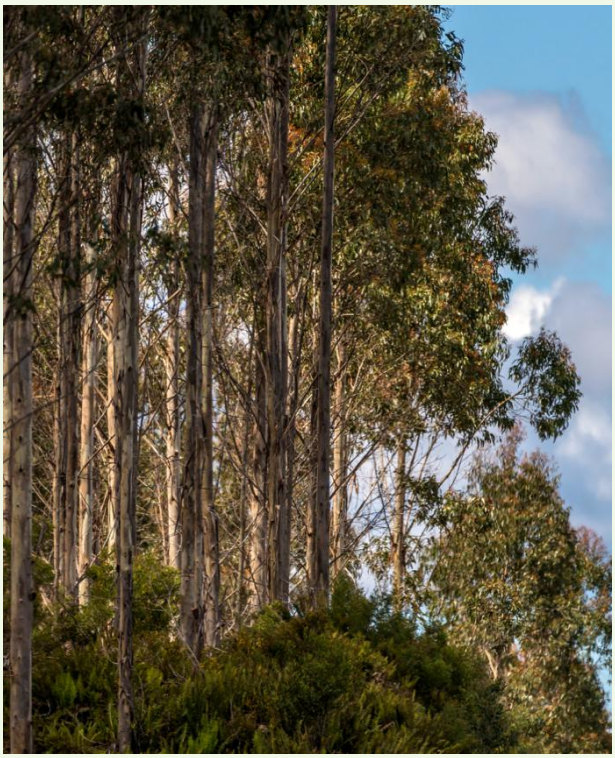

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THE FSC FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD FOR AUSTRALIA

V2.0 D2-0 2025

15/04/2026

Based on FSC P&C V5-3

FSC FORESTS FOR ALL FOREVER™

NOTE ON THIS ENGLISH VERSION:

This is the official version of the FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard that is approved by FSC International, and it is available at connect.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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Document code:	FSC-STD-AUS-02-202X EN
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V1.0	FSC-STD-AUS-01-2018 approved by the Policy and Standards Committee (PSC) of the Board of Directors of FSC International at their January 2018 meeting; finally approved by P&P on 10 November 2018	10/11/2018
V2.0	FSC-STD-AUS-02-202x approved by the Policy and Standards Committee (PSC) of the Board of Directors of FSC International at their xxnd meeting; finally approved by P&P on xx xx 202X	Click or tap to enter a date.

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A ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

FSC Australia and New Zealand recognises the First Nations Peoples of Australia as the first stewards of Australia's forests, landscape, and waterways. We honour their continuous and ingrained connection to Country. We acknowledge the continuous living cultures of Australia's First Nations Peoples and value their important contributions to Australian society, past present and into the future. We celebrate the cultural diversity of Australia's First Nations Peoples and pay deep respect to Elders past and present.

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B FOREWORD

(Informative section)

B.1 The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

The Forest Stewardship Council A.C. (FSC) was established in 1993, as a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro, 1992) with the mission to promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

FSC provides a system for voluntary accreditation and independent third-party certification. This system allows certificate holders to market their products and services as the result of environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management. FSC also sets standards for the development and approval of Forest Stewardship Standards (FSS) and Interim Forest Stewardship Standards (IFSS) which are based on the FSC Principles and Criteria. In addition, FSC sets standards for the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies (also known as certification bodies) that certify conformance with FSC's standards.

Environmentally appropriate forest management ensures that the production of timber, non-timber products and ecosystem services maintains the forest's biodiversity, productivity, and ecological processes.

Socially beneficial forest management helps both local people and society at large to enjoy long term benefits and also provides strong incentives to local people to sustain the forest resources and adhere to long-term management plans.

Economically viable forest management means that forest operations are structured and managed so as to be sufficiently profitable, without generating financial profit at the expense of the forest resource, the ecosystem, or affected communities. The tension between the need to generate adequate financial returns and the principles of responsible forest operations can be reduced through efforts to market the full range of forest products and services for their best value.

B.2 The FSC Principles and Criteria

FSC first published the FSC Principles and Criteria in November 1994 as a performance-based, outcome-orientated, worldwide standard. The Principles and Criteria focus on field performance of forest management rather than on the management systems for delivering that field performance.

There is no hierarchy between the Principles or between Criteria. They share equal status, validity and authority, and apply jointly and severally at the level of the individual Management Unit.

The FSC Principles and Criteria together with the International Generic Indicators (IGI) provide the basis for the development of FSC Forest Stewardship Standards and Interim Forest Stewardship Standards.

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D PREAMBLE

D.1 Objective

(Informative section)

The objective of this Forest Stewardship Standard (hereinafter referred to as 'the Standard') is to provide a set of requirements for:

1. The Organisation to implement responsible forest management within their Management Unit and to demonstrate conformity.
2. FSC accredited certification bodies to determine conformity against this Standard as the basis for granting, maintaining or renewing and renewing forest management certification.

D.2 Scope

(Normative section)

This Standard shall be applied in the following scope:

Geographic region	Australia
Forest types	All forest types
Ownership types	All types of ownerships, including public, private and others
Scale and intensity categories (according to section 6 of FSC-STD-60-002)	All categories of Management Units, including provisions for small or low intensity managed forests (SLIMFs)
Forest products (according to FSC-STD-40-004a)	Rough wood and non-timber forest products: • N1 Barks • N2 Soil conditioner and substrates for plants • N3 Cork and articles of cork • N4 Straw, wicker, rattan and similar • N5 Bamboo and articles of bamboo • N6 Plants and parts of plants • N7 Natural gums, resins, oils and derivatives • N8 Chemical, medicinal and cosmetic products • N9 Food • N10 Other non-timber forest products not elsewhere classified. Note: N.9.7 includes game from introduced species only Note: For N9.7, products from introduced species are subject to requirements of pest control Indicators, which focus on ecological sustainability through eradication, not sustainability of the pest species ~~- N6 Plants and parts of plants (all Level 2 categories)~~ ~~- N7.4 Tannin~~ ~~- N7.5 Essential oils~~

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~~- N8.2 Medicinal plants and product~~

~~- N8.3 Pharmaceutical raw materials~~

~~- N9.4 Mushrooms and truffles~~

~~- N9.5 Native pepper berries, nuts, fruit and seeds~~

~~- N9.7 Game (from introduced species only)~~

~~- N9.8 Bee products~~

For FSC certification of non-timber forest products, The Organisation shall conform with all applicable Indicators of this Standard, including applicable Indicators in Annex G.

D.3 Responsibility for conformity

(Normative section)

The requirements in this Standard cover all of The Organisation's management activities that are related to the Management Unit, whether within the Management Unit or outside; whether directly undertaken or contracted out.

In terms of geographical space, the requirements in this standard apply generally to the entire geographic space inside the boundary of the Management Unit which is being submitted for (re)certification. However, some of the Criteria and indicators apply beyond the boundary of the Management Unit. This would include those infrastructural facilities that are part of the Management Unit, as defined by the FSC Principles and Criteria.

This Standard is to be used in conjunction with international, national and local laws and regulations.

Where there might be situations of conflict between the requirements in this Standard and laws, specific FSC procedures will apply.

Responsibility for ensuring conformity with the requirements in this standard lies with the person(s) or entities that is/are the certificate applicant or holder. For the purpose of FSC certification, this person(s) or entities are referred to as 'The Organisation'.

The Organisation is responsible for decisions, policies and management activities related to the Management Unit.

The Organisation is also responsible for demonstrating that other persons or entities that are permitted or contracted by The Organisation to operate in, or for the benefit of the Management Unit, conform with the requirements in this Standard.

The Organisation is required to take corrective actions in the event of such persons or entities not being in conformity with the requirements in this standard.

D.4 Note on the use of indicators, annexes and verifiers

(Normative section)

Normative elements in the standard are:

Scope, effective date, validity period, glossary of terms, principles, criteria, indicators, tables and annexes, (as well as other addenda which might be produced in association with this standard) unless indicated otherwise).

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Note: With regard to the auditing of Annexes, when an Indicator refers to an Annex, the conformity assessment shall cover both the indicator and the corresponding requirements in the Annex, unless the Annex is explicitly categorised as 'informative'.

Sub-indicators in an Annex contribute to the conformity assessment at the level of Criterion in the same way as Sub-Indicators listed in an Indicator within the main body of the Standard.

Non-normative elements in the Standard that can be used for guidance only, are:

Verifiers, notes, guidelines and examples which are attached to some of the Indicators (as well as other guidance/applicability notes which might be produced in association with this standard).

Auditors may use other means for verification where appropriate. The Organisation may also use verifiers as a guide to what may be required to demonstrate conformity.

D.5 Small and Low-Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMFs)

(Normative section)

Organisations managing Management Units qualifying as SLIMF shall conform with all indicators in the Standard, except those indicated as not applicable to SLIMF. There are two ways the Standard provides differentiation in requirements based on SLIMF. Firstly, by providing an alternative indicator, and secondly, by specifying an indicator as not applicable.

If a SLIMF distinction is with an alternative SLIMF-specific Indicator, it will have the same number as its alternate with an 'S' prefix (e.g. S5.3.1).

Where a SLIMF distinction is based on an indicator not applying, a note will be at the start of the Criterion's indicators to specify which indicators apply.

SLIMF eligibility criteria	Thresholds
Small Management Units	Native forest: Up to 1,000 hectares Plantations: • Up to 1,000 hectares of contiguous plantations, or • Up to 5,000 hectares of non-contiguous plantations with a maximum size of 1,000 hectares per plantation. Mixed (plantations and native): • Native: Up to 1,000 hectares, AND • Plantations: Up to 1,000 hectares of contiguous plantations, OR • Up to 5,000 hectares of non-contiguous plantations with a maximum size of 1,000 per plantation.

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Low intensity Management Units – native forest	The rate of harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI) within the total production forest area of the unit, AND Management objectives are to maintain and/or restore stands containing multi-age native forest structure where they exist in the Management Unit, AND: 1) EITHER the annual harvest from the total production forest area is less than 5,000 cubic metres, 2) OR the average annual harvest from the total production forest is less than 5,000 cubic metres per annum during the period of validity of the certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits.
Low intensity Management Units – plantations	N/A

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; 'shall not' indicates a prohibition.

"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 Organisation 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 standard; 'need not' indicates that a specified course of action is not a requirement.

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

In various Indicators and annexes throughout this Standard, the terms "where applicable", "where appropriate" and "where possible" are used as variables. In these instances, it is the responsibility of The Organisation to provide sufficient rationale for any activities or measures deemed to not be relevant and that omission does not impinge on The Organisation's ability to conform with the relevant Criterion.

The text of the Principles and the Criteria under section F contains terms that are formatted in italics and marked with an *asterisk**. These terms are defined in the annex of Glossary of terms. The terms that have been marked with an *asterisk** and formatted in italics in the Indicators' text, are local terms which have been added to apply to the local circumstances for this standard only. These local terms are defined in the annex of Glossary of terms.

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D.6 Interpretations and disputes

(Normative section)

Interpretation requests regarding the FSC Forest Stewardship Standards are submitted to FSC Australia and New Zealand for processing and approval. Approved interpretations are published on the international FSC website (see: INT-STD-60-006_01).

Disputes between stakeholders concerning certification requirements are managed by the FSC dispute resolution procedure (see: FSC-PRO-01-008).

D.7 Third-party verification schemes

Establishment of contracts and other legal agreements that result in the implementation of management activities with complementary third-party non-forest management verification schemes that adhere to the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Sustainability Systems (the ISEAL Code) could be part of demonstrating conformity with requirements in this Standard, as long as *The Organisation** is able to provide the certification body with evidence of equivalence between the relevant FSC requirement(s) and the corresponding requirement(s) of the third-party verification scheme.

*The Organisation** is required to make all relevant records related to the assessment under the verification scheme available to the certification body upon request.

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E CONTEXT

(Informative section)

E.1 General description of the forestry sector

Australia's Forests

Australia's forests cover 133.6 million hectares, or 17 per cent, of Australia's overall land area. This represents three per cent of the world's forests and the seventh-largest forest cover of any country. These forests are assigned to three broad categories: native forests (131.5 million hectares), commercial plantations (1.82~~7~~ million hectares) and other forest (0.24 million hectares). Australia's total forest area has been increasing, with the total area of both primary (first-time) clearing and secondary clearing (re-clearing) of forest reducing over time and being exceeded by the area of forest regrowing[2].

Forest Types

Australia's native forests are dominated by eucalypt forest (101 million hectares), acacia forest (11 million hectares), with smaller areas of rainforest (3.5 million ha) and other forest types. The native forests are primarily restricted to the coastal zones in Australia, with woodlands extending into drier interior zones[3].

The commercial plantation estate comprises around 1 million hectares of softwood plantations (predominantly radiata pine) and around 0.70 million hectares of hardwood plantations (most commonly Tasmanian blue gum and shining gum)[4].

Other forests cover 0.24 million hectares including farm forestry plantings, sandalwood plantations, and environmental plantings[5].

Role of Australia's First Nations Peoples

First Nations Peoples and communities have ownership, management or special rights of use and access over around 60% (80 million hectares) of the forest area[6]. These communities have diverse interests in forests, encompassing cultural, economic, environmental and social values, attributing tremendous spiritual, cultural and symbolic value to many animals, plants and ecological communities.

Colonisation severely impacted the ability of First Nations people to manage Country, including forests. In recent years, ~~T~~there has, however, been increasing recognition and efforts to better integrate the cultural knowledge held by First Nations Peoples to improve forest management outcomes. One successful example of this is the revitalisation of fire practices, which has seen traditional fire management increasingly being used to mitigate the negative ~~extent and~~ impacts and extent of bushfires[7] [8]. Broadly, First Nations Peoples' participation in forest management occurs through a variety of mechanisms, including direct ownership, management, employment, co-management of reserve

[2] Montreal Process Implementation Group for Australia and National Forest Inventory Steering Committee, 2024, Australia's State of the Forests Report: Synthesis 2023, ABARES, Canberra, 2024. CC BY 4.0 DOI: 10.25814/649h-hk82.
[3] Carnegie, A. J., Tovar, F., Collins, S., Lawson, S. A., & Nahrung, H. F. (2022). A Coordinated, Risk-Based, National Forest Biosecurity Surveillance Program for Australian Forests. *FRONTIERS IN FORESTS AND GLOBAL CHANGE*, *4*, 1–10. https://doi.org/10.3389/ffgc.2021.756885
[4] Montreal Process Implementation Group for Australia and National Forest Inventory Steering Committee, 2024, Australia's State of the Forests Report: Synthesis 2023, ABARES, Canberra, 2024. CC BY 4.0 DOI: 10.25814/649h-hk82.
[5] Montreal Process Implementation Group for Australia and National Forest Inventory Steering Committee, 2024, Australia's State of the Forests Report: Synthesis 2023, ABARES, Canberra, 2024. CC BY 4.0 DOI: 10.25814/649h-hk82.
[6] Montreal Process Implementation Group for Australia and National Forest Inventory Steering Committee, 2024, Australia's State of the Forests Report: Synthesis 2023, ABARES, Canberra, 2024. CC BY 4.0 DOI: 10.25814/649h-hk82.
[7] Metcalfe DJ & Costello O (2021). Australia state of the environment 2021: extreme events, independent report to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra.
[8] Janke T, Cumpston Z, Hill R, Woodward E, Harkness P & von Gavel S & Morrison J (2021). Australia state of the environment 2021: Indigenous, independent report to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, DOI: 10.26194/3JDV-NH67

areas, consultation about cultural heritage, and programs for engagement of urban First Nations Ppeoples with forests.

Ownership, Regulation and Protection

By ownership, the majority of Australia's forests are privately managed: 36% (48.0 million ha) is on leasehold land and 32% (42.8 million ha) is under private freehold title. Formal conservation reserves cover 17% (22.1 million ha), multiple-use public forests 8% (10.7 million ha), and other Crown land 7% (9.8 million ha).[9]

Australia's states and territories are primarily responsible for the legal regulation of land and forest management practices. In addition, the Commonwealth retains national-level powers and responsibilities concerning the protection of biodiversity and forest management through, namely the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999 and the Regional Forest Agreements (RFAs) Act 202210. The EPBC Act, designed to protect native species and ecological communities, recognises the provisions included in the RFAs Act. Therefore, EPBC Act assessment and approvals are not required for forestry activities conducted in accordance with an RFA11.

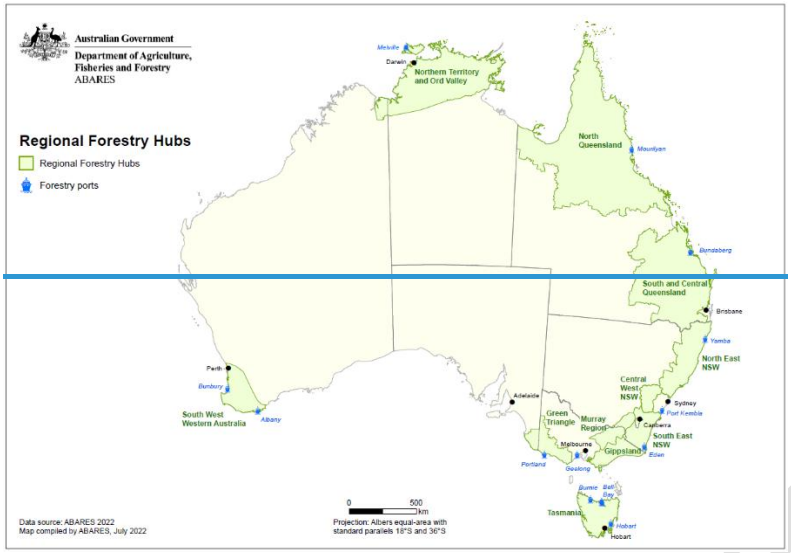
Australia's native forests are among the richest biomes on Earth and include recognised global biodiversity hotspots[10]. This richness is protected with 48.9 million hectares (37%) of Australia's native forests on land legally protected for biodiversity conservation or where conservation is a specified management intent. Of this, 34.6 million hectares (26%) are included in the National Reserve System[11].

In addition to the legal frameworks regulating forest management, two voluntary forest certification schemes operate in Australia: the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and the Responsible Wood certification scheme (part of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)). These voluntary schemes provide independent third-party verification that sustainable management of forests is occurring. This is done through the assessment of forest management and operations in a particular area of forest against internationally agreed criteria and indicators that encompass environmental, economic, social and cultural values. In Australia, over 90% of commercial forests are certified under one or both schemes14.

The Forestry Sector

Australia's forestry sector makes a significant contribution to Australia's economy, across 112 regional "forest hubs" where suitable growing conditions and infrastructure enable sustainable forest management to occur.

[9] Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website, Australian Government, accessed on 7 November 2024,<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/australias-forests#forest-tenure-and-ownership>
[10] Williams K, Hunter B, Schmidt B, Woodward E & Cresswell I (2021). Australia state of the environment 2021: Land, independent report to the Australian Government Minister for the Environment, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, DOI: 10.26194/6EAM-6G50.
[11] Montreal Process Implementation Group for Australia and National Forest Inventory Steering Committee, 2024, Australia's State of the Forests Report: Synthesis 2023, ABARES, Canberra, 2024. CC BY 4.0 DOI: 10.25814/649h-hk82.



Sawlogs, pulplogs and other logs harvested from softwood plantations, hardwood plantations and native forests are processed into a wide range of low to high value products. ~~These include but are not limited to firewood, landscaping products, paper and carboard, poles for agriculture and electricity infrastructure, furniture, and products for the building industry such as plywood, floorboards, cladding, decking, woodfibre panels, sawn timber and various engineered wood products..~~ In 2023, the total value of forestry logs harvested was $2.4 billion, with a further value of $11.3 billion added through forestry activities and processing into forest products. The sector directly employed an estimated 50,000 people mostly in regional areas, including 1,500 First Nations people[12].

Innovative opportunities exist for forest managers to generate diversified economic returns through accessing compliance and voluntarily carbon markets and trading carbon credits. Additionally, emerging opportunities exist for forest managers to communicate, report and ultimately monetise the biodiversity values of forestry through promoting nature-based solutions.

The area of native forest legally available for commercial wood production in Australia is 25.2 million hectares. However, after accounting for state or local harvesting restrictions, lack of suitable processing or transport infrastructure and/or unmerchantable stands, the effective “net harvestable area” suitable for commercial wood production is only 2.8 million hectares. Of this, annually, around 80,000 hectares of native forest is harvested[13]. These forests are commonly harvested in 60-100 year cycles predominantly for higher value sawlogs for the domestic construction and specialty markets, with pulplogs as a by-product. Native forest logs are mostly hardwood eucalypt species, with a small proportion of softwood native cypress pine logs[14]

Australia’s softwood plantations (predominantly *Pinus* species) are primarily managed for sawlog and processed into products for domestic residential construction with rotation lengths of 25 to 30 years. In contrast, most hardwood plantations (predominantly *Eucalyptus globulus* and *E. nitens*) are managed for pulp log production for export, with forest stands being harvested once every 10 to 15 years. However, plantation managers are also progressively undertaking thinning within hardwood plantations (primarily *E. nitens*) producing value adding sawlogs and engineered wood products through longer rotation lengths of 25 to 30 years.

[12] Montreal Process Implementation Group for Australia and National Forest Inventory Steering Committee, 2024, Australia’s State of the Forests Report: Synthesis 2023, ABARES, Canberra, 2024. CC BY 4.0 DOI: 10.25814/649h-hk82.
[13] Montreal Process Implementation Group for Australia and National Forest Inventory Steering Committee, 2024, Australia’s State of the Forests Report: Synthesis 2023, ABARES, Canberra, 2024. CC BY 4.0 DOI: 10.25814/649h-hk82.
[14] Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website, Australian Government, accessed on 7 November 2024,<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/products/insights/snapshot-of-australias-forest-industry#forests-are-abundant>

~~In summary, Australia's forestry sector operates under well-developed federal, state and local regulatory frameworks. This is further supported by voluntary independent third-party forestry certification schemes. Australia's commercial forests, whether plantations or native, provide a broad range of economic, environmental, social and cultural benefits across Australia, particularly to regional communities and First Nations people.~~

~~Forests are a renewable resource and can assist in our current battle against climate change and nature loss as we transition towards a circular bio-economy 18.~~

E.2 Members of the Standards Development Group

Member	Organisation	Chamber
Carl Richardson (WA)	Australian Bluegum Plantations	Economic
Dionne Olsen (Vic)[15]	Individual member	Economic
Judy Alexander (Vic)[16]	Foresa Consulting	Economic
Grant Wardell-Johnson (NSW)	Individual member	Environmental
Patrick Gardner (WA)	The Wilderness Society	Environmental
Sean Cadman (Tas)	Individual member	Environmental
Mark Brown (QLD)	Forestry Australia	Social
Tolita Davis-Angeles (QLD)	Individual member	Social
Tim Cleary (NSW)[17]	ForestWorks	Social

E.3 Experts advising the Standard Development Group

Throughout the standard revision process, the Standards Development Group engaged the following experts:

- FSC ANZ's Indigenous Working Group (IWG) – First Nations rights and issues, including FPIC guidance
- SLR Consulting Australia – pesticides

E.4 Background information on the standard development

This Standard was developed in accordance with FSC-STD-60-006 V1-2 EN *Process Requirements for the Development and Maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards* in the period from 26 January 2024 to [Click to choose a date]. Two stakeholder consultations were conducted. The first consultation was conducted from [Click to choose a date] to [Click to choose a date]. The second consultation was conducted from [Click to choose a date] to [Click to choose a date].Concurrently with the second round of public consultation, the draft Standard was tested in one plantation and one native forest. The Standards Development Group recommended the final draft of the Standard to the FSC Australia and New Zealand Board of Directors on [Click to choose a date]. The Board, in turn, recommended the final draft to FSC International on [Click to choose a date]. Hereafter followed a process of making additional adjustments to address issues identified by FSC International's Policy and Performance Unit (P&P) and Policy and Standards Committee (PSC) before the final draft was approved by FSC International's Board of Directors on [Click to choose a date].

Note: Further information is available from FSC Australia and New Zealand and P&P upon request.

[15] ~~Currently being replaced as they have joined the FSC ANZ Board and cannot be represented on both according to the SDG's Terms of Reference.~~ Replaced Simon Cook (Forico)
[16] Replaced Tim McBride (HVP) ~~in late 2024~~.
[17] ~~Currently being replaced as they are no longer with the nominating organisation.~~ Replaced Lorraine Cassin (Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union)

F REFERENCES

(Informative section)

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

Note: When applying this Standard, consider relevant interpretations by inquiring with FSC Australia and New Zealand or your certification body. Interpretations are available through the FSC Document Centre (https://fsc.org/en/document-centre).

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G ABBREVIATIONS

(Informative section)

CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
HCV	High Conservation Value
P&P	Policy and Performance Unit
SLIMF	Small or low intensity managed forest

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H *PRINCIPLES*, *CRITERIA** AND *INDICATORS**

(Normative section)

*PRINCIPLE** 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

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

1.1. ***The Organisation** shall be a legally defined entity with clear, documented and unchallenged *legal registration**, with written authorisation 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 Organisation** 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 Unit*s** within the scope of the certificate are clearly marked or documented and clearly shown on maps.

1.3. ***The* Organisation* shall have legal* rights to operate in the *Management Unit**, which fit the *legal** status of *The Organisation** 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 Organisation** 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
3. *Obligatory codes of practice**.

Note: For the most current Australian legal instruments, please refer to www.legislation.gov.au

1.3.2. Payment is made in a *timely manner** of all applicable legally prescribed charges connected with *forest** management.

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1.3.3. Activities covered by the *management plan** are designed to comply with all *applicable laws**.

1.3.4 Potential *conflicts** between applicable Australian federal, state and/or *local laws**, the FSC *Principles** and *Criteria**, and international agreements are identified and recorded.

1.4. *The Organisation shall develop and implement measures, and/or shall engage with regulatory agencies, to systematically protect the *Management Unit** from unauthorised or illegal resource use, settlement and other illegal activities.**

1.4.1. Measures are implemented aimed at providing *protection** from unauthorised or illegal harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting, settlement and other unauthorised activities.

1.4.2. Where *protection** is the *legal** responsibility of regulatory bodies, a system is implemented to work with these regulatory bodies to identify, report, control and discourage unauthorised or illegal activities.

1.4.3. If illegal or unauthorised activities are detected, actions are undertaken, where appropriate, to mitigate impacts and improve systems aimed to prevent further illegal or unauthorised activities.

1.5. *The Organisation 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 Organisation shall identify, prevent and resolve *dispute**s over issues of statutory or *customary law**, which can be settled out of court in a *timely manner**, through *engagement** with *affected stakeholders**.**

SLIMF: Only 1.6.2 and 1.6.4 apply.

1.6.1. A publicly *available** *dispute** resolution mechanism is in place, modified where necessary through *culturally appropriate** consultation with *affected stakeholders**.

1.6.2. *Disputes** related to issues of *applicable laws** or *customary law** that can be settled out of court in a *timely manner** are responded to promptly, and all *reasonable** steps are undertaken to resolve the *dispute**.

1.6.3. Up to date records of *disputes** related to issues of *applicable laws** 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, or why they are not resolvable.

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 Organisation shall publicise 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 Organisation** shall implement other anti-corruption measures proportionate to the *scale** and *intensity** of management activities and the *risk** of corruption.**

1.7.1. *The Organisation's** *management plan** and relevant contractual arrangements contain an anti-corruption commitment.

1.7.2. The commitment meets or exceeds related legislation.

1.7.3. The commitment is included in the public summary of the *management plan**.

1.7.4. *The Organisation** commits to preventing bribery, coercion and all other acts of corruption.

1.7.5. Corrective measures are implemented if corruption does occur.

1.8. *The Organisation 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. *The Organisation** ~~shall~~ has~~ve~~ a written statement, signed by someone with the authority to implement it, that 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.

Consultation note

FSC International discourages the use of normative language (shall) in Indicators. The SDG has, therefore, rewritten some Indicators to remove normative language. This does not change the applicability of the Indicators.

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*PRINCIPLE** 2: *WORKERS*** RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

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

2.1. *The Organisation** **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 Organisation** shall not use *child labour**.

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

2.1.1.2. Where the *applicable laws** or regulations permit the employment of persons between the ages of 13 to 15 years in *light work** such employment is not harmful to their health or development and does not interfere with – or contributes to - their schooling. Notably, where persons between the ages of 13 and 15 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 as described in *applicable laws** and regulation.

2.1.1.4. *The Organisation** shall prohibit the *worst forms of child labour**.

2.1.2. *The Organisation** 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:

- Physical and sexual violence
- Bonded labour
- Withholding of wages /including payment of employment fees and or payment of deposit to commence employment
- Restriction of mobility/movement
- Retention of passport and identity documents
- Threats of denunciation to the authorities.

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

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

2.1.3.2. *The organisation** demonstrates a commitment to and promotes equal treatment, non-discrimination and freedom from workplace harassment for all *workers**.

2.1.4. *The Organisation** shall recognise, respect and support freedom of association and the right to *collective bargaining**.

2.1.4.1. *Workers** are able to establish or join *labour organisations** of their own choosing. Where *workers** disclose this to *The Organisation**, their rights to do so are recognised, respected and supported.

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2.1.4.2. ~~The Organisation* respects t~~The rights of *workers** to engage in lawful activities related to forming, joining or assisting *labour organisations**,* or to refrain from doing the same, is recognised and respected, and *workers** will not be *discriminated** or punished ~~*workers**~~ for exercising these rights.

2.1.4.3. *The Organisation** negotiates with lawfully established *labour organisations** and/ or duly selected representatives in *good faith** and with the best efforts to reach a *collective bargaining** agreement by ensuring that bargaining takes place with representative *labour organisations** where they exist.

2.1.4.4. Agreements resulting from *collective bargaining** ~~with formal and informal *labour organisations** ~~are implemented where they exist.

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

2.2.1. Systems are in place that promote *gender equality** and prevent *discrimination** in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of *engagement** and management activities.

2.2.2. Job opportunities are open to women, men and *workers** of other gender identities ~~–~~under the same conditions, and *workers**, regardless of genders, are encouraged to participate actively in all levels of employment.

2.2.3. Work undertaken by women, men and *workers** of other gender identities is equally included in training and *WHS** programs.

2.2.4. Women, men and workers* of other gender identities are paid equally for work that is of equal skill and responsibility.

2.2.5. Parental leave is available and there is no penalty for taking it.

2.2.6. When returning from parental leave, if returning in a period less than six weeks after the birth of a child, consideration of special provisions is provided to *workers** on their request, and if necessary will be granted in order to ensure workplace health and safety is maintained.

2.2.7. Meetings, management committees and decision-making forums are organised to include relevant *workers** of all genders, and to facilitate the active participation of everyone.

2.2.8. Confidential and effective mechanisms exist for reporting and eliminating cases of sexual harassment and *discrimination**, workplace harassment or bullying.

2.2.9. Complaints of sexual harassment and *discrimination**, workplace harassment or bullying are treated seriously and investigated promptly, confidentially and impartially.

2.3. *The Organisation 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.**

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2.3.1 A *Workplace Health and Safety** (WHS) program is in place that meets or exceeds the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work, and which complies with relevant workplace health and safety legislation and regulations, facilitates improvement in *WHS** and adopts working conditions that do not endanger *workers**.

2.3.2. The program is developed and implemented in consultation and cooperation with *workers** and/or *workers'** representatives.

2.3.3. *Workers** have personal protective equipment appropriate to their assigned tasks and its use is enforced.

2.3.4. Records are kept on compliance with the *WHS** program and on all incidents including near misses, medical treatments and lost time. Accident rates and lost time to accidents will also be kept.

2.3.5. The trend and severity of incidents are generally decreasing over time.

2.3.6. The health and safety practices are reviewed and revised as required and after major workplace changes/alterations or incidents.

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

2.4.1. *Workers** are engaged freely and duly compensated for the work they perform.

2.4.2. Wages paid by *The Organisation** and its contractors and *subcontractors** in all circumstances meet or exceed *legal** minimum wage rates~~, where such rates exist~~.

Consultation note

A specific consultation question has been included regarding this change and a definition of "subcontractors" proposed.

"where such rates exists" and Indicator 2.4.4 are proposed to be deleted since minimum wages exist for all workers in Australia.

2.4.3. When either minimum industry wage standards or other recognised industry wage agreements or awards or *living wages** exist that are higher than *legal** minimum wage rates, then wages paid meet or exceed at least one of those higher minimums.

~~2.4.4. When no minimum wage levels exist, wages are established through *culturally appropriate* engagement** with *workers** and/or *formal or informal labour organisations*.~~

2.4.45. Records of pay rates across *The Organisation** and how these relate to established benchmarks (e.g. minimum wage) are maintained.

2.4.56. Wages, salaries, superannuation and other entitlements and employment contracts are paid on time.

2.4.67. *Workers** of all genders are paid directly using mutually agreed methods.

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

Where *The Organisation** is unable to engage a First Nations trainer and the First Nation's Committee's training material is not available, *The Organisation** is exempt from *Indicators** 2.5.2 and 2.5.3.

2.5.1. *Workers** have:

a) adequate job specific training, including applicable nationally endorsed competencies and/or qualifications for conducting hazardous activities, consistent with, but not limited to, training requirements for workers* outlined in Annex A, and

b) supervision to safely and effectively undertake their roles and duties as part of the implementation of the *management plan**.

2.5.1.1. Opportunities to support skills development of *workers**, including, but not limited to, nationally endorsed and or recognised competencies and qualifications where appropriate, are identified and implemented.

2.5.2. *Workers** with job responsibilities related to the implementation of Principle 3 have received *cultural empathy training**.

Note 1: *Cultural empathy training** is optional for First Nations *workers**.

Note 2: Trainers providing *cultural empathy training** are not required to have formal qualifications but proven experience-based knowledge.

Note 3: *Workers** can be exempt from *cultural empathy training** for personal reasons, and workers need to be able to withdraw at any point prior to and during *cultural empathy training** in a safe way.

Note 4: For the delivery of the *cultural empathy training**, *The Organisation** in prioritised order:

1. Engages a local First Nations trainer;

2. Engages a non-local First Nations trainer; or

3. Uses the *cultural empathy training** training materials provided by FSC Australia and New Zealand's First Nations Committee.

Verifier:

Evidence of completed training (e.g. sign-in sheet or certificate of attendance)

Non-normative guidance regarding the content of cultural empathy training in Australia follows at the end of Principle 10.*

2.5.3. Workers receive *cultural empathy training** at least every five years. Annual *cultural empathy training** refreshers are recommended.

Note: The annual *cultural empathy training** refreshers can be developed and delivered in-house, including by a non-First Nation employee, but will ideally be delivered by a First Nations trainer.

2.5.43. Trainers possess *suitable competence and qualifications** to deliver training. Where applicable, training is provided by accredited providers to nationally accredited standards.

2.5.54. Assessment of competence must be undertaken by an assessor with suitable competence and qualifications.

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2.5.65. Up-to-date training, education and competency assessment records are kept and maintained for all workers.

2.6. *The Organisation 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 Organisation**.**

2.6.1. A *publicly available* dispute** resolution process is in place, developed in consultation and agreement with *workers** and their representatives.

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 *occupational injuries** are maintained including:

a) Steps taken to resolve grievances;

b) Outcomes of all *dispute** resolution processes including *fair compensation**;

c) Unresolved grievances and the reasons why they were not resolved;

d) Unresolvable *disputes** and the reasons why they are not resolvable.

2.6.4. *Fair compensation** is provided to *workers** for work-related loss or damage of property and *occupational diseases** or *occupational injuries**.

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PRINCIPLE* 3: *INDIGENOUS PEOPLES** RIGHTS

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

FSC Australia and New Zealand has provided a guiding methodology for the application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent* *in the context of forest management certification in the Australian context. The legal and legislative foundations of consultation, accommodation and consent in the guidance are based on the unique Australian context. Therefore, while the general principles of engagement and* Free, Prior and Informed Consent* *are shared with FSC International's FSC-GUI-30-003 FSC* Guidelines for the Implementation of the Right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent*, FSC Australia and New Zealand's guidance serves to support* First Nations Peoples* *and organisations operating in an Australian context. The guidance can be accessed on https://anz.fsc.org/forest-management-certification/australian-forest-management-certification.*

To reflect the growing preference of Indigenous Peoples* *in Australia to be referred to as First Nations Peoples*, the Standard uses this term at the Indicator level and in the annexes. However, because the wording at the Principles and Criteria level can only be revised by FSC International, these parts of the Standard continue to use the term* Indigenous Peoples*.*

3.1. *The Organisation shall identify the *Indigenous Peoples** that exist within the *Management Unit** or those that are affected by management activities. *The Organisation** 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 Organisation** shall also identify areas where these rights are contested.**

3.1.1. *First Nations Peoples* connected to** the *Management Unit**, or that may be affected by management activities, are identified through a systematic process using *Best Available Information**.

Verifiers:

- *Documentation of organisations engaged and databases accessed.*
- *Documentation of methods used for identification.*
- *Interviews with stakeholders*.*

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

1) Their *legal** *rights** of *tenure**;
2) Their *cultural responsibilities** to *Care for Country**, including use rights of the forest resources and *ecosystem services** that apply within the *Management Unit**;
3) The agreed and *reasonable** evidence supporting these rights, responsibilities and obligations;
4) Areas where rights and responsibilities are contested between *First Nations Peoples* connected to** the *Management Unit**, governments and/or others;
5) Summary of the means by which the *legal** *rights**, *cultural responsibilities** and any contested rights, are acknowledged by *The Organisation**; and

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6) The aspirations and goals of *First Nations Peoples** connected to the *Management Unit** related to their identified *legal** rights and *cultural responsibilities**, *Indigenous Cultural Landscapes** and *Intact Forest Landscapes**.

Guidance on contested rights and conflict:

*The Organisation** is not required to resolve intergroup conflict, but it needs to provide a *reasonable** effort to incorporate the diversity of views that may arise from groups.

Some intergroup conflicts may not be able to be resolved within a reasonable timeframe, if at all. It is important to note that intergroup conflicts should not result in the cessation of the management activities.

3.2. *The Organisation shall recognise 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**, *First Nations Peoples** *connected to** the *Management Unit** are informed when, where and how they can comment on and request modifications to management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights, *cultural responsibilities**, resources, *lands and territories**.

Verifiers:

- *Documentation of culturally appropriate* engagement with First Nations Peoples* connected to* the Management unit*.*
- *Where First Nations Peoples* connected to* the Management unit* express they do not wish to be engaged, documentation showing that The Organisation* has attempted to re-engage at least every three years, unless otherwise directed by the First Nations Peoples*.*

3.2.2 Where *First Nations Peoples** contact *The Organisation**, they are supported by *The Organisation** to comment on and request modifications to management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights, *cultural responsibilities**, resources, lands and *territories**.

~~*First Nations Peoples** are supported by *The Organisation** to comment on and request modifications to management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights, *cultural responsibilities**, resources, *lands and territories**.~~

3.2.3. The *legal** rights and *cultural responsibilities** identified under 3.1.2 (sub-points 1 and 2) of *First Nations Peoples** *connected to** the *Management Unit** are not violated by *The Organisation**.

3.2.4. Where evidence exists that *legal** rights and *cultural responsibilities** of *First Nations Peoples** *connected to** the *Management Unit** related to management activities have been violated, the situation is corrected, and if necessary, through *culturally appropriate** *engagement** and/or through the *dispute** resolution process as required in *Criteria** 1.6 or 4.6.

3.2.5. *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** is granted by *First Nations Peoples* connected to** the *Management Unit** prior to management activities that affect their identified rights through a process that includes:

1) Ensuring *First Nations Peoples** know their rights and obligations regarding the resource;
2) Informing the *First Nations Peoples** of the value, in economic, social and environmental terms, of the resource over which they are considering delegation of control;
3) Informing the *First Nations 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 *First Nations Peoples** of the current and future planned *forest** management activities.

3.2.6 Where the process of *Free Prior and Informed Consent** has not yet resulted in a *Free Prior and Informed Consent** agreement, *The Organisation** and the affected *First Nations Peoples** are engaged in a mutually agreed *Free Prior and Informed Consent** process that is advancing, in *good faith*.

3.3. In the event of delegation of control over management activities, a *binding agreement between *The Organisation** 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 Organisation'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 legally *binding agreement** contains the duration, provisions for renegotiation, renewal, termination, economic conditions and other terms and conditions.

3.3.2. Records of legally *binding agreements** are maintained.

3.3.3. The legally *binding agreement** contains the provision of opportunities for monitoring by *First Nations Peoples* connected to** the *Management Unit** of *The Organisation*'s* compliance with its terms and conditions.

3.4. *The Organisation shall recognise 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 Organisation** demonstrates a commitment to *upholding** the rights, customs and culture of *First Nations Peoples** as defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 through:

1. Compliance with ~~national and state~~ applicable laws, regulations, and nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements ~~laws outlined in 3.2, 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 of Annex A~~; and
2. An *anti-discrimination** policy or commitment.

3.4.2. Where evidence that rights, customs and culture of *First Nations Peoples**, as defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169, have been violated by *The Organisation**, the situation is documented including steps to *restore** these rights, customs and culture of *First Nations Peoples**, to the satisfaction of the rights holders.

3.5. *The Organisation, 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 recognised by *The Organisation** and their management, and/or *protection** shall be agreed through *engagement** with these *Indigenous Peoples**.**

3.5.1. *Indigenous Cultural Landscapes** and sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, or spiritual significance for which *First Nations Peoples** hold *legal** rights and/or *cultural responsibility** are identified through *culturally appropriate** *engagement** and *Best Available Information**.

Verifier:

Documentation of sites and Indigenous ~~c~~Cultural L~~l~~andscapes**, including maps (as appropriate) identified through available heritage registers or databases or from* First Nations Peoples** identified* ~~*by*~~ *under 3.1.*

3.5.2. *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** is granted by *First Nations Peoples** *connected to** the *Management Unit** for engagement strategies and actions developed by *The Organisation** to protect identified *Indigenous Cultural Landscapes** and cultural sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance. Measures are documented, implemented, and monitored. When *First Nations 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.

***Verifier**:*

Documentation of Free, Prior and Informed Consent engagement activities (including meeting minutes, attendance records, outcomes, action plans) and management plans, (including implementation and monitoring plans) endorsed by First Nations Peoples* identified under Criteria 3.1 and 3.5. Additional supporting information for the implementation of this Indicator* is available in the FSC Australia and New Zealand's Free, Prior and Informed Consent Guidance document.*

3.5.3. Wherever *Indigenous Cultural Landscapes** or cultural sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance are newly observed or discovered, management activities cease without delay in the vicinity until *protective** measures have been agreed to with the *First Nations Peoples** *connected to** the *Management Unit**, and~~/or~~ as directed by *state and national laws**.

3.6. *The Organisation shall *uphold** the right of *Indigenous Peoples** to *protect** and utilise their *traditional knowledge** and shall compensate *local communities** for the utilisation of such knowledge and their *intellectual property**. A *binding agreement** as per *Criterion** 3.3 shall be concluded between *The Organisation** and the Indigenous Peoples for such utilisation through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** before utilisation 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** through a legally *binding agreement**.

3.6.2. *First Nations Peoples** are compensated according to the legally *binding agreement** reached through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** for the use of *traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property**.

Verifiers:

- *Documentation of Free, Prior and Informed Consent* where traditional knowledge* has been used.*
- *Documentation of any compensation payments for the use of traditional knowledge*.*

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*PRINCIPLE** 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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

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

4.1.1. *Local communities** that exist in the *Management Unit** and those that may be affected by management activities are identified through a systematic process using *Best Available Information**.

4.1.2. Through a *reasonable** level of *culturally appropriate** *engagement** with the *local communities** identified in 4.1.1, the following are identified, documented and/or mapped within the *Management Unit**, or outside the *Management Unit** when identified by *local communities** as being potentially impacted by *The Organisation's** management activities within the *Management Unit**:

1) Their *legal** rights of access to the *forest** and use rights of the *forest** resources and *ecosystem services**;
2) Their demonstrated long and established use or association;
3) Their *legal** and obligations that apply within the *Management Unit**;
4) The evidence supporting these rights, associations and obligations;
5) Areas where rights, associations and obligations are contested between *The Organisation**, *local communities**, governments and/or others; and
6) Summary of the means by which the *legal** and contested rights, association and uses are acknowledged by *The Organisation**.

Guidance on "long and established use or association":

Non-Indigenous groups or communities may have recognised (though not legal) access and use over many generations (for example fisher huts, stock and walking tracks) to areas of *forest**. While some have a degree of legal *protection* and/or provisions for access etc., for instance through various national, state or local government listings, some do not. The inclusion of "long and established use or association" provides communities the opportunity to identify these to *The Organisation**.

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4.2. *The Organisation shall recognise 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** rights and *agreed rights**, demonstrated through long and established use or association, of *local communities** are not infringed by *The Organisation**.

Guidance on "agreed rights demonstrated through long and established use or association":

Community identification or claims to non-legally recognised use or access rights in 4.1.1 does not immediately establish these as having the same status as those with formal legal recognition. Where claims prove to be credible *The Organisation** should engage relevant parties to seek an agreed approach to preserving these rights where appropriate and relevant to *management objectives**.

4.2.3. Where evidence exists that *legal** rights and agreed rights, demonstrated through long and established use or association, of *local communities** related to management activities have been infringed the situation is corrected, if necessary, through *engagement** and/or through the *dispute** resolution process in *Criteria** 1.6 or 4.6.

4.2.4. *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** is granted by *local communities** prior to management activities that affect their *legal** and *agreed** rights through long use of association through a process that includes:

1) Ensuring *local communities** know their rights and obligations regarding the resource;
2) Informing the *local communities** of the value of the resource in economic, social and environmental terms;
3) Informing the *local communities** of their right to withhold or modify consent to the proposed management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights and resources; and
4) Informing the *local communities** of the current and future planned *forest** management activities.

4.2.5 Where the process of *Free Prior and Informed Consent** has not yet resulted in a *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** agreement, *The Organisation** and the affected *local communities** are engaged in a mutually agreed *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** process that is advancing in *good faith**.

4.3. *The Organisation 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.

Verifier:

Documentation of opportunities provided to workers and/or contractors from local communities (newspaper ads, use of local employment services etc.).*

4.4. *The Organisation 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 *engagement** with *local communities** and other relevant organisations proportionate to the *scale**, *intensity** and socio-economic impact of its management activities.

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.

4.5. *The Organisation, 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.**

Non-normative guidance regarding social impact assessments follows at the end of Principle 10. The Organisation* may use other methods to meet the requirements under 4.5.*

SLIMF: Only S4.5.1 applies.

4.5.1. *The Organisation** conducts a *social impact evaluation** related to forest management activities, appropriate to the *scale** and *intensity** of operations.

S4.5.1. Actions are implemented to identify, avoid and mitigate *significant** negative social impacts of management activities.

4.5.2. *The Organisation** documents the processes that it will use to *engage** with *stakeholders**, including *local communities** and neighbours, that could be affected during the planning and implementation of forest management activities.

4.5.3. *The Organisation** provides regular opportunities for *engagement** with all *stakeholders** and *local communities** affected by its operations in order to identify social impacts and the potential to avoid or reduce such impacts on an ongoing basis.

4.5.4. *The Organisation** ~~shall~~ demonstrates that the information derived from *social impact evaluations** and/or consultation processes with *stakeholders** has been considered and,

where appropriate, addressed in the planning and implementation of forest management activities.

4.6. *The Organisation, 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 Organisation**.**

4.6.1. A *publicly available** *dispute** resolution mechanism is in place, with opportunity for modification through consultation with affected *local communities**.

4.6.2. Grievances related to the impacts of management activities are responded to promptly, and all *reasonable** steps are undertaken to resolve them.

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 grievance resolution processes including *fair compensation**; and
3) Unresolved *dispute*s* and the reasons why they are not resolved, how they will be resolved, or why they are not resolvable.

4.6.4. *Fair compensation** is provided to *local communities** and individuals for *damage** proven to be caused by negative impacts of management activities.

4.6.5. Operations cease in applicable areas while there exist *disputes of substantial magnitude**.

4.7. *The Organisation, 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 recognised by *The Organisation**, 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** rights or agreed rights demonstrated through long and established use or association, are identified through *culturally appropriate** *engagement** and are recognised by *The Organisation**.

4.7.2. Measures to *protect** such sites are documented and implemented through 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. Wherever and whenever cultural or archaeological sites are newly observed or discovered, any management activities impacting these sites cease without delay in the vicinity until *protective** measures have been implemented.

4.8. *The Organisation shall *uphold** the right of *traditional peoples** to *protect** and utilise their *traditional knowledge** and shall compensate *traditional peoples** for the utilisation of such knowledge and their *intellectual property**. A *binding agreement** as per *Criterion** 3.3 shall be concluded between *The Organisation** and the *traditional peoples** for such utilisation**

through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent before utilisation takes place, and shall be consistent with the *protection** of *intellectual property** rights.**

This *Criterion** is believed to not be applicable in the Australian context. There is no *traditional knowledge** specific to non-*Indigenous** local communities* in the *forest** domain that could be considered *intellectual property**. *Traditional knowledge** specific to *First Nations Peoples** is addressed in *Criterion** 3.6.

If found to be applicable in a specific situation, assessment of conformance with *Criterion** 4.8 of FSC-STD-60-004 *FSC International Generic Indicators* is required.

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*PRINCIPLE** 5: BENEFITS FROM THE *FOREST**

The Organisation* **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 Organisation**** **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.**

SLIMF: Only S5.1.2 applies.

5.1.1. Consistent with *management objectives**, the range of forest products and *ecosystem services** that could strengthen and diversify the local economy are identified.

5.1.2. Consistent with *management objectives**, the identified benefits and products are produced by *The Organisation** and/or made available for others to produce, to strengthen and diversify the local economy.

S.5.1.2. Consistent with *management objectives**, forest products are produced by *The Organisation** and/or made available for others to produce, to strengthen and diversify the local economy.

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

SLIMF: Only S5.2.1 applies.

5.2.1. *Timber harvesting levels** are based on an analysis of current *Best Available Information** on:

1) Growth and yield;
2) Age;
3) Inventory of the *forest**;
4) Mortality rates;
5) Maintenance of *ecosystem functions**;
6) *Conservation** of *biological diversity**;
7) Maintenance of ecosystem health and vitality;
8) Maintenance of soil and water;
9) Maintenance of carbon cycles;
10) Maintenance of productive capacity;
11) Maintenance of natural and cultural heritage;
12) Maintenance of socio-economic benefit;
13) Impact from climate change, pests, diseases and *natural hazards**; and
14) Protection of *Intact Forest Landscapes**

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S.5.2.1 *Timber harvesting levels** are based on an analysis of current *Best Available Information** on:

1) Growth and yield;

2) Age;

3) Inventory of the *forest**;

~~4)~~1) Mortality rates; and

~~5)~~2) Other relevant environmental and social considerations.

5.2.2. For *native forest**, based on the *timber harvesting level** analysis, a maximum allowable ~~annual~~ cut for timber that does not exceed the harvest level that can be permanently sustained is determined. This is achieved by ensuring that harvest rates do not exceed growth rates.

Examples of verifiers:

Long-term modelling for sustainable yield, inventory program, supply contracts, and representative permanent sample plots.

5.2.3. For *plantations**, the *timber harvesting level** does not exceed the productive capacity of the site to sustain similar levels of yield through cycles of harvest and ~~*regeneration*~~*re-establishment** . Productive capacity may be informed by current economic constraints, productivity indices, estate models, growth models and past historic records.

5.2.4. For *native forest** and *plantations**, actual annual harvest levels for timber are recorded and are consistent with the projected harvest level identified under 5.2.2 and 5.2.3 respectively.

5.2.5. *Timber harvest levels** are reviewed periodically (at least five-year intervals) to ensure that they are based on current growth estimates, regulatory requirements, previously recorded actual versus projected yield and market conditions.

5.2.6. For extraction of commercially harvested services and biological *non-timber forest products** under *The Organisation's** control a sustainable harvest level is calculated and adhered to. Sustainable harvest levels are based on *Best Available Information**.

5.3. *The Organisation shall demonstrate that the positive and negative *externalities** of operations are included in the *management plan**.**

5.3.1. Strategies and safeguards to prevent, mitigate or compensate for potential negative social and environment impacts of management activities are identified and included in the *management plan**.

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 Organisation shall use local processing, local services, and local value adding to meet the requirements of *The Organisation** where these are available, proportionate to *scale, intensity and risk**. If these are not locally available, *The Organisation** shall make *reasonable** attempts to help establish these services.**

SLIMF: Only 5.4.1 applies.

5.4.1. Where cost, quality and capacity of non-local and local options are at least equivalent, local goods, services, processing and value-added facilities are used.

5.4.2. *Reasonable** attempts are made to support and encourage establishment of capacity where local goods, services, processing and value-added facilities are not available.

5.4.3. In the absence of a third party able to provide the local good and/or service, where economically viable, *reasonable** and consistent with *management objective*s*, *The Organisation** ~~shall~~ makes *reasonable** attempts to establish capacity.

5.5. *The Organisation 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**.

L5.5.1. Sufficient funds are allocated to implement the *management plan** in order to meet this standard.

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**.

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PRINCIPLE* 6: *ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES** AND IMPACTS

The Organisation* **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 Organisation**** **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**.

Verifier:

Documentation of the specific environmental values, including their locations, using maps and other relevant documents.*

Best Available Information* **should include where applicable:**

1) Mapping or other assessment of erosion risk.
2) Mapping or other assessment of *forest** and other vegetation communities.
3) Mapping or other assessment of *significant** species known or likely to occur in the *Management Unit** that may be negatively affected by management activities.
4) Mapping or other assessment of important visual or *landscape** features.
5) Relevant experts or consultation with knowledgeable *stakeholders** within and/or independent of *The Organisation**.
6) Mapping or other assessment of soil type, erodibility and acid sulphate soils.
7) Assessment of water resources and quality.
8) An assessment of the adequacy and currency of *Best Available Information** for assessing *environmental values** and any further information that may need to be acquired.

SLIMF: Only 1-5 apply.

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.

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

Non-normative guidance regarding environmental impact assessments follows at the end of Principle 10. The Organisation* may use other methods to meet the requirements under 6.2.*

SLIMF: Only S6.2.1 and 6.2.3 apply.

6.2.1. An *environmental impact assessment** identifies potential impacts, both direct and cumulative, of management activities on *environmental values** at a *stand** level.

Verifier:

Documentation of the environmental impact assessment methodology used that identifies appropriate baselines and likely impacts and considers cumulative impacts.*

S6.2.1. An *environmental impact assessment** identifies potential impacts of management activities on *environmental values** at a *stand** level.

6.2.2. An *environmental impact assessment** identifies potential impacts, both direct and cumulative, of management activities on *environmental values** at the *landscape** level.

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

6.3. *The Organisation 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 *protect** *environmental values**.

6.3.2 Management activities protect *environmental values**.

6.3.3. Where *damage** to *environmental values** occurs, measures are adopted to prevent further *damage**, and the *damage** is *mitigated** and/or *repaired**.

6.3.4. Management activities in mixed age and mixed species *native forest** are planned and implemented to maintain forest structure and canopy cover at an appropriate density to support the ~~ecological vegetation class~~ecological communities based on *Best Available Information**.

Note: Where appropriate silvicultural regimes are in place, thinning and clearfelling in mixed age and mixed species native forest can be permissible.

Examples of *Best Available Information**: Silvicultural practice notes and guides based on best available scientific information.

6.3.5. *Salvage harvesting** in native forest is undertaken only when *stand** canopy characteristics have reached pre-disturbance levels. *Salvage harvesting** can be undertaken at any time if it supports the health of the forest in accordance with *Best Available Information**.

6.4. *The Organisation 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 Organisation** 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**.

SLIMF: Only 6.4.1, 6.4.3 and 6.4.4 apply.

6.4.1. *Rare and threatened species**, and their *habitats** are identified using *Best Available Information**, including CITES species and those listed on national, regional and local lists of *rare and threatened species** that are present or likely to be present within the *Management Unit** and adjacent to the *Management Unit**.

6.4.2. *Best Available Information**, including expert opinion and targeted *field surveys**, is used to identify specific locations of *habitat** of endangered and critically endangered species that are present or likely to be present within and adjacent to the *Management Unit**.

***Best Available Information** includes where applicable:*

1) Mapping or other assessment, including surveys and consultation of database records, of *rare and threatened species** and their *habitat** known or likely to occur in the *Management Unit** that may be negatively affected by management activities, including an assessment of known and likely locations and *habitat** locations.
2) A review of the assessment of *rare and threatened species** undertaken by a locally knowledgeable expert independent of *The Organisation**.
3) Pre-harvest surveys and/or *habitat** assessments.
4) An assessment of the adequacy and currency of *Best Available Information** in identifying species, impacts and management response, and further information that may need to be acquired.
5) Consultation with relevant expert or knowledgeable stakeholders.

6.4.3. 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.

Verifier:

Documentation of potential impacts and modifications to management activities.

6.4.4. The *rare and threatened species** and their *habitats** in the *Management Unit** are *protected**, at operational and *landscape** level, including through the provision of *conservation zones**, *protection areas**, *connectivity**, and other direct means for their survival and/or viability, such as species recovery programs.

Verifier:

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Documentation of management strategies and actions in protecting rare and threatened species and their habitats* is with relevant information on species populations, habitat* protections, and/or other information.*

6.4.5. Measures are in place to prevent unauthorised hunting, fishing, trapping and collection of *rare or threatened species**.

6.5. *The Organisation 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 Organisation** 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. (C6.4 and 10.5 P&C V4 and Motion 7:2014).**

6.5.1. *Best Available Information** is used to identify native *ecosystems** that exist within the *Management Unit** including assessments of the *conservation status** and value of the *ecosystems** at the *landscape** level.

Verifiers:

- *Documentation of native ecosystems*, including their locations, using maps and other relevant documents.*
- *Documentation of the conservation* status of identified native ecosystems*.*

***Best Available Information** includes, where applicable:*

1) Forest ecosystem and vegetation mapping.
2) Bioregional ecosystem *protection** targets such as *conservation status** and other bioregional assessments by government bodies and/or recognised experts.

S6.5.1 *Best Available Information** is used to identify *native ecosystems** that exist within the *Management Unit**

***Best Available Information** includes, where applicable:*

1) Forest ecosystem and vegetation mapping.

6.5.2. *The Organisation** ~~shall~~ identifies~~y~~ *conservation** measures for the *protection** and/or *restoration** of *representative sample areas**. These areas in combination with other components of the conservation area network comprise a minimum of 10% of the Forest *Management Unit**.

6.5.3. For *Management Units** where *native forest** harvesting occurs, *representative sample areas** of native *ecosystems** are protected, where they exist, 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.

6.6. *The Organisation 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 Organisation**** **shall demonstrate that effective measures are in place to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting.**

6.6.1. *Best Available Information** is used to identify *habitat features** including hollow-bearing trees to support the diversity of naturally occurring native fauna species.

Best Available Information* **includes, where applicable:**

1) Mapping or other assessment of hollow-dependent species of *conservation** significance known or likely to occur in the *Management Unit** that may be negatively affected by management activities, including the location of concentrations or important occurrences of *habitat features**.
2) An assessment of *habitat features**.
3) Relevant experts or consultation with knowledgeable *stakeholders** within and/or independent of *The Organisation**.

6.6.2. Management planning identifies specific prescriptions and guidelines for maintaining *habitat features**.

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

Verifier:

*Documentation of the effectiveness of management strategies and actions in maintaining, enhancing or restoring plant communities and habitat features**.

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

6.6.5 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.

6.7. *The Organisation** **shall *protect**** **or *restore**** **natural water courses, *water bodies**, *riparian zones**** **and their *connectivity**. ***The Organisation**** **shall avoid negative impacts on water quality and quantity and mitigate and *remedy**** **those that occur.**

6.7.1. Management measures are developed using *Best Available Information**, including buffers, *machinery exclusion zones**, and/or filter strips, with the aim to protect water quality and quantity in natural *watercourses**, *water bodies** and *riparian zones**. Such zones are increased where required for the management of slope, erosion risk or *threatened species**.

***Best Available Information** should include information such as:**

- Slope; soil type and erodibility; seasonality and intensity of flows; extreme weather events; in-stream and stream-dependent biota
- Catchment health, land use and vegetation cover
- Catchment water yield, interception and use
- Catchment-level groundwater assessments
- The potential impacts of management activities on nutrient and sediment loads, sediment deposition and erosion, stream temperature, and in-stream and stream-dependent biota
- Relevant regulations, guidelines and codes of practice
- Assessments of hydrological flows
- Catchment management plans and objectives.

6.7.2. Management measures for *headwater streams** and *drainage lines** include the following, except at designated crossing points:

1) *Headwater streams**: *buffer** zones, *machinery exclusion zones** or *filter strips** that extend a minimum of 10 metres from the stream bank; and
2) *Drainage lines**: *buffer** zones, *machinery exclusion zones** or *filter strips** that extend a minimum of two metres from the centre of the *drainage line**; and
3) Such zones are increased where required for the management of slope, erosion risk or *threatened species**, and considerate of risks associated with 10.7.8~~5.~~

6.7.3. Management measures are implemented that protect natural *watercourses**, *water bodies**, *riparian zones**, identified *groundwater recharge areas** and their *connectivity**, including water quantity and water quality.

6.7.4. A program of periodic monitoring assesses the effectiveness of management measures in protecting natural *watercourses**, w*ater bodies**, *riparian zones** and their *connectivity**, including water quantity and water quality, and includes verifiable targets.

Verifier:

Documentation of the monitoring program that monitors the above values as well as any other involvement by any other organisations or authorities.

Guidance:

There are a number of methods and factors that could be considered in relation to adequately assessing the effectiveness of management methods. Indications of effectiveness for consideration can include nutrient and sediment loads, sediment deposition and erosion, stream temperature, and the health of in-stream and stream-dependent biota. Monitoring programs could be undertaken in conjunction with, or by, other organisations or authorities, including reporting from, participation in or modification of existing programs.

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6.7.5. Where implemented management measures do not protect *watercourses*, water bodies*, riparian zones** and their *connectivity**, water quantity or water quality from impacts of *forest** management, *restoration** activities or mitigation measures are implemented.

6.7.6. 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 Organisation**, *restoration** activities or mitigation measures are implemented.

6.7.7. 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 Organisation 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. The *landscape** in a *native forest** component of the *Management Unit** (i.e., that within the control of *The Organisation**) is managed to maintain and/or *restore* habitat* connectivity** and a varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial *scales** and *regeneration** cycles consistent with *native forest** types and disturbance patterns.

Verifiers:

- *Documentation of management strategies and actions to maintain a mosaic of age classes, species mix, and disturbance patterns on the Management Unit*.*
- *Documentation of management strategies and actions to maintain and/or restore* connectivity* between habitats.*

6.8.2. For *native forest** components within the *Management Unit**, where the current mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial *scales** and *regeneration** cycles lacks natural levels of diversity, management activities and measures are implemented that enhance and/or *restore** spatial diversity.

6.9. *The Organisation shall not convert *natural forest** or *High Conservation Value Areas** to *plantations** or to *non-forest land-use**, nor transform *plantations** on sites directly converted from *natural forest** to *non-forest land use**, except when the *conversion**:**

1. Affects a *very limited portion of the area of the *Management Unit**, and**
2. Will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term *conservation and social benefits in the *Management Unit**, and**
3. 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 *native forest** and/or *High Conservation Value Areas** to *plantations**, or to *non-forest land use**, nor transformation of *plantations** on sites directly converted from *native forest** to *non-forest land use**, except when it:

1) Affects a *very limited portion** of the *Management Unit**, and

2) Will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term *conservation** and social benefits in the *Management Unit**, and

3) Does not damage or threaten *High Conservation Values**, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those *High Conservation Values**.

6.9.2. *The Organisation** ~~shall~~ does not revert *plantations** to *non-forest land use** except where *The Organisation** demonstrates:

1) That a decision not to replant current or alternative species is due to unforeseen factors or external decisions not under *The Organisation's** control; or

2) That replanting would not be economically viable; and

3) The social benefits of ~~revision~~ reversion, including its ability to maintain contractual obligations.

6.10. *Management Units containing *plantations** that were established on areas converted from *natural forest** between 1 December 1994 and 31 December 2020 shall not qualify for certification, except where:**

a) The *conversion affected a *very limited portion** of the *Management Unit** and is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term *conservation** benefits in the *Management Unit**, or**

b) *The Organisation which was *directly** or *indirectly** involved in the *conversion** demonstrates *restitution** of all *social harms** and *proportionate** *remedy** of *environmental harms** as specified in the applicable FSC Remedy Framework, or**

c) *The Organisation which was not involved in the *conversion** but has acquired *Management Units** where *conversion** has taken place demonstrates *restitution** of *priority social harms** and *partial remedy** of *environmental harms** as specified in the applicable FSC Remedy Framework.**

Note: The *Indicators** under this *Criterion** are not applicable to *plantation** areas that are already FSC-certified.

6.10.1. Based on *Best Available Information**, accurate data is compiled on all *conversions** between 1 December 1994 and 31 December 2020 within the *Management Unit**.

6.10.2. Areas converted from *native forest** to *plantation** between 1 December 1994 and 31 December 2020 are not certified, except where:

1) The *conversion** affected a *very limited portion** of the *Management Unit** and is producing clear, substantial, *additional*,* secure *long-term** *conservation** benefits in the *Management Unit**, or

2) *The Organisation** which was *directly** or *indirectly** involved in the *conversion** demonstrates *restitution** of all *social harms** and *proportionate** *remedy** of *environmental harms** as specified in the applicable FSC Remedy Framework, or

3) *The Organisation** which was not involved in *conversion** but has acquired *Management Units** where *conversion** has taken place demonstrates *restitution** of priority *social harms** and partial *remedy** of environmental *harms** as specified in the applicable FSC Remedy Framework, or

4) *The Organisation** qualifies as a *small-scale smallholder**.

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Guidance on submerged *forests:**

Materials harvested from water reservoirs or dams are eligible for certification providing:

1. The *forest** was submerged before 1 December 1994, and

2. All applicable normative requirements in this Standard and related documents are met.

6.11. *Management Units shall not qualify for certification if they contain *natural forests** or *High Conservation Value Areas** converted after 31 December 2020, except where the *conversion**:**

a) Affected a *very limited portion of the *Management Unit*,* and**

b) Is producing clear, substantial, *additional*,* secure *long-term *conservation** and social benefits in the *Management Unit*,* and**

c) Did not threaten *High Conservation Values*,* nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those *High Conservation Values.**

6.11.1. Based on *Best Available Information*,* accurate data is compiled on all *conversions** of *native forest** and *High Conservation Value Areas** after 31 December 2020 within the *Management Unit**.

6.11.2. ~~*Areas*~~ *Management Units** that contain ~~where~~ *native forest~~s~~** and/or *High Conservation Value Areas** ~~have been~~ converted after 31 December 2020 are not certified, except where the *conversion**:

1) Affected a *very limited portion** of the *Management Unit*,* and

2) is producing clear, substantial, *additional*,* secure *long-term** *conservation** and social benefits in the *Management Unit*,* and

3) did not threaten *High Conservation Values*,* nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those *High Conservation Values**.

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*PRINCIPLE** 7: MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The Organisation **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 Organisation*** **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 publicised.**

For verification of Indicators* in Principle 7 and Annex B:

Documentation associated with the management plan and related processes.*

Interviews with workers and/or stakeholders.*

Documentation of relevant stakeholder correspondence.*

7.1.1. Policies (vision and values) that contribute to meeting the requirements of this standard are defined.

7.1.2. Specific operational *management objective*s* that address the requirements of this standard are defined.

7.1.3. Summaries of the defined policies and *management objective*s* are included in the *management plan** and publicised.

7.2. ***The Organisation*** **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 objective*s*.

7.2.2. The *management plan** addresses the applicable elements listed in Annex B, 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**.

7.4. ***The Organisation*** **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) Monitoring results, including results of certification audits;
2) Evaluation results;
3) Stakeholder *engagement** results;
4) New scientific and technical information, and
5) Changing environmental, social, or economic circumstances.

7.5. *The Organisation 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. A summary of the *management plan**, listing its components, 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**, including relevant supporting information, excluding *confidential information**, are available to *affected stakeholders** on request at the actual costs of reproduction and handling.

7.5.3. Relevant components of the *management plan**, excluding *confidential information**, are available to *interested stakeholders** where specific concerns are identified and where requests are *reasonable** and practicable. At its discretion *The Organisation** may charge for reproduction and handling.

7.6. *The Organisation 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) Definition of *Living wage**s (*Criterion** 2.4);
3) Identification of rights (*Criterion** 3.1, *Criterion** 4.1), *Indigenous Cultural Landscapes** (*Criterion** 3.1), sites (*Criterion** 3.5, *Criterion** 4.7) and impacts (*Criterion** 4.5);
4) *Local communities'** socio-economic development activities (*Criterion** 4.4); and
5) *High Conservation Values** 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, local/state/national organisations and authorities);
2) Identify *interested** and *affected stakeholders**;

3) Determine mutually agreed communication channels allowing for information to flow in both directions;

4) Ensure *stakeholders** are provided with equal opportunities to *engage**;

5) Ensure all meetings, all points discussed and all agreements reached are recorded;

6) Ensure the content of meeting records is circulated;

7) Ensure the results of all *culturally appropriate* engagement** activities are shared with those involved; and

8) Ensure relevant date in appropriate formats is provided, allowing information to flow in both directions.

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

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.

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*PRINCIPLE** 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

The Organisation* **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**.

For verification of Indicators* in Principle 8 and Annex C:

*Documentation associated with monitoring and adaptive management** processes.

Interviews with workers and/or stakeholders*.*

Documentation of relevant stakeholder correspondence.*

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

SLIMF: Only S8.2.1 applies.

8.2.1. The social and environmental impacts of management activities are *monitored** consistent with the applicable elements of Annex C.

S8.2.1. The social and environmental impacts of management activities are *monitored** consistent with identified impacts.

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

8.3. *The Organisation** **shall analyse 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 changed to address the non-conformities.

8.4. *The Organisation** **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 the applicable elements of Annex C, in a format comprehensible to *stakeholders** including maps and excluding *confidential information** is made *publicly available** at no cost.

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L8.4.1. A summary of the monitoring results is made available to *stakeholders** upon request. At its discretion *The Organisation** may charge for the actual costs of reproduction and handling.

8.4.2. Upon *reasonable** request where specific concerns are identified, *The Organisation** ~~shall~~ provides summaries of the relevant methodology and management responses to monitoring activities, or if agreed, in-person briefings, excluding *confidential information**. At its discretion *The Organisation** may charge for the actual costs of reproduction and handling.

8.5. *The Organisation 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. When *forest** products, including *non-timber forest products**, are sold with FSC claims, *The Organisation** implements a documented system to track and trace all products sold from the *Management Unit** until the point of ownership transfer. In addition to this system, *The Organisation**:

1) Supports *transaction verification** by providing *FSC transaction** data, as requested by the certification body;
2) Supports *fibre testing** by surrendering samples and specimens of materials and information about species composition for verification at no cost to *The Organisation**, as requested by the certification body.

8.5.2. Information about all products sold is compiled and documented, including:

1) Common and scientific species name or, where necessary, species group;
2) Product name or description;
3) Volume (or quantity) of product;
4) Information to trace the material to the source of origin harvest block;
5) Harvest date range;
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 or, where necessary, species group;
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.

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PRINCIPLE* 9: HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES*

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

9.1. *The Organisation, 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 consistent with Annex E 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.

Verifier:

Documentation of the assessment methodology.

9.1.2. This assessment includes identification *of Intact Forest Landscapes**, as of January 1, 2017.

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9.1.3. The assessment considers 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**.

Verifier:

Documentation of responses to stakeholder comment.*

9.2. *The Organisation 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 as required by Annex E.

Verifiers:

Documentation of specific threats to the maintenance and enhancement of identified High Conservation Values.*

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

Verifier:

- *Documentation of management plans* including management strategies and actions to maintain and/or enhance High Conservation Values*, including strategies in response to identified threats.*

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

Verifiers:

- *Documentation of correspondence, interviews, and data provision from stakeholders*.*
- *Documentation of responses to stakeholder* comment and information.*

9.2.4. *Intact Forest Landscape* core areas** are identified and ~~M~~management strategies are developed to *protect** ~~*core areas**~~ them. The *core area** threshold for each *Intact Forest Landscape** is provided in Annex D

~~9.2.5. The *vast majority** of each *Intact Forest Landscape** is designated as *core area**. The *core area** threshold for each *Intact Forest Landscape** is provided in Annex D.~~

Consultation note

The first part of Indicator 9.2.5 has been dropped. This is because the SDG has established core area thresholds for all IFLs which all meet the vast majority threshold. The second part of the Indicator has been moved to 9.2.4.

9.2.5~~6~~. The designation of *Intact Forest Landscape* core areas**:

1) Respects the right to *Free Prior and Informed Consent** of *affected rights holders**;
2) Ensures the *legal** and *customary rights** of *affected rights holders** to use the *core area** are *upheld**;

3) Ensures that the *core area** contains the most ecologically valuable, contiguous, and intact portions of the *Intact Forest Landscapes**;

4) Ensures the shape of the *core areas** is designed to maximise its interior habitats.

5) Ensures that the *core area** contains habitat for *rare, threatened and endangered** species and other wildlife, where they exist, that depend on large contiguous areas of unaltered *forest**;

6) Ensures that the *core area** maintains or restores *connectivity** between *core areas** both within and adjacent to the *Management Unit** where they exist; and

7) Ensures that the *core area** is not smaller than 50,000 ha.

9.2.67. 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 Organisation 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 Value*s* are maintained and/or enhanced, including by implementing the strategies developed.

9.3.2. The strategies and actions to maintain and/or enhance and avoid risks to *High Conservation Value*s* are implemented, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of *High Conservation Value*s* are uncertain.

Verifier:

Documentation of the implementation of strategies and actions to maintain and/or enhance High Conservation Values, including the level of scientific uncertainty.*

9.3.3. *Core areas** are *protected** consistent with *Criterion** 9.2.

9.3.4. Limited *industrial activity** in *core areas** is consistent with *Indicator** 9.2.7.

9.3.5. Activities that *damage** *High Conservation Value*s* are suspended without delay and where necessary actions are taken to *restore** and protect the *High Conservation Value*s*.

Verifiers:

• Documentation of any instances of suspension of activities, including the period between identification of damage and suspension of activities.*

• Documentation of actions to restore and protect High Conservation Values* proportionate to the harm caused.*

9.4. *The Organisation 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 the following, consistent with Annex E:

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**, maintain and/or enhance the *High Conservation Values**.

9.4.2. The monitoring methodology and a periodic public summary of monitoring results are made *publicly available**, excluding *confidential information**. At its discretion *The Organisation** may charge for the actual costs of reproduction and handling.

9.4.3. The monitoring program has sufficient scope, detail and frequency to detect changes in *High Conservation Value*s*, 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 these strategies and actions are insufficient to ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of *High Conservation Value*s*.

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*PRINCIPLE** 10: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Management activities conducted by or for *The Organisation for the *Management Unit** shall be selected and implemented consistent with *The Organisation*'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 Organisation** 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** and using a method that:

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

Verifiers:

- *Documentation of environmental values* identification, assessment and management for both native forests* and plantations *.*
- *Documentation of pre-harvest* conditions for native forests*.*

10.1.2. Planned *regeneration** or replanting activities are implemented in a *timely manner** that:

1) For harvest of existing *plantations**, *re-establish** *plantation** or *regenerate** to *pre-harvest** or more *natural conditions** using ecologically well-adapted species;
2) For harvest of *native forests**, regenerate to *pre-harvest** or to more *natural conditions**; or
3) For harvest of degraded *native forests**, regenerate to more *natural conditions**.

Verifiers:

- *Documentation of assessments of pre-harvest* conditions.*
- *Documentation of regeneration* plans, including targets and timings.*

Consultation note

The Indicators under Criterion 10.1 are subject to a separate interpretation process. Once the interpretation has been published, the Criterion 10.1 Indicators will be revised to align with the interpretation. They revised Indications will go through a separate consultation process if this is deemed necessary by the SDG.

10.2. *The Organisation shall use species for regeneration that are ecologically well adapted to the site and to the *management objectives**. *The Organisation** shall use *native species** and local *genotypes** for regeneration, unless there is clear and convincing justification for using others.**

Guidance: Justification for non-local *genotypes** may include:

- Growth rates not meeting *management objectives**
- Yields not being viable for the local species
- *Native species** and/or local *genotypes** becoming extinct

- *Native species** and/or local *genotypes** not being resistant to disease and pests
- Site stresses, such as water
- Afforestation of degraded agriculture and range lands
- Climate change adaptation
- Capacity to stock carbon.

10.2.1. Species chosen for *native forest** *regeneration** are ecologically well adapted to the site and are *native species** and of *local provenance** unless, clear and convincing justification is provided for using species of *non-local provenance**.

10.2.2. Species chosen for *regeneration** are consistent with the *regeneration** *objectives** and with the *management objectives**.

10.3. *The Organisation 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. *Exotic species** are used only when direct experience and/or the results of scientific research demonstrate that invasive impacts can be controlled.

10.3.2. *Exotic 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 Organisation** is controlled.

10.3.4. Management activities are implemented, in cooperation with separate regulatory bodies where these exist, with an aim to control the invasive impacts of *exotic species**.

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

10.4.1. *Genetically modified organisms** are not used.

Verifiers:

- *Documentation of seed origins.*
- *Documentation of compliance with any state/federal regulations such as the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator.*

10.5. *The Organisation 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**.

~~10.5.2. Management in *native forest** following the impact of significant *natural hazards** or insects and disease requires maintenance of habitat attributes, including standing, dead and fallen trees. Activities described in *Criterion** 10.10 are permitted.~~

Consultation note

This Indicator 10.5.2 has been moved to Criterion 10.11.

10.6. *The Organisation shall minimise or avoid the use of *fertilisers**. When *fertilisers** are used, *The Organisation** shall demonstrate that use is equally or more ecologically and economically beneficial than use of *silvicultural** systems that do not require fertilisers, and prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to *environmental values**, including soils.**

10.6.1. The use of *fertilisers** is minimised or avoided. In *plantations** its use is permissible if justified.

Verifier:

Documentation of application of fertilisers.

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

Verifier:

Documentation of assessments of alternative non-fertiliser reliant silvicultural methods.*

10.6.3. In *native forests**, *fertilisers** are only used where there are clear ecological benefits.

10.6.4. When *fertilisers** are used, their types, rates, frequencies and site of application are documented.

10.6.5. When *fertilisers** are used, *environmental values** are *protected**, including through implementation of measures to prevent *damage**.

Verifier:

Documentation of environmental values for both native forests* and plantations*, including the use of any buffer zones around rare plant communities, riparian zones*, watercourses* and water bodies*.*

10.6.6. *Damage** to *environmental values** resulting from *fertiliser** use is *mitigated or repaired**.

10.7. *The Organisation shall use integrated pest management and *silviculture** systems which avoid, or aim at eliminating, the use of *chemical pesticides**. *The Organisation** shall not use any *chemical pesticides** prohibited by FSC policy. When *pesticides** are used, *The Organisation** 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 aim to eliminate the frequency, extent, and amount of chemical *pesticide** applications.

Verifier:

Documentation of company policy/strategy outlining procedures involved in avoiding the use of pesticides.*

10.7.2. Prior to using *chemical pesticides**, the requirements of the *Environmental and Social Risk Assessment** framework for *Organisations** (FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0 *FSC Pesticides Policy* clause 4.12) are met.

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Note: This includes *highly hazardous pesticides** and non-*highly hazardous pesticides**. For *chemical pesticides** not listed as *highly hazardous pesticides** by FSC (FSC-POL-30-001a), the Safety Data Sheet and *pesticide** label together may provide much of the information needed for the *Environmental and Social Risk Assessment**.

Consultation note

The SDG is aware that there is some confusion about the applicability of the ESRA requirements for non-HHP chemical pesticides. In response, it has included this note. This is not a new requirement but simply highlights an existing requirement in the FSC Pesticides Policy.

10.7.3. *Affected rights holders** and *affected** and *interested stakeholders** are provided with an opportunity for *engagement** in the development of the *Environmental and Social Risk Assessment** in a *culturally appropriate** manner.

10.7.4. The *Environmental and Social Risk Assessment** is reviewed and, if necessary, revised at least every five years.

10.7.5. A decision process and rationale are in place to select the pest, weed or disease control option that demonstrates least social and environmental damages, more effectiveness and equal or greater social and environmental benefits.

10.7.6. Records of *pesticide** usage are maintained, including trade name, *active ingredient**, quantity of *active ingredient** used, period of use, number and frequency of applications, location and area of use and reason for use.

Verifier:

Documentation of applications of pesticides.*

10.7.7. The use of *pesticides** complies with national, state and/or international guidelines, as well as those advised by the manufacturer, through provision of training, information and protective equipment to ensure adequate *protection**of *workers** or any other persons involved in the;

1) Transport of chemicals;
2) Storage and labelling of chemicals;
3) Handling and application; and
4) Emergency procedures for clean-up following accidental spillages.

Verifiers:

- *Documentation of health and safety incident reporting.*
- *Relevant and up-to-date chemical safety data sheets.*
- *Training and accreditation records.*

10.7.8. If *pesticides** are used, application methods minimise quantities used, while achieving effective results, and provide effective *protection** to surrounding areas, waterways and *landscapes**.

Verifier:

Documentation of monitoring and relevant responses.

10.7.9. *Damage** to *environmental values** and human health from *pesticide** use is prevented and *mitigated or repaired** where *damage** occurs.

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Verifier:

Documentation of health and safety reporting and relevant responses.

10.7.10. The use of *pesticides** complies with national, state and/or international guidelines, as well as those advised by the manufacturer, through provision of training, information and protective equipment to ensure adequate *protection** of *workers** or any other persons involved in the;

1) The selected *pesticide**, application method, timing and pattern of use offers the least risk to humans and non-target species;
2) Objective evidence demonstrates that the *pesticide** is the only effective and practical way to control the pest; and
3) Documentation exists to demonstrate commitment, and/or participation in research to investigate means to avoid and reduce the volume and/or adverse effect of chemical usage.

Verifiers:

• Documentation of health and safety incident reporting.

• Relevant and up-to-date chemical safety data sheets.

• Training and accreditation records.

Consultation note

Based on stakeholder feedback, the highly hazardous pesticides Indicators have been changed significantly. To enhance the reader experience, the changes have not been tracked. The generic version of the Indicators can be accessed here while the Indicators proposed by the Standards Development Group in the previous draft can be requested from Stefan Jensen: s.jensen@au.fsc.org.

The remaining Criterion 10.7 Indicators establish the conditions for the application of restricted and highly restricted highly hazardous pesticides* considered for use in Australia. The highly hazardous pesticides* that have been considered are:*

***Pesticide** active ingredient**	**CAS number**	**FSC *highly hazardous pestices** category**	**Permissable for use in Australia?**
Alpha-cypermethrin	67375-30-8	Highly restricted	Yes
Fipronil	120068-37-3	Highly restricted	Yes
2,4-D	94-75-7	Restricted	Yes
Amitrole	61-82-5	Restricted	Yes
Atrazine	1912-24-9	Restricted	Yes
Copper oxychloride	1332-40-7	Restricted	Yes
Glufosinate-ammonium	77182-82-2	Restricted	Yes

Glyphosate and its salts	1071-83-6 69254-40-6 38641-94-0 40465-66-5 34494-03-6 81591-81-3	Restricted	Yes
Haloxyfop-methyl	69806-40-2	Restricted	Yes
Oxyfluorfen	42874-03-3	Restricted	Yes
Permethrin	52645-53-1	Restricted	Yes
Picloram	1918–02–1	Restricted	Yes
Sodium fluoroacetate (1080) To control non-native fauna	62-74-8	Restricted	Yes

Highly hazardous pesticides templates ~~and Environmental and Social Risk Assessments*~~ are provided in Annex F for the most commonly used highly hazardous pesticides* in Australia. These templates will not be updated following publication of the Standard.*

Consultation note

The SDG has decided not to provide ESRA templates for HHPs used in Australia. The ESRAs that were included in the first round of consultation were from 2020 and are currently being updated by the consultant who developed them. The SDG is concerned that certificate holders could rely too much on the 2020 ESRAs even if caveats are included in the Standard explaining that they may need to be updated prior to use. This could have negative flow-on effects if, for example, a carcinogenicity rating had been increased since an ESRA was developed in 2020 and the appropriate controls consequently aren't put in place.

In accordance with the FSC Pesticides Policy, “SDGs may complete ESRA template to assist certificate holders, in particular smallholders, to conduct ESRA.” The SDG notes that of the two SLIMF group schemes currently certified to the standard, the manager of one of them is a member of the SDG and does not need ESRA templates, while the other only uses one HHP which they already have an ESRA for.

10.7.11. Control measures are proactively considered and/or implemented based on the likely impacts of the targeted pest, weed or disease and any *intervention threshold** to avoid unacceptable impacts on economic, environmental or social values.

10.7.12. To protect *workers** and the public from exposure, an *exclusion zone** is established where a *highly hazardous pesticide** and/or the application method require one. *Exclusion zones** comply with requirements outlined in legislative instruments, including:

- Chemical labels
- Chemical safety data sheets
- Legislative instruments

10.7.13. Notification about the application of *highly hazardous pesticides**, including *exclusion zones*,* is undertaken in a *culturally appropriate** manner prior to application. Notifications comply with requirements outlined in legislative instruments including:

- Chemical labels
- Chemical safety data sheets
- Legislative instruments

Where legislative instruments are silent on notifications, neighbours adjacent to the application area are notified at a minimum.

10.7.14. Signage is erected during application of *highly hazardous pesticides**. Signage complies with requirements outlined in legislative instruments including:

- Chemical labels
- Chemical safety data sheets
- Legislative instruments

Where legislative instruments are silent on signage, signage is placed at all entry points into the application area during application at a minimum.

10.7.15. *Workers** handling, transporting, mixing and applying *highly hazardous pesticides** are trained and accredited in these activities. Training and accreditation comply with requirements outlined in legislative instruments including:

- Chemical labels
- Chemical safety data sheets
- Legislative instruments

Where legislative instruments are silent on training and accreditation, training and accreditation is to a Nationally Accredited Standard (e.g. AQF Level 3).

10.7.16. The handling, transporting, mixing, and application of *highly hazardous pesticides**, including re-entry precautions, comply with all legal requirements, including, but not limited to:

- Chemical labels
- Chemical safety data sheets
- Legislative instruments

10.7.17. When planning to undertake application of *highly hazardous pesticides**, risk assessments that consider and prioritise risk mitigation measures are undertaken, documented (using hierarchy of controls) and implemented to avoid exposure to *workers**, *affected stakeholders** and/or *environmental values**.

10.7.18. *Environmental and Social Risk Assessment(s)**, site operational plans, and site-specific risk mitigation and monitoring measures are documented and consistent with safety data sheets, chemical label instructions, and applicable legal requirements.

10.7.19. A *pesticide buffer zone** is established where a *highly hazardous pesticide** and/or application method requires one to ensure protection of *environmental values** and social

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values. The *pesticide buffer zone** is documented in site operational plans and complies with requirements outlines in legislative instruments including:

- Chemical labels
- Chemical safety data sheets
- Legislative instruments

Where any of these legislative instruments are silent on *pesticide buffer zones**, the *precautionary approach** should be applied in consideration of application methods, drift susceptibility and values being protected.

10.7.20. Deliberate non-compliance with label requirements, use of unregistered or adulterated products and non-compliance with applicable minimum legal requirements are reported to the appropriate regulatory authorities.

10.7.21. Adverse events are reported to the appropriate regulatory authorities.

10.7.22. When *highly hazardous pesticides** are used in a *pesticides emergency** situation or by *government order**, use conforms with the procedure for the exceptional use of prohibited *highly hazardous pesticides** in Annex 3 of FSC-POL-30-001 *FSC Pesticides Policy*.

Note: While Annex 3 of the FSC Pesticides Policy addresses the use of *Prohibited highly hazardous pesticides** in *pesticides emergency** situations or by *government orders**, this *indicator** allows certificate holders to apply the same procedure to restricted *highly hazardous pesticides** and highly restricted *highly hazardous pesticides** in these situations, providing a window of thirty (30) days after starting the use of the *chemical pesticide** in which to complete a site specific *Environmental and Social Risk Assessment**.

10.7.23 Harm caused to *workers** and *affected stakeholders** by over-exposure to *highly hazardous pesticides** is treated. When treatment is not possible, *fair compensation** is provided.

10.7.24. Damage caused to *environmental values** by *highly hazardous pesticides** is repaired. When *repairing** damage is not possible, *fair compensation** is provided.

10.7.25. Monitoring and record keeping of *highly hazardous pesticides** use is undertaken and at a minimum includes:

- Exposure of individual *workers**;
- Adverse experiences;
- Environmental impacts;
- Off-site impacts;
- Chemical use;
- Weather records during application;
- Application technique;
- Change in environmental condition;
- Stakeholder complaints;

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- Implementation of risk mitigation measures; and
- Any other requirements required by legislative instruments.

10.7.26. Based on monitoring results, corrective action is taken where mitigation measures are not implemented as appropriate or are not effective in managing *risks** to human health and *environmental values**.

10.7.27 A trend of replacement, reduction and/or removal of *highly hazardous pesticides** over time is demonstrated, or continued use is justified.

10.7.28. Programmes are in place that have specific actions, timelines, targets and resources allocated to conduct, or support, research to identify and test less hazardous alternatives to replace FSC restricted and highly restricted *highly hazardous pesticides**.

NOTE: Less hazardous alternatives may include changes to management practices, species choice and tree breeding, biological control agents, non-chemical pesticides* or other chemical pesticides*.

10.7.29. For *highly hazardous pesticides** that have not yet been considered for use by FSC Australia and New Zealand, *The Organisation**:

a) Conducts an *Environmental and Social Risk Assessment** conforming with the requirements of the *Environmental and Social Risk Assessment** framework for *The Organisation** provided in FSC-STD-30-001 *FSC Pesticides Policy*, sections 4.12 and 4.13;

b) Conforms with the *highly hazardous pesticides** *Indicators** in Criterion 10,7 in this Standard where applicable; or with the International Generic Indicators in Annex J of FSC-STD-60-004 *International Generic Indicators* for *Indicators** that have been adapted in a way where they are not applicable to the target *highly hazardous pesticide**.

c) Notifies FSC Australia and New Zealand once the use of the *highly hazardous pesticide** commences; and

d) Aligns the application of the *highly hazardous pesticide** with any future decisions made by the FSC Australia and New Zealand on its usage.

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

10.8.1. The use of *biological control agents** is minimised, *monitored** and controlled.

10.8.2. Use of *biological control agents** complies with *internationally accepted scientific protocols**.

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 Organisation shall assess *risks** and implement activities that reduce potential negative impacts from *natural hazards** proportionate to *scale, intensity, and risk**.**

SLIMF: 10.9.1,10.9.2 and 10.9.5 apply.

10.9.1. Potential negative impacts of *natural hazards** on *infrastructure**, *forest** resources and communities in the *Management Unit** are assessed.

10.9.2. Where possible, management activities mitigate these impacts.

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** where possible.

10.9.5. A fire management strategy based on *Best Available Information** is implemented to mitigate the negative impacts of fire.

Guidance on fire management strategies:

A fire management strategy helps guide *The Organisation's** fire management activities. It sets strategic priorities about where, how, and why *The Organisation** needs to mitigate the negative impacts of fire.

The objective of the fire management strategy is to identify measures to:

- Protect life and critical infrastructure and assets from the adverse impacts of fire;
- Protect and/or enhance the natural and cultural values in the *Management Unit**, including but not limited to *High Conservation Values**;
- Protect the social and economic values of the *Management Unit** and its neighbours; and
- Enhance resilience in the landscape in the face of climate change.

10.10. *The Organisation 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 and cultural sites identified in *Criterion** 3.5.

Verifiers:

Documentation of strategies and activities to protect environmental values.*

10.10.2. *Silviculture** activities are managed to protect the *environmental values** identified in *Criterion** 6.1 and cultural sites identified in *Criterion** 3.5.

Verifiers:

Documentation of strategies and activities to protect environmental values.*

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

10.11. *The Organisation 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~~ cultural sites identified in *Criterion** 3.5 over the *long-term** and High Conservation Values* identified in Criteria 9.1 and 9.2.

Consultation note

This change is to include a change to the International Generic Indicator that had previously been overlooked.

Verifier:

Documentation of training materials and procedures related to conserving environmental values and* cultural sites.

10.11.2. Harvesting practices optimise the use of *forest** products and merchantable materials.

Verifier:

Compliance records related to utilisation.

10.11.3. Management in *native forest** following the impact of significant *natural hazards** or insects and disease requires maintenance of habitat attributes, including standing, dead and fallen trees. Activities described in *Criterion** 10.10 are permitted.

***Note**: Habitat attributes include hollow bearing standing trees (live and dead), coarse woody debris, areas of rock, unburnt areas, non-forest vegetation, wetlands*, hydrological features, caves.*

Consultation note

The Indicator was moved from Criterion 10.5 and a note included to provide further clarity.

10.11.4~~3~~. Sufficient amounts of dead and decaying biomass and *forest** structure in *native forests** are retained to conserve *environmental values** with preference given to retaining biomass and structure of the largest sizes available.

10.11.5~~4~~. Harvesting practices minimise *damage** to standing residual trees, residual woody debris on the ground and other *environmental values** identified in *Criterion** 6.1 and cultural sites identified in *Criterion** 3.5.

10.12. *The Organisation 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 an environmentally appropriate way that conserves *environmental values** as identified in *Criterion** 6.1.

GUIDANCE FOR CONDUCTING AN *IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

What is an impact assessment?

*Impact Assessment** (IA) is the process of identifying the consequences of a current or proposed action. The "impact" is the difference between what would happen *with* the action and what would happen *without it*.

More technically, IA is defined in this Standard as:

> **Impact Assessment:** The process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the physical, social, and other relevant effects of forest management activities.

*Impact Assessments**:

1. Predict the significance and consequences of management activities before those activities are undertaken;
2. Enable decisions about whether to proceed with a management activity;
3. Monitor the significance and consequences of management activities as they are undertaken; and
4. Identify methods to avoid, minimise or mitigate significant impacts, either before an activity is undertaken, or as an *adaptive management** response to observed impacts.

How does impact assessment apply to forest managers?

The Standard requires consideration of impacts in two areas:

- C4.5: Social impact evaluations (local social impact assessment
- C6.2 and 6.3: Environmental impact assessments

Guidance on Methods for Impact Assessment*

The following *impact assessment** method can be undertaken for social and environmental impacts, noting that the information inputs will vary depending on the specific value being considered. *Impact assessment** considers both positive and negative impacts resulting from management activities.

Forest managers may also draw on specific methodologies for social and environmental impact assessment, particularly those specifically relevant to the Australian forestry context. Depending on the *scale, intensity and risk** (including perceived risks) *The Organisation** may elect to have surveys conducted by independent experts or to have a credible independent review of the assessments undertaken.

*Criteria** 6.2 and 6.4 require the assessment of environmental impacts of a specified list of environmental values:

Environmental Values: The individual and shared community or societal beliefs about the significance and state of the natural environment and how it should be viewed and treated by humans, including:

- *ecosystem functions** (carbon storage and sequestration)
- biological diversity* (*rare and threatened species**, vegetation communities, *habitat features**, fauna and flora)

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- water resources (water quantity and quality)
- soils (stability)
- atmosphere (air quality)
- *landscape values** (visual and amenity values)

Source: Adopted from Reser Joseph P., and Bentrupperbäumer Joan M. (2005). What and where are environmental values? Assessing the impacts of current diversity of use of 'environmental' and 'World Heritage' values. Journal of Environmental Psychology 25(2):125-146 DOI:10.1016/j.jenvp.2005.03.002

'*Social Impact Evaluation*'* under *Criterion** 4.5 requires an assessment of a specific list of social and economic values relevant to the local community:

Social Impact Evaluation*: an assessment of social impacts in *local communities** resulting from current or planned forest management activities that includes the following as appropriate:

- employment and economic activity generated from management activities
- impacts on other industries resulting from activities
- impacts on property values
- health impacts
- impacts on cultural heritage
- impacts on recreational, visual or amenity values.

Forest managers should undertake and document the following steps (for example, in a table or report) in relation to the values above:

Scoping*:* List the details of the specific social or *environmental values** **likely to be impacted by management activities** (for example, highly erodible soils; local sawmill employment) over the life of a forest *management plan**.

Impact Analysis*:* Using data, research, expert advice, *stakeholder** consultation, and professional judgment, **identify the likely impact of management activities**. For example, local processing policies will increase local employment, or harvesting in areas with erodible soils in high rainfall periods creates an erosion risk.

Cumulative Impacts*:* In some cases, the social impacts of forestry operations occur as a consequence of the actions of multiple forest managers, rather than being attributable to a single manager. This type of 'cumulative impact' can for example occur when a large area of land is established to *plantation** in a particular local area. While multiple companies may be involved, and the effect of any one forest manager's actions may be minimal, the cumulative effect of the actions of multiple forest managers may be substantial. **The potential for cumulative effects across multiple forest managers should be identified**, and where it is assessed as potentially significant, a process of assessment of effects arising as a result of cumulative impacts implemented.

Impact Significance*:* Predict the **'significance' of each of the impacts** that have been analysed, in order to prioritise the importance of management responses. This can involve a qualitative matrix analysis that assesses the likelihood and potential consequences. For example, local processing policies may substantially increase employment opportunities in small *local communities** with limited alternative employment options, or harvesting in areas of erodible soils in high-rainfall periods may result in substantial downstream increases in turbidity and impacts on stream-dependent fauna.

Impact management and examination of alternatives*:* Identify measures to **avoid, minimise and mitigate negative significant impacts**, for the list of potential impacts analysed, including any alternatives to the proposed management activities.

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GUIDANCE FOR CULTURAL EMPATHY TRAINING* CONTENT

*Cultural empathy training** should, as a starting point, cover the following content:

Topic	Content
Traditional lore/law	• Australia's *First Nations Peoples'** ways of knowing, being and doing prior to colonisation. • Kinship - the complex and dynamic system that defines where *First Nation Peoples'** fit into their family and community. • How *First Nations Peoples'** cultures thrive through knowledge of family and kin. • What Country and connection to Country is.
Colonisation	• The declaration and impact of Terra Nullius. • The introduction of disease and illness. • The ongoing impact on Australia's *First Nations Peoples** from the introduction of sugars, alcohol and other foreign ingredients. • The dispossession of *First Nations Peoples** from their land, families and community. See for example https://australianstogether.org.au/discover-and-learn/our-history/colonisation/#video • The history of massacres and genocide.
The historical acts	The historical acts that gave a Board or agency (the Government Protector) comprehensive powers to regulate every aspect of *First Nations Peoples'** lives, namely: • Victoria: Aboriginal Protection Act 1886 • Western Australia: Aborigines Protection Act 1886 • Queensland: Aboriginals Protection and Restriction of the Sale of Opium Act 1897 • New South Wales/ACT: Aboriginal Protection Act 1909 • Northern Territory: Northern Territory Aboriginal's Act 1910 • South Australia: South Australia's Aborigines Act 1911 • Tasmania: Tasmania's Cape Barren Island Reserve Act 1912 The extensions and impacts of the Acts, including: • The exploitation of First Nations workers by withholding wages. • The Half-Caste Act and various related Acts which allowed for the forcible removal of 'Half-caste' children from their parents. • The severance of *traditional knowledge**, songlines, language, kinship, and dreaming from generation to generation resulting in a loss of identity.

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	• The Stolen Generations (eugenics). See for example: https://aso.gov.au/titles/documentaries/stolen-generations/clip2/
Transgenerational and intergenerational trauma	• The physiological and psychological effects colonisation has had on Australia's *First Nations Peoples** and how it is being passed down through generations. • Intergenerational trauma where the effects of trauma by those directly impacted by colonialisation was passed on to the next generation. • Transgenerational trauma where the traumatic experiences from colonialisation is being transmitted to subsequent generations and across communities.
Self-determination and policies	• The 1967 Referendum • The Mabo decision • The 2020 National Agreement on Closing the Gap strategy • The National Apology • NAIDOC Week • Reconciliation Week • The Uluru Statement from the Heart • The 2023 referendum for constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (the Voice to Parliament referendum)

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

~~Annex A can be accessed online here: https://au.fsc.org/en-au/standards/forest-management.~~

~~The Annex provides a minimum list of *applicable laws**, regulations and nationally ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements that will be relevant to most *Management Units**. This is not an exhaustive list. If additional requirements exist, *The Organisation** shall comply with these.~~

~~Annex A does not cover *non-timber forest products**. It is the responsibility of *The Organisation** to identify *applicable laws**, regulations and nationally ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements for *non-timber forest products** included in the scope of its certificate.~~

~~Annex A is current as of [date] and will not be updated.~~

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ANNEX A TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR *WORKERS** (*Principle** 2)

The list of training requirements in this Annex is intended for those *workers** with specific job responsibilities related to the implementation of the Standard. Where applicable, training should be provided by credible providers to recognised or nationally accredited standards.

*Workers** 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 relevant workplace and industrial relations legislation (*Criterion** 2.1);
3) Recognise 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 where *First Nations Peoples** have *legal** and *cultural responsibilities** related to management activities (Criterion* 3.2);
7) Identify and implement applicable elements of UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 (*Criterion** 3.4);
8) Identify sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to *First Nations Peoples** and implement the necessary measures to protect them before the start of forest management activities to avoid negative impacts (*Criterion** 3.5 and *Criterion** 4.7);
9) Identify where *local communities** have *legal** *rights** related to management activities (*Criterion** 4.2);
10) Carry out social, economic and environmental *impact assessments** and develop appropriate mitigation measures (*Criterion** 4.5 and 6.2);
11) Implement activities related to the maintenance and/or enhancement of declared *ecosystem services** (*Criterion** 5.1);
12) Handle, apply and store *pesticides** safely (*Criterion** 10.7); and
13) Implement procedures for cleaning up spills of *waste materials** (*Criterion** 10.12).

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ANNEX B ELEMENTS OF THE *MANAGEMENT PLAN** (*Principle** 7)

The *management plan** includes, where applicable and relevant, the elements listed below, proportionate to *scale, intensity and risk**, and consistent with existing national and sub-national *management planning** frameworks.

1. The results of assessments, including:
    a) Natural resources and *environmental values*, as* identified in *Principle** 6 and *Principle** 9;
    b) Social, economic and cultural resources and condition, as identified in *Principle** 6, *Principle** 2 to *Principle** 5 and *Principle** 9;
    c) *Intact Forest Landscapes** and core areas*, as identified in *Principle** 9;
    d) *Indigenous Cultural Landscapes**, as identified with *affected rights holders** in *Principle** 3 and *Principle** 9;
    e) Major social and environmental risks in the area, as identified in *Principle* 6, *Principle** 2 to *Principle** 5 and *Principle** 9; and
    f) The maintenance and/or enhancement of *ecosystem services** for which promotional claims are made as identified in *Criterion** 5.1.
2. Programs and activities regarding:
    a) *Workers'** rights, occupational health and safety, *gender equality**, as identified in *Principle** 2;
    b) *First Nations Peoples**, community relations, local economic and social development, as identified in *Principle** 3, *Principle** 4 and *Principle** 5;
    c) *Stakeholder engagement** and the resolution of disputes* and grievances, as identified in *Principle** 1, *Principle** 2 and *Principle** 7;
    d) Planned management activities and timelines, *silvicultural** systems used, typical harvesting methods and equipment, as identified in *Principle** 10;
    e) The rationale for harvesting rates of timber and other natural resources, as identified in *Principle** 5.
3. Measures to *conserve** and/or *restore**:
    a) *Rare and threatened species** and *habitats**;
    b) *Water bodies** and *riparian zones**;
    c) *Landscape** *connectivity**, including wildlife corridors;
    d) *Ecosystem services** when FSC ecosystem services claims are used as identified in *Criterion** 5.1;
    e) *Representative Sample Areas**, as identified in *Principle** 6; and
    f) *High Conservation Values**, as identified in *Principle** 9.
4. Measures to assess, prevent, and mitigate negative impacts of management activities on:
    a) Environmental values*, as identified in Principle* 6 and Principle* 9;
    b) *Ecosystem services** when FSC ecosystem services claims are used as identified in *Criterion** 5.1;

c) Social Values and *Indigenous Cultural Landscapes**, as identified in *Principle** 2 to *Principle** 5 and *Principle** 9; and

d) *Intact Forest Landscapes** and *core areas**, as identified in *Principle** 9.

5. A description of the monitoring program, as identified in *Principle** 8, including:

a) Growth and yield, as identified in *Principle** 5;

b) *Ecosystem services** when FSC ecosystem services claims are used as identified in *Criterion** 5.1*;*

c) *Environmental values**, as identified in Principle* 6;

d) Operational impacts, as identified in *Principle** 10;

e) *High Conservation Values**, as identified in Principle* 9;

f) Monitoring systems based on stakeholder *engagement** planned or in place, as identified in *Principles** 2-5 and *Principle** 7;

g) Maps describing the natural resources and land use zoning on the *Management Unit**;

h) Description of the methodology used to assess and *monitor** any development and land use options allowed by *The Organisation** in *Intact Forest Landscapes** and *core areas** including the~~ir~~ effectiveness ~~in~~ of implementing the *precautionary approach**;

i) Description of the methodology used to assess and *monitor** any development and land use options allowed by *The Organisation** in *Indigenous Cultural Landscapes** including the~~ir~~ effectiveness ~~in~~ of implementing the *precautionary approach**; and

j) Global Forest Watch map, or more accurate national or regional map, describing the natural resources and land use zoning on the *Management Unit**, including the *Intact Forest Landscapes** *core areas**.

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ANNEX C MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (*Principle** 8)

1. Monitoring in 8.2.1 is sufficient to identify and describe the environmental impacts of management activities, including where applicable:

   a) The results of regeneration activities (*Criterion** 10.1);

   b) The use of ecologically well adapted species for regeneration (*Criterion** 10.2);

   c) Invasiveness or other adverse impacts associated with any *alien species** within and outside the *Management Unit** (*Criterion** 10.3);

   d) The use of *genetically modified organisms** to confirm that they are not being used (*Criterion** 10.4);

   e) The results of *silvicultural** activities (*Criterion** 10.5);

   f) Adverse impacts to *environmental values** from *fertilizers** (Criterion* 10.6);

   g) Adverse impacts from the use of *pesticides** (*Criterion** 10.7);

   h) Adverse impacts from the use of *biological control agents** (*Criterion** 10.8);

   i) The impacts from *natural hazards** (*Criterion** 10.9);

   j) The impacts of infrastructural development, transport activities and *silviculture** to *rare and threatened species**, *habitats**, *ecosystems**, *landscape values**, water and soils (*Criterion** 10.10);

   k) 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

   l) 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:

   a) Evidence of illegal or unauthorised activities (*Criterion** 1.4);

   b) Compliance with *applicable laws**, *local laws**, *ratified** international conventions and obligatory *codes of practice** (*Criterion** 1.5);

   c) Resolution of *disputes** and grievances (*Criterion** 1.6, *Criterion** 2.6, *Criterion** 4.6);

   d) Programs and activities regarding *workers'** rights (*Criterion** 2.1);

   e) *Gender equality**, sexual harassment and gender *discrimination** (*Criterion** 2.2);

   f) Programs and activities regarding occupational health and safety (*Criterion** 2.3);

   g) Payment of wages (*Criterion** 2.4);

   h) *Workers'** training (*Criterion** 2.5);

   i) Where *pesticides** are used, the health of *workers** exposed to *pesticides** (*Criterion** 2.5 and *Criterion** 10.7);

   j) The identification of *First Nations Peoples** and l*ocal communities** and their *legal** and *customary rights** (Criterion* 3.1 and Criterion* 4.1);

   k) Full implementation of the terms in *binding agreements** (*Criterion** 3.2 and *Criterion** 4.2);

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l) *First Nations Peoples** and community relations (*Criterion** 3.2, *Criterion** 3.3 and *Criterion** 4.2);

m) *Protection** of sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to *First Nations Peoples** and *local communities** (*Criterion** 3.5 and *Criterion** 4.7);

n) The persistence of *Indigenous Cultural Landscapes** and associated values of significance to *First Nations Peoples** (*Criterion** 3.1, *Criterion** 3.5);

~~o) The use of *traditional knowledge** and *intellectual property** (Criterion* 3.6 and Criterion* 4.8);~~

~~p)~~o) Local economic and social development (*Criterion** 4.2, *Criterion** 4.3, *Criterion** 4.4, *Criterion** 4.5);

~~q)~~p) The production of diversified benefits and/or products (*Criterion** 5.1);

~~r)~~q) The maintenance and/or enhancement of *ecosystem services** (*Criterion** 5,1);

~~s)~~r) Activities to maintain or enhance *ecosystem services** (*Criterion** 5.1);

~~t)~~s) Actual compared to projected annual harvests of timber and *non-timber forest products** (*Criterion** 5.2);

~~u)~~t) The use of local processing, local services and local value-added manufacturing (*Criterion** 5.4);

~~v)~~u) Long-term* economic viability* (Criterion* 5.5); and

~~w)~~v) 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:

a) The maintenance and/or enhancement of *ecosystem services** (*Criterion** 5.2) (when *The Organisation** uses FSC ecosystem services claims);

b) *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);

c) *Rare and threatened species**, and the effectiveness of actions implemented to protect them and their *habitats**(*Criterion** 6.4);

d) *Representative Sample Areas** and the effectiveness of actions implemented to *conserve** and/or *restore** them (*Criterion** 6.5);

e) Naturally occurring *native species** and *biological diversity** and the effectiveness of actions implemented to *conserve** and/or *restore** them (*Criterion** 6.6);

f) Water courses, *water bodies**, water quantity and water quality and the effectiveness of actions implemented to *conserve** and/or *restore** them (*Criterion** 6.7);

g) *Landscape values** and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or *restore** them (*Criterion** 6.8);

h) Conversion of *natural forest** to *plantations** or conversion to non-*forest** (*Criterion** 6.9);

i) The status of *plantations** established after 1994 (*Criterion** 6.10); and

j) *High Conservation Values** 1 to 4 identified in *Criterion** 9.1 and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or enhance them.

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ANNEX D *INTACT FOREST LANDSCAPES** THRESHOLDS (Principle* 9)

Annex D can be accessed online at https://au.fsc.org/en-au/standards/forest-management.

The annex provides *core area** thresholds for each of Australia's *Intact Forest Landscapes** and analysis to underpin the threshold setting.

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ANNEX E *HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES** FRAMEWORK (Principle* 9)

This Annex shall be used in the implementation of *Principle** 9 – *High Conservation Vales** (*HCVs**) of the standard. The Annex has two main sections:

Section 1

- Includes definitions and guidance that pertains to all six categories of *HCVs*.*

Section 2

- Provides a definition of each *HCV** category together with a breakdown of subsets of values that are considered under each category to be important in the Australian context. These values are not a comprehensive list. They represent a minimum requirement of what must be considered subject to *scale, intensity and risk** in each category in the Australian context.
- Each *HCV** category includes variations of the minimum requirement of values to be considered for SLIMF. Given the small scale, lower *intensity**, and consequently lower risk for SLIMF operations, a number of *HCV** subset values are much less likely to be applicable.
- *Stakeholders** and experts may identify more values. If these are identified they should be considered where appropriate and relevant during the *HCV** evaluation process.

Section 1: Overarching Guidance

1.1 Bioregional Assessment Scale

The scale for assessment and identification of values is dependent on the value being assessed. Generally, this will be at the Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (*IBRA**) scale, while recognising that some *landscape values** will cross *IBRA** regions. Where appropriate, including on the basis of *scale, intensity and risk**, finer resolution of analysis may be required.

1.2 *Best Available Information**

Specific guidance on *Best Available Information** has been developed for each of the six *HCV** categories.

1.3 Applying *HCV** definitions and wording of the Standard to local conditions

Where the definitions provided in this Annex do not provide locally specific detail for assessing *HCVs** *The Organisation** shall use the best available scientific information, including recognised government and expert definitions, to determine how *HCV** definitions in the Standard are most appropriately applied.

1.4 Minimum area threshold for *HCV Areas**

For some *HCV** values, a minimum area threshold for identifying what constitutes an *HCV Area** is required. This applies particularly to *HCV** values relating to specific vegetation types or *habitat** requirements. In the identification of *HCV Areas**, the minimum size threshold will be the smallest area in which the viability and integrity of that particular value can be maintained, based on the best available scientific information, including recognised government and expert definitions and research.

1.5 *Field Assessment**

A field visit to the site associated with planning and is often undertaken in conjunction with surveys for other aspects of management. *Field assessments** should involve the use of standardised techniques and reporting that are relevant to the values being assessed. The intensity of survey effort, expertise of assessors, and survey techniques will vary depending on the result of desktop assessments, the

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intensity of operations, and other factors. *Field assessments** may result in the need for more detailed targeted surveys and *habitat** evaluations.

1.6 Targeted Survey and *Habitat** Evaluations

In-forest surveys or evaluations of *habitat** suitability, performed by qualified experts and/or other suitably trained individuals in accordance with scientifically rigorous methods, that seek to identify locations of individuals or populations of single or multiple species, or *habitat** likely to be suitable for individuals or populations of single or multiple species. These surveys or evaluations may be undertaken in order to calibrate desktop assessments, inform *landscape** planning, inform operational management responses, *monitor** the effectiveness of management measures, or other purposes.

1.7 Threat Assessment

The process of identifying specific threats to the maintenance and/or enhancement of identified *HCVs**, including an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence and the severity of consequences. Threats may include those from management activities and other causes.

1.8 Monitoring

The requirements for monitoring of *HCVs** under the *HCV** pathways encompass two broad types of monitoring:

1. Compliance monitoring: used to determine whether prescribed management is actually conducted; and
2. Effectiveness monitoring: used to determine whether the management specified has achieved its objective and whether the outcome was actually a consequence of management.

For the purposes of the Annex, SLIMF forest managers are only required to undertake compliance *monitoring**, as relevant to identified *HCVs**. However, SLIMF forest managers are encouraged to undertake effectiveness monitoring when particularly vulnerable *HCVs** are identified.

There are a wide range of options for effectiveness *monitoring**, including systematic field survey programs; *pre-harvest** survey data collation; *forest** health *monitoring**; remote sensing; and use of and collaboration with third-party researchers; statistical modelling; and qualitative and expert assessments. The appropriate effectiveness *monitoring** methods can be determined by a number of factors, including *management objective*s**, thresholds, and metrics; *HCV** *scale**, threat, *risk**, and vulnerability; ability to *monitor** multiple *HCVs**; cost and efficiency; and availability of existing programs and data.

It is important that monitoring methods are adequate to detect changes in *HCVs** and to allow data to be clearly reported and interpreted. The following list describes characteristics that contribute to appropriately designed and fit-for-purpose monitoring methods and programs:

- Systematic, transparent, credible and repeatable
- Has clear thresholds linked to *management objective*s*
- Sufficiently sensitive to detect change and whether impacts are within acceptable ranges, or require intervention
- Demonstrated suitability for the value being measured
- Applied with due consideration of *risk** and the *precautionary approach**
- Time frames and spatial *scales** are explicit and relevant to the value being monitored.

1.9 Adaptive Management

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A systematic process of improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of existing measures and *monitoring**.

Section 2: HCV Specific Requirements and Guidance*

HCV 1

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.**

Values to be assessed for HCV 1

Sub Value Category	Sub Value	Variation for SLIMF
HCV 1.1	Areas that contain *significant concentrations** of *rare and threatened species** or that contain *habitat** *critical** to the survival and long-term viability of these species.	Required
HCV 1.2	Areas that contain centres of endemism.	Not Required
HCV 1.3	Areas that contain *significant concentrations** of *rare species** that are poorly reserved at the *IBRA** region scale.	Not Required
HCV 1.4	Areas with mapped significant *seasonal concentrations** of species.	Required
HCV 1.5	Areas of high species/communities diversity.	Not Required
HCV 1.6	*Refugia**.	Not Required

***Best Available Information** for HCV 1*

Includes as applicable:

- Recovery plans and related documents
- *Habitat** mapping
- Databases
- Peer reviewed journal articles
- Reports by government bodies and credible institutions, organisations and experts
- Expert research and advice (including for high *scale**, *intensity** and *risk** operations, provided by a locally knowledgeable expert independent of *The Organisation**)

- Expert and knowledgeable *stakeholder** data
- Field surveys

2.1 Assessment Pathway for HCV 1

SLIMF Potential Impact category	
SLIMF	1: Consult the *Best Available Information** to identify relevant datasets and prepare lists and maps of potential *HCV** accordingly. 2: Identify management required (see HCV 1 Management Guidance under Pathway) including actions such as exclusion areas and/or management prescriptions. 3: Develop a program of periodic *monitoring**, and *adaptive management** as required. 4: Consult *stakeholders** on assessment, management and *monitoring**. 5: Finalise assessment, and implement management and *monitoring** plan.
Standard	1: Consult the *Best Available Information** to identify relevant datasets and prepare lists and maps of potential *HCV** accordingly. 2: Consult experts and other knowledgeable *stakeholders** to identify *HCVs**. 3 (if required): Undertake a gap analysis of the adequacy of existing data with a focus on Endangered and Critically Endangered species and undertake further investigation and/or research and consultation to address identified significant data gaps, including targeted surveys/*habitat** evaluations where required. 4: Undertake a *threat assessment** of proposed management activities on identified *HCVs**. 5: Identify management required to maintain and/or enhance identified *HCVs** (see HCV 1 Management Guidance under Pathway), including actions such as exclusion areas and/or management prescriptions as required, at the FMU and/or operational level. 6: Develop a program of periodic *monitoring** and if required, *adaptive management**. 7: Consult *stakeholders** on assessment, management and *monitoring**. 8: Finalise assessment, and implement management and *monitoring** plan.

HCV 1 Management Guidance

Measures to maintain identified *HCV Areas** should aim to prevent reductions in the extent, integrity, and quality of *habitat** that negatively impact on long-term viability of species populations. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures are in place to develop, expand, and/or restore *habitats*, and improve the *long-term** viability of species populations.

Management strategies and actions for identified *HCV Areas** may include *protection** zones, harvest prescriptions, vegetation retention, *landscape** scale *protections**, *habitat** *restoration**, *connectivity** planning, *field assessment*, *pre-harvest** surveys and/or *habitat** evaluations.

*HCV Areas** that are more vulnerable and subject to higher threat levels are more likely to require operational level *field assessment** and targeted surveys/*habitat** evaluations; harvest exclusions; and/or site-specific actions.

HCV 2

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.**

Values to be assessed for HCV 2

Sub Value Category	Sub Value	Variation for SLIMF
HCV 2.1	*Landscape-level** *native forests** with successional stages, forest structures, and species composition that are similar in distribution and abundance to *native forests** that have experienced minimal human disturbance, excluding traditional *Indigenous** management regimes.	Not Required
HCV 2.2	Forests recognised as being *regionally significant** at the bioregion or larger scale in formally recognised reports or peer-reviewed journals, due to the unusual *landscape*-scale** biodiversity values provided by size and condition of the forest relative to regional forest land cover and land use trends.	Not required
HCV 2.3	Forests that provide *regionally significant** *habitat** *connectivity** between larger forest areas and/or *refugia**.	Required

HCV 2.4	*Intact Forest Landscapes**, wilderness areas, forests that are roadless, and/or have not been affected by forest management activity.	Required

The focus of this *HCV** category is ***regionally significant* large landscape*-level forests*.** Under this *HCV** category, areas that are generally thousands or tens of thousands of hectares in size which contain the above values qualify as HCV 2.

Best Available Information* **for HCV 2**

Includes where applicable:

- Mapping and other data on forest cover, age, succession, structure, species composition, *habitat** connectivity, anthropogenic disturbance, roadless areas, wilderness, and intact forests
- Peer reviewed journals, government or expert reports and data identifying significant *landscape**-level forests
- For *Intact Forest Landscapes**, mapping and data from Global Forest Watch and World Resource Institute.

2.2 Assessment Pathway for HCV 2

SLIMF Potential Impact category	
SLIMF	1: Consult the *Best Available Information** to identify relevant datasets and prepare lists and maps of potential *HCV** accordingly. 2: Identify management required (see HCV 2 Management Guidance under Pathway). 3: Develop a program of periodic *monitoring**, and *adaptive management** as required. 4: Consult *stakeholders** on assessment, management and monitoring. 5: Finalise assessment, and implement management and monitoring plan.
Standard	1: Consult the *Best Available Information** to identify relevant datasets and prepare lists and maps of potential *HCV** accordingly. 2: Consult experts and other knowledgeable *stakeholders** to identify *HCVs**. 3: Identify management required to maintain and/or enhance identified *HCVs** (see HCV 2 Management Guidance under Pathway).

	4: Develop a program of periodic *monitoring** and *adaptive management** as required. 5: Consult *stakeholders** on assessment, management and *monitoring**. 6: Finalise assessment, and implement management and *monitoring** plan.

HCV 2 Management Guidance

Management strategies and actions to maintain and/or enhance identified HCVs are likely to include measures to maintain the integrity of *landscape**-level values of identified HCV 2 areas.

Measures to maintain identified HCV 2 may include *protection** zones; lowered harvest intensity and lengthened rotations; harvest distribution; *landscape**-*scale** protections; *connectivity** corridors; and/or other measures to maintain forest structure, composition, *regeneration** and disturbance patterns. Measures to enhance identified HCV 2 may include *restoration**, and reconnection of intact areas.

HCV 2 areas that constitute *Intact Forest Landscapes**, provide *habitat** connectivity, and that most closely resemble undisturbed forests are more likely to require *conservation** and *protection** zones, with a particular emphasis on *Intact Forest Landscape core areas**. HCV 2 areas that contain unusual *landscape**-*scale** biodiversity values and that have higher levels of disturbance are more likely to be managed through longer harvest rotation, harvest distribution, lower harvest intensity, and/or *landscape** management measures.

HCV 3

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

Ecosystems that are rare and/or threatened at a global, national or regional level. Distinctiveness in terms of size, quality (particularly lack of human disturbance), or location within the *ecosystems** geographic range may be considered in assessing *ecosystem** rarity.

Values to be assessed for HCV 3

Sub Value Category	Sub Value	Variation for SLIMF
HCV 3.1	*Ecosystems** (including rainforests) that are threatened, depleted or poorly reserved at the *IBRA** bioregion scale, or are subject to threatening processes predicted to substantially reduce their extent and function.	Required
HCV 3.2	Areas for *conservation** of important genes or genetically distinct populations.	Not required

HCV 3.3	*Old-growth forest**.	Required
HCV 3.4	*Remnant native vegetation** in heavily cleared landscapes and *mature forest in degraded landscapes**.	Required

The focus of this *HCV** category is forests that are in rare, in rare threatened or endangered *ecosystems**, or that contain such *ecosystems**.

Guidance on *old-growth forest:**

All old-growth forest* in all bioregions is rare.

Identification and assessment of HCV 3.3 *old-growth forest** should include consideration of:

- The degree to which it is rare and/or threatened at a global, national or regional level
- Its distinctiveness in terms of size and quality (including *stand** structural characteristics and ecological functions) in a *landscape** level context
- Its bioregional distribution.

Identification of HCV 3.3 *old-growth forest** should include consideration of assessments by government agencies, peer reviewed literature, or assessments by recognised experts, and be considered at the landscape* level.

It is important to note that the presence of HCV 3.3 *old-growth forest** in the *Management Unit** does not necessarily exclude harvesting of areas that are not identified as HCV 3.3 *old-growth forest** in the *Management Unit**. It is the responsibility of *The Organisation** to demonstrate that its status at a *landscape** level will be maintained and not threatened as a result of management activities.

***Best Available Information** for HCV 3*

Includes, as applicable, mapping and other data on:

- Ecosystem* protection* and conservation status* at *IBRA** scales
- Old-growth forest*
- Forest cover and disturbance
- Forest maturity
- Anthropogenic disturbance at the *landscape** scale.

2.3 Assessment Pathway for HCV 3

SLIMF Potential Impact	

category	
SLIMF	1: Consult the *Best Available Information** to identify relevant datasets and prepare lists and maps of potential *HCV** accordingly. 2: Identify management required (see HCV 3 Management Guidance under Pathway), including actions such as exclusion areas and/or management prescriptions. 3: Develop a program of periodic *monitoring**, and *adaptive management* as required. 4: Consult *stakeholders** on assessment, management and *monitoring**. 5: Finalise assessment, and implement management and *monitoring** plan
Standard	1: Consult the *Best Available Information** to identify relevant datasets and prepare lists and maps of potential *HCV** accordingly. 2: Consult experts and other knowledgeable *stakeholders** to identify *HCVs**. 3: Undertake a *threat assessment** of management activities on identified *HCVs**. 4: Identify management required to maintain and/or enhance identified *HCVs** (see HCV 3 Management Guidance under Pathway), including actions such as exclusion areas and/or management prescriptions as required, at the *Management Unit** and/or operational level. 5: Develop a program of periodic *monitoring** and *adaptive management** as required. 6: Consult *stakeholders** on assessment, management and *monitoring**. 7: Finalise assessment, and implement management and *monitoring** plan.

HCV 3 Management Guidance

Management strategies and actions to maintain and/or enhance identified HCV 3 areas include measures to maintain and/or enhance *ecosystem* extent, integrity, structure and/or function and should be considered at the *landscape* level.

Measures to maintain identified HCV 3 may include *protection** zones; target-based *protections**; *landscape*-scale* protections**; harvest exclusions, and/or retention in harvest areas. Measures to enhance identified HCV 3 may include *restoration** of vegetation cover, remnants, degraded forest with reduced age structures, and recruitment for *mature forest** elements.

*HCV** areas that are more vulnerable and subject to higher threat levels are more likely to require operational-level *field assessment**, verification of desktop data, harvest exclusions, and/or site-specific actions.

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HCV 4

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 4 is focused on basic *ecosystem services** in *critical situations**. Substantial alteration of these forests is likely to result in an unacceptable impact on the delivery of *ecosystem services**.

Values to be assessed for HCV 4

Sub Value Category	Sub Value	Variation for SLIMF
HCV 4.1	Areas that provide *protection** from flooding.	Not Required
HCV 4.2	Areas that provide *protection** from erosion.	Required
HCV 4.3	Areas that provide barriers to the spread of destructive fires.	Not Required
HCV 4.4	Areas that provide clean water catchments.	Not Required

***Best Available Information** for HCV 4*

Includes, as applicable, mapping, reports, expert consultation and other data on:

- Flood risk
- Soil erodibility and erosion *risk**
- Fire risk and behaviour in the *landscape**
- Water catchment location and water quality.
- Local community interests

2.4 Assessment Pathway for HCV 4

SLIMF Potential Impact category	
SLIMF	1: Consult the *Best Available Information** to identify relevant datasets and prepare lists and maps of potential *HCV** accordingly. 2: Identify management required (see HCV 4 Management Guidance under Pathway).

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	3: Develop a program of periodic *monitoring**, and *adaptive management** as required. 4: Consult *stakeholders** on assessment, management and *monitoring**. 5: Finalise assessment, and implement management and *monitoring** plan
Standard	1: Consult the *Best Available Information** to identify relevant datasets and prepare lists and maps of potential *HCV** accordingly. 2: Consult experts and other knowledgeable *stakeholders** to identify *HCVs**. 3: Undertake a *threat assessment** of management activities on identified *HCVs**. 4: Identify management required to maintain and/or enhance identified *HCVs** (see HCV 4 Management Guidance under Pathway), including exclusion areas and/or management prescriptions. 5: Develop a program of periodic *monitoring** and *adaptive management** as required. 6: Consult *stakeholders** on assessment, management and *monitoring**. 7: Finalise assessment, and implement management and *monitoring** plan.

HCV 4 Management Guidance

Management strategies to maintain and/or enhance areas identified under HCV 4 may include *protection** zones, harvest prescriptions, chemical use restrictions, and/or prescriptions for road construction and maintenance. Where enhancement is identified as the *objective**, measures may include action to *restore** water quality and quantity.

HCV 5

HCV 5 – Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of *local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).**

A site or resource is fundamental for satisfying basic needs if the services it provides are irreplaceable (i.e., if alternatives are not readily accessible or affordable), and if its loss or *damage** would cause serious suffering to *affected stakeholders**. HCV 5 is most likely to be more important in areas where whole communities or significant portions of them are heavily dependent on those *ecosystems** for their livelihoods, and where there is limited availability of alternatives. In general, if local people are dependent on *Indigenous** or traditionally managed *ecosystems**, HCV 5 may be present.

Values to be assessed for HCV 5

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Sub Value Category	Sub Value	Variation for SLIMF
HCV 5.1	Unique/main sources of water *fundamental** for drinking and other daily uses.	Required
HCV 5.2	Unique/main sources of water *fundamental** for the irrigation of subsistence food crops.	Required
HCV 5.3	Food and medicines *fundamental** for local traditional *Indigenous** uses.	Required

Best Available Information* **for HCV 5**

Includes:

- Mapping, reports, expert and *stakeholder** consultation and other data on unique and primary sources of water for daily uses and the location of areas that provide traditional food and medicines.

2.5 Assessment Pathway for HCV 5

SLIMF Potential Impact category	
SLIMF	1: Consult the *Best Available Information** to identify relevant datasets and prepare lists and maps of potential *HCV** accordingly. 2: Identify management required (see HCV 5 Management Guidance under Pathway). 3: Develop a program of periodic *monitoring**, and *adaptive management** as required. 4: Consult *stakeholders** on assessment, management and *monitoring**. 5: Finalise assessment, and implement management and *monitoring** plan
Standard	1: Consult the *Best Available Information** to identify relevant datasets and prepare lists and maps of potential *HCV** accordingly. 2: Consult experts and other knowledgeable *stakeholders** to identify *HCVs**. 3: Undertake a *threat assessment** of management activities on identified *HCVs**.

	4: Identify management required to maintain and/or enhance identified *HCVs** (see HCV 5 Management Guidance under Pathway), including exclusion areas and/or management prescriptions. 5: Develop a program of periodic *monitoring** and *adaptive management** as required. 6: Consult *stakeholders** on assessment, management and *monitoring**. 7: Finalise assessment, and implement management and *monitoring** plan.

HCV 5 Management Guidance

Management strategies to maintain and/or enhance areas identified under HCV 5 should be developed in cooperation with representatives and members of affected *local communities** and *First Nations Peoples**.

HCV 6

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**.**

Values to be assessed for HCV 6

Sub Value Category	Sub Value	SLIMF
HCV 6.1	Aesthetic values.	Not Required
HCV 6.2	Historic values of global or national, cultural or archaeological significance.	Required
HCV 6.3	Long term research sites.	Required
HCV 6.4	Social (including economic) values.	Not Required
HCV 6.5	Spiritual and cultural values.	Required
HCV 6.6	*Indigenous Cultural Landscapes**.	Required

Best Available Information* **for HCV 6**

Includes as applicable:

- Mapping
- Reports
- Databases
- Field surveys
- Expert and knowledgeable *stakeholder** consultation.

2.6 Assessment Pathway for HCV 6

SLIMF Potential Impact category	
SLIMF	1: Consult the *Best Available Information** to identify relevant datasets and prepare lists and maps of potential *HCV** accordingly. 2: Identify management required (see HCV 6 Management Guidance under Pathway). 3: Develop a program of periodic *monitoring**, and *adaptive management** as required. 4: Consult *stakeholders** on assessment, management and *monitoring**. 5: Finalise assessment, and implement management and *monitoring** plan.
Standard	1: Consult the *Best Available Information** to identify relevant datasets and prepare lists and maps of potential *HCV** accordingly. 2: Consult experts and other knowledgeable *stakeholders** to identify *HCVs**. 3: Undertake a *threat assessment** of management activities on identified *HCVs**. 4: Identify management required to maintain and/or enhance identified *HCVs** (see HCV 6 Management Guidance under Pathway), including exclusion areas and/or management prescriptions. 5: Develop a program of periodic *monitoring** and *adaptive management** as required. 6: Consult *stakeholders** on assessment, management and *monitoring**. 7: Finalise assessment, and implement management and *monitoring** plan.

HCV 6 Management Guidance

Management strategies to maintain and/or enhance *HCV Areas** identified under HCV 6 may include *protection** zones; target-based protections; *landscape*-scale* protections**; harvest exclusions, and/or retention in harvest areas.

Measures for maintaining and/or enhancing cultural values should be agreed to with the *First Nations Peoples* connected to** the *Management Unit**, and/or as directed by state and *national laws**.

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ANNEX F *HIGHLY HAZARDOUS PESTICIDES** ANNEX (*Principle 10**)

Annex F can be accessed online at https://au.fsc.org/en-au/standards/forest-management. The annex provides normative templates for ~~each~~ the restricted and highly restricted *highly hazardous pesticides** that are most commonly used in Australia.

~~On this page, *Environmental and Social Risk Assessments** for each *highly hazardous pesticides** used in Australia at the time of the development of this Standard can also be accessed.~~

~~NOTE: It is the responsibility of *The Organisation** to ensure *Environmental and Social Risk Assessments** are current at the time of use.~~

~~The table below summarises the applicability of each highly hazardous pesticide* Indicator in Criterion 10.7.~~

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ANNEX G *NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS** INDICATORS

For FSC certification of *non-timber forest products**, *The Organisation** shall conform with all applicable *Indicators** of this Standard, including the applicable *Indicators** in this annex.

Criterion	Indicator
1.3.5	For *non-timber forest products**, *The Organisation** complies with all *applicable laws** and regulations.
2.3.7	Appropriate safety measures are implemented where *non-timber forest products** are grown, produced, processed and/or extracted.
5.2.7	Based on the *Best Available Information** and on the preliminary analysis of the conditions existing in the *Management Unit**, the sustainable use rate of the *non-timber forest product** is considered and documented.
5.2.8	A record is kept of the annual harvest rate for each *non-timber forest product**.
5.2.9	Honey: Feeding of bees only takes place in cases of lack of natural food sources, due to climatic conditions or similar; e.g. during winter periods. When bee colonies are fed, a logbook is kept for each beehive, including: a) Food product fed, e.g. sugar b) Amount fed c) Date/period fed.
6.2.4	The assessment of the potential impacts of *non-timber forest product** management activities on the *environmental values** is performed before the start of each activity.
7.2.3	Where appropriate, the *Management Plan** includes a *non-timber forest product** management and use plan, including at least: • A description of how the management of the *non-timber forest product** fits into ordinary forest management activities; • A qualitative and quantitative description of the *non-timber forest product**; • A map of the distribution and use of the *non-timber forest product**; • Estimates and records of collection/use rate of the *non-timber forest product**; • Methods of management, use and regeneration of the *non-timber forest product** which ensures sustainable harvest levels; and • Any necessary preventive measures to protect the *non-timber forest product**.
7.2.4	Honey and game: The *management plan** includes the following elements: 1) Policies and procedures for apiarists and game managers; 2) Hygiene and food safety regulations for honey and for game where it is intended for food;

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	3) Maps of all apiaries and hunting areas; and 4) Procedures for monitoring the impacts of bee keeping and hunting
8.2.3	Where appropriate, forest management monitoring assesses: • the extent of the impacts on the *non-timber forest product** (volume harvested, rate of regeneration/growth, health of populations/individuals, etc.); • the direct and indirect environmental impacts of forest management on the *non-timber forest product**; • the negative impacts on the *non-timber forest product** deriving from natural sources of disturbance (for example: fires, specific pathologies, etc.); • changes in environmental conditions resulting from *non-timber forest product** management activities.
8.5.4	Honey: It is demonstrated based on *Best Available Information** that at least 50% of the collected pollen originates from within the *Management Unit** before the honey can be sold with an FSC 100% claim. **Examples of verifiers** ~~*Best Available Information**~~*:* • Flowering density • Location of apiary and expected distance of travel of the bees
10.11.5	The collection of *non-timber forest products** involving the partial extraction of elements (e.g.: bark, vegetative structures, fruits, exudates, etc.) is carried out in such a way as not to have a significant negative impact on local populations.

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ANNEX H GLOSSARY OF TERMS

This glossary includes internationally accepted definitions whenever possible. These sources include, for instance, the Food and Agriculture Organisation 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 Organisation (ILO) and the Invasive Exotic 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 from an international source.

Words used in this Standard, 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.

Active ingredient: Part of the product that provides the pesticidal action (Source: FAO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management).

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 Rights Holder: Persons and groups, including First Nations Peoples, traditional peoples and local communities with legal or customary rights whose Free, Prior and Informed Consent is required to determine management decisions (Source: FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0).

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

- Local communities
- First Nations Peoples
- Workers
- Forest dwellers
- Neighbours
- Downstream landowners
- Local processors
- Local businesses
- Tenure and use rights holders, including landowners
- Organisations authorised or known to act on behalf of affected stakeholders, for example social and environmental NGOs, labour unions, etc.

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

Agreed rights: Rights of access or use that are demonstrated through long and established use or association and which are recognised and agreed between local communities and a forest manager and/or a land owner, and/or local, state or Commonwealth government authorities.

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

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and subsequently reproduce (Source: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Invasive Alien Species Programme. Glossary of Terms as provided on CBD website).

Applicable law (including federal and state): Means applicable to The Organisation 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 V5-0)

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))

Areas that contain significant concentrations of rare and threatened species may include specific areas where there are a significant number of multiple species, or where there is a proportionately large population of an individual species. Concentrations of species are often linked to one stage of a species' life history and associated with activities such as breeding, staging, feeding or over-wintering.

Areas with significant seasonal concentrations of species: Areas important to the lifecycle or migration paths of migratory and communal breeding species.

Basic human needs: Local people use the area to obtain resources on which they are critically dependent. Potential fundamental* basic needs include, but are not limited to: unique sources of water for drinking and other daily uses; food, medicine, fuel, building and craft resources; the production of food crops and subsistence cash crops; protection of "agricultural" plots against adverse microclimate, and traditional farming practices.

Best Available Information: Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, traditional knowledge, and results of field surveys or consultations with stakeholders, including First Nations Peoples, that are most credible, accurate, complete, and/or pertinent and that can be obtained through reasonable effort and cost, subject to the scale and intensity of the management activities and the precautionary approach. [Source: Adapted from FSC-STD-60-004 V2-0]

Note: Peer-reviewed scientific literature, traditional knowledge and experts should be the primary sources of information, with other sources used when these are not available.

Best efforts: Means taking, in good faith, reasonable steps to achieve the objective, carrying the process to its logical conclusion and doing everything known to be usual, necessary and proper for ensuring the success of the endeavour.

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 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)

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)

Buffer: A forested area near a watercourse which helps shade and protect a stream from the impact of adjacent land uses within which soil disturbing management activities and harvesting is excluded.

Caring for Country: Caring for Country centres on the relationships between First Nations Peoples and their Country, which includes their lands, waters, plants, animals, heritage, culture, ancestors, laws, religions and more. Caring for Country activities reinforce and support First Nations Peoples' relationships with their physical, cultural, social, economic, and spiritual environment. By using the word 'care', this activity acknowledges responsibility, ethics, emotion and connection with country. These activities can be an informal part of daily life, be specifically organised occasions, or form part of ritual obligations. Caring for country can be translated into a list of activities:

- Burning (cleansing for ceremony and for hunting)
- Let[ting] the Country know we are there — using resources, hunting and fishing
- Protecting the integrity of the country through respect
- Protecting and enhancing species diversity
- Protecting sacred areas
- Providing a new generation and teaching them on country
- Learning and performing ceremonies.

Caring for Country is more than the physical management of a geographical area — it encompasses looking after all of the values, places, resources, stories, and cultural obligations associated with that area, as well as associated processes of spiritual renewal, connecting with ancestors, food provision and maintaining kin relations.

Caring for Country is also necessary for the health of the land. Many First Nation's people feel that the land is wild or sick if not managed by its people. This is a reciprocal relationship, as reflected in the familiar saying by First Nations Peoples that 'if you look after the country, the country will look after you'. (Adapted from: Weir, J. K., Stacey, C. & Youngetob, K. 2011, The Benefits Associated with Caring for Country: Literature review, prepared for the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Canberra.)

Chemical pesticide: Synthetically produced pesticide (Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0).

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

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

Comprehensive Regional Assessments: Assessments of the environment, heritage, social and economic uses and values of certain forests in Australia as part of the Regional Forests Agreements process. Information and mapping available at: http://www.agriculture.gov.au/forestry/policies/rfa

Confidential information: Private facts, data and content that, if made publicly available, might put at risk The Organisation, 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 V5-0)

Connected to: Regardless of tenure or legal right, 'connection' is established through identification of and consultation with:

- Traditional Owners (TOs)
- Delegated custodianship transfer through marriage or transfer of responsibility by TOs
- Representative bodies who have the authority to manage the asset (e.g. Local Aboriginal Land Councils, Trusts)

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 behavioural 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 V5-0)

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 Status (native ecosystems): The current levels of protection of native ecosystems in comparison to protection targets established by government bodies and/or recognised experts. These targets are generally set at the landscape level.

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 V5-0)

Conversion: A lasting change of natural forest cover or High Conservation Value areas, induced by human activity. This may be characterised by significant loss of species diversity, habitat diversity, structural complexity, ecosystem functionality or livelihoods and cultural values. The definition of conversion covers gradual forest degradation as well as rapid forest transformation (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

- Induced by human activity: In contrast to drastic changes caused by natural calamities like hurricanes or volcanic eruptions. It also applies in cases of naturally ignited fires where human activities (e.g. draining of peatlands) have significantly increased the risk of fire.
- Lasting change of natural forest cover: Permanent or long-term change of natural forest cover. Temporary changes of forest cover or structure (e.g. harvesting followed by regeneration in accordance with the FSC normative framework) are not considered conversion.
- Lasting change of High Conservation Value (HCV) areas: Permanent or long-term change of any of the High Conservation Values. Temporary changes of HCV areas that do not negatively and permanently impact the values (e.g. harvesting followed by regeneration in accordance with Principle 9) are not considered a lasting change.
- Significant loss of species diversity: Loss of species is considered significant where rare species and threatened species or other locally important, keystone and/or flagship species are lost, whether in terms of numbers of individuals or in terms of number of species. This refers to both displacement and extinction.

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Note: The establishment of ancillary infrastructure necessary to implement the objectives of responsible forest management (e.g. forest roads, skid trails, log landings, fire protection, etc.) is not considered conversion.

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.

~~**Credible Ecosystem Service Guidelines:** Up to date, relevant, and tested guidelines, methodologies or frameworks for the maintenance and enhancement of Ecosystem Services. Options chosen should be widely accepted by methodology developers, scientists, industry bodies and/or national or international government bodies.~~

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)

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 V5-0)

Critical situations: An ecosystem service is considered to be 'critical' 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 High Conservation Values, 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 socioeconomic values.

Cultural empathy training: Training that raises awareness and educates about Australia's history through a First Nation's lens, hereby encouraging critical reflection on the legacy of colonisation, including the policies, structures and systems that have led to the detrimental gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians socially, politically, culturally and economically.

Cultural landscapes: A landscape that is imbued with cultural meaning (including individual places but not limited to sites or artefacts) that are connected by Indigenous lore (cultural and spiritual significance).

Cultural responsibilities: Inherent custodial interests in country including their unique responsibility to care for landscapes, biodiversity and places of particular cultural significance. "Customary right" and "customary law" are the same as "cultural responsibility" to Care for Country.

Cultural significance: "Cultural significance" means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups." (Source: The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter of Places of Cultural Significance 1999.)

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 recognised 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

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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 V4-0)

Degradation: Changes within a natural forest or High Conservation Value area that significantly and negatively affect its species composition, structure and/or function, and reduces the ecosystem's capacity to supply products, support biodiversity and/or deliver ecosystem services (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

Direct involvement: Situations in which the associated organisation or individual is first-hand responsible for the unacceptable activities (Source: FSC-POL-01-004 V2-0).

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' organisation 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.

Damage/Damaging: Physical harm that impairs the value, usefulness or normal function.

Dispute: This is an expression of dissatisfaction by any person or organisation presented as a complaint to The Organisation, 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 six months after receiving the complaint), with consideration to existing court proceedings and timelines.

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:

- It affects the legal or customary rights of First Nations Peoples and local communities;
- The negative impact of management activities is of such a scale that it cannot be reversed or mitigated;
- Acts of intimidation, physical violence and/or destruction of property against forest workers and/or stakeholders.

Discrimination: Favourable or unfavourable treatment that is based on race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, intersex status, age, physical or mental disability, marital or relationship status, family or carers' responsibilities, pregnancy, religion, political opinion, union membership, national extraction or social origin.

Drainage lines: Areas of slope convergence where water naturally concentrates and flows. Drainage lines have an incised channel with defined bed and banks or evidence of active erosion or deposition, e.g. gravel, pebble, rock bed or scour.

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~~**Ecologically sustainable:** Ecologically sustainable forest management involves integrating commercial and non-commercial values of forests so that the welfare of society (both material and non-material) is improved, whilst ensuring that the values of forests, both as a resource for commercial use and for conservation, are not lost or degraded for current and future generations.~~

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)

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 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 Organisation 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 V5-0)

Environmental and social risk assessment (ESRA): A process to predict, assess and review the likely or actual environmental and social effects of a well-defined action, evaluate alternatives, and design appropriate mitigation, management and monitoring measures. In the context of the FSC Pesticides Policy, it relates to chemical pesticide use (Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0).

Environmental biomonitoring: Act of observing and assessing the state and ongoing changes in ecosystems, components of biodiversity and landscape, including the types of natural habitats, populations and species. (Source: Encyclopaedia of Toxicology (Third Edition, 2014)).

Environmental harm: Any impact on the environment values as a result of human activity that has the effect of degrading the environment, whether temporarily or permanently (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

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Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Systematic process used to identify potential environmental 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 organisation of the United Nations (FAO). Rome,-STD-01-001 V5-0).

Guidance on Impact Assessments is available at the end of Principle 10 This guidance is not normative and is only intended to assist those forest managers who don't already have a robust and credible system in place.

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

- Ecosystem functions (carbon storage and sequestration)
- Biological diversity (rare and threatened species, vegetation communities, habitat features, fauna and flora)
- Water resources (water quantity and quality)
- Soils (stability)
- Atmosphere (air quality)
- Landscape values (visual and amenity values).

Exclusion zone (pesticides): Area in which chemical pesticides are used, and which people are prevented from entering during and after pesticide application in order to avoid unacceptable risk of exposure. The exclusion zone remains in force until the risk of exposure has reduced to an acceptable level (the period of re-entry).

Exotic species: A species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce. (Source: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Invasive Exotic Species Programme. Glossary of Terms as provided on CBD website)

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 V5-0)

Fair compensation: Remuneration that is proportionate to the magnitude and type of services rendered by another party or payment that is proportional to the harm or injury caused to the affected party, determined either through negotiation between parties or by legal determination.

Fertiliser: Mineral or organic substances, most commonly (N) Nitrogen, (P2O5) Phosphate and (K20) Potash, which are applied to soil for the purpose of enhancing plant growth.

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

Field Assessment: Any field visit to the site associated with planning for biodiversity. This is often undertaken in conjunction with survey for other aspects of management. Field assessments should involve the use of standardised techniques and reporting that are relevant to the values being assessed. The intensity of survey effort, expertise of assessors, and survey techniques will vary depending on the result of desktop assessments, the intensity of operations, and other factors. Field assessments may result in the need for more detailed targeted surveys and habitat evaluations.

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Filter strip: Vegetation alongside a watercourse which helps to slow the flow of runoff water and functions to control sediment movement. Machinery movements are permitted provided they are consistent with the intended function of the filter strip.

First Nations Peoples: People and groups of people that can be identified or characterised as follows:

- The key characteristic or criterion is self-identification as First Nations 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)

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)

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 was 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).

Fundamental: Loss of the resources from this area would have a significant impact in the supply of the resource and decrease local community well-being.

Gender equality: Gender equality or gender equity means that people of all genders have equal conditions for realising 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 V5-0)

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).

Government order: The use of a specific chemical pesticide is ordered or carried out by governmental authorities independent of The Organisation (Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0).

Ground Water Recharge Areas: Ground water recharge is defined as the natural process of infiltration and percolation of rainwater from land areas or streams through permeable soils into water-holding rocks or unconsolidated materials (such as sands and gravels) that provide underground storage in saturated zones known as ground water.

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: Naturally occurring forest stand attributes and structures, including but not limited to:

- Old trees whose age noticeably exceeds the average age of the main canopy
- Hollow-bearing trees
- Dead standing trees
- Coarse woody debris
- Natural treeless forest openings
- Known nesting, foraging and breeding sites
- Small wetlands, soaks and ponds
- Karst, caves, overhangs and other significant rock features
- Areas for migration
- Areas for hibernation.

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).

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Headwater streams: Permanent, intermittent and ephemeral first order streams (Strahler stream order) with identifiable aquatic habitats. Headwater streams will commonly have distinct banks and riparian zones will be defined as extending from the incised stream banks.

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

- HCV 1: Species Diversity. Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.
- HCV 2: Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics. Intact Forest Landscapes, large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- HCV 3: Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.
- HCV 4: Critical ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services in *critical situations**, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.
- HCV 5: Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or Indigenous Peoples (for example for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water), identified through engagement with these communities or Indigenous Peoples.
- HCV 6: Cultural values. Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or Indigenous Peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or Indigenous Peoples.

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

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

Highly hazardous pesticide (HHP): Chemical pesticides that are acknowledged to present particularly high levels of acute or chronic hazards to health and environment according to internationally accepted classification systems or are listed in relevant binding international agreements or conventions, or contain dioxins, or heavy metals. In addition, pesticides that appear to cause severe or irreversible harm to health or the environment under conditions of use in a country may be considered to be and treated as highly hazardous.

FSC distinguishes between FSC prohibited HHPs, FSC highly restricted HHPs and FSC restricted HHPs:

- **FSC prohibited HHPs**: chemical pesticides that: a) are listed or recommended for listing under Annex A (elimination) of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants or Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure or listed under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, or b) are acutely toxic and that can induce cancer (carcinogenic and likely to be carcinogenic), or c) contain dioxins or d) contain heavy metals).
- **FSC highly restricted HHPs**: chemical pesticide presenting two or three out of the following hazards: acute toxicity, chronic toxicity and environmental toxicity.
- **FSC restricted HHPs**: chemical pesticide presenting one out of three of the following hazards: acute toxicity, chronic toxicity and environmental toxicity.

(Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0).

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): 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 Organisation, to respect, to promote and to realise, 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.

Impact Assessment: The process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the physical, social, and other relevant effects of forest management activities.

Guidance on Impact Assessments is available at the end of Principle 10 This guidance is not normative and is only intended to assist those forest managers who don't already have a robust and credible system in place.

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 First Nations Peoples attribute environmental, social, cultural, spiritual 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 characterised by features that First Nations Peoples are connected to ~~have been maintained~~ through long-term interactions based on land-care knowledge, and adaptive livelihood practices. They are landscapes over which First Nations Peoples exercise responsibility for ~~stewardship~~custodianship.

Indigenous Peoples: See First Nations Peoples

Indirect involvement: Situations in which the associated organisation or individual, with a minimum ownership or voting power of 51%, is involved as a parent or sister company, subsidiary, shareholder or Board of Directors to an organisation directly involved in unacceptable activities. Indirect involvement also includes activities performed by subcontractors when acting on behalf of the associated organisation or individual (Source: FSC-POL-01-004 V2-0).

Industrial activity: Industrial forest and resource management activities such as road building (except unpaved trails), 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)

Integrated pest management (IPM): Careful consideration of all available pest control techniques and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of pest populations, encourage beneficial populations and keep pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified and reduce or minimise risks to human and animal health and/or the environment. IPM emphasises the growth of a healthy forest with the least possible disruption to ecosystems and encourages natural pest control mechanisms (Source: Based on FAO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management).

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 Organisation. 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 V5-0)

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 organisations, for example environmental NGOs
- Labor (rights) organisations, for example labour unions
- Human rights organisations, 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 V5-0)

Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia (IBRA): A biogeographic regionalisation of Australia developed by the Australian Government. For more information: http://www.environment.gov.au/land/nrs/science/ibra

Internationally accepted scientific protocol: A predefined science-based procedure that is either published by an international scientific network or union, or referenced frequently in the international scientific literature. (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0)

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)

Labour organisation: Any organisation 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' organisation 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' organisations 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).

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Lands and territories: These are lands or territories that First Nations 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: The geographical context in which a forest is located. The IBRA classification system should be used as the basic unit for determining landscape scale, however other units, such as catchments, administrative units, or species' range may be appropriate in specific contexts.

Landscape values: Landscape values can be visualised 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)

Large landscape-level native forests: Relatively contiguous areas of forest (which may be crossed by land management roads or public roads). At the minimum these forests are likely to be thousands or tens of thousands of hectares in size.

However, "large" is relative to regional landscape context (particularly the size of forested blocks in the bioregion) and might be smaller or larger than this figure as indicated by consultation with regional experts.

In regions where native forests are heavily fragmented by forest type conversion or land use conversion, the increased value of smaller occurrences of remaining natural forest should also be included in the assessment. The forest may be in single or multiple ownerships.

HCV 2 includes areas that are in (or close to) what might be called their 'natural' condition. Such areas have a relatively full complement of the species that are appropriate to the habitat. HCV 2 designation may arise because the intact forest area is unusually large and therefore of high value due to its contribution to wilderness or landscape values.

The general approach in assessing for HCV 2 is to compare forest characteristics (such as extent and intensity of harvest practices, forest communities, successional stages, structures, and species composition and abundance) with native forests that have only been subject to natural disturbance processes or minimal human intervention. Aerial photography or satellite images of the surrounding landscape should also be considered.

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 V5-0)

Legally competent: Mandated in law to perform a certain function. (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0)

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 licence or permissions can apply to an individual, a privately-owned enterprise or a publicly-owned corporate entity. The rights to buy and sell products and/or services do not carry the obligation to do so, so legal registration applies also to The Organisations 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 V5-0)

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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 V5-0)

Light work: Applicable 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 V5-0).

Local communities also include communities of interest; that is, people linked by a topic of common interest defined not by space, but by some common bond (e.g., feeling of attachment) or entity (e.g., farming, church group). (Source: adapted from Michael McClosky (1999). Local Communities and The Management Of Public Forests. Ecology Law Quarterly. Vol. 25, No. 4 (1999), pp. 624-629).

In a continent with a recent colonial history, the customary rights potentially exercised by non-indigenous Australians are limited. Without denying the existence of non-indigenous customary rights, with an expansive definition these are likely to be largely related to recent and recreational activities. Recent colonial history – including dispossession, violence and their ongoing effects on the indigenous community – requires a response that elevates the comparative importance of indigenous customary rights over those of non-indigenous Australians, as a matter of respect and justice. Noting, however, that this should be done whilst still retaining the prospect of identifying non-indigenous customary rights.

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 V5-0)

Local provenance: Originating from within a locally natural range, and that forms part of the natural biodiversity of the place, or propagated from collections from locations as close geographically and in terms of habitat as practicable to the location where regeneration is to occur. (Source: http://www.iffa.org.au)

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))

Machinery exclusion zone: Area within which no machinery is permitted.

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 organisation within or in relation to the Management Unit, including statements of objectives and policies. (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0)

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 utilised 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 Organisation, 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 Organisation, solely for the purpose of contributing to the management objectives.

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

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

Mature Forest: Mature Forests are forests that contain overstorey trees typically greater than 100 years old and beginning to develop structural features typically found in older forests, including large spreading crowns, tree hollows and stages of senescence.

Mature forest in degraded landscapes: A forest area containing mature forest where mature forest is rare in the surrounding landscape and/or is reduced in extent such that it is inadequate in maintaining landscape or ecological functions. Thresholds for determining rareness and degradation shall be based on assessments by government agencies, peer reviewed literature, or assessments by recognised experts, and be considered at the landscape* level.

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. State and territory 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 states and territories that specify a minimum age of 14 (ILO Convention 138, Article 2).

Mitigate and/or repair: FSC requires prevention of negative impacts as the preferred aim. However, in instances where damage occurs The Organisation shall first seek to mitigate damage through reduction and avoidance of further damage if necessary, and then assess whether repairs or restoration to the damaged value are possible and implement these.

Monitoring/Monitored: See management plan monitoring.

Multi-age forest: Forest stands that contain two or more age groups that can be distinguished within the stand, although the boundaries may not be clearly defined. Examples of multi-aged stands include stands where regeneration is occurring in patches opened in the stand (due to timber harvesting or the death of over-mature trees), and two tiered or two storeyed forests.

National laws: The whole suite of primary and secondary laws (acts, ordinances, statutes, decrees) that 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 V5-0)

Nationally-ratified: See Ratified.

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 Exotic 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 favour or restore native species and associations of native species that are typical of the locality, and for managing these associations and other environmental values so that they form ecosystems typical of the locality. Further guidelines may be provided in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards. (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0)

Native/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 plantation.

'Native 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 native forests in that site, and where many of the above-ground and below-ground characteristics of the native 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 plantation;
- Native forests which are maintained by traditional silvicultural practices including natural or assisted natural regeneration;
- Well-developed secondary or colonising forest of native species which has regenerated in non-forest areas;
- The definition of 'native forest' may include areas described as wooded ecosystems, woodland and savannah.

'Native 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 native forest after some years of ecological progression.

Pending such guidance, areas dominated by trees, mainly of native species, may be considered as native forest.

Thresholds and guidelines may cover areas such as:

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- 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 colonising 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 native forest through ecological progression after the passage of years;
- Young natural regeneration growing in native forest areas may be considered as native 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 native 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.

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

Native title: A form of land title that recognises the unique ties some First Nations groups have to land. Australian law recognises that Native Title exists where First Nations people have maintained a traditional connection to their land and waters, since sovereignty, and where acts of government have not removed it. (Source: www.dpc.wa.gov.au)

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-forest: See definition for forest.

Non-forest land-use: Land-use system, where the land is not dominated by trees.

Non-timber forest products (NTFP): All products other than timber derived from the Management Unit. (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0)

Objective: The basic purpose laid down by The Organisation 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 that The Organisation must implement by law. (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0)

Occupational accident: An occurrence arising out of, or in the course of, work which results in fatal or non-fatal injury. (Source: International Labour Organisation (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 Organisation (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 Organisation (ILO). Bureau of Library and Information Services. ILO Thesaurus as provided on ILO website)

Old-growth forest: Ecologically mature forest where the effects of disturbances, excluding fire, are now negligible.

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

The Organisation: 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 V5-0)

Peatland: Peatlands are ecosystems characterised by the accumulation of organic matter derived from decaying plant material under permanent water saturation. They include areas of land with a naturally accumulated layer of peat, formed from carbon-rich dead and decaying plant material under waterlogged and low oxygen conditions, generally seen as comprising at least 30% dry mass of dead organic material and greater than 30 cm deep. They can develop under a wide range of vegetation types in fresh and saline water, including sphagnum, sedges, reed beds, and shrubs and trees in wet woodland and mangroves. (Source: Finlayson, C. Max Milton, G. Randy Crawford Prentice, R. Davidson Nick C. (2018). The Wetland Book II: Distribution, Description, and Conservation. Springer Dordrecht https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-4001-3)

Pest: Any species, strain or biotype of plant, animal or pathogenic agent injurious to plants and plant products, materials or environments and includes vectors of parasites or pathogens of human and animal disease and animals causing public health nuisance (Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0).

Pesticide: Any substance or mixture of substances of chemical or biological ingredients intended for repelling, destroying or controlling any pest, or regulating plant growth. This definition includes insecticides, rodenticides, acaricides, molluscicides, larvaecides, nematicides, fungicides and herbicides (Source: FSC-POL-30-001).

Pesticide buffer zone: Area established around environmental and/or social values to protect them from damage, within which pesticides are not used or are used only with additional risk mitigation measures.

Pesticides emergency: A situation that requires immediate action to control the sudden invasion or infestation of a pest, which threatens either long-term stability of the ecosystem, human well-being or economic viability.

Events that happen cyclically and scenarios which are predicted through planning, monitoring or the application of an integrated pest management system cannot be considered an emergency.

For the purpose of the FSC Pesticides Policy, emergency situations require immediate action and cannot feasibly be controlled by a less hazardous alternative. (Source: FSC-POL-30-001 V3-0).

Plantation: A forest area established by planting or sowing with using either exotic 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 native forests. (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0)

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 Organisation 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 V4-0)

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Protection: See definition of Conservation.

Protection area: See definition of Conservation Zone.

Provenance: See local provenance definition.

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

Rare species: Seven classes of rarity of species have been defined, based on three variables: geographic range, habitat specificity, and local population size. This approach has since been the foundation for the identification and management of rare species.

(Source: Rabinowitz, D. ""29. Seven Forms of Rarity (1981)"". Foundations of Macroecology: Classic Papers with Commentaries, edited by Felisa A. Smith, John L. Gittleman and James H. Brown, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014, pp. 480-494. https://doi.org/10.7208/9780226115504-033)

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 V5-0)

Reasonable: Judged to be fair or appropriate to the circumstances or purposes, based on general experience. (Source: Shorter Oxford English Dictionary)

Recreational services: An area of forest is considered to be available for recreation and tourism if there are no legal or other forms of prohibition on access to the forest for recreation and tourism activities. This includes areas where patrons may have to pay for public access to private land (e.g. a wildlife park). (Source:http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/forestsaustralia/sofr/sofr-2013)

Re-establishment: The process of regrowing or replanting trees after harvesting or disturbance events.

Refugia: Biological communities or geographic entities that, because of their moderating structural characteristics or physical isolation, or both, provide a sanctuary to which species or groups of species have retreated or have been confined in response to threatening processes, including climatic change and fire (Source: Adapted from the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement).

Regeneration: The renewal or re-establishment of native forest flora by natural or artificial means following disturbance such as a timber harvesting operation or fire.

Regionally significant: The forest is significant in the region due to its size, condition, and/or importance to biodiversity conservation. Factors to consider include:

- Rarity of forests of this size and quality within the region
- Less affected by anthropogenic factors than similar areas in the region.

Remedy: To correct or return something as near as possible to its original state or condition (Source: Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. UN. 2011).

- For environmental harms this includes actions taken to remedy deforestation, conversion, degradation, or other harms to natural forest and High Conservation Value areas. Environmental remedy actions may include but are not limited to: conservation of standing forests, habitats, ecosystems and species; restoration and protection of degraded ecosystems.
- For social harms this includes providing redress for identified social harms through agreements made during an FPIC-based process with the affected rights holders, and facilitating a transition to the position before such harms occurred; or developing alternative measures to ameliorate

harms by providing gains recognised by the affected stakeholders as equivalent to the harms, through consultation and agreement. Remedy may be achieved through a combination of apologies, restitution, rehabilitation, financial or non-financial compensation, satisfaction, punitive sanctions, injunctions, and guarantees of non-repetition (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

Remnant native vegetation: Original native vegetation remaining in a landscape after the original land clearance/plantation establishment.

Note: A remnant can be of any size or condition. (Source: AS-NZS-4708-2021)

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, Article1a).

Repair: See "Mitigate and/or repair".

Repair (pesticides): Process of assisting the recovery of environmental values and human health (Source: FSC-POL-30-001).

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.

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)

Restitution: Measures agreed with affected stakeholders to restore lands, properties or damaged natural resources to their original owners in their original condition. Where such lands, properties or natural resources cannot be returned or restored, measures are agreed on to provide alternatives of equivalent quality and extent. Restitution to affected rights holders is agreed on through an FPIC-based process (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

Restoration/Ecological Restoration: Process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem, and its associated conservation values, that have been degraded, damaged, or destroyed (Source: adapted from ‘International principles and standards for the practice of ecological restoration’. Gann et al 2019. Second edition. Society for Ecological Restoration) (shortened version – refer to the FSC Remedy Framework for full definition).

Note: The Organisation is not necessarily obliged to restore those environmental values that have been affected by factors beyond the control of The Organisation, for example by natural disasters, by climate change, or by the legally authorised 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 Organisation 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 organisations – with the exception of those values negatively affected through instances of conversion and whose restoration form part of a Remedy Plan which The Organisation is required to follow. In all instances, however, The Organisation 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.

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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 V5-0)

Salvage harvest: The harvest of trees that are dead or dying as a result of insect attack, disease, drought, fire or other factors. (Source: Australia's forests and forestry glossary 2023)

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 V5-0)

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

Shall: Indicates requirements to be strictly followed.

Significant: For the purposes of Principle 9, HCVs 1, 2 and 6 and Principle 6, there are three main forms of recognising significance.

- A designation, classification or recognised 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 organisation, on the basis of its concentration of biodiversity;
- A voluntary recognition by the manager, owner or The Organisation, 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 V5-0)

Significant concentrations: Concentrations of species that are considered significant at a global, regional or national scale.

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)

Small-scale smallholder: Any person that is depending on the land for most of their livelihood; and/or employs labour mostly from family or neighbouring communities and has land-use rights on a Management Unit of less than 50 hectares. Standard developers may define this to less than 50 hectares (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

Social harms: Negative impacts on persons or communities, perpetrated by individuals, corporations or states, which include, but may go beyond, criminal acts by legal persons. Such harms include negative impacts on persons' or groups' rights, livelihoods and well-being, such as property (including forests, lands, waters), health, food security, healthy environment, cultural repertoire and happiness, as well as physical injury, detention, dispossession and expulsion (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0).

- Ongoing social harms: social harms which have not been remedied.
- Priority social harms: social harms prioritised by an FPIC-based process with affected rights holders or identified in consultation with affected stakeholders (Source: FSC-PRO-01-007 V1-0. Shortened version - refer to the FSC Remedy Framework for full definition).

Social Impact Evaluation: An assessment of social impacts in local communities resulting from current or planned forest management activities and that includes the following as appropriate:

- Employment and economic activity generated from management activities
- Impacts on other industries resulting from activities
- impacts on property values
- health impacts
- Impacts on cultural heritage
- impacts on recreational, visual or amenity values.

Guidance on Impact Evaluations is available at the end of Principle 10. This guidance is not normative, and is only intended to assist those forest managers who don't already have a robust and credible system in place.

Stakeholder: See definitions for "affected stakeholder" and "interested stakeholder".

Stand: An individual portion of the Management Unit managed as a singular unit. This may be in the form of a coupe, harvest block, regeneration area or a designated conservation zone and should be identifiable in management plans and mapping. (Source: http://fennerschool-associated.anu.edu.au/mensuration/stand.htm)

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

Subcontractor: Contractors engaged directly by contractors for the purpose of forest operations (e.g. harvest, haulage, silviculture, etc). Service providers and suppliers who provide non-forest services (e.g. maintenance contractors) are not included in this definition. (Source: Adapted from ForestFit's Forest Services Standards).

Substantial duration: See "Dispute of substantial duration".

Substantial magnitude: See "Dispute of substantial magnitude".

Suitable competence and qualifications: Suitable competence and qualifications, as recognised by internal or external training requirements or educational attainment.

Tenure: Socially defined agreements held by individuals or groups, recognised 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 reinterpreted 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)

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Timber harvest(ing) level: The actual harvest quantity executed on the Management Unit, tracked by either volume (e.g. cubic metres 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 Organisation; in compliance with applicable laws, contracts, licences 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 Organisation (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).

Uphold: To acknowledge, respect, sustain and support. (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0)

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 V5-0)

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.

Verification scheme: Voluntary sustainability standards, national and regional regulatory mechanisms, corporate practices, internal procurement policies and other initiatives. (Source: PSU-PRO-10-003)

Very limited portion: The affected area shall neither exceed 1,000 hectares nor 5% of the Management Unit, irrespective of whether the conversion activities have taken place prior to or after The Organisation is awarded with FSC Forest Management certification (Source: FSC-POL-01-007 V1-0, ADVICE-20-007-23).

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
- Abandoned buildings, machinery and equipment.

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

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: Cowarding, 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, 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 C155 Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981)

Workplace, health and safety (WHS): WHS refers to the risk management principle that workers and other persons should, so far as is reasonably practicable, be given the highest level of protection against harm to their health, safety and welfare from hazards and risks arising from work. Health covers both physical and psychological health, including psychosocial risks to health such as stress, fatigue and bullying.

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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