




Forest Stewardship Council®



# Structure, Content and Development of Interim National Standards

FSC-PRO-60-007 V1-1 EN

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## **STRUCTURE, CONTENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTERIM NATIONAL STANDARDS**

FSC-PRO-60-007 V1-1 EN

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, not for profit, non-government organization established to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

FSC's vision is that the world's forests meet the social, ecological, and economic rights and needs of the present generation without compromising those of future generations.

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## **A Objective**

The objective of this document is to specify the requirements for FSC-accredited certification bodies for developing Interim National Standard<sup>1</sup> (INS) for the certification of responsible forest management and the responsible management of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) at the Management Unit (MU) level. These standards shall be based on the International Generic Indicators (IGI) and shall address the regional, national or sub-national conditions in which they are to be used and shall consider input from local stakeholders. The FSC Board of Directors at FSC International, acting through the Policy and Standards Committee (PSC) shall approve Interim National Standards (INS) before they can be used for FSC certification purposes.

## **B Scope**

FSC-accredited certification bodies shall apply this document for the development of Interim National Standard or Interim Regional Standard in countries that are lacking registered SDG.

All aspects of this document are considered to be normative, including the scope, effective date, references, terms and definitions, notes, tables and annexes, unless otherwise stated (e.g. examples).

As part of the FSC Normative Framework, this document is subject to the review and revision cycle as described in Procedure *FSC-PRO-01-001 The development and revision of FSC Normative Framework*.

At their 68th Meeting in March 2015, the FSC Board of Directors approved, with consensus, the International Generic Indicators (IGI) as the starting point for developing National Standards. The IGI are mandatory for Interim National Standards ('Certification Body standards'). Certification Bodies developing Interim National Standards shall consider the Instructions for Standard Developers (see FSC-STD-60-004), and all the IGI, with the option to adopt or adapt indicators as appropriate and relevant nationally.

## **C Normative dates**

Approval date	21 July 2016
Publication date	31 August 2016
Effective date	01 October 2016
Period of validity	until replaced or withdrawn

## **D References**

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

*FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship*

*FSC-STD-01-002 FSC Glossary of Terms*

*FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria*

*FSC-STD-20-001 The application of ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996 (E) by FSC accredited certification bodies*

*FSC-STD-20-006 Stakeholder consultation for forest evaluations*

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<sup>1</sup> Or Interim Regional Standard (IRS), depending on the geographic scope of the standard

*FSC-STD-20-007 Forest Management Evaluations*  
*FSC-STD-60-002 Structure and Content of National Forest Stewardship Standards*  
*FSC-STD-60-004 International Generic Indicators*  
*FSC-PRO-01-001 The Development and Revision of FSC Normative Documents*  
*FSC-PRO-60-006 Development and Transfer of NFSS to FSC P&C V5*  
*FSC-DIR-20-007 FSC Directive on FSC Forest Management Evaluations*  
*FSC-GUI-60-001 Guidance on the Interpretation of FSC Principles and Criteria to Take Account of Small Scale and Low Intensity*  
*FSC-GUI-60-002 Scale, Intensity and Risk (SIR) Guideline for Standard Developers*  
*ISEAL Code of Good Practice Setting Social and Environmental Standards*

This procedure will gradually replace and supersede *FSC-STD-20-002 V3-0* once a National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) or Interim National Standard (INS) becomes effective in a given country. Meanwhile, the approval body for INSs (based on the P&C V5) has shifted from ASI to the FSC Board of Directors, acting through its Policy and Standards Committee (PSC). The PSC does not process and approve any more national standards based on the P&C V4.

Locally adapted national standards, including NTFP standards, developed according to *FSC-STD-20-002*, will remain effective until national standards or NTFPs standards based on the P&C V5, are phased-in according to *FSC-PRO-60-006*.

## **E Terms and definitions**

For the purposes of this international document, the terms and definitions given in *FSC-STD-01-002 FSC Glossary of Terms* and the following apply:

### **Adapt an IGI**

The TWG reviews and revises an IGI in order to address terminology, scope, or effectiveness in measuring conformance to a Criterion in a regional/national context (Source: *FSC-PRO-60-006*).

### **Adopt an IGI**

The TWG copies an IGI into the INS as it is written in *FSC-STD-60-004 FSC International Generic Indicators* (Source: *FSC-PRO-60-006*).

### **CB Forum**

Open list to serve certification bodies, auditors and consultants to exchange broad information about the FSC normative framework.

### **Criterion (pl. criteria)**

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

### **Culturally appropriate [mechanisms]**

Means/approaches for outreach to target groups that are in harmony with the customs, values, sensitivities, and ways of life of the target audience (Source: *FSC-STD-60-004*).

### **FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship (P&C)**

The 10 Principles and associated Criteria specified in the FSC document '*FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship*' (Source: *FSC-STD-01-001*).

### **Generic Forest Stewardship Standard (GFSS)**

An international forest stewardship standard, developed by FSC, based on the P&C, IGI, SIR Guideline, and HCV Guideline replacing the Certification Bodies' Generic Forest Stewardship Standards.

**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).

**International Generic Indicator**

An indicator designed to be applicable in any country or region for judging whether a management unit complies with the requirements of an FSC Criterion. IGIs are either adopted or adapted in developing the INs (Source: FSC-STD-60-004).

**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).

**Interim National Standard (INS)**

The FSC Principles and Criteria together with the IGI that are adopted or adapted to the national conditions by a TWG. It specifies the requirements with which The Organization must conform in order to obtain FSC certification in countries that are lacking NFSS.

**Interim Regional Standard (IRS)**

The FSC Principles and Criteria together with the IGI that are adopted or adapted to the group of countries, or in certain part of a country, by a TWG. It specifies the requirements with which The Organization must conform in order to obtain FSC certification in countries that are lacking NFSS.

**Means of verification**

A potential source of information or evidence that allows an auditor to evaluate conformity with an indicator (Source: FSC-STD-01-002).

**National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS)**

The FSC Principles and Criteria together with associated indicators that are adapted to national conditions by a SDG. It specifies the requirements with which The Organization must conform in order to obtain FSC certification.

**Natural Hazards**

Disturbances that can present risks to social and environmental values in the Management Unit, but that may also comprise important ecosystem functions; examples include drought, flood, fire, landslide, storm, avalanche, etc. (Source: FSC-STD-60-004).

**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).

**Principle**

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

**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).

**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).

### **Scale, intensity and risk**

See individual definitions of the terms ‘scale’, ‘intensity’, and ‘risk’.

### **Technical Working Group (TWG)**

In this document, Technical Working Group is defined as a temporary body registered by the PSU for the development of an INS, consisting of at least one representative from each FSC-accredited certification body conducting, or aiming to conduct, FM/COC or CW/FM assessments in the country or region.

### **Standard Developer**

Standard Developer refers both to TWGs and SDGs (Source: FSC-STD-60-004).

### **Standard Development Group (SDG)**

The body formally recognized by FSC to develop trans-national, supra-national, national and/or sub-national standards in its specified territory in accordance with FSC requirements. The Standards Development Group is not required to be an independent legal entity. It may be a committee or working group established for the purpose of standards development either as a function within a National Office or separate from it. It may be a separate organization contracted by the FSC National Office, FSC Regional Office or FSC Policy and Standards Unit to carry out standards development on its behalf (Source: FSC-STD-60-006).

### **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 to 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. A certification body 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.

## **F Abbreviations used**

ES	Ecosystem Services
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
HCV	High Conservation Value
IGI	International Generic Indicator
INS	Interim National Standard
IRS	Interim Regional Standard
NFSS	National Forest Stewardship Standard
NO	National Office
NTFP	Non-timber forest product
PSC	Policy and Standards Committee
PSU	Policy and Standards Unit (at FSC International)
SIR	Scale, intensity and risk
SDG	Standard Development Group (chamber balanced)
STD	Standard
TWG	Technical Working Group (no need to be chamber balanced)

## **G Version History**

*V1-0* was the initial procedure to specify the requirements for the development of FSC-accredited certification bodies for developing Interim National Standard (INS) for the certification of responsible forest management and the responsible management of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) at the Management Unit (MU) level.

*V1-1* includes the following administrative changes:

- Clarification added that locally adapted standards, including NTFP standards, developed according to FSC-STD-20-002 will remain valid in a country until a NFSS or INS (based on the P&C V5) is phased-in.



## **PART 1: Structure and Content of Interim National Standards**

### **1 Structure and numbering**

- 1.1 An INS shall include a hierarchy of principles, criteria and associated indicators.
- 1.2 The level of principles and criteria shall consist of each FSC Principle and each FSC Criterion in the same order, the same numbering and the same wording as they occur in the latest approved version of *FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship (FSC P&C)*.
- 1.3 The indicator level of an INS shall be developed according to the requirements specified in this document.

### **2 Content**

- 2.1 An INS shall include the following elements:
  - 2.1.1 The scope of application (regional or national level, NTFPs, types of The Organizations) at which it has to be used for forest management evaluations.
  - 2.1.2 A version number and the proposed effective and validity dates.

NOTE: The Policy and Standards Unit (PSU) will make the final decision on the scope of application and the effective and validity dates upon approval of an INS.
  - 2.1.3 The main body consisting of the hierarchy of principles, criteria and associated indicators.
  - 2.1.4 Annexes as follows:
    - a) A list of applicable laws, regulations and nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements, as per Annex 1, which shall be adapted by the TWG (defined in Section 4 below) to national conditions.
    - b) Annexes B, C, E and G from the IGI Standard (*FSC-STD-60-004*). Annexes B and G shall be adapted by TWGs to national conditions.
    - c) A list of, or reference to official lists of, endangered species in the country or region in which the standard is to be used.
    - d) A national HCV Framework addressing all HCV categories and Motion 65 (GA 2014) on Intact Forest Landscapes. For that purpose, the TWG shall observe the progress of the HCV TWG and shall review and take into account the final version or any publicly available draft versions of the HCV Guideline and any other FSC guidance.
  - 2.1.5 A preamble summarizing the development process of the INS.

NOTE: TWGs are recommended to use the INS template developed by PSU (available on request).
  - 2.1.6 A rationale when an FSC Principle or Criterion is considered to be not applicable in a given situation. Explanations shall not conflict with FSC policy, standards, advice notes or other normative documents related to the Principle or Criterion.

- 2.2 An INS shall comply with the latest versions of all approved FSC policies, standards, procedures and directives that apply to the interpretation of the FSC Principles and Criteria, as published on the FSC website.
- 2.3 An INS may include guidance notes to help auditors, forest managers or others in using the standard (e.g. providing clarifications on the requirements in the indicators, explaining specific terms, clarifying the applicability of the indicators, etc.). Such guidance notes may be added as annexes to the standard, linked to an indicator, or be published in a separate document. In all cases, the standard shall state that these guidance notes are not mandatory.
- 2.4 FSC certification of NTFPs shall be conducted using an INS that specifies NTFP in its scope. The TWG shall specifically review the requirements under Criteria 1.3, 1.5, 2.3, 2.5, 5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 8.2, 8.5, 10.7, and 10.11 and consider applicability for the development of indicators. The laws and regulations regarding the particular NTFP; the NTFP specific training needs, the NTFP related elements of the FM plan and the NTFP specific monitoring needs have to be included to the Annexes 1, 2, 5 and 6 of the INS template.
- 2.4.1 Two options exist for the development of NTFP standards:
- I The standard is developed by the TWG as an integral part of the INS in compliance with all requirements in this procedure. This is the priority option and shall be applied when FSC certified NTFPs are already produced in the country.
  - II In addition, a Certification Body may also develop a temporary INS for NTFP or ES as a separate process. In countries with NFSS this may only occur with the approval of the SDG. The development of separate, temporary NTFP or ES INS shall comply with this procedure and the costs are covered according to Chapter 4. The temporary NTFP or ES standard shall be integrated into the INS, or NFSS if this exists, in the next regular revision.

NOTE: Trademark use and labelling rules related to NTFP must be covered when adapting Criterion 8.5.

### **3 Indicators and verifiers**

- 3.1 Where IGI are not adapted to address the national context (see Clause 3.2 below) or SIR (see Clause 3.4 below), they should be adopted into an INS as presented in *FSC-STD-60-004*. The adopted indicators are not required to go to public consultation.
- 3.2 The TWG shall review and revise each IGI<sup>2</sup> in order to address terminology, scope or effectiveness in measuring conformance to a Criterion in a regional/national context. This may take multiple forms:
- I. Revision of the wording of an IGI to include terminology appropriate in the regional/national context, while maintaining the intended scope and outcome of the IGI.

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<sup>2</sup> The minimum list of IGI that shall be adapted to national context are indicated in Annex 2.

- II. Adding locally relevant thresholds, other national/regional norms, or best practices to an IGI to improve intended outcomes and consistency in measuring conformance with a Criterion.
- III. Splitting an IGI to allow more effective and efficient measures of conformance to a Criterion without narrowing the intended outcome of the IGI.
- IV. Expanding or focusing the scope of an IGI, in order to better achieve intended outcomes and conformance to the Criterion based on national context. This option results in narrowing or expanding the intended outcome of the IGI.

NOTE: Item IV is intended for those IGI that contain lists or other multiple or complex requirements. For example, in cases of IGI with lists, the TWG may agree to include all elements of a list, or only some of the elements of the list, or to add new elements to the list, as applicable.

- 3.3 Adaptation shall be justified when submitting the INS for approval. Justifications may be brief and may address multiple IGI simultaneously if the conditions and rationale for the decisions are identical. Justifications shall not conflict with FSC policies, standards, directives or procedures. Adaptation requires demonstrated stakeholder support.
- 3.4 *FSC-GUI-60-002 SIR Guideline for Standards Developers* and approved National Risk Assessments or Centralized National Risk Assessments, if such exist, shall be considered when developing the INS.
- 3.5 The Instructions for Standard Developers included in *FSC-STD-60-004* shall be considered when developing the INS. The mandatory nature of these Instructions is reflected in their language, expressed according to ISO's 'verbal forms for the expression of provisions' (see "Terms and Definitions", above).
- 3.6 Each adapted indicator shall be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Tangible), according to Clause 4.4 in *FSC-STD-60-002 Structure and Content of National Forest Stewardship Standards*.
- 3.7 An INS should include examples of verifiers for every indicator.

NOTE: Verifiers do not define thresholds for conformity, but indicate potential sources of information or evidence that an auditor may find useful in evaluating conformity, such as records, documents, field observations or interviews. They may be useful also for the certificate holder for finding means to demonstrate conformity with the indicators. Verifiers are not mandatory.

## **PART 2: Development and approval of Interim National Standards**

### **4 Technical Working Groups**

- 4.1 A TWG shall be registered with PSU prior to the development of an INS, consisting of at least one representative from each certification body active in the country or region, accredited for forest management certification (incl. Controlled Wood FM).

NOTE: PSU may proactively take the initiative to set up a TWG where needed.

NOTE: PSU will announce the establishment and registration of a TWG in the CB Forum. CBs that do not have certificates in the country may choose to join the TWG.

NOTE: PSU may join a TWG in a coordinating or supporting role if deemed necessary.

- 4.2 All TWGs shall be registered within twelve (12) months of the approval of this procedure.

NOTE: This Clause only applies to those countries in which CBs are certifying forest management according to their adapted generic standards at the time of approval of this procedure.

- 4.3 A TWG cannot be registered in a country that already has a Standard Development Group (SDG) registered with PSU.

- 4.4 In order to get registered, each TWG shall submit a work plan (see also Clause 5.2) and a list of participating CB representatives to PSU. Where refunding of expenses is aspired, the TWG shall submit a list of the expected refundable expenses for approval.

- 4.5 If a FSC-accredited CB intends to conduct main evaluations or regular surveillance audits in a region or country for which an existing TWG is already in the process of developing an INS, a representative from this FSC-accredited CB shall join the TWG.

- 4.6 The number of INS to be coordinated by each CB should be proportionate to the existing number of interim standards based on P&C V4. The decision on the coordinator shall be taken mutually by the parties involved in the process. The TWG should be coordinated, when possible, by the FSC-accredited CB with the highest number of certificates in the country.

- 4.7 In the countries, where no national standards exist, the first CB signing a certification contract shall coordinate the TWG, unless another CB voluntarily takes the initiative to get registered as coordinator and they both agree.

- 4.8 The TWG shall be dissolved once the Policy and Standards Committee (PSC) approved the INS.

- 4.9 Decisions of the TWG shall be made by consensus, taking into consideration the comments from stakeholders (see Section 5, below). When a TWG cannot achieve consensus, the differences shall be reported to PSU when the TWG submits the INS for approval.

- 4.10 TWG members are responsible for covering their own costs (travel and accommodation costs of CB staff). Common costs (such as renting the meeting venue, stakeholder's/ external experts travels to meetings, stakeholder's/ external experts accommodation to participate the meetings, coffee and meals for consultation meetings, translation and publication of the INS) shall be

presented in the budget as per Clause 4.4, and will be covered by FSC upon submission of original copies of invoices and tickets. Reimbursement is possible after prior written approval of the budget by PSU. This clause applies for all TWGs and is also valid for TWGs developing new INS in countries without existing CB interim standards.

NOTE: Wherever possible, PSU staff will participate in stakeholder meetings and organize the compensation to the participants.

4.10.1 Reimbursement of travel expenses and accommodation of the stakeholders to the stakeholder meetings, as well as per diems is decided on a case-by-case basis, aiming to enable sufficient participation of all the chambers and in particular the Indigenous People.

NOTE: The stakeholder engagement may also be organized together with PIPC Technical Coordinator, FSC Network Partners (if such exist), with the PSU Officers or with Forest Network.

4.11 All INS shall be finalized and submitted to PSU for approval by the PSC no later than 12 months after the registration of a TWG.

4.12 Pre-assessments can take place using IGI or early drafts of the INS.

## **5 Stakeholder consultation**

5.1 The TWG shall conduct a stakeholder mapping to identify the key stakeholders in the region or country concerned for the following categories:

- a) Any FSC Network Partner;
- b) The state forest service(s) or equivalent;
- c) NGOs that are involved or have an interest with respect to social or environmental aspects of forest management;
- d) Indigenous Peoples;
- e) Representatives of affected stakeholders and local communities that are involved or have an interest in forest management;
- f) Labour organisations or unions of forestry sector workers;
- g) Representatives of forest owners associations;
- h) Forest research and education institutions;
- i) Forest industries and associations.

5.2 The TWG shall include to the work plan two (2) full rounds of public consultation for the INS as a default and at least one stakeholder meeting, which is open to all interested stakeholders and at least one representative from each of the stakeholder categories (Clause 5.1 a-h) is invited.

5.2.1 Indigenous Peoples representatives shall be engaged for developing indicators for Principle 3 and the definition of customary land.

NOTE: In case the GFSS is used for developing the INS, adaptation of GFSS to the local conditions shall happen at latest in the next audit following the availability of a GFSS.

5.3 A public consultation round shall consist of a period of at least sixty (60) days. In exceptional circumstances, the period can be reduced to no less than thirty (30) days by agreement between the TWG and PSU.

- 5.4 If the first round of public consultation shows general support to the draft INS and there are no substantive, unresolved issues, then a second round can be omitted by agreement between the TWG and PSU.
- 5.5 The TWG shall use consultation methods that are culturally appropriate (as defined by *ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards*) to the consulted stakeholder group(s).
- 5.6 In addition to the outreach of the stakeholders identified in the mapping (see Clause 5.1) by the TWG, PSU will also publish the draft INS on the FSC website (national, regional or international) at the start of each public consultation round.
- 5.7 The TWG shall record, analyse and consider all stakeholder comments in the development of the next draft.

## **6 Records**

- 6.1 The coordinator of a TWG shall be responsible for compiling the following records:
  - a) A list of the TWG members' names and their affiliation.
  - b) A list of individuals/ organisations invited to comment on the INS.
  - c) Copies of all correspondence and/or comments received from stakeholders on the INS.
  - d) Minutes of stakeholder meetings.
- 6.2 The records referenced in Clause 6.1 shall be sent to PSU when the TWG submits the INS for approval.

## **7 Translation**

- 7.1 INS may be developed in one or more of the languages of the region or country to which they apply. However, for approval by the PSC the standard shall be submitted in English or Spanish. The approved version shall be considered definitive in the case of any dispute.

## **8 Ownership**

- 8.1 The ownership of all approved INS is with PSU.
- 8.2 The interpretation authority for INS rests with PSU.

NOTE: PSU will continue to maintain records of all comments submitted with respect to an INS, to take them into consideration in the next review.

## **9 Replacement by a National Forest Stewardship Standard**

- 9.1 An INS shall be valid until invalidated by PSU or replaced by an approved NFSS.
- 9.2 PSU will define and communicate the transition process in each individual case.

## **10 Review and revision**

- 10.1 CBs shall collect any comments they receive in relation to the INS from stakeholders and forward them to PSU for the reviewing process whenever

they receive comments. Stakeholders may also send their comments directly to PSU.

- 10.2 INS will be reviewed by PSU on a five (5) years cycle, using the stakeholder feedback received.

NOTE: As a result of the review process, PSU will either extend the validity of the INS or initiate a revision process.

- 10.3 If as a result of a review process, PSU concludes that a revision of the INS is needed, a new TWG will be established to carry out the revision process. The members of the new TWG consists of CBs having FM clients in the country and it is coordinated by PSU.

- 10.4 The revision process shall follow the requirements of this document, including the stakeholder consultation. PSU will carry all responsibilities of the TWG coordinator.

- 10.5 Typographical errors and minor inconsistencies in approved INS may be corrected by PSU at any time with the approval of the FSC Policy Director. The updated version shall be published following the requirements of Section 12 (below).

NOTE: PSU will assign the updated standard a new version number, together with the date of the update.

## **11 Approval**

- 11.1 An INS shall be submitted to the PSC for approval via PSU. PSU will assess the technical quality of the final draft of the INS and the standard setting process, within two (2) months after receiving the draft INS. Based on the assessment result, the standard is either sent back to the TWG for further elaboration, or forwarded to the PSC for decision making.

- 11.2 The TWG shall prepare a synopsis of the main issues related to the INS where stakeholders expressed their disagreement with the standard or single indicators, and explaining the basis on which the TWG made its decision in relation to these indicators. The synopsis shall be attached as an annex to the standard submitted for approval.

## **12 Publication**

- 12.1 Once approved, PSU will publish the INS on the FSC website in English or Spanish and the official language of the country or where the country has more than one official language, the language that is most commonly spoken in the country.

- 12.2 The INS will be phased-in according to the transition rule in *FSC-PRO-01-001* Clause 12.5, applying both to previous CB standards and NFSSs in the case registered SDG does not exist.

## **13 Exclusivity**

- 13.1 There shall be no more than one approved INS per country, not counting temporary NTFP or ES standards (see Clause 2.4.1 II).

- 13.2 Once an INS is approved, all FSC-accredited CBs shall use the INS for forest management evaluations within the scope of the standard as of its effective date.

## **14 Exceptional development on the basis of the Generic Forest Stewardship Standard**

- 14.1 In countries, where establishing a TWG is not economically feasible (based on number of CBs or the number of certification applicants, area to be certified, remoteness of the country, economic margins, etc.), CBs may seek approval from FSC to use the international Generic Forest Stewardship Standard (GFSS) and adapt it to INS according to Clauses 14.2 - 14.4 (below).

NOTE: When applying this exception, it is not required to use the IGI and SIR Guideline as the starting point for developing the INS.

- 14.2 The CB implementing this process shall conduct stakeholder mapping according to Clause 5.1, organize at least one thirty (30) days public consultation to the GFSS. Each consultation period shall be followed by a period of at least ten (10) working days for the CB to evaluate and incorporate the comments into the GFSS before submitting the resulting draft INS to PSU for approval.

NOTE: The public consultation to the GFSS may be conducted as part of the consultation process in a forest management evaluation according to *FSC-STD-20-007*.

- 14.3 The CB shall accommodate all stakeholder comments and review the GFSS to:

a) identify any aspects of its standard that may be in conflict with legal requirements in the area in which the standard is to be used, and if such a conflict is identified evaluate it for the purposes of certification in discussion with the involved or affected parties.

NOTE: Conflicts only occur where a legal obligation prevents the implementation of some aspect of the generic standard. It is not considered a conflict if the requirements of the GFSS exceed the minimum requirements for legal compliance.

b) identify any aspects of GFSS which specify performance thresholds lower than the minimum legal requirement in the country concerned. If any such differences are identified the relevant thresholds shall be modified to ensure that they meet or exceed the minimum legal requirements.

- 14.4 Except for the absence of a TWG and the streamlined public consultation process, all the rules in this procedure shall apply for GFSS-based INS.
- 14.5 There shall be only one GFSS-based INS in a country and the development work is compensated for the CBs similarly as in the case of TWG-based INS.



## **Annex 1: Minimum list of applicable laws, regulations and nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements.**

The content of this table shall be adapted to ensure that all relevant national and regional laws are included in the INS. Where a Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment (NRA) is approved, this table shall be developed by using and reviewing the laws identified in the NRA to ensure the inclusion of an updated list of applicable legislation.

<b>1. Legal rights to harvest</b>	
1.1 Land tenure and management rights	Legislation covering land tenure rights, including customary rights as well as management rights that includes the use of legal methods to obtain tenure rights and management rights. It also covers legal business registration and tax registration, including relevant legally required licenses.
1.2 Concession licenses	Legislation regulating procedures for issuing forest concession licenses, including the use of legal methods to obtain concession licenses. Bribery, corruption and nepotism are particularly well-known issues that are connected with concession licenses.
1.3 Management and harvesting planning	Any national or sub-national legal requirements for Management Planning, including conducting forest inventories, having a forest management plan and related planning and monitoring, impact assessments, consultation with other entities, as well as approval of these by legally competent authorities.
1.4 Harvesting permits	National or sub-national laws and regulations regulating procedures for issuing harvesting permits, licenses or other legal documents required for specific harvesting operations. This includes the use of legal methods to obtain the permits. Corruption is a well-known issue that is connected with the issuing of harvesting permits.
<b>2. Taxes and fees</b>	
2.1 Payment of royalties and harvesting fees	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.
2.2 Value added taxes and other sales taxes	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).
2.3 Income and profit taxes	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.
<b>3. Timber harvesting activities</b>	
3.1 Timber harvesting regulations	Any legal 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.
3.2 Protected sites and species	International, national, and sub national treaties, laws, and regulations related to protected areas, allowable forest uses and activities, and/or rare, threatened, or endangered species, including their habitats and potential habitats.
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 water courses, 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.
3.4 Health and safety	Legally required personal protection equipment for persons involved in harvesting activities, implementation of safe felling and transport practices, establishment of protection 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 forest (not office work, or other activities less related to actual forest operations).
3.5 Legal employment	Legal 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 hazardous work, legislation against forced and compulsory labor, and discrimination and freedom of association.
<b>4. Third parties' rights</b>	
4.1 Customary rights	Legislation covering customary rights relevant to forest harvesting activities, including requirements covering the sharing of benefits and indigenous rights.
4.2 Free Prior and Informed Consent	Legislation covering "free prior and informed consent" in connection with the transfer of forest management rights and customary rights to The Organization in charge of the harvesting operation.
4.3 Indigenous Peoples' rights	Legislation that regulates the rights of Indigenous Peoples as far as it is related to forestry activities. Possible aspects to consider are land tenure, and rights to use certain forest related resources and practice traditional activities, which may involve forest lands.

<b>5. Trade and transport</b>	
<b>NOTE:</b> This section covers requirements for forest management operations as well as processing and trade.	
5.1 Classification of species, quantities, qualities	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.
5.2 Trade and transport	All required trading and transport permits shall exist as well as legally required transport documents which accompany the transport of wood from forest operations.
5.3 Offshore trading and transfer pricing	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 should be noted that only transfer pricing and offshore trading, as far as it is legally prohibited in the country, can be included here.
5.4 Custom regulations	Custom legislation covering areas such as export/import licenses and product classification (codes, quantities, qualities and species).
5.5 CITES	CITES permits (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Washington Convention).
<b>6. Due diligence / due care</b>	
6.1 Due diligence / due care procedures	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.
<b>7. Ecosystem Services</b>	
	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).

## Annex 2: Minimum list of IGI requiring local adaptation

The list below presents the IGI that shall be adapted to the national context as described in Clause 3.2 of this procedure. All other IGI should be adopted word by word unless public consultation indicates support for adaptation.

Terms for which a definition is provided in the Glossary of Terms of the P&C V5-2 or of the FSC-STD-60-004 are formatted in italics and marked with an asterisk\*.

The list is based on the Instructions to Standard Developers (*FSC-STD-60-004*), which explicitly require adaptation or setting thresholds to following indicators:

IGI	Required adaption (see also FSC-STD-60-004)
<p>1.1.1 <i>Legal registration*</i> to carry out all activities within the scope of the certificate is documented and unchallenged.</p>	<p>Standard Developers <i>shall*</i> identify where <i>customary rights*</i> govern use and access, and, where applicable, write additional indicators to ensure that these rights to carry out activities within the scope of the certificate are documented (Indicator 1.1.1);</p>
<p>1.2.1 <i>Legal* tenure*</i> to manage and use resources within the scope of the certificate is documented.</p>	<p>Standard Developers <i>shall*</i> identify the appropriate process that recognizes and grants <i>customary rights*</i> related to use and access and how such recognized <i>customary rights*</i> are to be documented (Indicator 1.2.1);</p> <p>Identify where <i>customary tenures*</i> to manage and use resources exist at the national level and ensure that these are incorporated into indicators (Indicator 1.2.1).</p>
<p>1.4.1 Measures are implemented to provide <i>protection*</i> from unauthorized or illegal harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.</p> <p>1.4.2 Where <i>protection*</i> is the <i>legal*</i> responsibility of regulatory bodies, a system is implemented to work with these regulatory bodies to identify, report, control and discourage unauthorized or illegal activities.</p>	<p>Standard Developers <i>shall*</i> develop indicators that apply both when the land is owned by a third party and also when <i>The Organization*</i> needs to implement a collaborative strategy with the regulatory body, landowner and/or other stakeholders to prevent, by all <i>reasonable*</i> means, illegal activities. This <i>Criterion*</i> recognizes that it is not always possible for <i>The Organization*</i> to enforce protective measures, for example when <i>The Organization*</i> is not the landowner or does not have appropriate <i>legal*</i> rights of control (Indicators 1.4.1 and 1.4.2).</p>

IGI	Required adaption (see also FSC-STD-60-004)
<p>2.4.2 Wages paid meet or exceed:  1) Minimum <i>forest*</i> industry standards; or  2) Other recognized <i>forest*</i> industry wage agreements; or  3) <i>Living wages*</i> that are higher than <i>legal*</i> minimum wages.</p> <p>2.4.3 When no minimum wage levels exist, wages are established through culturally <i>appropriate*</i> <i>engagement*</i> with <i>workers*</i> and / or formal and informal workers <i>organizations*</i>.</p>	<p>Standards Developers <i>shall*</i> identify all <i>forest*</i> industry standards, other recognized <i>forest*</i> industry wage agreements and <i>living wage*</i> benchmarks and identify which of these are higher than the <i>legal*</i> minimum wages and by how much. Standards Developers <i>shall*</i> adapt indicators 2.4.2 and 2.4.3 based on this gap analysis.</p>
<p>2.6.1 A <i>dispute*</i> resolution process is in place, developed through <i>culturally appropriate*</i> <i>engagement*</i> with <i>workers*</i>.</p>	<p>Standard Developers <i>shall*</i> develop indicators to ensure that <i>culturally appropriate*</i> <i>engagement*</i> is used to define <i>dispute*</i> resolution processes following the requirements of <i>Criterion*</i> 7.6 (Indicator 2.6.1).</p>
<p>3.1.2 Through <i>culturally appropriate*</i> <i>engagement*</i> with the <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i> identified in 3.1.1, the following issues are documented and/or mapped:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Their <i>legal*</i> and <i>customary rights*</i> of <i>tenure*</i>;</li> <li>2) Their <i>legal*</i> and <i>customary*</i> access to, and use <i>rights*</i>, of the <i>forest*</i> resources and <i>ecosystem services*</i>;</li> <li>3) Their <i>legal*</i> and <i>customary rights*</i> and obligations that apply;</li> <li>4) The evidence supporting these rights and obligations;</li> <li>5) Areas where rights are contested between <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i>, governments and/or others;</li> <li>6) Summary of the means by which the <i>legal*</i> and <i>customary rights*</i> and contested rights, are addressed by <i>The Organization*</i>;</li> </ol>	<p>Standard Developers <i>shall*</i> develop indicators to ensure that where there is no written text or records to support these claims to rights, <i>culturally appropriate*</i> ways for identifying, agreeing to and documenting the rights and obligations of <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i> are used</p> <p>Standard Developers <i>shall*</i> develop a methodology to implement <i>culturally appropriate*</i> approaches to identify and document the rights and obligations of <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i> following the requirements of <i>Criterion*</i> 7.6 (Indicator 3.1.2).</p>

IGI	Required adaption (see also FSC-STD-60-004)
7) The aspirations and goals of <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i> related to management activities.	
<p>3.3.1 Where control over management activities has been granted through <i>Free Prior and Informed Consent*</i> based on <i>culturally appropriate* engagement*</i>, the <i>binding agreement*</i> contains the duration, provisions for renegotiation, renewal, termination, economic conditions and other terms and conditions.</p> <p>3.3.2 Records of <i>binding agreements*</i> are maintained.</p>	<p>Standard Developers <i>shall*</i> develop indicators taking into consideration that <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i> may choose to ratify <i>binding agreements*</i> in writing or in another format of their choosing according to <i>culturally appropriate* engagement*</i>. <i>Binding agreements*</i> reflect cultural requirements and may also be based on oral and honour systems, to be applied in cases where written agreements are not favoured by <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i>, either for practical reasons or on principle. Recognizing that <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i> may not want to grant <i>Free Prior and Informed Consent*</i> and/or delegate control for their own reasons, the <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i> may choose to offer their support for management activities in a different way of their choosing (Indicator 3.3.1 and 3.3.2).</p>
<p>4.2.4 <i>Free, prior and informed consent*</i> is granted by <i>local communities*</i> prior to management activities that affect their identified rights through a process that includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Ensuring <i>local communities*</i> know their rights and obligations regarding the resource;</li> <li>2) Informing the <i>local communities*</i> of the value, in economic, social and environmental terms, of the resource over which they are considering delegation of control;</li> <li>3) Informing the <i>local communities*</i> of their right to withhold or modify consent to the proposed management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights and resources; and</li> <li>4) Informing the <i>local communities*</i> of the current and future planned forest* management activities.</li> </ol>	<p>Standard Developers <i>shall*</i> develop indicators to ensure that the right to <i>Free Prior and Informed Consent*</i> is granted only to <i>local communities*</i> with established <i>legal* or customary rights*</i> within the <i>Management Unit*</i>. The scope of <i>Free Prior and Informed Consent*</i> for <i>local communities*</i> is limited to the rights that exist within the <i>Management Unit*</i> and only to the extent that management actions have an impact on those rights (Indicator 4.2.4).</p>
4.5.1 Through <i>culturally appropriate* engagement*</i> with <i>local communities*</i> ,	Standard Developers <i>shall*</i> develop indicators to define the degree to which <i>The Organization*</i>

IGI	Required adaption (see also FSC-STD-60-004)
<p>measures are implemented to identify, avoid and mitigate significant* negative social, environmental and economic impacts of management activities.</p>	<p>has a responsibility to contribute to mitigating the resulting negative social and economic impacts on affected communities (Indicator 4.5.1).</p>
<p>5.2.1 Timber <i>harvesting levels*</i> are based on an analysis of current <i>Best Available Information*</i> on growth and yield; inventory of the <i>forest*</i>; mortality rates; and maintenance of ecosystem functions*.</p> <p>5.2.3 Actual annual harvest levels for timber are recorded and the harvest over a defined period does not exceed the allowable cut determined in 5.2.2 for the same defined period.</p> <p>5.2.4 For extraction of commercially harvested services and <i>non-timber forest products*</i> under <i>The Organization's*</i> control a sustainable harvest level is calculated and adhered to. Sustainable harvest levels are based on <i>Best Available Information*</i>.</p>	<p>Standard Developers <i>shall*</i> develop indicators to ensure that the rate of harvest for large, regionally dispersed <i>Management Units*</i> does not allow concentrating the annual harvest in one sub-unit or any one species in a way that compromises <i>The Organization's*</i> ability to meet all other aspects of the standard.</p> <p>Standard Developers <i>shall*</i> specify the <i>Best Available Information*</i> that <i>The Organization*</i> <i>shall*</i> use for Indicators 5.2.1 and 5.2.4.</p>
<p>5.3.1 Costs related to preventing, mitigating or compensating for negative social and environment impacts of management activities are quantified and documented in the <i>management plan*</i>.</p> <p>5.3.2 Benefits related to positive social and environment impacts of management activities are identified and included in the <i>management plan*</i>.</p>	<p>Standard Developers <i>shall*</i> develop indicators to ensure that financial planning and cost accounting is done by <i>The Organization*</i> for the <i>Management Unit*</i>. Refer to <i>Criterion*</i> 5.5.</p>
<p>Principle 5, Annex C, section F: Recreational Services</p>	<p>In case the INS is designed to incorporate Ecosystem services, the Standard Developers <i>shall*</i> develop indicators to ensure that goods and services used by <i>The Organizations*</i> seeking to make claims for recreational services prioritize locally sourced cultural goods and services. This means, for example, that artisanal crafts and locally grown food are preferred over more generic options that may also be available.</p>

IGI	Required adaption (see also FSC-STD-60-004)
<p>6.1.1 <i>Best Available Information*</i> is used to identify <i>environmental values*</i> within, and, where potentially affected by management activities, outside of the <i>Management Unit*</i>.</p>	<p>Standard Developers shall specify the <i>Best Available Information*</i> that <i>The Organization* shall*</i> use for Indicator 6.1.1.</p>
<p>6.4.1 <i>Best Available Information*</i> is used to identify <i>rare and threatened species*</i>, and their <i>habitats*</i>, including CITES species (where applicable) and those listed on national, regional and local lists of rare and threatened species* that are present or likely to be present within and adjacent to the <i>Management Unit*</i>.</p>	<p>Standard Developers <i>shall*</i> specify the <i>Best Available Information*</i> that <i>The Organization* shall*</i> use for Indicator 6.4.1.</p>
<p>6.4.3 The <i>rare and threatened species*</i> and their <i>habitats*</i> are protected, including through the provision of <i>conservation zones*</i>, <i>protection areas*</i>, <i>connectivity*</i>, and other direct means for their survival and viability, such as species' recovery programs.</p>	<p>Standard Developers <i>shall*</i> develop indicators that introduce <i>conservation*</i> measures for particular groups of <i>rare and threatened species*</i> into national standards.</p>
<p>6.5.1 <i>Best Available Information*</i> is used to identify native ecosystems* that exist, or would exist under natural conditions*, within the <i>Management Unit*</i>.</p> <p>6.5.5 <i>Representative Sample Areas*</i> in combination with other components of the conservation areas network* comprise a minimum 10% area of the <i>Management Unit*</i>.</p>	<p><i>Representative Sample Areas*</i> perform multiple functions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representing the environmental values* that exist in native ecosystems* and thus serve as a reference for environmental values* and ecosystem services* within the <i>Management Unit*</i>. In order to use <i>Representative Sample Areas*</i> as references for all of the ecosystems* that could potentially be present in the <i>Management Unit*</i>, for the purposes of 6.1.1, it may be necessary to identify <i>Representative Sample Areas*</i> outside of the <i>Management Unit*</i>. This may be the case when dealing with <i>Management Units*</i> comprised mainly of plantations.</li> <li>• Informing forest* management, including regeneration, within the <i>Management Unit*</i> in order to maintain or enhance environmental values*.</li> <li>• Forming part of the <i>Conservation Areas Network*</i> within the <i>Management Unit*</i>. In</li> </ul>



IGI	Required adaption (see also FSC-STD-60-004)
	<p>order to protect and conserve environmental values*, it may be necessary to designate and restore* Representative Sample Areas* within the Management Unit*. Protection Areas*, Conservation zones*, Representative Sample Areas* and High Conservation Value Areas*, may overlap spatially where they meet the same criteria to form the Conservation Area Network*. Please refer to Annex D.</p> <p><i>Conservation Area Networks*</i> shall be defined using Annex D in FSC-STD-60-004</p> <p>See also Interpretation to FSC-STD60-004 on the inclusion of riparian zones to the Conservation Area Network (published on Tuesday, 06. October 2015)</p>
<p>6.6.1 Management activities maintain the plant communities and <i>habitat features*</i> found within native <i>ecosystems*</i> in which the <i>Management Unit*</i> is located.</p> <p>6.6.2 Where past management has eliminated plant communities or <i>habitat features*</i>, management activities aimed at re-establishing such <i>habitats*</i> are implemented.</p> <p>6.6.3 Management maintains, enhances, or <i>restores*</i> <i>habitat features*</i> associated with native <i>ecosystems*</i>, to support the diversity of naturally occurring species and their genetic diversity.</p> <p>6.6.4 Effective measures are taken to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting activities to ensure that naturally occurring <i>native species*</i>, their diversity within species and their natural distribution are maintained.</p> <p>6.6.X Mechanisms for wildlife <i>protection*</i> are in place: Applicable national and/or international regulations on <i>protection*</i>, hunting and trade in animal species or parts (trophies) shall* be known and complied with;</p>	<p>Standard Developers <i>shall*</i> specify management thresholds for <i>habitat features*</i> in national standards.</p> <p>Standard Developers <i>shall*</i> ensure that in regions where hunting is threatening species diversity the indicators indicated with "X" are included in national standards:</p>

IGI	Required adaption (see also FSC-STD-60-004)
<p>6.6.X An internal regulation banning and punishing the transportation of and trade in bush meat and firearms in the facilities and vehicles of <i>The Organization</i>*;</p> <p>6.6.X A system of regular and punctual controls to ensure hunting policies are respected is implemented;</p> <p>6.6.X Effective mitigation measures are in place to ensure that <i>workers</i>* do not increase hunting trapping or collecting of bush meat or wild fish.</p>	
<p>7.1.2 Specific, operational <i>management objectives</i>* that address the requirements of this standard are defined</p>	<p>Standard Developers shall* develop indicators to ensure that <i>The Organization</i>* establishes specific <i>management objectives</i>* that correspond to specific management goals, practices, outcomes, and approaches required by this standard.</p>
<p>7.2.1 The <i>management plan</i>* includes management actions, procedures, strategies and measures to achieve the <i>management objectives</i>*.</p>	<p>Standard Developers shall* develop indicators to ensure that the duration of the <i>management plan</i>* is consistent with <i>Criterion</i>* 1.8 and demonstrate a long-term* commitment to the FSC <i>Principles</i>* and <i>Criteria</i>* and to related FSC Policies and Standards.</p>
<p>7.6.1 <i>Culturally appropriate engagement</i>* is used to ensure that <i>affected stakeholders</i>* are proactively and transparently engaged in the following processes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <i>Dispute</i>* resolution processes (<i>Criterion</i>* 1.6, <i>Criterion</i>* 2.6, <i>Criterion</i>* 4.6);</li> <li>2) <i>Definition of Living wages</i>* (<i>Criterion</i>* 2.4);</li> <li>3) Identification of rights (<i>Criterion</i>* 3.1, <i>Criterion</i>* 4.1), sites (<i>Criterion</i>* 3.5, <i>Criterion</i>* 4.7) and impacts (<i>Criterion</i>* 4.5);</li> <li>4) Local communities'* socio-economic development activities (<i>Criterion</i>* 4.4); and</li> </ol>	<p>Standard Developers shall develop culturally appropriate* engagement* processes for the <i>Criteria</i>* specified in Indicator 7.6.1, following the requirements of Indicator 7.6.2, with variations according to the target group if deemed necessary.</p>

IGI	Required adaption (see also FSC-STD-60-004)
5) <i>High Conservation Value*</i> assessment, management and monitoring ( <i>Criterion*</i> 9.1, <i>Criterion*</i> 9.2, <i>Criterion*</i> 9.4).	
8.2.2 Changes in environmental conditions are monitored* consistent with Annex G.	<p><i>Standard Developers shall* develop indicators to ensure that monitoring procedures are consistent and replicable over time, suitable for quantifying changes over time, and suitable for identifying risks* and unacceptable impacts. Monitoring shall* include the changes of the conditions of the Management Unit*, with and without interventions. This implies that baseline data exists.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to the monitoring conducted for Criteria* 8.1 and 8.2, Standard Developers shall* include in National Standards and Interim National Standards a list that includes the relevant elements of the monitoring requirements as listed below. This list shall* be consistent with existing national and sub-national monitoring frameworks.</i></p>

10.1.1 Harvested sites are regenerated

Standard developers *shall\** consider the following when developing indicators:

For an existing *plantation\**, the species harvested may be the same as the one(s) used to regenerate. However, there may be solid ecological, social and economic reasons for changing the species. The chosen species must be ecologically well adapted to the site and the management *objectives\** consistent with *Criterion\** 10.2.

For alien species, use is restricted by the preference for native species at *Criterion\** 10.2 and control and mitigation measures for invasive impacts at *Criterion\** 10.3.

For natural *forests\**, one consideration for regeneration is to determine if the *pre-harvest\** condition was the result of previous harvesting and silvicultural activities, or natural events that have left the area in a degraded condition. The *objective\** should be to improve degraded areas, once harvested, to more *natural conditions\**.

For natural *forests\**, an important *objective\** is to ensure a relatively natural abundance of species for both population and size range, across the space of the *Management Unit\**. This may be demonstrated by following the concept of 'range of natural variation', since forests do not remain static over time. This approach allows *The Organization\** some flexibility on a stand level or harvest area level as long as the species diversity across the *Management Unit\** is within the range of natural variation, including within managed stands, while allowing native species the possibility of migration resulting from climate change.

The period required for regeneration is typically shorter for areas to be planted (artificial regeneration) than areas assigned or selected for natural regeneration. However, this *Criterion\** does not give preference to planting as a way to shorten the period for regeneration, because in certain cases natural regeneration approaches are more suitable for achieving *The Organization\*'s objectives\**, while in other cases planting programs are more suitable.

Regeneration practices must not violate the requirements under *Principle\** 6. Consistent with *Criteria\** 6.9 and 6.10, these practices cannot lead to conversion, losses of genetic and species

IGI	Required adaption (see also FSC-STD-60-004)
<p>in a <i>timely manner</i>* that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Protects affected <i>environmental values</i>*; and</li> <li>2) Is suitable to recover overall <i>pre-harvest</i>* or <i>natural forest</i>* composition and structure.</li> </ol>	<p>diversity measured at the <i>Management Unit</i>* level, or damage to other <i>environmental values</i>*.</p>
<p>10.6.4 When <i>fertilizers</i>* are used, <i>environmental values</i>* are protected, including through implementation of measures to prevent damage.</p>	<p>Standard Developers <i>shall</i>* develop indicators to ensure that where <i>fertilizers</i>* are used, buffer zones that exclude the use of <i>fertilizers</i>* around rare plant communities, <i>riparian zones</i>*, <i>watercourses</i>* and <i>water bodies</i>* are included in National Standards and INSs (Indicator 10.6.4).</p>
<p>10.8.2 Use of <i>biological control agents</i>* complies with <i>internationally accepted scientific protocols</i>*.</p>	<p>Standard Developers <i>shall</i>* either reference or include the relevant aspects of internationally accepted scientific protocols* associated with <i>biological control agents</i>* including the FAO Code of Conduct for the Import and Release of Exotic Biological Control and any national regulations, where these exist (Indicator 10.8.2).</p>
<p>10.12.1 Collection, clean up, transportation and disposal of all <i>waste materials</i>* is done in an environmentally appropriate way that conserves <i>environmental values</i>* as identified in <i>Criterion</i>* 6.1.</p>	<p>Standard Developers <i>shall</i>* either reference national regulations that address the disposal of <i>waste materials</i>* in an environmentally appropriate manner, or, where national regulations are insufficient or do not exist, develop additional indicators.</p>



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