Area Network** containing functional examples of all of the naturally occurring *ecosystems** for that *landscape**.

Annex D List of rare, *threatened and endangered species (*Principle** 6)**

CITES species: <http://checklist.cites.org> (country = Belgium);
<https://www.health.belgium.be/en/animals-and-plants/animals/cites-and-endangered-species/lists-species-protected-cites>

IUCN Red List: <http://www.iucnredlist.org>

Belgium: <https://www.belgium.be/en/environment/fauna>;
<https://www.belgium.be/en/environment/flora>

Brussels: <https://environnement.brussels/thematiques/espaces-verts-et-biodiversite/la-biodiversite/flore>; <https://environnement.brussels/thematiques/espaces-verts-et-biodiversite/la-biodiversite/faune>
([https://document.environnement.brussels/opac_css/electfile/FD_14 Biodiversite](https://document.environnement.brussels/opac_css/electfile/FD_14_Biodiversite))

Flanders: <https://www.vlaanderen.be/inbo/rode-lijsten/>;
<https://www.natuurenbos.be/rodelijsten> ; <https://flora.inbo.be/Pages/Common/Default.aspx>
(Flemish Research Institute for Nature and Forest – INBO)

Wallonia: <http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/accueil.html?IDC=6>).

Annex E Elements of the *Management Plan** (*Principle** 7)

The *Organization** shall have a *management plan** in conformity with *Principle** 7 containing the following elements with a level of detail proportionate to the *scale**, *intensity** and *risk** of the management activities:

- 1) A description of the *forest** (*land-tenure** and *forest** types, *infrastructures** and roads, if applicable areas converted from *natural forest** to *plantation** since November 1994) including the results of existing assessments of:
 - Natural resources and *environmental values**, as identified in *Principle** 6 ;
 - The components of the *conservation areas network** as mentioned in the *Indicator** 6.5.1 including the *High Conservation Values**, as identified in *Principle** 9
 - Social, economic and cultural resources and condition, as identified in *Principles** 2 to 5, 6 and 9;
 - Major social and environmental *risks** in the area (among others related to *natural hazards** in *Criterion* 10.9), as identified in *Principles** 2 to 5, 6 and 9;
- 2) A summary of the policies and *management objectives** as defined in *Criterion* 7.1
- 3) Programs and activities regarding:
 - *Workers'* rights, occupational health and safety, *gender equality**, as identified in *Principle** 2;
 - Community relations, local economic and social development, as identified in *Principle** 4 and 5;
 - *Stakeholder** engagement* and the resolution of *disputes** and grievances, as identified in *Principles** 1, 2 and 7;
 - Planned management activities and timelines, silvicultural systems used, typical harvesting methods and equipment, as identified in *Principle** 10;
 - The rationale for harvesting rates of timber and other natural resources, as identified in *Principle** 5.
- 4) Measures to conserve* and/or restore*:
 - The components of the *conservation areas network** as mentioned in the *Indicator** 6.5.1 including the *High Conservation Values**, as identified in *Principle** 9
 - *Water bodies** and riparian zones*;
 - Landscape* *connectivity**, including wildlife corridors;
- 5) The operational strategies (6.6.1) regarding:
 - *Biotope** wood and dead wood
 - the maintenance of *native species** and their genetic diversity
- 6) Measures to assess, prevent, and mitigate negative impacts of management activities on:
 - *Environmental values**, as identified in *Principle** 6;
 - The components of the *conservation areas network** as mentioned in the *Indicator** 6.5.1 including the *High Conservation Values**, as identified in *Principle** 9;
 - Social Values as identified in *Principles** 2 to 5 and 9;

7) A description of the monitoring program, as indicated in *Principle** 8 and the corresponding Annex G,

Ecosystem services*: If promotional claims are made for *ecosystem services** as identified in *Criterion** 5.1, the organisation shall include *ecosystem services** in its *management plan** corresponding to the items 1, 4, 6 and 7 listed above.

Annex F Conceptual Framework for Planning and Monitoring (*Principle* 7*)

Example of a table presenting a non-exhaustive list of elements whose evaluation / monitoring can guide the revision of the various monitoring and management planning documents. The frequency of revision should be based on existing planning cycles as well as the source and importance of information from monitoring, evaluation and concertation*.

Nature	Topic	Element Being Monitored (Partial List)	FSC Principle* / Criterion*	Monitoring Periodicity (example)	
Environmental	Changes observed in <i>environmental values*</i>	<i>Biological diversity*</i> species composition of fauna (in connection with game density) and flora	C 6.1, 6.6		
		Water quantity and water quality	C 6.1, 6.7		
		Etat des sols (érosion, compaction) ; sur terrain / annuel	C 6.1 , 10.6, 10.10, 10.11		
		<i>Landscape values*</i>	C 6.8		
		Habitat quality (composition, <i>connectivity*</i>)	C 6.4, 6.7		
	Changes observed in the elements forming a <i>conservation areas network*</i> , contributing to greater naturalness	<i>Representative sample areas*</i> (unmanaged areas)	C 6.5		
		Aging areas	C 6.5, 6.6		
		Status of <i>High Conservation Values*</i> , categories 1, 3 and 4 i. <i>rare and threatened species*</i> , ii. <i>rare and threatened ecosystems* and habitats*</i> , iii. <i>ecosystem services*</i>	P9		
		(Integral) forest reserves, nature reserves	C 6.5		
		Habitat types as defined by the EU habitats directive within and outside of Natura 2000 areas	C 6.5		
		Other elements of <i>habitats*</i> and <i>protection* areas*</i> (key <i>habitats*</i> , riparian forest*, buffer zones, forest associated <i>habitats*</i> , etc.), as well as diversified forest edges	C 6.5, 6.4-6.7		
		Number of dead trees compared to the targeted values	C 6.6		
		Number of biotope trees compared to the targeted values	C 6.6		
		Economic	Changes observed in the productivity of the site	Natural regeneration	C 6.6, 10.1, 10.2
	Sanitary condition of stands			C 10.9	Annual
Soil fertility	C 7.3, 10.2, 10.11				
Growth rates of the stands	C 5.2, 7.3			Annual	

		Harvesting levels compared to allowable cut	C 5.2	Annual
	General economic viability* of the Management Unit*	Budget (Expenditures and receipts)	P5	Annual
		Resources and ecosystem services* contributing to local economy	P5	
Sociocultural	Changes observed in cultural heritage	Status of <i>High Conservation Values*</i> , category 6 (cultural values)	P9	
	Relationship with local communities*	Resolution of <i>disputes*</i>	C 1.6, 2.6, 4.6	
	Contribution of Ecosystem Services* to society	<i>Ecosystem services*</i> (recreational aspects, targeted / temporary / permanent opening to the public)	C 5.1, 5.2 / FSC-PRO-30-006	
Management of harvest sites	Occupational health and safety	Number of work accidents	C 2.3	
	Inputs		C 10.6, 10.7	
	Appropriate disposal of waste materials*		C 10.11, 10.12	
	Compliance with the work instructions for the harvest site			

Annex G Monitoring Requirements (*Principle* 8*)

Applicability of monitoring requirements for SLIMF forest* without management plan* required by law: Monitoring shall be implemented proportionate to the *scale**, *intensity** and *risk** of the management activities. For SLIMF forests* only the elements which have been included in the *management plan** according to Annex E need to be the object of monitoring activities.

- 1) Monitoring in 8.2.1 is sufficient to identify and describe the environmental impacts of management activities, including where applicable:
 - The results of regeneration activities (*Criterion* 10.1*);
 - The use of ecologically well adapted species for regeneration (*Criterion* 10.2*);
 - Invasiveness or other adverse impacts associated with any *alien species** within and outside the *Management Unit** (*Criterion* 10.3*);
 - The use of *genetically modified organisms** to confirm that they are not being used (*Criterion* 10.4*);
 - The results of silvicultural activities (*Criterion* 10.5*);
 - Adverse impacts to *environmental values** from *fertilizers** (*Criterion* 10.6*);
 - Adverse impacts from the use of *pesticides** (*Criterion* 10.7*);
 - Adverse impacts from the use of *biological control agents** (*Criterion* 10.8*);
 - The impacts from *natural hazards** (*Criterion* 10.9*);
 - The impacts of infrastructural development, transport activities and *silviculture** to *rare and threatened species**, *habitats**, *ecosystems**, *landscape values**, water and soils (*Criterion* 10.10*);
 - The impacts of harvesting and extraction of timber on *non-timber forest products**, *environmental values**, merchantable wood waste and other products and services (*Criterion* 10.11*); and
 - Environmentally appropriate disposal of *waste materials** (*Criterion* 10.12*).

- 2) Monitoring in 8.2.1 is sufficient to identify and describe social impacts of management activities, including where applicable:
 - Evidence of illegal or unauthorized activities (*Criterion* 1.4*);
 - Compliance with *applicable laws**, *local laws**, *ratified** international conventions and obligatory *codes of practice** (*Criterion* 1.5*);
 - Resolution of *disputes** and grievances (*Criterion* 1.6*, *Criterion* 2.6*, *Criterion* 4.6*);
 - Programs and activities regarding *workers' rights* (*Criterion* 2.1*);
 - *Gender equality**, sexual harassment and gender *discrimination** (*Criterion* 2.2*);
 - Programs and activities regarding occupational health and safety (*Criterion* 2.3*);
 - Payment of wages (*Criterion* 2.4*);
 - *Workers' training* (*Criterion* 2.5*);
 - Where *pesticides** are used, the health of *workers** exposed to *pesticides** (*Criterion* 2.5* and *Criterion* 10.7*);

- The identification of *local communities** and their *legal** and *customary rights** (Criterion* 4.1);
 - Full implementation of the terms in *binding agreements** (Criterion* 4.2);
 - Community relations (4.2);
 - *Protection** of sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to *local communities** (Criterion* 4.7);
 - The use of *traditional knowledge** and intellectual property* (Criterion* 4.8);
 - Local economic and social development (Criterion* 4.2, Criterion* 4.3, Criterion* 4.4, Criterion* 4.5);
 - The production of diversified benefits and/or products (Criterion* 5.1);
 - The maintenance and/or enhancement of *ecosystem services** (Criterion* 5.1);
 - Activities to maintain or enhance *ecosystem services** (Criterion* 5.1);
 - Actual compared to projected annual harvests of timber and *non-timber forest products** (Criterion* 5.2);
 - The use of local processing, local services and local value added manufacturing (Criterion* 5.4);
 - *Long term* economic viability** (Criterion* 5.5); and
 - *High Conservation Values** 5 and 6 identified in Criterion* 9.1.
- 3) Monitoring procedures in 8.2.2 are sufficient to identify and describe changes in environmental conditions including where applicable:
- The maintenance and/or enhancement of *ecosystem services** (Criterion* 5.2) (when *The Organization** uses FSC *ecosystem services** claims);
 - *Environmental values** and *ecosystem functions** including carbon sequestration and storage (Criterion* 6.1); including the effectiveness of actions identified and implemented to prevent, mitigate and repair negative impacts to *environmental values** (Criterion* 6.3);
 - *Rare and threatened species**, and the effectiveness of actions implemented to protect them and their *habitats**(Criterion* 6.4);
 - *Representative sample areas** and the effectiveness of actions implemented to *conserve** and/or *restore** them (Criterion* 6.5);
 - Naturally occurring *native species** and *biological diversity** and the effectiveness of actions implemented to *conserve** and/or *restore** them (Criterion* 6.6);
 - Watercourses, *water bodies**, water quantity and water quality and the effectiveness of actions implemented to *conserve** and/or *restore** them (Criterion* 6.7);
 - *Landscape values** and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or *restore** them (Criterion* 6.8);
 - Conversion of *natural forest** to *plantations** or conversion to *non-forest** (Criterion* 6.9);
 - The status of *plantations** established after 1994 (Criterion* 6.10); and
 - *High Conservation Values** 1 to 4 identified in Criterion* 9.1 and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or enhance them.

Annex H HCV Framework for Belgium (Principle* 9)

The *objective** of this *High Conservation Value (HCV)** Framework is to provide nationally specific Interpretations of HCVs and *Best Available Information** (BAI) for addressing HCVs.

This National HCV Framework is to be used by accredited certification bodies and certificate holders. Its purpose is to assist determining whether sites with high conservation value* occur in its Management Unit* (criterion* 9.1). The framework concept indicates sources of information and *stakeholders** that may be used in order to evaluate the occurrence and the state of the *high conservation values** within the Management Unit* (see chapters I.1 A/B: Identification and assessment of the different HCVs – *Best Available Information**). Strategies for maintaining *High Conservation Values** may not necessarily preclude harvesting. However, the only way to maintain some *High Conservation Values** will be through *protection** of the *High Conservation Value Area** that supports them (see chapters I.1 C Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing the different HCVs).

The HCV Interpretations and *Best Available Information** provided in this Framework are not necessarily exhaustive; additional examples of HCV occurrences may exist and shall be identified at the Forest Management Unit *Scale**. Each table also includes two extra columns specifying whether the *Best Available Information** sources shall be used by SLIMF operations (BAI SLIMF) or non SLIMF operations (BAI > SLIMF).

Note : for more details about '*SLIMF*' (small or low *intensity** managed *forest**), please see Part D, Sections 5 and 6 of this document.

In Belgium, *Intact Forest Landscapes** (IFLs) as defined by FSC and Global Forest Watch are not present. Other large and highly intact/natural forested landscapes are also unlikely to occur. However, certificate holders are still expected to consider whether their *forests** have other HCV 2 values. For example, opportunities to maintain and/or enhance habitat *connectivity** across landscapes might be important enough in some circumstances to be considered HCV 2.

There are no *Indigenous Peoples** in Belgium. In addition, most HCV 5 occurrences regarding basic needs of *local communities** are likely covered by the Framework's HCV 4 Interpretations. However, the definition of HCV 5 still requires engagement with *local communities** to confirm their basic necessities are addressed.

Overarching Best Available Information

The following tables shows the types of overarching *Best Available Information** (BAI) that is applicable for assessments, strategies, and monitoring for all HCVs, specific categories of HCV, or specific HCV elements. The purpose of listing this overarching BAI here is to avoid having to list it repetitively for each HCV Interpretation in the Framework. BAI that is more specific to individual HCV Interpretations is included alongside those Interpretations in the Framework.

A. Overarching Best Available Information for HCV Identification and Assessments

Best Available Information* for Identifying and Assessing Regional or National HCV Interpretations		BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
All HCV Categories: All Elements	Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and results of field surveys or consultations with <i>stakeholders*</i> that are most credible, accurate, complete, and/or pertinent and that can be obtained through <i>reasonable*</i> effort and cost, subject to the <i>scale*</i> and <i>intensity*</i> of the management activities and the <i>Precautionary Approach*</i> . <i>High Conservation Value*</i> surveys of the <i>Management Unit*</i> ; relevant databases and maps; <i>culturally appropriate*</i> engagement*with affected rights holders*, affected* and <i>interested stakeholders*</i> , and relevant local and regional experts; FSC Guidance on <i>Free Prior and Informed Consent*</i> (2012) (or subsequent versions when approved); review of the results by knowledgeable expert(s) independent of <i>The Organization*</i> .	X	X
HCV 1: All Elements	Relevant information sources include, but are not limited to: IUCN Red List, and lists validated and maintained by the Flemish Research Institute for Nature and <i>Forest*</i> (INBO –www.inbo.be: https://flora.inbo.be/Pages/Common/Default.aspx ; https://www.vlaanderen.be/inbo/rode-lijsten/), the Flemish Agency for Nature & <i>Forest*</i> (ANB – www.natuurenbos.be), Brussels Environment (www.ibgebim.be : https://environnement.brussels/thematiques/espaces-verts-et-biodiversite/la-biodiversite/flore ; https://environnement.brussels/thematiques/espaces-verts-et-biodiversite/la-biodiversite/faune), and Biodiversity in Wallonia, (http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/accueil.html?lDC=6). Consider also the National Biodiversity Strategy (e.g., for Flanders, Milieubeleidsplan 2016-2020).	X	X
HCV 3: All Elements	Relevant information sources include, but are not limited to: Biodiversity in Wallonia, (http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/accueil.html?lDC=6), cartographic data for Wallonia (http://geoapps.wallonie.be/Cigale/Public/ and/or http://geoportail.wallonie.be/home.html – e.g. Natura 2000, remarkable trees, nature conservation areas, soils)	X	X
HCV 5: Element 1, Values fundamental to local communities*	<i>Culturally appropriate*</i> engagement with <i>local communities*</i> . Note this shall be the primary BAI for these elements.	X	X
HCV 6: Element 2, Values important	<i>Culturally appropriate*</i> engagement with <i>local communities*</i> . Note this shall be the primary BAI for these elements.	X	X

to <i>local communities</i> *			
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B. Overarching Best Available Information for Development of Management Strategies

Best Available Information* for Developing Management Strategies for Regional or National HCV Interpretations		BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
All HCV Categories, All Elements	Identification of <i>threats</i> *, using: Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and results of field surveys or consultations with <i>stakeholders</i> * that are most credible, accurate, complete, and/or pertinent and that can be obtained through <i>reasonable</i> * effort and cost, subject to the <i>scale</i> * and <i>intensity</i> * of the management activities and the <i>Precautionary Approach</i> *. Engagement*with affected rights holders*, affected* and <i>interested stakeholders</i> *, and experts.	X	X
HCV 5: Element 1, Values fundamental to <i>local communities</i>*	<i>Culturally appropriate</i> * engagement with <i>local communities</i> *. Note this shall be the primary BAI for these elements. Note the “fundamentality” of the resource should be determined in collaboration with the <i>local communities</i> *.	X	X
HCV 6: Element 2, Values important to <i>local communities</i>*	<i>Culturally appropriate</i> * engagement with <i>local communities</i> *. Note this shall be the primary BAI for these elements. Note that “critical... importance” should be understood as an outcome of engagement with the <i>local communities</i> *.	X	X

C. Overarching Best Available Information for Development of Monitoring Methodologies

Best Available Information* for Monitoring Regional or National HCV Interpretations		BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
All HCV Categories, All Elements	Engagement with rights-holders, consistent with Criteria 3.5, 4.5 and 4.7; <i>culturally appropriate</i> * engagement with affected and <i>interested stakeholders</i> *; information on engaging with representatives of the <i>local communities</i> *; monitoring conducted by the <i>local communities</i> *; and engagement with experts.	X	X
All HCV Categories, All Elements	Additional information sources that may also be useful for many HCV elements (though not all): Remote sensing data, field surveys, pre- and post-harvest data collection.	X	

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**

A. Interpretations of HCV 1, for HCV Identification

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

Element 1: Concentrations of *biological diversity that are *significant** at global, regional, or national levels:**

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
Protected areas	Natura 2000 sites (see also HCV3); sites protected per the European Bird & Habitat regulation; national parks, nature parks, and nature reserves; and other protected areas lists and maps (see References), especially those with IUCN I (strict nature reserve / wilderness area), II (national park), or III (natural monument or feature) designation.	X	X
Key Biodiversity Areas	Key Biodiversity Area lists and maps (see references)	X	X
Biodiversity Hotspots	Biodiversity Hotspots lists and maps (see references)	X	X

Element 2: Concentrations of endemic species that are *significant at global, regional, or national levels:**

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
<i>Significant</i> * occurrences of individual endemic species or groups of endemics.			

Element 3: Concentrations of *rare, *threatened**, or endangered species that are *significant** at global, regional, or national levels:**

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
<i>Significant</i> * occurrences of terrestrial and freshwater species listed by the IUCN Red List as Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered, or Near <i>Threatened</i> *.	IUCN Red List (see references)	X	X
<i>Significant</i> * occurrences of species listed per the EU Habitats Directive.	EU Habitats Directive (see references)	X	X
Important Bird Areas (note these appear to overlap with Key Biodiversity Areas)	Important Bird Areas (see references)	X	X

Significant* occurrences of CITES species	Checklist of CITES Species (see references)	X	X
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B. Assessments for HCV 1

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

National or regionally appropriate methodologies and Best Available Information* for assessments for HCV 1:

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 1 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for assessing occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
For additional guidance in identifying and assessing other examples of HCV 1 that may exist in the <i>Management Unit*</i> , consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.1, Identification of HCV 1)			

C: Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 1

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section B.)

Management strategies for HCV 1:

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 1 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for management strategies for these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
For all HCV 1: <i>Protection*</i> zones, harvest prescriptions, and/or other strategies to protect <i>threatened*</i> , endangered, endemic species, or other concentrations of <i>biological diversity*</i> and the ecological communities and <i>habitats*</i> upon which they depend, sufficient to prevent reductions in the extent, integrity, quality, and viability of the <i>habitats*</i> and species occurrences.			
For all HCV 1: Where enhancement is identified as the <i>objective*</i> , measures to develop, expand, and/or <i>restore*</i> <i>habitats*</i> for such species.			
For protected areas.	See the agencies and organizations responsible for their designation, e.g.: http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/protection-et-restauration.html?IDC=835	X	X

D. Monitoring for HCV 1

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section C.)

Methodologies and *Best Available Information** for monitoring programs for HCV 1:

National or regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 1 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information</i> * for monitoring occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
For monitoring guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 3).			

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

A. Interpretations of HCV 2, for HCV Identification

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

Element 1: Intact forest landscapes*:

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
Not applicable. <i>Intact Forest Landscapes*</i> as defined in the FSC International Generic Indicators and by Global Forest Watch are not present in Belgium.			

Element 2: Large landscape*-level ecosystems* 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:

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
None identified.			

Element 3: 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:

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
Connectivity corridors that have been proposed between protected areas and/or other HCV 1 occurrences, and other areas that provide nationally or regionally <i>significant*</i> habitat connectivity, including within degraded or converted landscapes.			

B. Assessments for HCV 2

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

National or regionally appropriate methodologies and Best Available Information* for assessments for HCV 2:

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 2 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for assessing occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
For guidance in identifying and assessing examples of HCV 2 that may exist in the			

<i>Management Unit</i> *, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.2, Identification of HCV 2).			
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C: Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 2

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section B.)

Management strategies for HCV 2:

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 2 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for management strategies for these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
Where enhancement is identified as the <i>objective</i> *, measures to <i>restore</i> * and reconnect forest <i>ecosystems</i> *, their intactness, and <i>habitats</i> * that support natural <i>biological diversity</i> * are in place.			

D. Monitoring for HCV 2

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section C.)

Methodologies and *Best Available Information** for monitoring programs for HCV 2:

National or regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 2 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for monitoring occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
For monitoring guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 3).			

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

A. Interpretations of HCV 3, for HCV Identification

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

Element 1: Rare*, threatened*, or endangered ecosystems*:

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
“Most vulnerable and valuable forests” (Meest Kwetsbare Waardevolle Bossen).	Regional forestry agencies	X	X
Old growth forests*	General: Ferraris maps (1771-1778) Wallonia: http://geoapps.wallonie.be/Cigale/Public/ and/or http://geoportail.wallonie.be/WalOnMap/	X	X
Mature forest* remnants in degraded landscapes.			
Forests* being restored to old growth conditions, in priority locations.			
Ecosystems* on the IUCN Red List (none currently designated, but the system is still being populated).	IUCN Red List of Ecosystems* (see references)	X	X
UNESCO Biosphere Reserves (none currently designated).	UNESCO (see references)	X	X
Important wetland ecosystems*, e.g., RAMSAR sites, e.g., Les Hautes Fagnes and Vallee de Haute Sure	RAMSAR (see references)	X	X
Other ecosystems* that are threatened*, greatly reduced in extent or function, or poorly protected at bioregional scales*.			

Element 2: Rare*, threatened*, or endangered habitats*:

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
Priority Habitats* listed per the EU Habitats Directive (See also HCV1)	See the agencies and organizations responsible for their designation, e.g.,: http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/biotopes-habitats.html?IDC=833 ; see also references for examples: EU Habitats Directive)	X	X
Other rare*, threatened*, or endangered habitats*			

Element 3: *Refugia**:

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
Isolated areas 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.			
Areas important for the conservation of important genes or genetically distinct populations.			

B. Assessments for HCV 3

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

National or regionally appropriate methodologies and Best Available Information* for assessments for HCV 3:

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 3 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for assessing occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
For guidance in identifying and assessing other examples of HCV 3 that may exist in the <i>Management Unit</i> *, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.3, Identification of HCV 3).			

C: Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 3

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section B.)

Management strategies for HCV 3:

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 3 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for management strategies for these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
For all HCV 3: Strategies that fully maintain the extent and integrity of rare or <i>threatened</i> * <i>ecosystems</i> *, <i>habitats</i> *, or <i>refugia</i> *.			
For all HCV 3: Where enhancement is identified as the <i>objective</i> *, measures to <i>restore</i> * and/or develop rare or <i>threatened</i> * <i>ecosystems</i> *, <i>habitats</i> *, or <i>refugia</i> * are in place.			
For Natura 2000 sites.	See the public agency responsible for their designation, e.g., http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/protection-et-restauration.html?IDC=835 .	X	X
For RAMSAR sites.	Strategies should consider information at: https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/d	X	X

	efault/files/rsiswp_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-Belgium.pdf?1500494948		
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D. Monitoring for HCV 3

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section C.)

Methodologies and *Best Available Information for monitoring programs for HCV 3:**

National or regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 3 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information</i>* for monitoring occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
For monitoring guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 3).			

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.

A. Interpretations of HCV 4, for HCV Identification

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

Element 1: Water catchments in critical* situations:

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
RAMSAR sites, e.g., Les Hautes Fagnes and Vallee de Haute Sure.	RAMSAR (see References)	X	X
Other water catchments in critical* situations	Government listings of water catchments or downstream water uses.		

Element 2: Control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes in critical* situations:

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
Vulnerable soils and slopes in critical* situations	Hydrological maps. Soil maps.		

Element 3: Other ecosystem services* in critical* situations:

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
Recreational and tourism opportunities for local communities*, which are more likely in natural areas. (Stevens et al, 2015; see also http://www.bosland.be/publicaties/#file-73)	Maps and lists of natural areas. Engagement with local communities*.	X	X
Air quality management and carbon storage/sequestration opportunities, which are likely in some public forests*. (Stevens et al, 2015)	Comparison of forest data and management plans* with forest growth potentials. Independent forest carbon accounting methods.	X	X
Other ecosystem services* in critical* situations	Fire risk* maps.		

B. Assessments for HCV 4

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section A.)

National or regionally appropriate methodologies and *Best Available Information for assessments for HCV 4:**

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 4 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information</i> * for assessing occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
For guidance in identifying and assessing other examples of HCV 4 that may exist in the <i>Management Unit</i> *, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.4, Identification of HCV 4).			

C: Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 4

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section B.)

Management strategies for HCV 4:

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing specific HCV 4 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information</i> * for management strategies for these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
Strategies to protect any water catchments of importance to <i>local communities</i> * located within or downstream of the <i>Management Unit</i> *, and areas within the unit that are particularly unstable or susceptible to erosion. Examples may include <i>protection</i> * zones, harvest prescriptions, chemical use restrictions, and/or prescriptions for road construction and maintenance, to protect water catchments and upstream and upslope areas.	See the experts, <i>stakeholders</i> *, and other resources listed as <i>Best Available Information</i> * for identifying HCV 4.	X	X
Where enhancement is identified as the <i>objective</i> *, measures to <i>restore</i> * water quality and quantity are in place.	See the experts, <i>stakeholders</i> *, and other resources listed as BAI for identifying HCV 4.	X	X
RAMSAR sites	Strategies should consider the information at: https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsiswp_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-Belgium.pdf?1500494948	X	X
For forest carbon opportunities on public <i>forests</i> *, strategies to maintain or enhance carbon sequestration and storage are in place.			

D. Monitoring for HCV 4

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section C.)

Methodologies and *Best Available Information** for monitoring programs for HCV 4:

National or regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 4 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information</i>* for monitoring occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
For monitoring guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 3).			
For water quality and quantity, soils, and other <i>ecosystem services</i> *. See Annex D of FSC (2021) for basic factors to consider monitoring.			

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

A. Interpretations of HCV 5, for HCV Identification

(See also the *Overarching BAI, Section A.*)

Element 1: Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of *local communities (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.):**

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	<i>Best Available Information</i> * for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
Sites and resources from which <i>local communities</i> * satisfy basic needs, and which might not be addressed or not addressed sufficiently by the HCV 4 Interpretations.	<i>Culturally appropriate</i> * engagement with the <i>local communities</i> *.	X	X

Element 2: Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of *Indigenous Peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.):**

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	<i>Best Available Information</i> * for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
Not Applicable. <i>Indigenous Peoples</i> * are not present in Belgium.			

B. Assessments for HCV 5

(See also the *Overarching BAI, Section A.*)

National or regionally appropriate methodologies and *Best Available Information for assessments for HCV 5:**

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 5 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information</i> * for assessing occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
For HCV 5 community values identified through engagement and that not addressed by HCV 4: Use <i>culturally appropriate</i> * engagement, per the <i>Overarching BAI, Section A.</i>	The <i>local communities</i> *.	X	X
For additional guidance on assessing HCV 5, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2017) (e.g., Chapter 2, Best Practice Considerations for HCV Assessments, and Chapter 3.5, Identification of HCV 5).			

C: Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 5

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section B.)

Management strategies for HCV 5:

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 5 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for management strategies for these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
For HCV 5 community values identified through engagement and that not addressed by HCV 4: Strategies to protect the community's needs in relation to the <i>Management Unit</i> * are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of <i>local communities</i> *.	The <i>local communities</i> *, per the Overarching BAI.	X	X

D. Monitoring for HCV 5

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section C.)

Methodologies and *Best Available Information** for monitoring programs for HCV 5:

National or regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 5 interpretations:	Best Available Information* for monitoring occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
For HCV 5 community values identified through engagement and that not addressed by HCV 4: Monitoring conducted by the <i>local communities</i> *, or using methodologies otherwise developed in cooperation with the communities through <i>culturally appropriate</i> * engagement.			

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**.**

A. Interpretations of HCV 6, for HCV Identification

(See also the *Overarching BAI*, Section A.)

Element 1: Sites, resources, *habitats and *landscapes** of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance:**

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
UNESCO World Heritage sites	World Heritage sites lists (see References)	X	X
Prehistoric or Roman sites			
Sites registered with national or regional governments	National and regional governments, e.g., e.g.: Royal Commission on Monuments, Sites and Excavations (CRMSF) Wallonia (http://www.crmsf.be/fr/); KCML Flanders (https://www.onroenderfgoed.be/); The Royal Commission for Monuments and Sites (KCML) Brussels (http://www.kcml.irisnet.be/)	X	X
Other internationally or nationally important cultural, archaeological, or historical sites, resources, <i>habitats</i> *, or landscapes.	Databases, maps, and resource inventories, e.g., government listings of archaeological, historical, religious, and cultural sites, e.g., http://www.erfgoedkaart.be/?gclid=CjwKEAjwsr-6BRCLvrj785rbhTsSJADjUxak6EoZT7naR-hw8Lg_10GGYk0jvtEaRH1gDwNrxmEVRoCTxPw_wcB	X	X

Element 2: Sites, resources, *habitats and *landscapes** of *critical** cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of *local communities**:**

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information* for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
Sites, resources, <i>habitats</i> *, or landscapes of cultural, ecological, economic, or religious/sacred importance to <i>local communities</i> *	<i>Culturally appropriate</i> * engagement with the <i>local communities</i> *.	X	X

	Supplemental BAI may include databases, maps, and experts, e.g., community development organizations.		
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Element 3: Sites, resources, *habitats and *landscapes** of *critical** cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of *Indigenous Peoples**:**

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	<i>Best Available Information</i> * for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
<i>Not Applicable. Indigenous Peoples* are not present in Belgium.</i>			

B. Assessments for HCV 6

(See also the *Overarching BAI*, Section A.)

National or regionally appropriate methodologies and *Best Available Information for assessments for HCV 6:**

National or regional methodologies for assessing occurrences of the HCV 6 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information</i> * for assessing occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
For HCVs important to <i>local communities</i> *. <i>Culturally appropriate</i> * engagement, per the <i>Overarching BAI</i> , Section A.	The <i>local communities</i> *.	X	X

C: Strategies for Maintaining and Enhancing HCV 6

(See also the *Overarching BAI*, Section B.)

Management strategies for HCV 6:

National or regional strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV 6 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information</i> * for management strategies for these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
For HCV occurrences related to <i>local communities</i> *, strategies to protect the cultural values are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of the <i>local communities</i> *.	The <i>local communities</i> *, per the <i>Overarching BAI</i> .	X	X
For other HCV occurrences (i.e., those identified primarily due to global or national significance), strategies are based on <i>Best Available Information</i> *, and considered effective for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCV.			

D. Monitoring for HCV 6

(See also the Overarching BAI, Section C.)

Methodologies and *Best Available Information** for monitoring programs for HCV 6:

National or regional methodologies for monitoring occurrences of the HCV 6 interpretations:	<i>Best Available Information</i> * for monitoring occurrences of these interpretations:	BAI >SLIMF	BAI SLIMF
For HCV 6 occurrences related to <i>local communities</i> *, monitoring conducted by the <i>local communities</i> *, or using methodologies otherwise developed in cooperation with the communities through <i>culturally appropriate</i> * engagement.	Local traditional communities.	X	X
For additional guidance, consider: FSC (2020a) and HCVRN (2018) (e.g., Part 3)			

Examples of Relevant *Stakeholders** and Experts

(This is a list of stakeholder* and expert organizations likely to be especially relevant to HCV assessments, strategies, and/or monitoring, either in general, or for particular HCV categories or elements. The list is not exhaustive, may need to change over time, and can be updated by standards developers. Where additional stakeholders* and experts are relevant to specific Management Units*, they should also be identified and considered by managers.)

Environmental Stakeholders* and Expert Organizations:

- Flemish Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO –www.inbo.be)
- Natuurpunt (www.natuurpunt.be)
- Natagora (Brussels and Wallonia).
- Ornithological Commission Aves asbl (<http://www.aves.be/>)
- Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences

Social Stakeholders* and Expert Organizations:

- None yet identified.

Government Agencies:

- Brussels Environment (www.ibgebim.be)
- Flemish Agency for Nature & Forest (ANB – www.natuurenbos.be).
- Institute of Forestry & Game Management.

References

Biodiversity Hotspots: For maps and lists, see <http://www.geopunt.be/> (Flanders); <http://geonode.geobru.irisnet.be/fr/maps/zones-naturelles-protegees/71/> (Brussels); <http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/fr/sgib-sites-de-grand-interet-biologique.html?IDC=824> (Wallonia); and <http://carto1.wallonie.be/CIGALE/viewer.htm?APPNAME=OGEAD&BOX=-18378.75350707039:11567.058336872025:362622.0084944541:239572.20184715933> (Wallonia).

CITES species: <http://checklist.cites.org/>; <https://www.health.belgium.be/en/animals-and-plants/animals/cites-and-endangered-species/lists-species-protected-cites>

EU Habitats Directive: Examples of priority habitats listed per the EU Habitats Directive and mentioned as part of FSC CNRA for Belgium: 9110 Luzulo-Fagetum beech forests; 9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion roboretum or Ilici-Fagenion); 9130 Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests; 9150 Medio-European limestone beech forests of the Cephalanthero-Fagion; 9160 Sub-Atlantic & medio-EU oak or oak-hornbeam forests of Carpinion betuli; 9180 * Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines; 9190 Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains; 91D0 * Bog woodland; 91E0 * Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae (Source : FSC. 2017. Centralized National Risk Assessment for Belgium. FSC-CNRA-BE V1-0 EN. May, 2017, .p. 81).

FSC. 2021. Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools. FSC-PRO-30-006 V1-2 EN. <https://fsc.org/en/document-centre/documents/resource/316>

FSC. 2020a. High Conservation Value Guidance for Forest Managers. FSC-GUI-30-009 V1-0 EN. <https://fsc.org/en/document-centre/documents/resource/422>.

HCVRN. 2017. Common Guidance for the Identification of High Conservation Values. High Conservation Value Resource Network. October 2013, amended September, 2017. <https://hcvnetwork.org/library/common-guidance-for-the-identification-of-high-conservation-values/>

HCVRN. 2018. Common Guidance for the Management and Monitoring of High Conservation Values. High Conservation Value Resource Network. September, 2014, amended April, 2018. <https://hcvnetwork.org/library/common-guidance-for-the-management-and-monitoring-of-hcv/>

Important Bird Areas (IBAs): For maps, see <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/mapsearch> and for custom search: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/search>. Belgium results: <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/results?thrlev1=&thrlev2=&kw=®=0&cty=21&snm=&fam=0&gen=0&spc=&cmn=&hab4=15>.

IUCN Red List: See <http://www.iucnredlist.org>. Please note some examples from previous FSC certifications reports of Control Union (2015 and 2011) and IMO (2014): Melanitta fusca, Acrocephalus paludicola, 87nswer erythropus, Aquila clanga, Branta ruficollis, Castor fiber, Coenagrion mercurial, Hirudo medicinalis, Limosa limosa, Lutra lutra, Nehalennia speciosa, Numenius tenuirostris.

IUCN Red List of Ecosystems: See <http://iucnrle.org/assessments/>; and <http://iucnrle.org/resources/published-assessments/>

Key Biodiversity Areas: For maps, see <http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/mapsearch> and for lists, see <http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/results?reg=0&cty=21&snm=>.

Natura 2000: See Flemish Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO) and Wallonia Special Committees.

Protected areas: For lists and maps, see www.globalforestwatch.org, <https://www.protectedplanet.net/>, and <https://www.protectedplanet.net/search?country=Belgium&designation=Forest+Reserve+%28Flemish+Region%29&q=belgium>. Note not all of the sites indicated by these sources are IUCN I, II, or III.

RAMSAR sites: See <http://www.ramsar.org/country-profiles> and https://rsis.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/rsiswp_search/exports/Ramsar-Sites-annotated-summary-Belgium.pdf?1500494948.

Stevens et al, 2015: Flanders Regional Ecosystem Assessment – State & Trends Synthesis Report. INBO. <https://www.inbo.be/en/flanders-regional-ecosystem-assessment-2014-2018>

UNESCO Biosphere Reserves: See <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/biosphere-reserves/world-network-wnbr/wnbr/>.

World Heritage sites: See <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/&order=country#alphaB> and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1006>

Annex I Glossary of Terms

Normative definitions for terms are given in *FSC-STD-01-002 FSC Glossary of Terms* apply. 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 the International Generic Indicators, if not defined in this Glossary of Terms 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).

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 neighborhood 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 V5-0).

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.

Affirmative action: A policy or a program that seeks to redress past *discrimination*^{*} through active measures to ensure equal opportunity, as in education and employment (Source: FSC report on generic criteria and *indicators*^{*} based on ILO Core Conventions *principles*^{*}, 2017).

Ageing area : Area where the forest manager lets the trees grow at least for twice as long the normal rotation period while maintaining production *objectives*^{*} and/or where some trees (10/ha as a guideline) are selected for the purpose of not being cut down (no final cut). In those areas, only selective felling is applied for the purpose of keeping continuous cover of trees.

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

on Biological Diversity (CBD), Invasive *Alien Species** Programme. Glossary of Terms as provided on CBD website). Fageing

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).

Aquifer: A formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that contains sufficient saturated permeable material to yield *significant** quantities of water to wells and springs for that unit to have economic value as a source of water in that region. (Source: Gratzfeld, J. 2003. Extractive Industries in Arid and Semi-Arid Zones. World Conservation Union (IUCN)).

Best Available Information: Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and results of field surveys or consultations with *stakeholders** 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**.

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.

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).

Biological control agents: *Organisms** used to eliminate or regulate the population of other *organisms** (Source: Based on FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0 and World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website).

Biotope trees (also habitat trees): Living trees serving a special function as cavity trees, nesting trees or as a habitat for epiphytes, insects, fungi and other groups of *organisms** living in old trees worthy of conservation. (Source: FSC-STD-DEU-03-2017)

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

Clear cut: cut of the totality of the forest stand – exception made of trees maintained for land-scape or biodiversity *objectives** - in one single operation, with no natural regeneration already established. (Source: FSC-STD-FRA-01-2016)

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).

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.

Conflicts between the Principles and Criteria and laws: Situations where it is not possible to comply with the *Principles** and Criteria and a law at the same time (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Connectivity: A measure of how connected or spatially continuous a corridor, network, or matrix is. The fewer gaps, the higher the *connectivity**. Related to the structural *connectivity** concept; functional or behavioral *connectivity** refers to how connected an area is for a process, such as an animal moving through different types of landscape elements. Aquatic *connectivity** deals with the accessibility and transport of materials and

*organisms**, through groundwater and surface water, between different patches of aquatic *ecosystems** of all kinds. (Source: Based on R.T.T. Forman. 1995. Land Mosaics. The Ecology of Landscapes and Regions. Cambridge University Press, 632pp).

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**.

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. The term 'protected area' is not used for these areas, because this term implies *legal** or official status, covered by national regulations in many countries. In the context of the *Principles** and Criteria, management of these areas should involve active conservation, not passive *protection**' (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Core area: The portion of each *Intact Forest Landscape** designated to contain the most important cultural and ecological values. *Core areas** are managed to exclude *industrial activity**. *Core Areas** meet or exceed the definition of *Intact Forest Landscape**.

Critical: The concept of criticality or fundamentality in Principal 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 considered to be *critical** (HCV 4) where a disruption of that service is likely to cause, or poses a *threat** of, severe negative impacts on the welfare, health or survival of *local communities**, on the environment, on HCVs, or on the functioning of *significant* infrastructure** (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).

Criterion (pl. Criteria): A means of judging whether or not a *Principle** (of forest stewardship) has been fulfilled (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0).

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.

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).

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 V5-2).

Degraded forests: Forest degradation refers to changes within the *forest** which negatively affect the structure or function of the stand or site, and thereby lower the capacity to supply products and/or services. (Source: FAO. 2001. Global Forest Resources Assessment FRA 2000 – Main report. Rome)

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.

Dispute: for the purpose of the IGI, this is an expression of dissatisfaction by any person or organization presented as a complaint to *The Organization**, relating to its management activities or its conformity with the FSC *Principles** and Criteria, where a response is expected (Source: based on FSC-PRO-01-005 V3-0 Processing Appeals).

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).

Dispute of substantial magnitude: For the purpose of the International Generic *Indicators**, a *dispute** of substantial magnitude is a *dispute** that involves one or more of the following:

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

This list should be adapted or expanded by Standard Developers.

Due consideration: To give such weight or significance to a particular factor as under the circumstances it seems to merit, and this involves discretion (Black's Law Dictionary, 1979).

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).

Eco-regional: Large unit of land or water containing a geographically distinct assemblage of species, natural communities, and environmental conditions (Source: WWF Global 200. http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/ecoregions/about/what_is_an_ecoregion/).

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).

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).

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*).

Employment and Occupation: includes access to vocational training, access to employment and to particular occupations, and terms and conditions of employment (ILO Convention 111, Article1.3).

Engaging / engagement: The process by which *The Organization** communicates, consults and/or provides for the participation of interested and/or *affected stakeholders** ensuring that their concerns, desires, expectations, needs, rights and opportunities are considered in the establishment, implementation and updating of the *management plan** (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Systematic process used to identify potential environmental and social impacts of proposed projects, to evaluate alternative approaches, and to design and incorporate appropriate prevention, mitigation, management and monitoring measures (Source: based on Environmental impact assessment, guidelines for FAO field projects. Food and agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO). Rome,- STD-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).

Equal remuneration* for men and women workers* for work of equal value: refers to rates of *remuneration** established without *discrimination** _based on sex (ILO Convention 100 Article 1b).

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: *Remuneration** that is proportionate to the magnitude and type of services rendered by another party or of the harm that is attributable to the first party.

Fertilizer: Mineral or organic substances, most commonly N, P₂O₅ and K₂O, which are applied to soil for the purpose of enhancing plant growth. This includes soil amendments.

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

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.).

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)

Forest: A tract of land dominated by trees (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0. 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).

Forest massif: A relatively large, contiguous wooded area made up of one or more stands of trees, shrubs and bushes, and also other associated native plants.

Formal and informal workers organization: association or union of *workers**, whether recognized by law or by *The Organization** or neither, which have the aim of promoting *workers** rights and to represent *workers** in dealings with *The Organization** particularly regarding working conditions and compensation.

Fragmentation: The process of dividing *habitats** into smaller patches, which results in the loss of original habitat, loss in *connectivity**, reduction in patch size, and increasing isolation of patches. *Fragmentation** is considered to be one of the single most important factors leading to loss of *native species**, especially in forested landscapes, and one of the primary causes of the present extinction crisis. In reference to *Intact Forest Landscapes**, the *fragmentation** of concern is understood to be that caused by human industrial activities. (SOURCE: Adapted from: Gerald E. Heilman, Jr. James R. Strittholt Nicholas C. Slosser Dominick A. Dellasala, BioScience (2002) 52 (5): 411-422.)

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

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.).

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)).

Genotype: The genetic constitution of an *organism** (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Good faith: A process of engagement where the parties make every effort to reach an agreement, conduct genuine and constructive negotiations, avoid delays in negotiations, respect agreements concluded and under development, and give sufficient time to discuss and settle *disputes** (adapted from Motion 40:2017).

Good Faith in negotiation: The Organization* (employer) and *workers** *organizations** 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).

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**).

Group entity (Group Manager): The group entity is the entity representing the forest properties that constitute a group for the purpose of 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) For more information on group certification, refer to FSC-STD-30-005.

Habitat: The place or type of site where an *organism** or population occurs (Source: Based on the Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 2).

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;
- 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.

Hazardous work (in the context of *child labour):** any work which is likely to jeopardize children's physical, mental or moral health, should not be undertaken by anyone under the age of 18 years. Hazardous *child** labour is work in dangerous, or unhealthy conditions that could result in a *child** being killed or injured/maimed (often permanently) and/or made

ill (often permanently) as a consequence of poor safety and health standards and working arrangements.

In determining the type of hazard *child** labour referred to under (Article 3(d) of the Convention No 182, and in identifying where they exist, consideration should be given, inter alia, to

- Work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse;
- Work underground, under water at dangerous heights or in confined spaces;
- Work with dangerous machinery, equipment and tools, or which involves the manual handling or transport of heavy loads;
- Work in unhealthy environment which may, for examples, expose children to hazardous substances, agents or processes, or to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health;
- Work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the *child** is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer (ILO, 2011: IPEC Mainstreaming Child labour concerns in education sector plans and Programmes, Geneva, 2011& ILO Handbook on Hazardous child labour, 2011).

Heavy work (in the context of *child labour):** refers to work that is likely to be harmful or dangerous to children’s health (Source: FSC report on generic criteria and *indicators** based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017).

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

- **HCV1:** 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: 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**.

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).

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:

- Freedom of Association and *Protection** of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)
- Right to Organise and *Collective Bargaining** Convention, 1949 (No. 98)
- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
- Worst Forms of *Child** Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)
- Equal *Remuneration** Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
- *Discrimination* (Employment and Occupation*)* Convention, 1958 (No. 111)
- Source: FSC report on generic criteria and *indicators** based on ILO Core Conventions principles, 2017.

ILO Committee on Freedom of Association: a Governing Body Committee set up in 1951, for the purpose of examining complaints about violations of freedom of association, whether or not the country concerned had *ratified** the relevant conventions. Is composed of an independent chairperson and three representatives each of governments, employers, and *workers**. If it decides to receive the case, it establishes the facts in dialogue with the government concerned. If it finds that there has been a violation of freedom of association standards or *principles**, it issues a report through the Governing Body and makes recommendations on how the situation could be remedied. Governments are subsequently requested to report on the implementation of its recommendations (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:

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

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 FSC Glossary of Terms (2009)).

Indigenous cultural landscapes: *Indigenous cultural landscapes** are living landscapes to which *Indigenous Peoples** attribute environmental, social, cultural and economic value because of their enduring relationship with the land, water, fauna, flora and spirits and their present and future importance to their cultural identity. An *Indigenous cultural landscape** is characterized by features that have been maintained through *long-term** interactions based on land-care knowledge, and adaptive livelihood practices. They are landscapes over which *Indigenous Peoples** exercise responsibility for stewardship.

NOTE: The adoption of the term *Indigenous cultural landscapes** is voluntary by Standard Development Groups. Standard Development Groups may choose not to use it. Through *Free Prior an Informed Consent** *Indigenous Peoples** may choose to use different terminology

Indigenous Peoples: People and groups of people that can be identified or characterized as follows:

- 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).

Industrial activity: Industrial *forest** and resource management activities such as road building, mining, dams, urban development and timber harvesting.

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

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).

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)).

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 particular 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). List of *invasive species** present in Belgium : <http://ias.biodiversity.be/species/all>

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.).

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).

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).

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 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 as a whole, 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).

Light work: *national laws** or regulations may permit the employment or work of persons 13 to 15 years of age on *light work** which is- a) not likely to be harmful to their health or development; and b) not such as to prejudice their attendance at school, their participation in vocational orientation or training programmes approved by the competent authority or their capacity to benefit from the instruction received (ILO Convention 138, Article 7).

Living wage: The *remuneration** received for a standard work week by a worker in a particular place 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).

Local communities: Communities of any size 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, rights or environments significantly affected by the management activities or the biophysical aspects of the *Management Unit** (Source: 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 particular 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: 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: FSC-STD-01-002 V1-0 FSC Glossary of Terms (2009)).

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

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 plan monitoring: Follow up and oversight procedures for the purpose of evaluating the achievement of the *management objectives**. The results of the monitoring activities are utilized in the implementation of *adaptive management**.

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**. This area or areas include(s):

- all facilities and area(s) 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 the purpose of 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 the purpose of contributing to the management *objectives**.
- (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Managerial control: Responsibility of the kind defined for corporate directors of commercial enterprises in national commercial law, and treated by FSC as applicable also to public sector organizations (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Minimum age (of employment): is not less than the age of finishing compulsory education, and which in any case, should not be less than 15 years. However, a country, whose economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed, may initially specify a minimum age of 14 years. *National laws** may also permit the employment of 13-15 year olds in *light work** which is neither prejudicial to school attendance, nor harmful to a *child's** health or development. The ages 12-13 can apply for *light work** in countries that specify a minimum age of 14 (ILO Convention 138, Article 2).

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 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).

Natural conditions/native ecosystem: 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 favor 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 as *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.

Non-timber forest products (NTFP): All products other than timber derived from the *Management Unit** (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

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).

Obligatory code 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 in the course of, 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).

Occupational disease: Any disease contracted as a result 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).

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).

Old growth forest: Defined by its presence on old maps from Ferraris (1771-1778) / van der Maelen (1850), which are *forests** that in the past have never been converted to agricultural areas or in coniferous stands and which have been constantly regenerated naturally. The maps of Ferraris and / or van der Maelen show whether a *forest** property is partially or wholly composed of ancient *forests**. The WalonMap portal (<http://geoportail.wallonie.be/WalOnMap/>) allows the rapid identification of the forest area and superimposes historical maps for Wallonia.

Organism: Any biological entity capable of replication or of transferring genetic material (Source: Council Directive 90/220/EEC).

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).

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 color (Source: Aguilar, L. 2001. About Fishermen, Fisherwomen, Oceans and tides. IUCN. San Jose (Costa Rica)).

Pesticide: Any substance or preparation prepared or used in protecting plants or wood or other plant products 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)).

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** 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).

Pre-harvest [condition]: The diversity, composition, and structure of the *forest** or *plantation** prior to felling timber and appurtenant activities such as road building.

Principle: An essential rule or element; in FSC's case, of forest stewardship (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Protection: See definition of Conservation.

Protection Area: See definition of Conservation Zone.

Publicly available: In a manner accessible to or observable by people generally (Source: Collins English Dictionary, 2003 Edition).

Rare species: Species that are uncommon or scarce, but not classified as *threatened**. These species are located 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 imperiled 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).

Reduced impact harvesting: Harvesting (or logging) using techniques to reduce the impact on the residual stand (Source: Based on Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests, IUCN 2006).

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).

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).

Representative Sample Areas: Portions of the *Management Unit** delineated for the purpose of conserving or restoring viable examples of an *ecosystem** that would naturally occur in that geographical region. In the Belgian context and without being exhaustive, the retention of unmanaged* areas and integral reserves (eg. Unmanaged climax vegetation) can be considered as *Representative sample areas**.

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.).

Restore / Restoration: These words are used in different senses according to the context and in everyday speech. 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 heavily degraded or converted to other land uses. In the *Principles** and Criteria, the word 'restore' is not used to imply the recreation of any particular previous, pre-historic, pre-industrial or other pre-existing *ecosystem** (Source: 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.

*The Organization** is also not obliged to restore *environmental values** that may have existed at some time in the historic or pre-historic past, or that have been negatively affected by previous owners or organizations. However, *The Organization** is expected to take *reasonable** measures to mitigate, control and prevent environmental degradation which is continuing in the *Management Unit** as a result of such previous impacts.

Riparian zone: Interface between land and a water body, and the vegetation associated with it.

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).

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: See individual definitions of the terms 'scale', 'intensity', and 'risk'.

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, on the basis of its concentration of biodiversity;
- A voluntary recognition by the manager, owner or Organization, on the basis of 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 different 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).

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).

Stakeholder: See definitions for '*affected stakeholder**' and '*interested stakeholder**'.

Statutory law or statute law: The body of law contained in Acts of Parliament (national legislature) (Source: Oxford Dictionary of Law).

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).

Threat: An indication or warning of impending or likely damage or negative impacts (Source: Based on Oxford English Dictionary).

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: Based on 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 the purpose of comparison with calculated (maximum) allowable harvest levels.

Timely manner: As promptly as circumstances reasonably allow; not intentionally postponed by *The Organization**; in compliance with *applicable laws**, contracts, licenses or invoices.

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).

Traditional peoples: *Traditional peoples** are social groups or peoples who do not self-identify as indigenous and who affirm rights to their lands, *forests** and other resources

based on long established custom or traditional occupation and use (Source: Forest Peoples Programme (Marcus Colchester, 7 October 2009)).

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).

Unmanaged area: Area in which no management measures are implemented to allow a completely natural evolution of the stand. Such stands offer a habitat with a high degree of 'naturalness' with big and old trees, dying and decaying trees and they provide shelter for specific species

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 particular resources to specific levels of consumption or particular harvesting techniques (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2).

Vast majority: 80% of the total area of *Intact Forest Landscapes** within the *Management Unit** as of January 1, 2017. The *vast majority** also meets or exceeds the minimum definition of *Intact Forest Landscape**.

Verifiable targets: Specific goals, such as desired future forest conditions, established to measure progress towards the achievement of each of the *management objectives**. These goals 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.

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-01-002).

Very limited portion of core area: The area affected shall not exceed 0.5% of the area of the *core area** in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% of the area of the *core area**.

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.

Water bodies (including watercourses): Seasonal, temporary, and permanent brooks, creeks, streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. *Water bodies** include riparian or wetland systems, lakes, swamps, bogs and springs.

Water scarcity: A water supply that limits food production, human health, and economic development. Severe scarcity is taken to be equivalent to 1,000 cubic meters per year per person or greater than 40% use relative to supply (Source: Millennium *Ecosystem** Assessment. 2005. *Ecosystems** and Human Well-Being: Policy Responses. Findings of the Responses Working Group. Washington DC: Island Press, Pages 599-605).

Water stress: Occurs when the demand for water exceeds the available amount during a certain period or when poor quality restricts its use. *Water stress** causes deterioration of freshwater resources in terms of quantity (*aquifer** over-exploitation, dry rivers, etc.) and quality (eutrophication, organic matter pollution, saline intrusion, etc.) (Source: UNEP, 2003, cited in Gold Standard Foundation. 2014. Water Benefits Standard).

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).

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).

Workers: All employed persons including public employees as well as ‘self-employed’ persons. This includes part-time and seasonal employees, of all ranks and categories, including laborers, administrators, supervisors, executives, contractor employees as well as self-employed contractors and sub-contractors (Source: ILO Convention 155, Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981).

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).

Worst forms of *child labour:** comprises a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; b) the use, procuring or offering of a *child** for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performance; c) the use, procuring or offering of a *child** for illicit activities, in particular for production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties; d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children (ILO Convention 182, Article 3).



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