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# SGS QUALIFOR

## FOREST MANAGEMENT GENERIC STANDARD

### 2011

This checklist presents the SGS Qualifor standard for forest certification against the FSC Principles and Criteria. This standard forms the basis for:

- Development of a regional standard
- Scoping assessment
- Certification assessment
- Surveillance assessment
- Information to stakeholders on the assessment criteria used by SGS Qualifor

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**CHANGES SINCE THE PREVIOUS VERSION OF THE STANDARD**

Section	Change	Date
	Changes throughout	26/11/2018

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## ADAPTATION OF STANDARD TO MEET LOCAL REQUIREMENTS AND THRESHOLDS

### The objective of local adaptation of the SGS Qualifor standard is to:

- i. identify any aspects of the standard that may be in conflict with legal requirements in the area in which the standard is to be used, and if such a conflict is identified shall evaluate it for the purposes of certification in discussion with the involved or affected parties. Conflict only occurs where a legal obligation *prevents the implementation of* some aspect of the generic standard. It is not considered a conflict if the requirements of the generic standard exceed the minimum requirements for legal compliance;
- ii. identify any aspects of its generic standard, which specify performance thresholds lower than the minimum legal requirement in the country concerned. If any such differences are identified the relevant thresholds shall be modified to ensure that they meet or exceed the minimum national requirements.
- iii. add specific indicators (with appropriate means of verification if required) and/or cross-references to the identified documentation to evaluate compliance with key requirements of the national and local forest laws, administrative requirements and multi-lateral environmental agreements related to the FSC Principles 1 - 10.
- iv. take account of the national context with regards to forest management;
- v. take account of national environmental, social and economic perspectives;
- vi. ensure that the standard is applicable and practical in the country concerned;
- vii. ensure that the standard is applicable and practical to the size and intensity of management of the Forest Management Unit concerned;
- viii. address specific issues that are of general concern to any stakeholder group in the country concerned.

### **SGS QUALIFOR is not required to seek or develop a consensus with regard to the modification of our generic standard. SGS Qualifor will however make meaningful accommodation of stakeholder concerns and will be guided in this by:**

- i. our knowledge of the indicators and means of verification that have been included in other, FSC-accredited, regional, national or sub-national standards, with regard to the issues raised;
- ii. advice provided in writing by the FSC National Initiative in the country concerned as to the likelihood that a proposed modification would have the support of the majority of the members of each chamber of an FSC working group active in that country;
- iii. advice provided in writing by an FSC Regional Office covering the country concerned, as to the likelihood that a proposed modification would have the support for the majority of FSC members of each chamber in the region.
- iv. the scale and intensity of forest management.

### **SGS QUALIFOR should be able to demonstrate that the requirements of the locally adapted generic standard are broadly in line with the requirements of other FSC-accredited national standards applicable to similar forest types in the region, and with any guidance received from an FSC National Initiative in the country concerned.**

**SGS Qualifor is not required to make further changes to the locally adapted standard used for an evaluation during the period of validity of the certificate except as necessary to bring it into compliance with any FSC Policies, Standards, Guidance or Advice Notes subsequently approved by FSC.**

**LAYOUT OF THE STANDARD:**

The standard follows the FSC Principles and Criteria of Forest Stewardship (January, 2000). The Standard is divided into 10 sections, each corresponding to one of the FSC principles with the criteria listed underneath each principle. Refer below for further clarification.

Each page of the standard is divided into 3 columns. The standard also serves as the checklist that is used during an assessment and for every criterion the following is provided:

<b>The Qualifier Requirement: Indicator</b>	This outlines the norm or indicators that Qualifier requires for compliance with the specific FSC criterion. A potential source of information or evidence that allows an auditor to evaluate compliance with an indicator. Some indicators make a distinction between the requirements for “normal” forests and SLIMF operations (Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests).
<b>Verifiers</b>	<b>Verifiers</b> are examples of what the SGS assessor will look for to ascertain if the specific norm or indicator has been met. This list is not exhaustive and the assessor may use other means of verifying the relevant indicator.
<b>Guidance</b>	<b>Guidance</b> is written in <i>italics</i> and assists the assessor in understanding the requirement of the specific indicator.

**PRINCIPLE 1: COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND WORKER’S RIGHTS:**  
 Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well being of forest workers and local communities.

**Criterion 4.1: The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services**

<b>Indicator 4.1.6</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b>Policies and procedures and the implementation thereof make qualifications, skills and experience the basis for recruitment, placement, training and advancement of staff at all levels</b>	<i>No evidence of discrimination on the basis of: race, colour, culture, sex, age, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin</i>
<b>SLIMF:</b> <b>Employees are not discriminated in hiring, advancement, dismissal remuneration and employment related to social security</b>	Employment policies and procedures. Interviews with Forest Managers, workers and Labor Union representatives. <b>SLIMF:</b> Interviews with workers and contractors

*An SGS Qualifier Guideline (Italics)*

The year of the evaluation

The SGS Qualifier Indicator

The SGS Qualifier observation i.t.o. the indicator

The SGS Qualifier verifier

## THE STANDARD

### PRINCIPLE 1. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS:

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

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

**Indicator 1.1.1**

Verifiers & Guidance:

Legal registration\* to carry out all activities within the scope of the certificate granted by a legally competent\* authority is documented.

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

**Indicator 1.2.1**

Verifiers & Guidance:

Legal\* tenure\* to manage and use resources within the scope of the certificate granted by a legally competent\* authority is documented.

**Indicator 1.2.2**

Verifiers & Guidance:

The boundaries of all *Management Units\** within the scope of the certificate are clearly marked or documented and clearly shown on maps.

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

#### INTENT

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

Annex A refers to a minimum list of current laws and regulations which represent legal\* rights. The identification of customary rights\* that are not recognized under Canadian laws and their consideration is achieved through Principle 3.

**Indicator 1.3.1**

Verifiers & Guidance:

<p><b>Forest management activities*</b> in the <b>Management Unit*</b>, planned and ongoing, are carried out in compliance with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Applicable laws*</b> and regulations;</li> <li>2. <b>Administrative requirements</b>;</li> <li>3. <b>Legal* rights</b>; and</li> <li>4. <b>Customary rights* of Indigenous Peoples*</b>.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Indicator 1.3.2</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>Payment is made in a <b>timely manner*</b> of all applicable legally prescribed charges connected with <b>forest*</b> management.</p>	
<p><b>Criterion 1.4</b>      <b>The Organization* shall* develop and implement measures, and/or shall* engage with regulatory agencies, to systematically protect the Management Unit* from unauthorized or illegal resource use, settlement and other illegal activities.</b></p> <p><b>INTENT</b></p> <p>It is not always possible for <i>The Organization*</i> to enforce protective measures when <i>The Organization*</i> is not the landowner and/or does not have the <i>legal*</i> rights of control. In Canada, regulatory bodies have the <i>legal*</i> responsibility for controlling illegal activities.</p> <p>Measures to protect the <i>Management Unit*</i> from unauthorized or illegal resource use, settlement and other illegal activities emphasize prevention, rather than act 'after the fact'.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 1.4.1</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>Within the scope of <i>The Organization's*</i> authority, measures are implemented to identify, prevent and control unauthorized or illegal harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.</p>	
<p>SA2020</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 1.4.2</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>Where <i>protection*</i> is the <i>legal*</i> responsibility of regulatory bodies, a system is implemented to work with these regulatory bodies to identify, report, control and discourage unauthorized or illegal activities.</p>	
<p>SA2020</p>	
<p><b>Criterion 1.5</b>      <b>The Organization* shall* comply with the applicable national laws*, local laws, ratified* international conventions and obligatory codes of practice*, relating to the transportation and trade of forest products within and from the Management Unit*, and/or up to the point of first sale.</b></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 1.5.1</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>Compliance with relevant <i>national laws*</i>, <i>local laws*</i> and <i>ratified*</i> international conventions relating to the transportation and trade of forest products, including CITES species, up to the point of first sale is demonstrated, including through possession of certificates for harvest and trade.</p>	

<b>Criterion 1.6</b>		<b><i>The Organization* shall* identify, prevent and resolve disputes* over issues of statutory or customary law*, which can be settled out of court in a timely manner*, through engagement with affected stakeholders*.</i></b>
<b>INTENT</b>		
FSC recognizes that <i>The Organization*</i> may not have control over statutory or legal* matters, or may not be directly involved in a <i>dispute*</i> regarding the <i>Management Unit*</i> . In these cases, it would be reasonable for <i>The Organization*</i> to work within its <i>sphere of influence*</i> to encourage parties, where appropriate, to work together to resolve the <i>dispute*</i> .		
<b>Indicator 1.6.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
A system is in place whereby <i>complaints*</i> can be made known to <i>The Organization*</i> related to <i>applicable laws* or customary law*</i> .		
SA2020		
<b>Indicator 1.6.2</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
<b><i>A publicly available* dispute resolution process that can be adapted through culturally appropriate* engagement* is in place, including mechanisms to address disputes of substantial magnitude* that include provisions for ceasing operations.</i></b>		
SA2020		
<b>Indicator 1.6.3</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
<b><i>Complaints*</i> are responded to in a <i>timely manner*</i>. <i>Complaints*</i> that are not resolved are elevated to <i>disputes*</i> and are being addressed via a dispute resolution process.</b>		
SA2020		
<b>Indicator 1.6.4</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
<b>An up-to-date record of <i>complaints*</i> and <i>disputes*</i> is maintained and includes:</b>		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Steps taken to resolve <i>complaints*</i> and <i>disputes*</i>;</li> <li>2) Outcomes of all <i>complaints*</i> and dispute resolution processes; and</li> <li>3) Unresolved <i>disputes*</i>, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.</li> </ol>		
<b>Indicator 1.6.5</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
The dispute resolution process as established in indicator 1.6.2 is implemented, following the provision for ceasing of operations for disputes of substantial magnitude		
SA2020		
<b>Criterion 1.7</b>		<b><i>The Organization* shall* publicize a commitment not to offer or receive bribes in money or any other form of corruption, and shall* comply with anti-corruption legislation where this exists. In the absence of anti-corruption legislation, The Organization* shall* implement other anti-corruption measures proportionate to the scale* and intensity* of management activities and the risk* of corruption.</i></b>
<b>Indicator 1.7.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
A policy is implemented that:		

<p>1. Includes a commitment not to offer or receive bribes of any description;</p> <p>2. Meets or exceeds related legislation; and</p> <p>3. Is publicly available* at no cost.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 1.7.2</b></p> <p><b>Bribery, coercion and other acts of corruption do not occur.</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 1.7.3</b></p> <p><b>Corrective measures are implemented if corruption does occur</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Criterion 1.8</b>      <b><i>The Organization* shall* demonstrate a long-term* commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles* and Criteria* in the Management Unit*, and to related FSC Policies and Standards. A statement of this commitment shall* be contained in a publicly available* document made freely available.</i></b></p> <p><b>INTENT</b></p> <p>The individual with authority is not necessarily the president of a company or the most senior manager or the highest-lever manager. For example, depending on the circumstances, an individual may have been delegated authority for the implementation of FSC certification; if the policy is integrated in the management plan*, the individual may be the person in charge of and fully responsible for the forest management plan*.</p>	<p><b>Indicator 1.8.1</b></p> <p><b>A publicly available* written policy, endorsed by an individual with authority to implement the policy, demonstrates a long-term commitment to forest management practices consistent with FSC Principles* and Criteria* and related Policies and Standards.</b></p> <p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>PRINCIPLE 2. WORKERS* RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS:</b></p> <p><i>The Organization* shall* maintain or enhance the social and economic wellbeing of workers*.</i></p>	
<p><b>Criterion 2.1</b>      <b><i>The Organization* shall* uphold* the principles and rights at work as defined in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998) based on the eight ILO Core Labour Conventions.</i></b></p> <p><b>INTENT</b></p> <p>There are no known gaps between the ILO Core Conventions and the Canadian national/provincial regulations so there is low risk* for violation.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 2.1.1</b></p> <p><b><i>Employment practices and conditions for workers* demonstrate conformity with federal and provincial labour laws and with the principles and rights of workers* addressed in the ILO Core Labour Conventions.</i></b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>SA2020</b></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 2.1.2</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>



<b>Workers* are able to establish or join labour organizations of their own choosing, subject only to the rules of the labour organization concerned..</b>		
SA2020		
<b>Indicator 2.1.3</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
Collective bargaining agreements are implemented where they exist		
SA2020		
<b>Criterion 2.2</b>	<b>The Organization* shall* promote gender equality* in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of engagement* and management activities.</b>	
<b>Indicator 2.2.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
Systems are implemented that promote <i>gender equality*</i> and prevent gender discrimination in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of <i>engagement*</i> and management activities.		
<b>Indicator 2.2.2</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
Job opportunities are open to both women and men under the same conditions.		
<b>Indicator 2.2.3</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
With consideration for worker* experience, performance, and working conditions, women and men are paid equally using a direct and secure method of payment.		
<b>Indicator 2.2.4</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
Maternity and paternity leave is available for no less than a six-week period after childbirth, and there is no penalty for taking it.		
<b>Indicator 2.2.5</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
Women and men are encouraged and supported to actively participate in all levels of employment and decision-making.		
<b>Indicator 2.2.6</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
Confidential and effective mechanisms exist for reporting and eliminating cases of sexual harassment and discrimination based on gender, marital status, parenthood or sexual orientation.		

<b>Criterion 2.3</b>		<b><i>The Organization* shall* implement health and safety practices to protect workers* from occupational safety and health hazards. These practices shall*, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk* of management activities, meet or exceed the recommendations of the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.</i></b>
<b>INTENT</b>		
In this Standard, the requirements of the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work are covered by Canadian legislation. Refer to Annex A, section 3.4 of the tables.		
Legislation in Canada is equal to (or sometimes exceeds) this ILO Code of Practice.		
<b>Indicator 2.3.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
<b>Compliance with relevant occupational health and safety regulations as specified in Annex A is demonstrated.</b>	groups	
SA2020		
<b>Indicator 2.3.2</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
<b><i>A worker* health &amp; safety program for all workers that meets the requirements of Annex C is developed, implemented and reviewed periodically.</i></b>		
SA2020		
<b>Indicator 2.3.3</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
<b>Records are kept on health and safety practices including accident rates, a description of accidents and their causes, and lost time due to accidents.</b>		
SA2020		
<b>Indicator 2.3.4</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
<b>The average frequency and severity of accidents over time are comparable to, or lower than, national or provincial forest workers* averages, where those exist. If statistics on forest workers* averages do not exist, the average frequency and severity of accidents over time remain low or are declining.</b>		
SA2020		
<b>Criterion 2.4</b>		<b><i>The Organization* shall* pay wages that meet or exceed minimum forest* industry standards or other recognized forest* industry wage agreements or living wages*, where these are higher than the legal* minimum wages. When none of these exist, The Organization* shall* through engagement* with workers* develop mechanisms for determining living wages*.</i></b>
<b>Indicator 2.4.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
<b>Remuneration, including wages and benefits (such as health and retirement provisions), for workers* is comparable to or exceeds prevailing regional standards in the industry.</b>	groups	
<b>Indicator 2.4.2</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
<b>Wages, salaries and contracts are paid on time.</b>		

<b>Criterion 2.5</b>	<b><i>The Organization* shall* demonstrate that workers* have job-specific training and supervision to safely and effectively implement the Management Plan* and all management activities.</i></b>	
<b>Indicator 2.5.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
<b><i>Workers* have job specific training consistent with Annex B and supervision to safely and effectively contribute to the implementation of the management plan* and all management activities.</i></b>	groups	
<b>Indicator 2.5.2</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
<b>Up to date training records are kept for all relevant workers*.</b>		
<b>Criterion 2.6</b>	<b><i>The Organization* through engagement* with workers* shall* have mechanisms for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation* to workers* for loss or damage to property, occupational diseases*, or occupational injuries* sustained while working for The Organization*.</i></b>	
<b>INTENT</b>		
Refer to Annex E for details describing how disputes* are addressed throughout the Standard.		
While this Criterion* applies to worker* complaints* and disputes* while working on the Management Unit*, it is recognized that The Organization* has limited capacity in managing and implementing dispute resolution processes where The Organization* is not directly involved in the dispute* (e.g. dispute* between a contractor and subcontractor operating on the Management Unit*).		
In some cases, complaints* or disputes* may exist between a worker* and their employer where the employer is not The Organization*. In these cases, the requirements of the Criterion* are still applicable, only the approach for demonstrating conformance may be different. For example, in these cases, it is possible for The Organization* to verify that the employer's systems for receiving (2.6.1), managing (2.6.2, 2.6.3) and resolving (2.6.4) complaints* and disputes* with their workers* are in place and being implemented by the employer.		
<b>Indicator 2.6.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
<b>A system is in place whereby complaints* from workers* can be made known to their employer.</b>	groups	
<b>Indicator 2.6.2</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
<b><i>A publicly available* dispute resolution process that can be adapted through culturally appropriate* engagement* is in place.</i></b>		
<b>Indicator 2.6.3</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
<b>Complaints* are responded to in a timely manner*. Complaints* that are not resolved are elevated to disputes* and are being addressed via a dispute resolution process.</b>		
<b>Indicator 2.6.4</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	

<p>An up-to-date record of complaints* and disputes* is maintained and includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Steps taken to resolve complaints* and disputes*;</li> <li>2. Outcomes of all complaints* and disputes resolution processes, including, where applicable, fair compensation* to workers* for loss or damage to property, occupational diseases*, or occupational injuries* sustained while working for The Organization*; and</li> <li>3. Unresolved disputes*, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Indicator 2.6.5</b></p> <p><i>Workers* are covered by safety insurance, in accordance with provincial laws and regulations.</i></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>

**PRINCIPLE 3. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS:**

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

**INTENT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**The right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent\*:** The right to FPIC\* is a key principle of international human rights law. It is intended to protect the legal\* and customary rights\* of Indigenous Peoples\* and prevent further destruction and alienation from lands, territories\* and resources upon which their cultures, livelihoods and lives depend. In the context of the FSC Standard, the right to FPIC\* is attributed to identified affected rights holders as per Indicator 3.1.4. The rights that may be addressed through a FPIC\* process in 3.2.4 are those rights that may be impacted by management activities\* as identified in Indicator 3.1.4.

**Disputes\*:** This term is defined in the Glossary. Complaints\* and disputes\* regarding the legality of the forestry operation (e.g. forest tenure\* allocation or management regulations) are

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

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

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

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

**Criterion 3.1**      ***The Organization\* shall\* identify the Indigenous Peoples\* that exist within the Management Unit\* or those that are affected by management activities. The Organization\* shall\* then, through engagement\* with these Indigenous Peoples, identify their rights of tenure\*, their rights of access to and use of forest\* resources and ecosystem services\*, their customary rights\* and legal\* rights and obligations, that apply within the Management Unit\*. The Organization\* shall\* also identify areas where these rights are contested.***

**Indicator 3.1.1**

**Verifiers & Guidance:**

***Indigenous Peoples\* that may be affected by management activities are identified.***

**Indicator 3.1.2**

**Verifiers & Guidance:**

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

- 1) Their legal\* and customary rights\* of tenure\*;***
- 2) Their legal\* and customary\* access to, and use rights\*, of the forest\* resources and ecosystem services\*;***
- 3) Their other legal\* and/or customary rights\* and responsibilities that may be affected by management activities;***
- 4) The evidence supporting these rights and obligations;***
- 5) Areas where rights are contested between Indigenous Peoples\*, governments and/or others;***

<b>Indicator 3.1.3</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<p><b>When there is disagreement about the legal* and/or customary rights* affected by management activities*, The Organization* attempts, through culturally appropriate* engagement*, to reach agreement on an interim scope of rights to be recognized and upheld*. This process is conducted in good faith*, documented and available at the time of audit.</b></p>	<p>The intent of Indicator 3.1.3 is to support the development and maintenance of meaningful relationships that support long-term and culturally appropriate* engagement* that is fostered through dialogue. In the beginning, it may be helpful for The Organization* to make persistent and sincere attempts to meet with Indigenous Peoples* identified in Indicator 3.1.1 and discuss the nature and scope of the legal* and customary rights* that may be impacted by management activities*.</p> <p><b>For private Land:</b> In situations where legal* and/or customary rights* are asserted by Indigenous Peoples* (identified in Indicator 3.1.1) without evidence, and private land owners determine through impact assessment that the negative impacts of the assertion are too high, the right to private property may be weighed against the rights of Indigenous Peoples*.</p>
<b>Indicator 3.1.4</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<p><b>Legal* and/or customary rights* that may be impacted by management activities* on specific areas of the Management Unit* are identified, and a summary of the means by which these rights, and contested rights, may be addressed is provided by The Organization*..</b></p>	

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

The goal and objective\* of a culturally appropriate\* engagement\* process between The Organization\* and affected Indigenous Peoples\* is to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent\* for management activities\* proposed within the Management Unit\* that may adversely impact their legal\* and customary rights\*, as identified in Indicator 3.1.4, to resources, lands and territories\*. The strategies and actions required by all parties to these processes will vary. The trust and confidence required to build and maintain a relationship that supports such a decision may require significant effort over a long period of time on the part of The Organization\* and affected Indigenous Peoples\*.

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

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

However, the intent to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent\* can be demonstrated through other means. Some examples include through policy and procedures, work plans, and records of communication (or attempted communication) with Indigenous Peoples\* when an agreed-upon FPIC\* process is not in place. Communication and support from government agencies with fiduciary and legal\* obligations to Indigenous Peoples\* may also be helpful to demonstrating best efforts\*, particularly when efforts by The Organization\* to engage\* Indigenous Peoples\* have been unsuccessful.

Scale of rights: While Indicator 3.1.4 and Criterion 3.5 call for the identification and protection of Indigenous Peoples\* rights at an operational and site-specific level, the application of rights, including cumulative impacts, may also apply across the Management Unit\*. In this case, rights would be addressed at the strategic planning level, as described in 3.2.1.

Good faith\*: Good faith\* is defined in the Glossary. It is a term used in ILO Conventions and recognized as an auditable element. The principle of good faith\* implies that the parties make every effort to reach an agreement, conduct genuine and constructive negotiations, avoid delays in negotiations, respect concluded agreements, and give sufficient time to discuss and settle disputes\*. Additional information is provided in the FSC Canada Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Guidance document.

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

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

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

**Indicator 3.2.1**

**Verifiers & Guidance:**



<p>Prior to management activities* and through a mutually agreed* upon culturally appropriate* engagement* process, it is determined when, where and how Indigenous Peoples* can participate in management planning, both strategic and/or operational, to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, lands and territories*.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 3.2.2</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>Culturally appropriate* support for Indigenous Peoples* participation in management planning is provided.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 3.2.3</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>The legal* and/or customary rights* of Indigenous Peoples* affected by management activities* identified in Indicator 3.1.4 are recognized and upheld*.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 3.2.4</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>Where evidence exists that legal* and/or customary rights* of Indigenous Peoples* related to management activities* have been violated, the situation is corrected, if necessary, through culturally appropriate* engagement* and/or through the dispute resolution process as required in Criterion 1.6.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 3.2.5</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Free, prior and informed consent* is granted by Indigenous Peoples* prior to management activities that affect their identified rights through a process that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Engages the <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i> in the assessment of the economic, social and <i>environmental values*</i> of the forest management resource;</li> <li>2) Documents an approach to identifying the goals and aspirations of affected rights holders related to <i>management activities*</i>;</li> <li>3) Includes a <i>mutually agreed*</i> upon dispute resolution process;</li> <li>4) Supports dialogue regarding the rights and responsibilities of <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i> to the resource;</li> <li>5) Informs affected <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i> of their right to withhold consent or modify consent to the proposed <i>management activities*</i> to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, <i>lands and territories*</i>; and</li> </ol>	

<p>6) Supports decision-making by affected <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i> that is free of coercion, manipulation or intimidation.</p> <p>When <i>Free, Prior and Informed Consent*</i> has not been obtained, <i>The Organization*</i> demonstrates <i>best efforts*</i> to support a <i>culturally appropriate* engagement*</i> process with affected <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i> that is advancing in <i>good faith*</i> with the intent of reaching an agreement based on <i>Free, Prior and Informed Consent*</i>.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 3.2.6</b></p> <p>Where the process of <i>Free Prior and Informed Consent*</i> has not yet resulted in an FPIC agreement, <i>the Organisation*</i> and the affected <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i> are engaged in a mutually agreed FPIC process that is advancing, in <i>good faith*</i> and with which the community is satisfied.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Criterion 3.3</b></p> <p>In the event of delegation of control over management activities, a <i>binding agreement*</i> between <i>The Organization*</i> and the <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i> shall* be concluded through <i>Free, Prior and Informed Consent*</i>. 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 <i>The Organization*</i>'s compliance with its terms and conditions.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 3.3.1</b></p> <p>A <i>binding agreement*</i> contains the terms and conditions on which <i>Free Prior and Informed Consent*</i> is reached, based on <i>culturally appropriate* engagement*</i>.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 3.3.2</b></p> <p>Records of <i>binding agreements*</i> are maintained.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 3.3.3</b></p> <p>The <i>binding agreement*</i> defines the duration, provisions for renegotiation, renewal, termination, economic conditions, provisions for monitoring and dispute resolution.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>

<p><b>Criterion 3.4</b>      <b><i>The Organization* shall* recognize and uphold* the rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples* as defined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) and ILO Convention 169 (1989).</i></b></p> <p>The requirement of culturally appropriate engagement* throughout the Standard is intended to facilitate a relationship building process based on dialogue, knowledge sharing and mutual respect. Through continuous engagement*, The Organization* and Indigenous Peoples* may discuss and eventually mutually agree* on the role of FSC certification in meeting Canada's commitment to UNDRIP as well as the unratified ILO Convention No.169.</p> <p>Indigenous Peoples* may raise concerns related to UNDRIP and ILO 169. The ongoing engagement* process set out in this Standard (Principle 1 and 3) provides an opportunity for The Organization* to determine what is actionable (within their sphere of influence*) through provisions elsewhere in Principle 3, or other parts of the Standard. The intent of culturally appropriate engagement* is to prevent violations of Indigenous Peoples* rights.</p> <p>Additional supporting information for the implementation of this Criterion* is available in the FSC Canada FPIC Guidance document.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 3.4.1</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>3.4.1</b> There is no evidence that the rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples* as defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 are violated by The Organization*.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 3.4.2</b></p>	
<p><b>3.4.2</b> Where evidence that rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples* as defined in UNDRIP and ILO Convention 169 have been violated by The Organization*, The Organization* documents the situation, including steps to a just and fair redress for the violation of the rights, customs and culture of Indigenous Peoples*, in keeping with the dispute resolution process in Indicator 3.2.5.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Criterion 3.5</b>      <b><i>The Organization*, through engagement* with Indigenous Peoples*, shall* identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance and for which these Indigenous Peoples hold legal* or customary rights*. These sites shall* be recognized by The Organization* and their management, and/or protection* shall* be agreed through engagement* with these Indigenous Peoples.</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 3.5.1</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance for which Indigenous Peoples* hold legal* or customary rights* are identified through culturally appropriate* engagement*.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 3.5.2</b></p>	
<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>	

<p>Agreed upon measures to protect such sites are documented and implemented through culturally appropriate* engagement* with Indigenous Peoples*. When Indigenous Peoples* determine that physical identification of sites in documentation or on maps would threaten the value or protection* of the sites, other means are used.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 3.5.3</b></p>	<p>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</p>
<p>Wherever sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance are newly observed or discovered, management activities* in the vicinity cease immediately until protective measures have been agreed to with the Indigenous Peoples*, and as directed by local* and national laws*.</p>	
<p><b>Criterion 3.6</b></p> <p><i>The Organization* shall* uphold* the right of Indigenous Peoples* to protect* and utilize their traditional knowledge* and shall* compensate local communities* for the utilization of such knowledge and their intellectual property*. A binding agreement* as per Criterion* 3.3 shall* be concluded between The Organization* and the Indigenous Peoples for such utilization through Free, Prior and Informed Consent* before utilization takes place, and shall* be consistent with the protection* of intellectual property* rights.</i></p> <p>The intent of this Criterion* is to prevent the commercialization of traditional knowledge* without compensation by The Organization* for the purposes of creating a product and/or service. It is not meant to prevent the sharing of information by Indigenous Peoples* for the purposes of management plan* development.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 3.6.1</b></p>	<p>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</p>
<p><i>Traditional knowledge* and intellectual property* is protected and is only used when the acknowledged owners of that traditional knowledge* and intellectual property* have provided their Free, Prior and Informed Consent* formalized through a binding agreement*.</i></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 3.6.2</b></p>	<p>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</p>
<p>Indigenous Peoples* are compensated according to the binding agreement* reached through Free, Prior and Informed Consent* for the use of traditional knowledge* and intellectual property*.</p>	

**PRINCIPLE 4. COMMUNITY RELATIONS:**

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

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

In this Standard, a *local community\** refers to a non-indigenous group of people. A *local community\** and an Indigenous community (referred to in this Standard as *Indigenous Peoples\**) may occupy overlapping areas within a *Management Unit\**.

In general, Principle 4 addresses requirements regarding *local communities\** unless the *Indicator\** specifies *Indigenous Peoples\**. The inclusion of *Indigenous Peoples\** in Criteria 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 and 4.6 is based on the decision by FSC Canada to separate rights-based negotiations and processes from business related negotiations and agreements. Furthermore, the topics covered by these *Criteria\** are not implicitly included within the agreement requirements in Principle 3. However, it should be noted that *Indigenous Peoples\** and *The Organization\** may choose to address these topics such as opportunities for employment, training, economic development or impact mitigation through agreements and processes established in Principle 3.

**Local Community\* vs. Affected Stakeholders\*:**

*Local communities\** are included in the definition of *affected stakeholder\** therefore most requirements applicable to *affected stakeholders\** will apply to *local communities\**. However, additional consideration for *local communities\** is identified throughout this *Principle\**, such as those related to employment and training opportunities, social and economic development, avoidance and mitigation of negative impacts, as well as a specific dispute resolution process.

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

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

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

In the Canadian context of forest management and related activities, *local communities\** have *legal\** rights related to general human rights and access to public land. There are few known instances where *local communities\** have *legal\* collective rights\** related to *management activities\** on public land. However, as a group who inhabit a specific area, it is necessary to maintain the resources they utilize as well as their quality of life.

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

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

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

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

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

<b>Criterion 4.1</b>		<b><i>The Organization* shall* identify the local communities* that exist within the Management Unit* and those that are affected by management activities. The Organization* shall* then, through engagement* with these local communities*, identify their rights of tenure*, their rights of access to and use of forest* resources and ecosystem services*, their customary rights* and legal* rights and obligations, that apply within the Management Unit*.</i></b>
<b>Indicator 4.1.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
<b><i>Local communities* that may be affected by forest management activities* are identified.</i></b>		
<b>Indicator 4.1.2</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
<b><i>Through culturally appropriate* engagement* with the local communities* identified in 4.1.1, the following are documented and/or mapped:</i></b> 1) <i>Legal* and customary rights*;</i> 2) <i>A summary of means by which these rights identified in 4.1.2.1 may be addressed is provided by The Organization*;</i> 3) <i>The interests of local communities* related to forest management activities* in the Management Unit*;</i> 4) <i>The benefits, goods and/or services from the Management Unit* used by local communities*;</i> 5) <i>Areas where there are conflicts affecting or related to The Organization's* activities. The conflict may be between local communities*, governments, Indigenous Peoples* and/or others.</i>		
<b>Criterion 4.2</b>		<b><i>The Organization* shall* recognize and uphold* the legal* and customary rights* of local communities* to maintain control over management activities within or related to the Management Unit* to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, lands and territories*. Delegation by local communities* of control over management activities to third parties requires Free, Prior and Informed Consent*.</i></b>  This <i>Criterion*</i> applies to rights identified in 4.1.2.1. Refer to the Intent Box at the beginning of Principle 4.
<b>Indicator 4.2.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	
<b><i>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.</i></b>		
<b>Indicator 4.2.2</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>	

<b><i>The legal* and customary rights* of local communities* related to management activities* are not violated by The Organization*.</i></b>	
<b>Indicator 4.2.3</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b>Where evidence exists that <i>legal*</i> and <i>customary rights*</i> of <i>local communities*</i> related to management activities have been violated the situation is corrected, if necessary, through <i>culturally appropriate* engagement*</i> and/or through the <i>dispute*</i> resolution process in <i>Criteria*</i> 1.6 or 4.6.</b>	
<b>Criterion 4.3</b>	<b><i>The Organization* shall* provide reasonable* opportunities for employment, training and other services to local communities*, contractors and suppliers proportionate to scale* and intensity* of its management activities.</i></b>
<b>Indicator 4.3.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b><i>Reasonable*</i> opportunities are communicated and provided to <i>local communities*</i>, local contractors and local suppliers for: 1) Employment, 2) Training, and 3) Other services.</b>	
<b>Criterion 4.4</b>	<b><i>The Organization* shall* implement additional activities, through engagement* with local communities*, that contribute to their social and economic development, proportionate to the scale*, intensity* and socio-economic impact of its management activities.</i></b>  <i>These opportunities may be either directly or indirectly linked to The Organization's* management activities*. This differs from Criterion 4.4, which requires that additional activities, not linked to management activities*, need to be implemented and/or supported.</i>
<b>Indicator 4.4.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b>In proportion to the scale* and intensity* of management activities* affecting the community, opportunities for local social and economic development are identified through culturally appropriate* engagement* with affected local communities* and Indigenous Peoples* and/or other relevant organizations identified by the local community* or the Indigenous Peoples*.</b>	
<b>Indicator 4.4.2</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b>Projects and other activities that contribute to local social and economic benefits and are relative to the scale* of the socio-economic impact of management activities* are implemented and/or supported.</b>	

<b>Criterion 4.5</b>		<i>The Organization*</i> , through <i>engagement*</i> with <i>local communities*</i> , <i>shall*</i> take action to identify, avoid and mitigate <i>significant*</i> negative social, environmental and economic impacts of its management activities on affected communities. The action taken <i>shall*</i> be proportionate to the <i>scale, intensity and risk*</i> of those activities and negative impacts.
<b>Indicator 4.5.1</b>	Verifiers & Guidance:	
Through culturally appropriate* engagement* with affected local communities* and Indigenous Peoples*, significant negative social, environmental and economic impacts of management activities* are identified.		
<b>Indicator 4.5.2</b>	Verifiers & Guidance:	
Through culturally appropriate* engagement* with affected local communities* and Indigenous Peoples*, measures to avoid and/or mitigate significant negative impacts identified in Indicator 4.5.1 are determined and implemented.		
<b>Criterion 4.6</b>		<i>The Organization*</i> , through <i>engagement*</i> with <i>local communities*</i> , <i>shall*</i> have mechanisms for resolving grievances and providing <i>fair compensation*</i> to <i>local communities*</i> and individuals with regard to the impacts of management activities of <i>The Organization*</i> .
<b>Indicator 4.6.1</b>	Verifiers & Guidance:	
A system is in place whereby complaints* can be made known to The Organization* related to impact of forest management activities* on affected local communities* and Indigenous Peoples*.		
<b>Indicator 4.6.2</b>	Verifiers & Guidance:	
A publicly available* dispute resolution process that can be adapted through culturally appropriate* engagement* is in place, including mechanisms to address disputes of substantial magnitude* that include provisions for ceasing operations.		
<b>Indicator 4.6.3</b>	Verifiers & Guidance:	
Complaints* are responded to in a timely manner*. Complaints* that are not resolved are elevated to disputes* and are being addressed via a dispute resolution process		
<b>Indicator 4.6.4</b>	Verifiers & Guidance:	
An up-to-date record of complaints* and disputes* is maintained, and includes:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Steps taken to resolve complaints* and disputes*;</li> <li>2) Outcomes of all complaints* and dispute resolution processes, including, where applicable, fair compensation*; and</li> </ol>		



3) Unresolved disputes*, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved..	
Indicator 4.6.5	Verifiers & Guidance:
4) The dispute resolution process as established in Indicator 4.6.2 is implemented, following the provisions for ceasing of operations for disputes of substantial magnitude*.	
Criterion 4.7	<i>The Organization*</i> , through <i>engagement*</i> with <i>local communities*</i> , shall* identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance, and for which these <i>local communities*</i> hold <i>legal*</i> or <i>customary rights*</i> . These sites shall* be recognized by <i>The Organization*</i> , and their management and/or <i>protection*</i> shall* be agreed through <i>engagement*</i> with these <i>local communities*</i> .
Indicator 4.7.1	Verifiers & Guidance:
Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance for which <i>local communities*</i> hold <i>legal*</i> or <i>customary rights*</i> are identified through <i>culturally appropriate* engagement*</i> and are recognized by <i>The Organization*</i> .	
Indicator 4.7.2	Verifiers & Guidance:
Measures to protect such sites are agreed, documented and implemented through <i>culturally appropriate engagement*</i> with <i>local communities*</i> . When <i>local communities*</i> determine that physical identification of sites in documentation or on maps would threaten the value or <i>protection*</i> of the sites, then other means are used.	
Indicator 4.7.3	Verifiers & Guidance:
When sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance are newly observed or discovered, management activities in the vicinity will cease immediately until protective measures have been agreed to with the <i>local communities*</i> , and as directed by local and <i>national laws*</i> .	

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

**INTENT**

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

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

**Indicator 4.8.1**

*Traditional knowledge*\* and *intellectual property*\* are protected and are only used when the owners of that *traditional knowledge*\* and *intellectual property*\* have provided their *Free, Prior and Informed Consent*\* formalized through a *binding agreement*\*.

**Verifiers & Guidance:**

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

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

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

**INTENT**

*The Organization\* is expected to make reasonable\* attempts to identify the range of products and benefits available in the Management Unit\*. The Organization\* is expected to diversify the production of benefits and services from the Management Unit\* as much as their tenure\* rights permit. For commercial operations, a diversification of commercial opportunities is expected to increase adaptability to market fluctuations and thereby increase the likelihood of long-term economic viability\* of The Organization\*. In addition, diversification provides the basis for contributing to a diversified and more stable local economy.*

*This Criterion does not require that products and services are harvested, developed or marketed by The Organization\* itself. However, it is expected that The Organization\* provides opportunities to interested local entrepreneurs and individuals to develop, process and market products and services derived from the Management Unit\*, to retrieve products and services from the Management Unit\*, or to utilize the benefits and products from the Management Unit\*, if required.*

*The Organization\* is not required to provide opportunities or pursue activities that would prevent it from achieving its own management objectives\* or conformance with the Principles\* and Criteria\*. Examples of how The Organization\* can provide such opportunities may include permitting local people and enterprises to conduct the following activities:*

- Harvesting of *non-timber forest products\**,
- recreational or (eco-) tourism activities within the *Management Unit\**,
- collection of dead wood for local processing.

*The Organization\* may only permit activities if they are within the limit of The Organization's\* tenure\* rights. Otherwise, it is reasonable that The Organization\* works within its sphere of influence\*, where appropriate.*

*This Criterion\* recognizes that the extent of possible diversification depends on the specific situation (e.g. existing range of resources, ecosystem services\* available and opportunity costs) of the Management Unit\*.*

*This Criterion\* also recognizes that continual diversification is not required. Not all potentially marketable\* products from a Management Unit\* are always saleable, or command a consistent price. Furthermore, benefits produced by the Management Unit\* may not be of direct commercial or economic benefit but they may be of indirect benefit to the local economy.*

*The development of ecosystem services\* remains optional in this FSC standard. If The Organization\* wants to make promotional claims regarding ecosystem services\*, conformance to FSC International procedure FSC-PRO-30-006 on "Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools" will need to be demonstrated.*

<p><b>Indicator 5.1.1</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>A range of ecosystem services*, non-timber and timber forest resources and products that could strengthen and diversify the local economy are identified</b></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 5.1.2</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>

<p>Consistent with management objectives* and within the limits of The Organization's* tenure* rights, some of the resources, products and services identified in Indicator 5.1.1 are produced and/or made available for others to produce, as a means to strengthen and diversify the local economy.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 5.1.3</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>When The Organization* makes FSC promotional claims regarding the provision of ecosystem services*, it is in conformance with the procedure FSC-PRO-30-006 on "Ecosystem Services Procedure: Impact Demonstration and Market Tools"</p>	
<p><b>Criterion 5.2      <i>The Organization* shall* normally harvest products and services from the Management Unit* at or below a level which can be permanently sustained.</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 5.2.1</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>5.2.1 Analysis and calculation of harvest levels for timber forest products are done frequently enough (at least every 10 years) to ensure they remain current with respect to harvest activities, natural disturbances, management objectives*, and supporting information, such as inventories.</b></p> <p><b>The analysis and calculation of harvest levels are based upon:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. A precautionary approach* that reflects the quality of information and assumptions used;</b></li> <li><b>2. Management objectives* and strategies as set out in the management plan*, including those for restoration*;</b></li> <li><b>3. Current management practices, performance and success of silvicultural systems*;</b></li> <li><b>4. Best available information* on growth and yield;</b></li> <li><b>5. Best available and quality inventory data;</b></li> <li><b>6. Volume and area reductions caused by mortality and decay, as well as natural disturbances, such as fire, insects and disease;</b></li> <li><b>7. Adherence to all other requirements in this Standard;</b></li> <li><b>8. Operational constraints;</b></li> <li><b>9. Harvest projections or wood supply calculations that extend to a planning horizon long enough to provide quality results. A rationale for the choice of the planning horizon is provided, but is at least 80 years;</b></li> <li><b>10. Future forest condition objectives* as/if identified in the forest management plan*;</b> and</li> <li><b>11. Available sensitivity analyses of the factors that apply to harvest level calculations, including the effects of climate change when growth and yield projections are available.</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>INTENT</b></p> <p><i>It is acceptable for some issues, such as mortality and decay, not to be incorporated into the analysis and calculation of harvest levels, if these issues are considered through other means, such as during harvest level allocations.</i></p>

<b>Indicator 5.2.2</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<p>Based on the timber harvesting level* as analyzed for Indicator 5.2.1, a maximum allowable annual cut for timber is determined, with respect to these conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The maximum allowable annual cut does not impair the ability of the Management Unit* to continue to provide the products and services, ecosystem functions* and ecosystem services* of the unit.</li> <li>2. Temporary or long-term* changes in the yield or standing volumes of any specific forest product arising from management activities* are permitted, provided that these fluctuations do not impair the achievement of the objectives* described in the management plan* through the mid- and long-term*.</li> </ol>	<p>INTENT:</p> <p>Fluctuations in the yield and in harvest rates can be the consequence of disturbances or of a planned management strategy. It is expected that in situations of major disturbance, fluctuations could be more significant and occur over a longer period.</p>
<b>Indicator 5.2.3</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
Actual annual timber harvest is recorded and the averaged level of harvest over a defined period (maximum of 10 years) does not exceed the allowable cut determined in Indicator 5.2.2.	
<b>Indicator 5.2.4</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
The harvest of commercial non-timber forest products* under control of The Organization* does not exceed a level that can be sustained. Sustainable harvest levels for non-timber forest products* are based on best available information*.	
<b>Criterion 5.3</b>	<b><i>The Organization* shall* demonstrate that the positive and negative externalities* of operations are included in the management plan*.</i></b>
<b>Indicator 5.3.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
Management planning takes into account the long-term positive and negative environmental and social impacts of management activities*.	
<b>Criterion 5.4</b>	<b><i>The Organization* shall* use local processing, local services, and local value adding to meet the requirements of The Organization* where these are available, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk*. If these are not locally available, The Organization* shall* make reasonable* attempts to help establish these services.</i></b>
	<b>INTENT</b>
	The intent of this Criterion* is for The Organization* to promote further socio-economic benefits through economic opportunities beyond direct employment by The Organization*. The desired outcome is that The Organization* stimulates the local economy through the purchase of relevant local services and products, or supports the creation of relevant new local services and supply of relevant local products. In areas where local service providers are already in place, the preference is to support these businesses before hiring other service providers who are not local.
<b>Indicator 5.4.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>

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.	
<p>Indicator 5.4.2</p> <p><i>Reasonable*</i> attempts are made to establish and encourage capacity where local goods, services, processing and value-added facilities are not available.</p>	Verifiers & Guidance:
<p>Criterion 5.5     <i>The Organization* shall* demonstrate through its planning and expenditures proportionate to scale, intensity and risk*, its commitment to long-term* economic viability*.</i></p>	
<p>Indicator 5.5.1</p> <p>Sufficient expenditures and investments are made to implement the management plan* in order to meet this Standard and to ensure economic viability* of The Organization* over the long-term.</p>	Verifiers & Guidance:
<p><b>PRINCIPLE 6. ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES* AND IMPACTS:</b></p> <p><i>The Organization* shall* maintain, conserve* and/or restore* ecosystem services* and environmental values* of the Management Unit*, and shall* avoid, repair or mitigate negative environmental impacts.</i></p>	
<p>Criterion 6.1     <i>The Organization* shall* assess environmental values* in the Management Unit* and those values outside the Management Unit* potentially affected by management activities. This assessment shall* be undertaken with a level of detail, scale and frequency that is proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk* of management activities, and is sufficient for the purpose of deciding the necessary conservation* measures, and for detecting and monitoring possible negative impacts of those activities.</i></p> <p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p>Information required by the Indicators* in this Criterion* is used in the assessment of other Indicators*, primarily in Principle 6 and Principle 9. Conformance with these Indicators*, that require gathering or collating of information, ‘queues up’ subsequent analyses or management actions required in later Indicators*.</p>	
<p>Indicators 6.1.0</p> <p>Conformance with the following Indicators* is maintained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boreal Standard: Indicators 6.1.5, 6.1.6, 6.3.4, 6.3.5, 6.3.6, 6.3.12</li> <li>• GLSL Standard: Indicators 6.1.3, 6.1.7, 6.3.1, 6.3.2, 6.3.3</li> <li>• BC Standard: 6.1.2, 6.1.7, 6.3.7, 6.3.8, 6.3.10</li> <li>• Maritime Standard: 6.3.1, 6.3.3, 6.3.7</li> </ul>	Verifiers & Guidance:
Indicator 6.1.1	Verifiers & Guidance:

<p><b>Best available information* is used to identify and define the state and condition of regional- and landscape*-scale* environmental values* within and, where potentially affected by management activities*, outside of the Management Unit*.</b></p> <p><b>Consistent with the scale, intensity and risk* of the operation, best available information* includes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Forest* cover (maps and quantitative summaries);</b></li> <li>2. <b>Distributions of forest types*, age-classes* and patch sizes (as required by Indicator 6.1.3) (quantitative summaries);</b></li> <li>3. <b>Road* networks (maps and quantitative summaries);</b></li> <li>4. <b>Hydrologic features* (maps);</b></li> <li>5. <b>Lake, stream and wetland* classifications including identification of fish-bearing water bodies* (maps and quantitative summaries);</b></li> <li>6. <b>Existing carbon stores, where readily available (quantitative information);</b></li> <li>7. <b>Percent of protected area* by ecosystem* classification unit;</b></li> <li>8. <b>Rare ecosystems* (maps and quantitative summaries);</b></li> <li>9. <b>Identification of species at the edge of their natural ranges and outlier populations; and</b></li> <li>10. <b>Status of habitat* (known locations, trends, extent of area) for species at risk* that use forest habitats* and habitats* affected by forest management (quantitative summaries and range maps).</b></li> </ol>	
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<p><b>Indicator 6.1.2</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Best available information* is used to identify and define the state and condition of stand*- and site-scale* environmental values* within the Management Unit*.</b></p> <p><b>Consistent with the scale, intensity and risk* of the operation, best available information* includes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Point-specific wildlife values and wildlife habitat* values (e.g. mineral licks, stick nests of herons and eagles) (mapped information);</b></li> <li>2. <b>Locations known to be of use by species at risk* and access-sensitive species (e.g. den sites, nests, areas of traditional use) (mapped information);</b></li> <li>3. <b>Sensitive sites, including steep slopes, shallow soils, moist soils, wetlands*, and soils subject to compaction (e.g. structured clay) (mapped information);</b></li> <li>4. <b>Spawning grounds and other important aquatic sites (e.g. wetlands* with a history of providing feeding areas for moose) (mapped information).</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>INTENT</b></p> <p>As with many Indicators*, the requirements of this Indicator* are to be addressed consistent with the scale, intensity and risk* of the operation. The nature of some of the values identified in this Indicator* may be transitory. For example, stick nests are not permanent features on the landscape*, therefore, it is reasonable* for those requirements to be addressed only relative to the operations identified within the short-term planning horizon (which is typically one to ten years). This is consistent with the approach taken in Indicator 6.2.2, which requires impacts of stand*-level values be assessed prior to implementing management activities*.</p>

<p><b>Indicator 6.1.3</b></p> <p>Using best available information* and appropriate to the scale, intensity and risk* of forest management activities*, an assessment of the current forest* is made, addressing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The distribution of forest types* (quantitative information);</li> <li>2. The distribution of forest types* by age classes (quantitative information); and</li> <li>3. The range of natural disturbance sizes and sizes of post-disturbance remnant patches.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p>INTENT</p> <p>Analyses required in Indicators 6.1.3 and 6.1.4 are used in subsequent Indicators* that address setting of targets for different aspects of forest condition (i.e. Indicator 6.8.1 - forest community composition, and Indicator 6.8.3 - forest patches). Although RONV* analysis is generally considered to be more robust and appropriate for identifying preferred future forest conditions, the Indicator* also addresses the use of PIC* analysis, recognizing that the data and effort required for RONV* may make that approach impractical.</p> <p>The Organization* may elect to use a mix of RONV* and PIC* analyses based on the condition of their forest*, for use in the subsequent Criterion 6.8 Indicators*.</p> <p>The Indicator* includes requirements to characterize the present forest* by age classes and assess natural conditions* of forest types* by age class. This requirement is intended to recognize that some age classes may be broad, such as in Great Lakes-St. Lawrence and Acadian forest types*, and may include classes of multi- or all-aged forest*.</p> <p>Indigenous Peoples'* traditional use of a forest* is consistent with the concept of pre-industrial forests* as describe in the Glossary.</p> <p>It is the intent that all reasonably-available data be considered in the analyses for Indicators 6.1.3 and 6.1.4, and reasonable* and defensible interval classes (i.e. for age classes and disturbance sizes) also be considered.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.1.4i (interim indicator)</b></p> <p>An analytical plan has been prepared, data have been collated and analyses have commenced to assess the range of natural variation* or pre-industrial condition* as identified in Indicator 6.1.4..</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p>.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.1.4</b></p> <p>An assessment of the range of natural variation* (RONV*) of the forest* is completed. If sufficient data are not available to complete a RONV* assessment, an assessment of the pre-industrial condition* (PIC*) is completed. The RONV* or PIC* analysis includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. An assessment of the natural range of the amount of each forest type*;</li> <li>2. An assessment of the natural range of forest types* by age class; and</li> <li>3. An assessment of the natural range of disturbance sizes and sizes of post-disturbance remnant patches.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p>.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.1.5</b></p> <p>Assessments of environmental values* identified in Indicators 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 are updated with sufficient frequency to conduct adaptive management* depending on the scale, intensity and risk* of management activities*.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p>INTENT</p>



<p>Assessments are provided in a manner such that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Impacts of management activities* on the identified environmental values* and risks* to these values can be assessed as per Criterion 6.2;</li> <li>2. Necessary conservation* measures to protect values can be identified as per Criterion 6.3; and</li> <li>3. Monitoring* of impacts or environmental changes can be conducted as per Principle 8.</li> </ol>	<p>The frequency with which assessments of environmental values* should be updated varies with the nature of the values themselves. It is reasonable that assessments be updated based on the period over which there may be a reasonable* expectation of a change in status of a value, and the period over which it is possible to detect the effects of management. Therefore, for example, it is likely that the status of habitat* for a species at risk* be updated more frequently than information on lake, stream, and wetland* classification.</p>
<p><b>Criterion 6.2</b> Prior to the start of site-disturbing activities, <i>The Organization* shall* identify and assess the scale, intensity and risk* of potential impacts of management activities on the identified environmental values*.</i></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 6.2.1</b></p> <p>Appropriate to the scale, intensity and risk* of the operation, an assessment is conducted identifying potential impacts, by comparing landscape*-level conditions of key environmental values* at the start of the present forest management plan* to projected future conditions for the near term*, and where practical, for the long-term* as well. At a minimum, the assessment considers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Age-class* distribution;</li> <li>2. Forest type* distribution;</li> <li>3. Patch size distribution;</li> <li>4. Road* density by road*-type; and</li> <li>5. Spatial distribution of anthropogenic disturbed areas.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p>INTENT</p> <p>For this Indicator*, the context for comparison of present and future conditions of environmental values* of the forest* is that a period of 5 to 10 years is normally used for the near-term* and 100 years or more is normally used to represent the long-term*.</p> <p>This Indicator* contains the term 'where practical' to recognize that it is difficult and generally of less utility to make long-term* predictions for road* density by road* type and for the spatial distribution of disturbed areas. Therefore, it is reasonable* for the assessment of long-term potential impacts made to address this Indicator's* requirements to focus on age-class* and forest type* distributions.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.2.2</b></p> <p>Impacts on stand* level values are assessed prior to implementing management activities*. Appropriate to the scale, intensity and risk* of the operations, assessments identify impacts on stand* and site qualities including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coarse woody debris;</li> <li>2. Density of standing dead and live trees;</li> <li>3. Residual patch size and species of residuals;</li> <li>4. Ecological values associated with wetland* and riparian zones*;</li> <li>5. HCVs* that occur at a local scale* (e.g. stands* of rare trees, important bird migration sites); and</li> <li>6. Environmental values* identified in Indicator 6.1.2.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p>INTENT:</p> <p>This Indicator* does not require that measurements of the listed values be provided for each stand* in which operations are undertaken. The assessment may be a comparison of predicted levels of post-operational values with those determined to be appropriate for the forest* or forest types* based on reasonable* benchmarks (e.g. for values such as standing dead and live trees) or efforts to ensure no impairment of important values (e.g. riparian values and HCVs).</p> <p>The requirement of this Indicator* to assess impacts "prior to implementing management activities*" can be addressed by assessing impacts at the start of the forest management planning period, or at the start of annual planning of operations.</p> <p>Identified impacts should reflect the silvicultural system* used in managing harvest areas*.</p>

<p><b>Criterion 6.3</b>      <i>The Organization* shall* identify and implement effective actions to prevent negative impacts of management activities on the <b>environmental values*</b>, and to mitigate and repair those that occur, proportionate to the <b>scale, intensity and risk*</b> of these impacts.</i></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 6.3.1</b></p> <p>Appropriate to the scale, intensity and risk* of the forest management activities*, management plans* or associated documents (e.g. Ground Rules, Standard Operating Procedures, etc.) identify means to protect soils from physical damage and prevent negative impacts, based on best management practices*.</p> <p>The best management practices* related to protection* of soils from physical damage address the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prior identification of unstable soils and ground surfaces, and sites sensitive to compaction, rutting, and erosion;</li> <li>2. Construction of roads* and landings on unstable soils and ground surfaces and unstable slopes;</li> <li>3. Constructing and maintaining roads* and implementation of all forest operations to avoid or minimize erosion;</li> <li>4. Use of alternative harvesting and site preparation equipment (e.g. low ground pressure equipment) and/or other mitigation measures, such as seasonal timing, and temporary suspension of activities during unfavourable weather to minimize soil rutting and compaction; and</li> <li>5. Identification of precautionary damage thresholds.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.3.2</b></p> <p>The means identified in Indicator 6.3.1 to protect soils from physical damage and prevent negative impacts are effectively implemented.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.3.3</b></p> <p>Appropriate to the scale, intensity and risk* of the forest management activities*, management plans* or associated documents (e.g. Ground Rules, Standard Operating Procedures, etc.) identify means to protect soils from nutrient loss and prevent negative impacts, based on best management practices*.</p> <p>The best management practices* related to nutrient loss address the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identification of sites sensitive to nutrient loss;</li> <li>2. Use of delimiting-at-stump and/or slash dispersal on sensitive sites;</li> <li>3. Use of winter harvesting on sensitive sites;</li> <li>4. Maintenance of a diversity of plants and trees on site; and</li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p>INTENT:</p> <p>In Canada, under most commercial forest management regimes and on most forest* sites, nutrient removal due to logging is not significant. This is addressed in this Indicator* by recognizing scale, intensity and risk*, and by specifically limiting the actions required in the numbered points to sensitive sites.</p>

<p><b>5. Identification of precautionary thresholds to protect soils from nutrient loss on sensitive sites.</b></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 6.3.4</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>The means identified in Indicator 6.3.3 to protect soils from nutrient loss and prevent negative impacts are effectively implemented.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 6.3.5</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>Appropriate to the scale, intensity and risk* of the forest management activities*, management plans* or associated documents (e.g. Ground Rules, Standard Operating Procedures, etc.) identify means to avoid or minimize loss of productive forest* area based on best management practices*.</p> <p>The best management practices* related to loss of productive forest* area address the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Slash management (e.g. burning, piling, re-distribution);</li> <li>2. Regeneration of roads*, landings and skid trails;</li> <li>3. Maximum corridor widths for different classes of roads*;</li> <li>4. Minimizing the areal extent of landings; and</li> <li>5. Identification of precautionary thresholds.</li> </ol>	<p>INTENT:</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.3.6</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>The means identified in Indicator 6.3.5 to avoid or minimize the loss of productive forest* area and prevent negative impacts are effectively implemented.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 6.3.7</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>Management activities* prevent negative impacts to carbon values.</p>	<p>INTENT: Carbon values in managed forests* are protected by avoiding damage to forest soils and ensuring harvest levels are sustainable, as addressed by Indicators 6.3.1 – 6.3.6 and 5.2.1 – 5.2.3.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.3.8</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>Where precautionary thresholds have been exceeded, or where management activities* have caused negative impacts as related to Indicators 6.3.1 – 6.3.7, measures are adopted to prevent further damage, and negative impacts are mitigated and/or repaired.</p>	

<p><b>Criterion 6.4</b></p>	<p><i>The Organization* shall* protect rare species* and threatened species* and their habitats* in the Management Unit* through conservation zones*, protection areas*, connectivity* and/or (where necessary) other direct measures for their survival and viability. These measures shall* be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk* of management activities and to the conservation* status and ecological requirements of the rare and threatened species*. The Organization* shall* take into account the geographic range and ecological requirements of rare and threatened species* beyond the boundary of the Management Unit*, when determining the measures to be taken inside the Management Unit*.</i></p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.4.1</b></p> <p><i>Best available information* is used to develop a list of species at risk* known or strongly suspected to exist within and adjacent to the Management Unit*, and to identify the habitats* of the species at risk*. The list is presented in the management plan* or associated documents and is updated annually. The list of species at risk* includes:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. All species, subspecies, and designated populations formally listed in schedules referenced in federal or provincial endangered species/species at risk* legislation, or provincial wildlife/biodiversity legislation that have been classified as Endangered, Threatened, Vulnerable, Special Concern or similar designations; and</i></li> <li><i>2. All species that have been assessed as 'at-risk' designation by bodies formally recognized in federal or provincial endangered species legislation (e.g. the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), and equivalent provincial bodies).</i></li> </ol>	<p>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</p> <p>INTENT:</p> <p>Official FSC language related to Criterion 6.4 requires that it address rare species* and threatened species*. This is somewhat confusing because these phrases have different meaning in a Canadian context from those identified in FSC reference material. For this Criterion*, the term species at risk* is used rather than rare species* and threatened species*, as it is more clearly embodied in Canada's language regarding species whose survival is of concern. The two parts of this Indicator* correspond to the differences between those species that have been regulated (or listed) as species at risk* in federal or provincial legislation (see point 1 in this Indicator*), and those species that have been assessed as species at risk* by COSEWIC or a similar provincial assessment body, as indicated in point 2.</p> <p>This Indicator* requires that the habitats* of species at risk* be identified. In most circumstances, it is not practical to identify the specific habitats* of wide-ranging species at risk*, other than to note their broad habitat* affiliations. In these circumstances, it would be reasonable* for the locations of particular species at risk* features (such as nests or concentrations of plants) to be identified (while taking into account the requirements of Indicator 9.1.4 regarding the need to keep information on sensitive sites confidential).</p> <p>Species at risk* that are of concern to Indigenous Peoples* have been identified by the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Subcommittee of COSEWIC.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.4.2</b></p> <p>Plans are developed by qualified specialists* to protect and manage the habitat* of those species at risk* identified in Indicator 6.4.1 that may be affected by forest management activities*. The plans address the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identification of potential impacts of management activities* on species at risk*, their conservation status and habitat* associations;</li> <li>2. Means to address protection of species at risk* and their habitats* through the use of protected areas*, designated conservation lands*, managing for habitat* connectivity*, provision of contiguous tracts of habitat*, access management and other habitat* management measures as appropriate; and</li> <li>3. Social and economic concerns, and concerns of Indigenous Peoples*.</li> </ol> <p>Measures to address social and economic concerns do not constrain or impair efforts to protect and manage species at risk* and their habitats*.</p>	<p>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</p> <p>INTENT:</p> <p>Plans to address the needs of species at risk* do not need to be approved federal or provincial agencies or plans, but can be documents written to fill a gap in existing direction from governments and their regulatory agencies. Plans written specifically for a Management Unit*, however, should not conflict with higher-level plans that have regulatory approval unless they exceed requirements of those higher-level plans.</p> <p>As described in Criterion 6.5, there is no expectation that owners of private lands will cede ownership of any portion of their property to create protected areas*; therefore, it is not expected that protected areas* will be a mechanism used in plans to protect species at risk* on private lands.</p> <p>Addressing social and economic concerns and the concerns of Indigenous Peoples* is intended to support the effective development and implementation of a species plan.</p> <p>Refer to the Glossary for a fuller definition of plans for species at risk*.</p> <p>Even though woodland caribou is addressed through a supplemental Indicator* (6.4.5), Indicator 6.4.2 is applicable to all species at risk, including woodland caribou.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.4.3</b></p>	<p>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</p>

<p><b>Species at risk* and their habitats* are protected through implementation of plans identified in Indicator 6.4.2 by The Organization* or in collaboration with government resource management agencies, overlapping tenure holders*, and Indigenous Peoples*.</b></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 6.4.4</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Where plans do not exist or are inadequate in addressing known risks* to a species, a precautionary approach* is applied. The precautionary approach* is applied to management of forest landscapes*, local habitat* and other locations that are known to be important to the species at risk*.</b></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 6.4.5a</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>A range plan* that is SARA-compliant and addresses caribou habitat* management in a manner consistent with the content, measures and objectives* identified in the Range Plan Guidance for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population (Environment and Climate Change Canada 2016), or subsequent direction from Environment and Climate Change Canada that replaces or supplements the Guidance exists, and is being implemented. At a minimum, the content of the range plan* being implemented includes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. An assessment of the status of the population in the range, supplemented by information on the status of the population in the Management Unit*;</b></li> <li><b>2. An assessment of the habitat*, including current habitat* condition, critical habitat*, and disturbance levels;</b></li> <li><b>3. Identification of important habitat* or landscape* features, including continuous tracts of undisturbed habitat*, known calving areas, and travel corridors;</b></li> <li><b>4. Habitat* management measures that will support self-sustaining caribou populations and protect critical habitat*;</b></li> <li><b>5. A demonstration of how at least 65% undisturbed habitat* in the range will be achieved or maintained over time;</b></li> <li><b>6. Incorporation of Indigenous Peoples** knowledge; and</b></li> <li><b>7. Monitoring of habitat* condition.</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p>Approach 6.4.5a is applicable where appropriate range plans* exist. The requirements related to range plan* content identified above are key provisions identified by ECCC (2016). It is the expectation of the direction provided by ECCC (2016) that range plans* will be prepared by government agencies. The Organization* will have responsibilities, or shared responsibilities, for implementation of the range plan*.</p> <p>The requirement to assess the status of the caribou population in the range is intended to lead to a conclusion as to whether the population is stable, increasing, decreasing, or unknown.</p> <p>Where only a portion of the Management Unit* is covered by a range plan* that meets the requirements of Approach 6.4.5a, the range plan* is being implemented for that portion of the Management Unit*, and Approach 6.4.5b or 6.4.5c is being implemented for the remainder of the Management Unit* that is within a caribou range* not covered by the range plan*.</p> <p>Where a range plan* that meets the requirements of Approach 6.4.5a above does not exist, management of caribou habitat* is being implemented following Approach 6.4.5b or 6.4.5c.</p> <p>A SARA (Species at Risk Act)-compliant range plan is a caribou habitat management plan that has been confirmed by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) as meeting the requirements of section 7.4 of the Federal Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou, Boreal population, in Canada.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.4.5b</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Management of caribou habitat* is implemented following the requirements of Table 6.4.5. The following requirements are also addressed:</b></p>	<p>See Annex 1 Table 6.4.5 Requirements for the management of Caribou habitat</p> <p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p>35% Benchmark for Disturbed Area</p> <p>Approach 6.4.5b uses a disturbance level of 35% as the high-</p>

<p><b>1. Updated measurements of cumulative disturbance* are used, where available, provided that the methodology used in calculating cumulative disturbance* and definitions of human-induced and natural disturbance are comparable to those employed by Environment Canada (2012).</b></p> <p><b>2. Best efforts* are made to keep projected levels of cumulative disturbance* on caribou ranges* below 35% when a large natural disturbance occurs that significantly elevates the levels of cumulative disturbance*. Expert* input is used to identify how to adjust management activities* following large natural disturbances.</b></p>	<p>risk* threshold in Table 6.4.5 Requirements for the management of caribou habitat*. The threshold is not intended to serve as a target level of disturbance, but as a level beyond which significant measures are necessary to address the state of habitat* on caribou ranges*. However, 35% is not a 'tipping point' beyond which caribou population will switch from sustainable to unsustainable. Rather, this management threshold, prescribed by Canada's Federal Recovery Strategy for the boreal population of woodland caribou, is a point along a continuum of risk* for boreal caribou that carries with it some uncertainty. Specifically, the Federal Recovery Strategy notes that, "This recovery strategy identifies 65% undisturbed habitat in a range as the disturbance management threshold, which provides a measurable probability (60%) for a local population to be self-sustaining. This threshold is considered a minimum threshold because at 65% undisturbed habitat there remains a significant risk* (40%) that local populations will not be self-sustaining."</p> <p>The significance of the 35% benchmark is also recognized in the Range Plan Guidance for Woodland Caribou which states, "A demonstration of how at least 65% undisturbed habitat in the range will be achieved or maintained over time on the landscape is essential to the range plan." This is recognized in the structure of Table 6.4.5 and several of its requirements.</p> <p><b>Spatial Aspects</b></p> <p>Some Management Units* may include areas both within and outside caribou ranges*. For this Approach, the management requirements identified in Table 6.4.5 are to be assessed based only on the area of the Forest Management Unit* within caribou ranges*.</p> <p>If a Management Unit* extends into more than one caribou range*, this Approach's requirements based on the level of disturbance within the Management Unit* are to be addressed separately for the distinct portions of the Forest Management Unit* in each caribou range*.</p> <p>Figures 1 to 3 in Annex G provide examples of the Approach's requirements in different situations.</p> <p><b>The Importance of Population Information</b></p> <p>The framework in Table 6.4.5 is based on cumulative disturbance* and caribou population status in caribou ranges*. The conventional means of evaluating caribou population status is through the use of data on demographic trends, such as population growth rate, calf recruitment, and female survival. Table 6.4.5 recognizes this by specifically identifying management requirements associated with the status of populations within caribou ranges*.</p> <p>There may be circumstances in which a caribou population is stable or increasing due to, or with the assistance of, extraordinary human intervention, such as predator control or fencing of large areas. Based on the weight of evidence, if a population is believed to be stable or increasing only because of such measures, the requirements associated with the population status of "decreasing or unknown" should be used as a basis for evaluation of conformance with the requirements of Table 6.4.5.</p> <p><b>Table 6.4.5 – Requirement 4</b></p> <p>Requirement 4 involves an assessment of the state of caribou habitat* within the Management Unit* as of January 1, 2018 (using the most up-to-date data for disturbance available). The Organization* may either compile information, or access already-existing spatial information, on the extent of disturbance in the Management Unit* so that the requirement to set aside at least 50% of the undisturbed area for at least 30-50 years can be addressed.</p>
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	<p>The requirement states that ECCC (2016) is to be used as a basis for identifying and managing undisturbed habitat* to be set aside. Refer to Section 5 (“Managing the 65% Undisturbed Habitat*”) of ECCC (2016) for important considerations related to this direction.</p> <p>Habitat* Restoration*</p> <p>As it is used in Table 6.4.5 Requirements for the management of Caribou Habitat, habitat* restoration* is the process of returning habitat* to a condition suitable for use by caribou and/or a state comparable to its condition prior to disturbance, in the context of the overall caribou range* condition. The ultimate intent of habitat* restoration* is the recovery and persistence of caribou populations.</p> <p>Approach 6.4.5b, Requirement 1 – Measures of cumulative disturbance*</p> <p>This requirement identifies that approaches other than those used by Environment Canada may be used in quantifying cumulative disturbance*. This refers to the increasingly standard practice by provinces and territories to use provincial/territorial datasets to quantify disturbance, rather than the national disturbance layer in Environment Canada (2012).</p> <p>Approach 6.4.5b, Requirement 2 – Best efforts* to keep projected levels of disturbance below 35%</p> <p>In the boreal forests, large natural disturbances, such as fire or windthrow, may significantly affect levels of cumulative disturbance* in Management Units* and caribou ranges* and add to overall risk* to caribou persistence in a caribou range*. Large disturbances outside the Management Unit* may affect the level of cumulative disturbance* in the caribou range* in which the Management Unit* exists.</p>
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<p><b>Indicator 6.4.5c</b></p> <p><b>Through an efficient collaborative process* with self-identified interested and affected stakeholders* and affected Indigenous Peoples*, a caribou conservation* approach consistent with the Range Plan Guidance for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population (ECCC 2016) is implemented for the Management Unit*.</b></p> <p><b>Informed by best available information* and peer-reviewed science, the approach fosters stewardship of caribou habitat* that supports self-sustaining caribou populations. The approach includes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. An assessment of the status of population in the Management Unit*;</b></li> <li><b>2. An assessment of the current habitat* condition, critical habitat*, and disturbance levels;</b></li> <li><b>3. Identification of important habitat* or landscape* features, including continuous tracts of undisturbed habitat*, known calving areas and travel corridors;</b></li> <li><b>4. Habitat* management measures that will support self-sustaining caribou populations and protect critical habitat*;</b></li> <li><b>5. Incorporation of a habitat* disturbance threshold informed by experts* to meet habitat* requirements for the caribou range* in which the Management Unit* exists;</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p>Intent:</p> <p>In the absence of a range plan* (Approach 6.4.5a) and in recognition that the scientific basis for managing caribou habitat* continues to evolve, this Approach provides a means to implement management other than that identified by Approach 6.4.5b.</p> <p>Engagement* and Development of Caribou Conservation Plans</p> <p>This Approach requires that engagement* be undertaken with self-identified stakeholders* and affected Indigenous Peoples*. Efforts to engage could include contacting stakeholders* with a history of FSC involvement and/or interest in conservation* and informing them of the opportunity to participate. Stakeholders* who express an interest are “self-identified”. There is no requirement for The Organization* to engage stakeholders* who do not express an interest.</p> <p>Although the efficient collaborative process* is similar to that identified in Criterion 6.5, the stakeholders* and Indigenous Peoples* involved need not be the same because the topics involved (i.e. caribou habitat* management and Conservation Areas Networks*) require different sets of knowledge and may involve different groups of stakeholders* and Indigenous Peoples*.</p> <p>It is reasonable* that The Organization*, in collaboration with stakeholders* and Indigenous Peoples*, develop a process for efficient cooperation that may involve delegation of representation across groups that share common interests.</p> <p>The results of the socio-economic evaluation (item 8 in the Indicator*) are intended to improve the effectiveness of protection of caribou populations and their habitats.</p>
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<p>6. <b>Respect for, and effective engagement* of, Indigenous Peoples*;</b></p> <p>7. <b>Incorporation of knowledge from interested and affected stakeholders*;</b></p> <p>8. <b>Evaluation of socio-economic impacts; and</b></p> <p>9. <b>Monitoring of habitat* condition and population response.</b></p>	<p>Incorporation of New Science and Information</p> <p>This Approach facilitates incorporation of new science and information into the means used to manage caribou habitat*. The Approach requires the use of best available information* and peer-reviewed science. This perspective is consistent with that identified in the Range Plan Guidance (ECCC 2016) that requires strong scientific evidence to support managing the range below the 65% undisturbed threshold.</p> <p>Although Approach 6.4.5c can be based on the use of more recent and credible information and science, the nature of its requirements regarding assessment of habitat*, habitat management measures, monitoring, etc. are consistent with those identified for Approach 6.4.5a.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.4.6</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Training is provided to all relevant workers* in field operations and planning on the identification of species at risk*, and on appropriate measures to take when a species at risk* or sign of a species at risk* is identified during field operations.</b></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 6.4.7</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>When a species at risk* or sign of a species at risk* is identified during field operations, protection* measures consistent with the plans or precautionary approach* identified in Indicators 6.4.3 and 6.4.4 are implemented and relevant information is immediately provided to the appropriate resource management agencies.</b></p>	<p>INTENT:</p> <p>This Indicator* refers to "signs" of a species at risk*. Signs can include nests, tracks, dens, or other indications that a species exists in the forest*.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.4.8</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>The Organization* demonstrates within the scope of its authority and within its sphere of influence* how it is addressing the following:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Prevention of illegal hunting, trapping, and fishing of species at risk*;</b></li> <li>2. <b>Collection of data on populations and habitats* of species at risk*;</b></li> <li>3. <b>Management of habitat* for species at risk*; and</b></li> <li>4. <b>Monitoring of habitats* and populations of species at risk*.</b></li> </ol>	<p>INTENT:</p> <p>This Indicator* refers to "signs" of a species at risk*. Signs can include nests, tracks, dens, or other indications that a species exists in the forest*. This Indicator's* requirement that The Organization* work within the scope of its authority is intended to recognize limitations on the legal responsibilities and rights associated with various tenure* situations. Owners of private lands have more rights associated with activities such as access management, habitat* manipulation, etc. than The Organizations* that practice forestry on tenured lands, although all are subject to laws related species at risk*.</p>



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

## INTENT

### Overview

This *Criterion\** addresses effort to add to the *Conservation Area Network\** in the *Management Unit\** by filling gaps in the existing network with new *designated conservation lands\** and *secondary conservation lands\**. The role of *The Organization\**, as expressed through this *Criterion's\** *Indicators\** is to lay the groundwork for working towards and achieving a vision for the *Conservation Areas Network\**.

### Terminology

A *Conservation Areas Network\** is comprised of those portions of *Management Unit\** and adjacent *area of ecological influence\** for which *conservation\** is the primary, and in some circumstances, exclusive *objective\**. On public forests, the *Conservation Areas Network\** is the sum of *protected areas\** and *designated conservation lands\**. On private forests, the *Conservation Areas Network\** also includes *secondary conservation lands\**.

*Protected areas\** are lands protected by legislation, regulation, or government land-use policy. Provincial parks are an example of these lands. *Designated conservation lands\** are to be managed through the exclusion of *forest management activities\** in recognition of their ecological and/or cultural values. Forest management is permitted on *secondary conservation lands\** provided that it maintains the ecological and cultural qualities that are the basis of the lands' designation.

Refer to the Glossary for complete definitions of terms used in this *Criterion\**.

### Objectives\* - Public Forests

On public forests, a *long-term\* objective\** of *designated conservation lands\** is to transition to *legal\* protected status* (i.e. *protected areas\**). However, it is recognized that the ultimate decision to move those *designated conservation lands\** to protected status belongs to governments, not *The Organization\**. Creation of *protected areas\** is usually the product of broad government initiatives that often include *engagement\** with *stakeholders\**, communities, and with *Indigenous Peoples\**. Lack of immediate increases in the regulated protected area network (i.e. within the period of validity of a certificate) should be viewed in the context of the complexity of the processes involved and the challenges inherent in balancing ecological, social, economic and social interests. It does not necessarily imply failure to meet this *Criterion's\** *Indicators\**.

The process of attempting to move *designated conservation lands\** within the traditional territories of *Indigenous Peoples\** to *legal\* protected status* can only proceed based on their *Free, Prior and Informed Consent\**.

*Designated conservation lands\** are expected to be permanently protected whether or not they are successful in transitioning to legally protected status. In other words, in the indefinite time between identification of *designated conservation lands\** and their movement to official legally protected status, the lands are to be exempted from *forest management activities\**, except in relatively rare circumstances (described in Indicator 6.5.9).

### Objectives\* - Private Forests

Privately owned forests are expected to contribute to the *Conservation Areas Network\** through the identification and creation of *designated conservation lands\** and *secondary conservation lands\**. However, private landowners are not expected to attempt to move *designated conservation lands\** or *secondary conservation lands\** to legislated status on their lands.

### Relationship with Principle 9

**This *Criterion\** focuses on identification of lands that serve to fill gaps in the *Conservation Areas Network\** for which *protection\** through the exclusion or limitation of *forest management activities\****

should be a priority. Therefore, there is overlap between the mandate of this *Criterion\** and the role of *High Conservation Values (HCVs)\**, identified in Principle 9. As described in the HCV Common Guidance<sup>1</sup>, and consistent with the HCV Framework provided in this Standard (Annex D), *HCVs\** can include areas that require total *protection\**, and areas that can be used to produce forest products if management is consistent with maintaining or enhancing *HCVs\**. Therefore, some areas identified as *HCVs\** can also be *designated conservation lands\** and *secondary conservation lands\**, and others, while still playing important roles in *management activities\** and *conservation\**, may not be. The identification of *designated conservation lands\** and *secondary conservation lands\** does not in any way detract from the importance of *HCVs\** in which some forest *management activities\** may still occur.

Indicator 6.5.0	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<p><b>Conformance with the Indicators* of Criterion 6.4 of the relevant Canadian regional FSC Standard is maintained.</b></p>	<p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p>This Indicator* requires that an engagement* process be undertaken with self-identified stakeholders*. Self-identified stakeholders* are stakeholders* with a history of FSC involvement and/or interest in conservation* and who express an interest in participating when informed of the opportunity to be involved. There is no requirement for The Organization* to engage* stakeholders* who do not express an interest.</p> <p>Dealing with many individuals and/or groups with overlapping interests can lead to an unwieldy process and slow progress. It is reasonable* that The Organization*, in collaboration with the stakeholders* and affected Indigenous Peoples*, develop a process for efficient cooperation that may involve delegation of representation across groups that share common interests. Delegation requires the support of stakeholders* and affected Indigenous Peoples*.</p>
Indicator 6.5.1i (interim indicator)	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<p><b>For forests* managed on public lands, Indigenous Peoples* whose traditional territory overlaps the Management Unit* and self-identified interested and affected stakeholders* are engaged* in discussions to develop a mechanism to achieve consensus* on the identification of designated conservation lands*.</b></p>	
Indicator 6.5.1	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<p><b>For forests* managed on public lands, an efficient process is used to engage* Indigenous Peoples* whose traditional territory overlaps the Management Unit* and self-identified interested and affected stakeholders*, regarding the identification and management of designated conservation lands*.</b></p> <p><b>The process includes the development of a mechanism to achieve consensus* on the identified designated conservation lands*.</b></p>	<p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p>This Indicator* requires that an engagement* process be undertaken with self-identified stakeholders*. Self-identified stakeholders* are stakeholders* with a history of FSC involvement and/or interest in conservation* and who express an interest in participating when informed of the opportunity to be involved. There is no requirement for The Organization* to engage* stakeholders* who do not express an interest.</p> <p>Dealing with many individuals and/or groups with overlapping interests can lead to an unwieldy process and slow progress. It is reasonable* that The Organization*, in collaboration with the stakeholders* and affected Indigenous Peoples*, develop a process for efficient cooperation that may involve delegation of representation across groups that share common interests. Delegation requires the support of stakeholders* and affected Indigenous Peoples*.</p>

<sup>1</sup>HCV Resource Network. 2013. Common Guidance for the Identification of High Conservation Values. Proforest and the High Conservation Values Network. 63 p.

<p><b>Indicator 6.5.2i (interim indicator)</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Analyses to identify gaps in the completeness of the Conservation Areas Network* of the Management Unit* have been initiated.</b></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 6.5.2</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Using best available information*, an analysis is used to identify potential gaps in the completeness of the Conservation Areas Network* in the Management Unit*. Elements considered for inclusion in the gap analysis address enduring features*, representation of native ecosystems*, landscape* connectivity*, High Conservation Values* and High Conservation Value areas*.</b></p> <p><b>The analysis uses inputs from the entire area of ecological influence*.</b></p> <p><b>The results of the gap analysis are mapped.</b></p>	<p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p><b>Area of Ecological Influence*</b></p> <p><i>The area of ecological influence* (AEI) includes the entire area encompassed by ecological units (e.g. ecodistricts*, biogeoclimatic zones) that occur at least partly within the Management Unit*. The intent of using an area that extends beyond the Management Unit* in the gap analysis is to incorporate a broader landscape* perspective into consideration of the Conservation Areas Network*. An analysis that takes account of a broad landscape* (i.e. including the area of ecological influence*) is better suited to providing an accurate assessment of conservation* gaps. There may be circumstances in which there is little protected area* encompassed by the Management Unit*, but considerably more in the area of ecological influence*. In such a circumstance, there may be fewer gaps than would be identified if only lands encompassed by Management Unit* were used in the analysis.</i></p> <p><i>In the figure below, the Management Unit* overlaps two ecological units, so the area of ecological influence* includes the total areas encompassed by both ecological units. To provide the most useful gap analysis, data from the entire area of ecological influence* should be used. However, depending on the size of the area of ecological influence*, and the availability of data formatted to facilitate efficient analysis, the level of effort required to incorporate all elements identified in the Indicator* that occur outside the Management Unit* may be unrealistic. A reasonable* starting point for the analysis would consider information on the size and location of protected areas* from outside the Management Unit*.</i></p> <div data-bbox="746 1444 1425 1821"> <p>Where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="border: 1px dashed black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span> = Forest Management Unit*</li> <li><span style="background-color: black; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span> = Existing protected areas*</li> <li><span style="background-color: #cccccc; display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px;"></span> = Area of ecological influence*</li> </ul> </div>
<p><b>Indicator 6.5.3</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>A peer review* of the gap analysis is completed by one or more independent experts*.</b></p>	

<b>Indicator 6.5.4</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
For forests* managed on public land, the gap analysis and peer review* are made publicly available*, including in electronic format.	
<b>Indicator 6.5.5</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
Areas that address Conservation Areas Network* gaps are identified as designated conservation lands* or secondary conservation lands*.	<b>INTENT:</b> As noted previously, designated conservation lands* may occur on both private and public forests, whereas secondary conservation lands* may occur only on private forests.
<b>Indicator 6.5.6</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
Designated conservation lands* and secondary conservation lands* are of sufficient size to ensure the values they are intended to address are effectively protected based on a precautionary approach*.	
<b>Indicator 6.5.7i</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
Evidence is provided to demonstrate how each of the numbered points in Indicator 6.5.7 is being, or will be addressed in identifying the total proposed area of the Conservation Area Network*.	
<b>Indicator 6.5.7</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<p>The Conservation Areas Network* comprises a minimum of 10% of the area of the Management Unit*. The extent of the Conservation Areas Network* on the Management Unit* is identified by considering:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Relative extent of the Conservation Areas Network* in the area of ecological influence*;</li> <li>2. Contribution of the Conservation Areas Network* to the attainment of regional provincial, national and international (e.g. Aichi biodiversity targets) conservation* and protected area* targets;</li> <li>3. Best available scientific information and research regarding appropriate conservation* targets;</li> <li>4. Previous contributions of The Organization* to Conservation Areas Network* on lands that were formerly within the Management Unit*; and</li> <li>5. Socio-economic considerations (e.g. implications for wood availability and harvest levels).</li> </ol> <p>Evidence is provided to validate any claim of the existence of protected areas* that were formerly within the Management Unit*.</p>	<b>INTENT:</b> As described earlier, on public forests, the Conservation Areas Network* is the sum of protected areas* and designated conservation lands*, whereas on private forests, it also includes secondary conservation lands*. This Indicator* requires that the Conservation Areas Network* must comprise a minimum of 10% of the area of the Management Unit*. However, 10% should not be also interpreted as a maximum or desirable level in all circumstances. There may be instances in which a more extensive Conservation Areas Network* is warranted based on the factors considered in the gap analysis (Indicator 6.5.2), and the distribution of protected areas* and other ecologically and culturally important lands within the area of ecological influence*. Provided that at least the 10% threshold is reached, the overall size should reflect a balance of the points listed in this Indicator*.
<b>Indicator 6.5.8i</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>

Discussions intended to achieve consensus on the identification of designated conservation lands through the implementation of Indicator 6.5.1 have been initiated.	
<p><b>Indicator 6.5.8</b></p> <p>For forests* managed on public land, consensus* is achieved on the identification of designated conservation lands* through implementation of the process identified in Indicator 6.5.1.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p>INTENT:</p> <p>Indicator 6.5.8 builds upon the process identified in Indicator 6.5.1. Indicator 6.5.1 requires engagement* with Indigenous Peoples* and stakeholders* to build a process to achieve consensus*. It is expected that the process developed to achieve consensus* includes the participation of The Organization*, and that the interests of The Organization* be among those considered in the achievement of consensus*.</p> <p>Consensus* should be the result of a process seeking to take into account the views of The Organization*, Indigenous Peoples*, and stakeholders*, and to reconcile any conflicting arguments. It need not imply unanimity.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.5.9</b></p> <p>Forest operations including harvesting, silviculture*, and road* building, are not undertaken by The Organization* within designated conservation lands* except when confirmed by independent expert* opinion as appropriate to achieve objectives* associated with restoration* or maintenance of natural conditions*.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p>Most organizations operating on public land can only control management activities* within their allocated rights as tenure* holders, and so this Indicator* refers specifically to “Forest operations...undertaken by The Organization*”, recognizing that other industrial operations may have overlapping tenure* rights. Indicator 6.5.11 addresses obligations of The Organization* related to its sphere of influence*.</p> <p>In rare cases, road* building may be necessary to conduct management operations in areas beyond designated conservation lands*. Such road* building and maintenance within a designated conservation land* should only be undertaken when use or creation of existing or alternate access would be extremely difficult and result in more ecological damage than alternatives.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.5.10</b></p> <p>For forests* managed on private land, forest operations are undertaken on secondary conservation lands* only when they maintain the ecological and cultural qualities that are the basis of the lands’ designation.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.5.11i</b></p> <p>Overlapping tenure holders*, neighbouring Forest Management Units* and relevant government agencies are informed of this Standard’s objectives related to Conservation Area Networks*, efforts underway by The Organization* and the roles and opportunities for others to assist in reaching the goals.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.5.11</b></p> <p>For forests* managed on public land, The Organization* works within its sphere of influence* to achieve the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Move designated conservation lands* to full legal* regulated status;</li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p>INTENT:</p> <p>Sphere of Influence* and FPIC*</p>

<p><b>2. Recognition of designated conservation lands* in management plans* and other relevant documents; and</b></p> <p><b>3. Avoid harvesting, road* building and other operations proposed by other tenure* holders that are not consistent with conservation* objectives* of designated conservation lands*.</b></p> <p><b>Free, Prior and Informed Consent* is obtained prior to efforts to work within The Organization's* sphere of influence* to achieve regulated status for designated conservation lands* that overlap Indigenous Peoples* traditional territories (per Criterion 3.2).</b></p>	<p>This Indicator* recognizes that Free, Prior, and Informed Consent* of Indigenous Peoples* is necessary before attempts should be made to move designated conservation lands* on traditional territories to legally protected status. The Organization* is expected to inquire with Indigenous Peoples* regarding their interest in seeking legal* protection for lands in their traditional territories. Where FPIC* is not obtained, the lands are expected to remain as designated conservation lands*, but efforts on the part of The Organization* to obtain legally protected status do not proceed. Requirements 2 and 3 in the above Indicator* are to be addressed regardless of the attainment of FPIC*, as these requirements do not relate to the attainment of legally protected status.</p> <p>After Designated Conservation Lands* have been moved to legislated status</p> <p>When an area of designated conservation lands* is moved to regulated protected status through collaborative efforts with the regional, provincial or federal government, new designated conservation lands* need not be identified to replace the ones that have been granted regulated status, although the objectives* associated with achieving the total area of the conservation areas network*, as identified in Indicator 6.5.7, would remain in place. The success of moving designated conservation lands* to regulated status should be noted by the auditors along with the gap that it addressed so that in future gap analyses, assessments and audits, The Organization* will not need to 'replace' the formally protected designated conservation lands* with new ones.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.5.12</b></p> <p><b>The completed gap analysis is reviewed at least every five years, and updated if necessary, based on availability of new information or advances in gap analysis methodology.</b></p> <p><b>If substantial changes to the gap analysis occur as a result of the update, a peer review* is undertaken.</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p>This Indicator* requires that the gap analysis be reviewed at least every five years. This does not necessarily mean that the gap analysis will need to be redone at that interval. As the Indicator* requires, the analysis will only need to be redone or updated if relevant new information or an improved methodology becomes available.</p> <p>For example, new information that may necessitate updating the gap analysis could include the creation of new protected areas* that address some of the previously-identified gaps, or an improved landscape* classification system that provides an improved basis for identifying gaps. The bar for deciding whether there is a sufficient basis for proceeding with an update should be neither too high nor too low. The expectation is that updates only are considered if it is likely that the new analysis will identify meaningfully different gaps from those identified in the previous analysis.</p>
<p><b>Criterion 6.6</b>     <b><i>The Organization* shall* effectively maintain the continued existence of naturally occurring native species* and genotypes*, and prevent losses of biological diversity*, especially through habitat* management in the Management Unit*. The Organization* shall* demonstrate that effective measures are in place to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting.</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 6.6.1</b></p> <p><b>For all harvest areas* including those on which salvage operations following natural disturbances are to be undertaken, best available information* is used to identify targets for the post-harvest forest composition for:</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p><b>INTENT:</b></p>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Density and spatial distribution of residual (live and dead) trees and patches within harvest areas*;</b></li> <li>2. <b>Size distribution of live and dead trees;</b></li> <li>3. <b>Size distribution of patches;</b></li> <li>4. <b>Residual species composition; and</b></li> <li>5. <b>Management of coarse woody debris.</b></li> </ol> <p><b>Targets are appropriate for the silvicultural systems* (e.g. clear-cut, selection, shelterwood) in use.</b></p> <p><b>Targets are set taking concerns for worker* safety into account.</b></p>	<p>In some circumstances, it may not be possible or practical to set quantitative targets. For example, it may be too difficult to measure coarse woody debris, and there may be uncertainty about appropriate amounts to maintain. Nonetheless, it is known that woody debris plays an important ecological role, and so targets may include the way management practices will address maintenance on the site, such as minimizing the crushing of large downed logs, leaving of unmerchantable* portions of logs at the stump, etc. In other cases, practical considerations may constrain the ability of The Organization* to set targets; for example, where deciduous trees are harvested in the winter it may not be possible to set specific targets for retention of dead trees. Assessment of conformance with this Indicator* should take considerations such as these into account.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.6.2</b></p> <p><b>Management activities* are implemented to achieve the targets identified in Indicator 6.6.1.</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.6.3</b></p> <p><b>Management activities* maintain regionally uncommon stand*- and site-scale ecological elements and important habitat features*, including:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Ancient forest* patches;</b></li> <li>2. <b>Rare sites and plant communities as defined by ecological classification systems;</b></li> <li>3. <b>Vernal pools;</b></li> <li>4. <b>Small wetlands*;</b></li> <li>5. <b>Den sites;</b></li> <li>6. <b>Nest sites for birds of prey;</b></li> <li>7. <b>Ungulate calving sites/areas;</b></li> <li>8. <b>Spawning sites for fish;</b></li> <li>9. <b>Important bird migration sites;</b></li> <li>10. <b>Super-canopy trees*;</b></li> <li>11. <b>Wallows; and</b></li> <li>12. <b>Mineral licks.</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p>Best available information* should be used to identify stand*- and site-scale environmental values* as required in Indicator 6.1.2. Although some habitat features* may not be identified before the start of operations, it is still necessary to address the requirements of this Indicator* to maintain those values. Management activities* can maintain these values by, for example, ensuring that operational staff have adequate tools and training to recognize the values and implement appropriate protective measures. However, it is recognized that the season during which the operation takes place can make it difficult or impossible to identify some values (e.g. it would likely not be possible to identify den sites, very small wetlands* or wallows during winter operations).</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.6.4</b></p> <p><b>Best efforts* are made to maintain habitat features* and increase the quality and quantity of habitat features*, including those identified in Indicator 6.6.3, that have suffered long-term* degradation due to forest management activities*.</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p>In the context of this Indicator*, degradation does not simply mean a decline in short-term abundance, but is a more serious condition in which the state of a habitat feature* does not provide the ecological value it normally does in the forest*. It would be difficult or impractical to attempt to improve the quality or quantity of some habitat features*, such as wallows, for example, that may have declined. It is possible, however, to enhance or restore* others, such as spawning beds for fish that have been affected by erosion caused by forest management activities*, for example. Implementation and auditing of this Indicator* will require good judgement, focusing on practical efforts that are likely to produce tangible results.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.6.5</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>

<p>The Organization* works within the scope of its authority and within its sphere of influence* to implement sustainable management related to hunting, fishing, and trapping, and collecting activities for which there are known concerns.</p>	<p>INTENT: This Indicator* is similar to Indicator 6.4.7 in the manner in which it requires The Organization* to work within the scope of their authority and within their sphere of influence*. Refer to the Intent Box for that Indicator* for discussion on these topics.</p>
<p><b>Criterion 6.7</b>      <i>The Organization* shall* protect* or restore* natural watercourses, water bodies*, riparian zones* and their connectivity*. The Organization* shall* avoid negative impacts on water quality and quantity and mitigate and remedy those that occur.</i></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 6.7.1</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><i>Best management practices* are in place that identify measures to protect water bodies*, riparian zones*, and water quality. At a minimum, the measures address the following:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>1. Buffer widths sufficient to protect water quality, aquatic and emergent vegetation and habitat* for fish, invertebrates, other aquatic species, and terrestrial species;</i></li> <li><i>2. Machine-free zones that are not entered except where required for construction of crossings or other approved infrastructure* or restoration* of riparian functions or water bodies*;</i></li> <li><i>3. Restriction of in-stream activities to avoid sensitive fisheries seasons;</i></li> <li><i>4. Prevention of negative changes in water quantity and quality including through maintaining stream shading sufficient to protect against deleterious changes in stream temperature;</i></li> <li><i>5. Minimizing disruption of natural drainage patterns, including when locating and constructing roads*, landings and skidways;</i></li> <li><i>6. Prevention of sedimentation of water bodies*; and</i></li> <li><i>7. Protection* of intermittent streams* and ephemeral streams*.</i></li> </ol>	
<p><b>Indicator 6.7.2</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>The best management practices* identified in Indicator 6.7.1 are being implemented.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 6.7.3</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>Restoration* activities are implemented for watercourses, water bodies*, riparian zones* and their connectivity*, water quantity and water quality:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Where protection* measures implemented by The Organization* fail to protect environmental values* from impacts of forest management activities*, and/or</b></li> <li><b>2. When damage has been caused to these environmental values* by past activities of The Organization* or previous forest managers.</b></li> </ol>	<p>INTENT: The Organization* is encouraged to identify appropriate benchmarks for defining when restoration* activities are necessary. These benchmarks could address the gravity of existing or likely environmental degradation, impacts on affected stakeholders*, impacts on forest operations, safety of all users and cost.</p>



	Instances in which previous measures to protect water quality or aquatic systems are not up to contemporary standards, but are effective nonetheless, the most prudent course of management action may be to leave the existing measures, such as box culverts, in place. In some instances, attempts to fix antiquated measures may result in more damage than simply leaving the measure in place. The Organization* is expected to use best judgement in these circumstances and be able to validate their course of action based on experience and/or best management practices*.
<p><b>Indicator 6.7.4</b></p> <p>Where management activities* that are not within its direct control have the potential to significantly affect water bodies* and/or riparian zones*, The Organization* works within its sphere of influence* to attempt to prevent degradation, implement protective measures and remedy instances in which past measures are no longer effective.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.7.5</b></p> <p>Best management practices* are in place that identify measures to control changes in flow in watersheds* with significant downstream values resulting from management activities*. Appropriate to the scale, intensity and risk* of operations the measures include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Employing analytical approaches to identify and avoid hydrological impacts associated with decreased or increased flows caused by forest management activities*;</li> <li>2. Management of cutblock* and harvest area* sizes, elevation and aspect;</li> <li>3. Avoiding subsurface and surface drainage interception and/or diversion by roads* and trails;</li> <li>4. Planning and implementing harvesting to minimize road* density; and</li> <li>5. Prompt road* reclamation and reforestation of logged sites.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.7.6</b></p> <p>Where management activities* that are not within its direct control have the potential to significantly affect water bodies* and/or riparian zones*, The Organization* works within its sphere of influence* to attempt to prevent degradation, implement protective measures and remedy instances in which past measures are no longer effective.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p>INTENT:</p> <p>Potential impacts of forestry on peak flow are greatest in areas with moderate to steep topography. In Canada, such areas occur primarily in British Columbia and western Alberta, but occur in other parts of the country too. The need to address this Indicator* is based on scale, intensity and risk*, so consideration of topography will influence the extent to which The Organization* is expected to implement the requirements of this Indicator*.</p> <p>This Indicator* requires that analytical approaches be used to identify and avoid hydrological impacts associated with increased flows, but does not specify which approaches are to be used as regional differences in regulatory, environment, topography and downstream values may play a role in deciding which approaches are most appropriate.</p>

<b>Criterion 6.8</b>	<p><b><i>The Organization* shall* manage the landscape* in the Management Unit* to maintain and/or restore* a varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales* and regeneration cycles appropriate for the landscape values* in that region, and for enhancing environmental and economic resilience*.</i></b></p>
<b>Indicator 6.8.1i (interim Indicator)</b>  <b>In conjunction with efforts related to Indicator 6.1.4i, efforts are underway to identify targets for the distribution of forest types* and age classes of forest types* to maintain, restore*, or enhance the condition of the forest*, appropriate to the regional context</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b>Indicator 6.8.1</b>  <b>Based on the analyses undertaken for Indicators 6.1.3 and 6.1.4, targets are identified for the distribution of forest types* and age classes of forest types* that are intended to maintain, restore*, or enhance the condition of the forest* appropriate to the regional context.</b>  <b>Targets may take anticipated impacts of climate change into account provided they are based on best available information*.</b>  <b>Target age-class* distributions represent the full range of natural forest* ages such that old forest* classes are incorporated into the targets.</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>  <b>INTENT:</b>  The Organization* should identify targets that require them to make diligent efforts to achieve progressive outcomes related to forest structure and composition that take the regional context into account. In regions with a long history of settlement and land conversion, where the forest* has been significantly altered from a pre-industrial condition*, an appropriate target may include the maintenance of natural forests*. In forests* that have not been significantly altered, appropriate targets may take into account opportunities to return the forest* to a more natural condition. Such targets may be based on the use of the interquartile range* where a RONV* analysis has been used in Indicator 6.1.4.  As identified in the Intent Box for Indicator 6.1.4, there may be circumstances in which it is appropriate to use a blended approach of range of natural variation* and pre-industrial condition* to set targets for the future forest condition. In these circumstances The Organization* is expected to implement the requirements of this Indicator* for those portions of the forest* that are most well-suited for each approach.
<b>Indicator 6.8.2</b>  <b>Measures are being implemented to achieve the targets for distributions of forest types* and age classes of forest types* identified in Indicator 6.8.1.</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b>Indicator 6.8.3i (interim indicator)</b>  <b>In conjunction with efforts related to Indicator 6.1.4i, efforts are underway to identify targets for the size distribution of forest patches to maintain restore*, or enhance the condition of the forest*, appropriate to the regional context.</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>  <b>INTENT:</b>  As for Indicator 6.8.1, The Organization* should identify targets that require them to make diligent efforts to achieve progressive outcomes related to forest structure and composition, and take the regional context into account. Considerations should include the extent to which the size distribution of forest patches of the present forest* differs from pre-industrial conditions*. Pre-industrial* and natural conditions* may not be appropriate targets given that large disturbances may not be socially acceptable.
<b>Indicator 6.8.3</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>

<p>Based on the analyses undertaken for Indicators 6.1.3 and 6.1.4, targets are identified for the size distribution of forest patches to maintain, restore*, or enhance the condition of the forest* as appropriate to the regional context.</p> <p>The targets also take into account the needs of species at risk* that require large areas of contiguous habitat*.</p>	<p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p>As for Indicator 6.8.1, The Organization* should identify targets that require them to make diligent efforts to achieve progressive outcomes related to forest structure and composition, and take the regional context into account. Considerations should include the extent to which the size distribution of forest patches of the present forest* differs from pre-industrial conditions*. Pre-industrial* and natural conditions* may not be appropriate targets given that large disturbances may not be socially acceptable.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.8.4</b></p> <p>Measures are being implemented to achieve the targets for forest patch sizes, identified in Indicator 6.8.3.</p> <p>These include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Maintain contiguous blocks of forest* that are of natural-disturbance origin;</li> <li>2. Aggregate existing and planned disturbances as a means of creating and maintaining large contiguous blocks; and</li> <li>3. Minimize the extent of roads* and other linear disturbances in the contiguous blocks, including through removal and reclamation.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p>This Indicator* involves efforts to maintain contiguous blocks of forest* that are of natural disturbance origin, while implementing measures to achieve the targets identified in Indicator 6.8.3. This requirement is not intended to be additive to those expressed in other Indicators* that may also deal with large blocks of forest*, such as Indicator 6.4.5 (caribou), or the requirements of HCV* Categories 2 and 3 (addressed in Principle 9) that address landscape*-level ecosystems* and large remnant ecosystem* patches. In other words, if the maintenance of contiguous areas of forest* of natural-disturbance origin is addressed elsewhere, additional efforts should not be required to address the requirements of this Indicator*.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.8.5</b></p> <p>In a manner consistent with the ecology of the ecoregion* and forest types* being managed, management activities* show consideration for maintenance and restoration* of connectivity* in the forest landscape*.</p> <p>Connectivity* planning considers the natural mosaic of forest types* and disturbance patterns, as well as managing roads*, linear disturbances, culverts and other crossings of wetlands* and water bodies*, and other barriers that affect connectivity*.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.8.6</b></p> <p>Appropriate to the scale, intensity and risk* of operations, access management is being implemented for roads* developed for forest management that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Addresses use management strategies (including deactivation* and/or abandonment* and maintenance) for all grades of road* under the management of The Organization* or in collaboration with other authorities;</li> <li>2. Considers intactness in areas with sensitive biological values and where remoteness is a key tourism value;</li> <li>3. Implements access development, use, and road* reclamation in contiguous blocks as identified in Indicator 6.8.4, while considering the needs of species at risk* and access-sensitive species;</li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p>This Indicator* requires use management strategies to address deactivation* and/or abandonment and maintenance for all grades of roads*. There may be circumstances in which neither deactivation* nor abandonment* is appropriate, such as when a road* has customary or legal* use by a community or is required by other resources users. In such cases, it would be reasonable* that the management plan* indicates the rationale and plans for ongoing use.</p> <p>This Indicator* refers to road* reclamation in contiguous blocks, linking the requirements of this Indicator* to those of Indicators 6.8.3 and 6.8.4. Reclamation can be either passive, through restriction of access, including removal of water crossings, or active, through practices such as planting or otherwise facilitating regeneration on road* surfaces. Decisions regarding appropriate practices used should take into consideration the likely success of the practices in returning roads* to forested conditions as promptly as is practical.</p>

<p><b>4. Identifies and attempts to maintain a fair and equitable balance between the ecological value of intactness and social and economic values associated with maintenance of access; and</b></p> <p><b>5. Is consistent with or exceeds requirements of approved government/land management plans*.</b></p> <p>Where access and/or other linear disturbances are being constructed or used by other tenure* holders or other land users, The Organization* works within its sphere of influence* to address the components of this <i>Indicator*</i> and encourage others to address the components of the <i>Indicator*</i>.</p>	<p>Refer to Indicator 6.5.9 for consideration of road* building in designated conservation lands*.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 6.8.7</b></p> <p><b>The Organization* works within its sphere of influence*, with managers, agencies and Indigenous Peoples* responsible for managing lands adjacent to the forest* to coordinate approaches to landscape*-level management, including:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Management to facilitate landscape*-scale* connectivity*;</b></li> <li><b>2. Management to minimize cumulative disturbances*;</b> and</li> <li><b>3. Maintenance and/or restoration* of large contiguous areas..</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Criterion 6.9</b>      <b><i>The Organization* shall* not convert natural forest* to plantations*, nor natural forests* or plantations* on sites directly converted from natural forest* to non-forest* land use, except when the conversion:</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a) Affects a very limited portion* of the area of the Management Unit*, and</b></li> <li><b>b) Will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation* benefits in the Management Unit*, and</b></li> <li><b>c) Does not damage or threaten High Conservation Values*, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those High Conservation Values*.</b></li> </ol>	
<p><b>Indicator 6.9.1</b></p> <p><b>The Organization* shall neither convert natural forest* to plantations*, nor convert natural forests* to non-forest land use, nor convert plantations* on sites directly converted from natural forest* to non-forest land use, except when the conversion affects a very limited portion* of the Management Unit*. Where conversion is undertaken by The Organization*, the conversion:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term* conservation* benefits in the Management Unit*;</b> and</li> <li><b>2. Does not damage or threaten High Conservation Values*, or any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those High Conservation Values*.</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p>Refer to the Glossary to understand how the word plantation* is used in this Standard.</p> <p>This Criterion* applies to current and future or planned conversion. Past conversion is covered in Criterion 6.10.</p> <p>If the plantation* site was a natural forest* immediately prior to being converted to a plantation*, then it may not be converted to non-forest uses. However, if the plantation* site was non-forest immediately prior to being converted to a plantation*, then it may be converted back to non-forest uses.</p> <p>The construction of forest roads*, other essential infrastructure* for forest management activities and essential public utilities, such as powerlines, pipelines and railways, are not considered to be conversion processes.</p>

	In this Criterion*, forest* is also meant to be natural forest*, such as a wooded ecosystem* or savannah, for example. As such, non-forest uses or non-forest land uses are not constrained by the meaning of forest* as simply a “tract of land dominated by trees.”
<p><b>Criterion 6.10</b>     <i>Management Units*</i> containing <i>plantations*</i> that were established on areas converted from <i>natural forest*</i> after November 1994 <i>shall*</i> not qualify for certification, except where:</p> <p>a) Clear and sufficient evidence is provided that <i>The Organization*</i> was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion, or</p> <p>b) The conversion affected a <i>very limited portion*</i> of the area of the <i>Management Unit*</i> and is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term <i>conservation*</i> benefits in the <i>Management Unit*</i>.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 6.10.1</b></p> <p>Based on best available information*, accurate data related to prior land use and forest type* present before and after conversion is compiled on all conversions from natural forest* since 1994.</p>	Verifiers & Guidance:
<p><b>Indicator 6.10.2</b></p> <p>Areas converted from <i>natural forest*</i> to <i>plantation*</i> since November 1994 are not certified, except where:</p> <p>1) The <i>Organization*</i> provides clear and sufficient evidence that it was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion; or</p> <p>2) The conversion is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term <i>conservation*</i> benefits in the <i>Management Unit*</i>; and</p> <p>3) The total area of <i>plantation*</i> on sites converted from <i>natural forest*</i> since November 1994 is less than 5% of the total area of the <i>Management Unit*</i>.</p>	Verifiers & Guidance:

**PRINCIPLE 7. MANAGEMENT PLANNING:**

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

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

**INTENT:**

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

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

**Indicator 7.1.1****Verifiers & Guidance:**

Vision, values and strategic objectives\* that support the management plan\* are aligned with the requirements of this Standard.

**Indicator 7.1.2****Verifiers & Guidance:**

Operational management objectives\* that address the requirements of this Standard are described in the management plan\*.

**Criterion 7.2**

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

**Indicator 7.2.1****Verifiers & Guidance:**

The management plan\* includes management actions, procedures, strategies and measures to achieve the management objectives\*.

**Indicator 7.2.2****Verifiers & Guidance:**

*The management plan\* includes the legal\* provincial forest management planning requirements and addresses the following elements:*

1. *Management objectives\*;*

**INTENT:**

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

<p>2. <b>Description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions and profile of adjacent lands;</b></p> <p>3. <b>Results of assessments and monitoring programs;</b></p> <p>4. <b>Planned management activities* and silvicultural systems* used, based on the ecology of the forest* and its social context;</b></p> <p>5. <b>Rationale for timber harvesting levels* and species selection;</b></p> <p>6. <b>Measures to prevent and mitigate negative impacts of management activities*;</b></p> <p>7. <b>Measures to conserve and/or restore* values identified throughout the other Principles* of the Standard;</b></p> <p>8. <b>Maps describing the forest resources, key infrastructure*, land use and management designations (including HCVs*), and planned management activities*.</b></p>	
<p><b>Criterion 7.3      <i>The management plan* shall* include verifiable targets* by which progress towards each of the prescribed management objectives* can be assessed.</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 7.3.1</b></p> <p><b><i>Verifiable targets* and the frequency at which they are assessed, are established to ensure progress towards each management objective*, and are used as the basis for monitoring, as described in Principle 8. Targets are measurable (where possible), address short-term and long-term* time frames (as applicable), and each is supported by a rationale, including underlying assumptions.</i></b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site productivity, yield of all products harvested;</li> <li>• Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna;</li> <li>• Water quality and quantity;</li> <li>• Soil erosion, compaction, fertility and carbon content;</li> <li>• Wildlife populations, <i>biodiversity*</i> and status of <i>High Conservation Values*</i>;</li> <li>• Sensitive cultural and environmental resources;</li> <li>• Stakeholder satisfaction with <i>engagement*</i>;</li> <li>• Benefits of management operations provided to <i>local communities*</i>;</li> <li>• Number of <i>occupational accidents*</i>;</li> <li>• Area of <i>Intact Forest Landscape* protected*</i> as <i>Core Areas*</i> and</li> <li>• Overall <i>economic viability*</i> of the <i>Management Unit*</i>.</li> </ul> <p>Examples of verifiable targets*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The terms and conditions of the binding FPIC* agreement are met;</li> <li>• Rutting does not exceed 5% of the harvest area* per year;</li> <li>• Road* density target of 1.5 km primary and branch road* per square km is met;</li> <li>• The cumulative disturbance* is less than 35% within the caribou range* portion of Management Unit*.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Criterion 7.4      <i>The Organization* shall* update and revise periodically the management planning and procedural documentation to incorporate the results of monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder engagement* or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 7.4.1</b></p> <p><b><i>The management plan* is revised and updated periodically consistent with Annex F to incorporate:</i></b></p> <p><b>1) Monitoring results, including results of certification audits;</b></p> <p><b>2) Evaluation results;</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>

<p>3) Stakeholder <i>engagement</i>* results;  4) New scientific and technical information, and  5) Changing environmental, social, or economic circumstances.</p>	
<p><b>Criterion 7.5</b>     <i>The Organization* shall* make publicly available* a summary of the management plan* free of charge. Excluding confidential information*, other relevant components of the management plan* shall* be made available to affected stakeholders* on request, and at cost of reproduction and handling.</i></p> <p>Examples of <i>confidential information*</i> include data and content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Related to investment decisions;</li> <li>• About <i>intellectual property*</i> rights;</li> <li>• Which is client confidential;</li> <li>• Which is, by law, confidential;</li> <li>• Whose dissemination could put at <i>risk*</i> the <i>protection*</i> of wildlife species and <i>habitats*</i>;</li> <li>• About sites that are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i> (see Criterion 3.5), as requested.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Indicator 7.5.1</b></p> <p>A summary of the <i>management plan*</i> in a format comprehensible to stakeholders including maps and excluding <i>confidential information*</i> is made <i>publicly available*</i> at no cost.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p>INTENT:  At the discretion of The Organization*, the entire management plan* can be provided, if this reduces the administrative burden.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 7.5.2</b></p> <p>Relevant components of the management plan*, excluding confidential information*, are provided upon request, at cost for production and handling.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Criterion 7.6</b>     <i>The Organization* shall*, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk* of management activities, proactively and transparently engage affected stakeholders* in its management planning and monitoring processes, and shall* engage interested stakeholders* on request.</i></p> <p><b>INTENT:</b>  <i>Culturally appropriate* engagement*</i> is described in Annex F.  Refer to Annex E for details describing how <i>disputes*</i> are addressed throughout the Standard.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 7.6.1</b></p> <p><i>Affected stakeholders* are provided with an opportunity for culturally appropriate* engagement* in planning processes and monitoring programs of management activities* in which they are affected.</i></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 7.6.2</b></p> <p>Upon request, interested stakeholders* are provided with an opportunity for engagement* in planning processes and monitoring programs of management activities* that affect their interests.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>



<b>Indicator 7.6.3</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
A system is in place whereby complaints* can be made known to The Organization* related to impact of forest management activities* on affected stakeholders*, other than the ones concerned in Criterion 4.6.	
<b>Indicator 7.6.4</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
A publicly available* dispute resolution process that can be adapted through culturally appropriate* engagement* is in place.	
<b>Indicator 7.6.5</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
Complaints* are responded to in a timely manner*. Complaints* that are not resolved are elevated to disputes* and are being addressed via a dispute resolution process.	
<b>Indicator 7.6.6</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
An up-to-date record of complaints* and disputes* is maintained, and includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Steps taken to resolve complaints* and disputes*;</li> <li>2. Outcomes of all complaints* and dispute resolution processes, including, where applicable, fair compensation* for loss or damage to property; and</li> <li>3. Unresolved disputes*, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved.</li> </ol>	

**PRINCIPLE 8. MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT:**

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

**INTENT:**

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

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

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

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

Principle 7 requires forest management to adhere to the principles of *adaptive management\**. An important component of *adaptive management\** is the monitoring regime. The concept of *adaptive management\** is carried forward to this *Principle\** and the monitoring should be designed to explicitly evaluate the effect of management on resources and values.

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

**Indicator 8.1.1**

**A monitoring plan is documented and implemented in order to monitor the implementation of the management plan\*, including its policies, management objectives\* and achievement of verifiable targets\*.**

**Verifiers & Guidance:**

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

**Indicator 8.2.1**

**Monitoring is sufficient to identify significant environmental impacts of management activities\*, including (where applicable):**

**Verifiers & Guidance:**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Poor regeneration (Criteria 10.1 and 10.5);</li> <li>2. Invasiveness or other adverse impacts associated with alien species* (Criterion 10.3);</li> <li>3. Adverse effects of fertilizers* (Criterion 10.6);</li> <li>4. Adverse effects of pesticides* (Criterion 10.7);</li> <li>5. Adverse effects of biological control agents* (Criterion 10.8);</li> <li>6. Physical damage to soil, loss of soil nutrient and loss of productive forest* area (Criterion 6.3);</li> <li>7. Adverse effects of increased access (Indicator 6.8.4);</li> <li>8. Site level damage of harvesting and extraction on residual trees and on environmental values* (Criterion 10.11);</li> <li>9. Damage caused by inappropriate storage or disposal of waste materials* (Criterion 10.12).</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Indicator 8.2.2</b></p> <p>A system is in place to monitor the social and economic aspects of management activities*, including (where applicable):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Illegal or unauthorized activities identified by The Organization* (Criterion 1.4);</li> <li>2. Resolution of disputes* (Criteria 1.6, 2.6, 4.6, 7.6);</li> <li>3. Sexual harassment and gender discrimination (Criterion 2.2);</li> <li>4. Occupational health and safety (Criterion 2.3);</li> <li>5. Timely payment of wages The Organization* is responsible for or that is within The Organization's* sphere of influence* (Criterion 2.4);</li> <li>6. Health of workers* related to the exposure to pesticides* or fertilizers* (Criterion 2.5 and Indicator 10.7.7);</li> <li>7. Full implementation of the terms in binding agreements* (Criterion 3.3);</li> <li>8. Protection* of sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance to Indigenous Peoples* and local communities* (Criteria 3.5 and 4.7);</li> <li>9. Actual annual harvests compared to projected annual harvests of timber and non-timber forest products* (Criterion 5.2); and</li> <li>10. Economic viability* of The Organization* (as required by Indicator 5.5.1).</li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 8.2.3</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>

<p>Systems are in place to obtain up-to-date monitoring information identifying significant changes in environmental conditions caused by forest management activities*, including (where applicable):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services* (Criterion 5.1) (when The Organization* makes FSC promotional claims regarding the provision of ecosystem services*, or receives payment for the provision of ecosystem services*);</li> <li>2. Species at risk* and the effectiveness of actions implemented to protect them and their habitats* (Criterion 6.4);</li> <li>3. Naturally occurring native species* and biological diversity*, and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve* and/or restore* them (Criterion 6.6);</li> <li>4. Water bodies*, riparian zones*, water quality and flow in watersheds*, and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve* and/or restore* them (Criterion 6.7);</li> <li>5. Forest types*, age classes per forest type* and forest patch sizes, and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or restore* these features (Criterion 6.8); and</li> <li>6. Conversion of natural forest* to plantations* or conversion to non-forest cover (Criterion 6.9).</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Criterion 8.3</b>      <i>The Organization* shall* analyze the results of monitoring and evaluation and feed the outcomes of this analysis back into the planning process.</i></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 8.3.1</b></p> <p><i>The results of monitoring are incorporated into relevant organizational procedures and/or the management plan* through periodic updates.</i></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 8.3.2</b></p>	
<p>If monitoring results show non-conformities with the FSC Standard then <i>management objectives*</i>, <i>verifiable targets*</i> and/or management activities are revised.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Criterion 8.4</b>      <i>The Organization* shall* make publicly available* a summary of the results of monitoring free of charge, excluding confidential information*.</i></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 8.4.1</b></p> <p>Monitoring results covered in Indicators 8.2.1, 8.2.2 and 8.2.3 are made publicly available* at no cost in a format comprehensible to stakeholders* and excluding confidential information*.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p>INTENT: At the discretion of The Organization*, the entire results, or a summary, of monitoring can be provided if this reduces the administrative burden.</p>

<b>Criterion 8.5</b>	<p><b><i>The Organization* shall* have and implement a tracking and tracing system proportionate to scale, intensity and risk* of its management activities, for demonstrating the source and volume in proportion to projected output for each year, of all products from the Management Unit* that are marketed as FSC certified.</i></b></p>
<b>INTENT:</b>	<p>Forest products must be covered by a valid Chain-of-Custody (CoC) or joint Forest Management/ Chain-of-Custody (FM/CoC) certificate to be considered FSC-certified or to carry the FSC logo. The tracking and tracing system referred to in this Criterion* is the basis for assessing whether products leaving the Management Unit* meet CoC requirements, and can be passed on to the purchaser as FSC-certified material. Therefore, this Criterion* only applies to situations where the intent is that the products from the Management Unit* are sold or marketed as FSC-certified.</p> <p>The Criterion* requires the demonstration of the source and volume of all products leaving the Management Unit* to ensure that any FSC-certified material claimed by the purchaser can be verified as originating from a valid FSC-certified Management Unit*. This is needed as one of the checks against 'greenwashing' of uncertified products entering the certified supply chain.</p>
<b>Indicator 8.5.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<p><b>A system is implemented to track and trace all products transported from the Management Unit* that are marketed as FSC-certified.</b></p>	
<b>Indicator 8.5.2</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<p><b>Information about all timber products that leave the Management Unit*, and information about all non-timber forest products* sold or delivered by The Organization* is compiled and documented, including:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Species name;</b></li> <li><b>2. Product name or description;</b></li> <li><b>3. Volume (or quantity) of product;</b></li> <li><b>4. Information to trace the material to the point of origin;</b></li> <li><b>5. Logging date, reference date or period;</b></li> <li><b>6. If basic transformation activities take place in the forest*, the date and volume produced; and</b></li> <li><b>7. Whether the material was sold or delivered as FSC-certified.</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p>For this Indicator*, the reference date or period refers to the timeframe by which the timber product was harvested, hauled outside the forest gate, or delivered to the purchaser.</p> <p>Basic transformation activities do not include tree de-limbing, topping or chipping.</p> <p>The "forest gate" is considered to be the point of entry to, or exit from, the forest* and is defined in the chain of custody documentation or in the forest management plan*.</p>
<b>Indicator 8.5.3</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<p><b>Sales invoices and transport documents are kept for a minimum of five years for all FSC-certified products sold or delivered by The Organization*.</b></p> <p><b>A. Sales invoices identify, at a minimum, the following information:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Name and address of purchaser;</b></li> <li><b>2. The date of sale;</b></li> <li><b>3. Species name;</b></li> <li><b>4. Product description;</b></li> <li><b>5. The volume (or quantity) sold;</b></li> <li><b>6. Certificate code; and</b></li> <li><b>7. The FSC Claim "FSC 100%" identifying products sold as FSC-certified.</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>INTENT :</b></p> <p>On Crown land*, wood products harvested are often not sold, but rather, ownership is transferred from the licensee to the purchaser at the forest gate. In this case, 8.5.3.A is not applicable.</p>

<p><b>B. Where sales invoices are not issued, transport documents and/or other documentation related to certified products track, at a minimum, the following information:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Identification of the destination;</b></li><li><b>2. The date of transport or delivery;</b></li><li><b>3. Species name or group;</b></li><li><b>4. Product description;</b></li><li><b>5. The volume (or quantity) delivered;</b></li><li><b>6. Load or batch reference number; and</b></li><li><b>7. Proof the certified product comes from a FSC-certified forest*.</b></li></ol>	

**PRINCIPLE 9. HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES:**

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

**INTENT:**

Refer to Annex D: *HCV\** Framework for direction on appropriate interpretation and implementation of *HCV\** categories.

**Common Guidance**

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

***HCVs\** and *HCV Areas\****

Many *Indicators\** in this *Principle\** refer to both *HCVs\** and *HCV areas\**. There is overlap in the terms, but the distinction between them is important. *HCVs\** are the values themselves as they are identified below; *HCV areas\** are the physical areas that are needed for the existence of identified *HCVs\**. For example, an endangered bog-dwelling orchid may be a *HCV\**, but the bog in which the orchid exists is a *HCV area\**.

***Best Available Information\** and Principle 3**

As with other *Principles\** in this Standard, several *Indicators\** in Principle 9 require that *best available information\** be used to provide a baseline for *management activities\** or as a basis for analyses in subsequent *Indicators\**. *The Organization\** is expected to implement these requirements in consideration of a *FPIC\** process, as described in Principle 3 that is inclusive of information sharing related to *legal\** and *customary rights\** as well as site, *stand\**, and *landscape values\** of economic, social, and cultural significance to *Indigenous Peoples\**.

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

***Engagement\** with *Indigenous Peoples\****

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

**Maps**

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

**Criterion 9.1**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**INTENT****What is a HCV Assessment\*?**

This ***Criterion\**** requires the preparation of a ***HCV assessment\****. A ***HCV assessment\**** is a documented description of ***HCVs\**** that clearly reports on the presence of values, their location (if not confidential), status, and as much as possible, should provide information on ***habitat\**** and other key resources that support the values. The assessment is a framework document that is to be used to develop management and monitoring strategies to maintain and/or enhance the values.

**The HCV Assessment\*:**

- Addresses all six ***HCV\**** categories;
- Uses ***best available information\**** on the status and other attributes of the ***HCVs\****;
- Describes the current condition of the ***HCVs\**** and whether they are declining, stable or increasing; and

Uses results from ***culturally appropriate\* engagement\* with Indigenous Peoples\****, ***affected\* and interested stakeholders\**** with an interest in the ***conservation\**** and management of ***HCVs\****.

<b>Indicator 9.1.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<p>A <b><i>HCV assessment*</i></b> is completed using <b><i>best available information*</i></b> of the status of <b><i>HCV* Categories 1-6</i></b> as defined in <b><i>Criterion 9.1</i></b>, the <b><i>HCV areas*</i></b> they rely on, and their condition.</p> <p>The assessment is completed using the <b><i>National Framework (Annex D)</i></b> or another framework that meets the same intent and addresses all <b><i>HCV* categories and values</i></b> identified in the <b><i>National Framework</i></b>.</p>	<b>INTENT:</b> Descriptions of the condition and state of <b><i>HCVs*</i></b> and <b><i>HCV areas*</i></b> identified in the <b><i>HCV assessment*</i></b> report should facilitate monitoring of the results of management efforts. To implement useful effectiveness monitoring, the initial state of the <b><i>HCVs*</i></b> and <b><i>HCV areas*</i></b> should be well-articulated and quantitatively defined, where possible.
<b>Indicator 9.1.2</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>



<p>The HCV assessment* uses results associated with the identification of HCVs* and HCV areas* from culturally appropriate* engagement* with Indigenous Peoples*, and affected* and interested stakeholders* with an interest in the conservation* and management of HCVs* and HCV areas*. The assessment also uses input from qualified (technical and/or scientific) specialists*.</p>	<p><b>INTENT:</b> The expectation of this Indicator* is that engagement* with affected* and interested stakeholders* and Indigenous Peoples* addresses all HCV*-related topics, for which there is an interest in contributing. For this Indicator*, qualified technical and scientific specialists* include individuals with expertise in the topics being addressed, regardless of who they are employed by.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 9.1.3</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>All HCVs* and HCV areas*, except those considered sensitive for ecological or cultural reasons, which are definable based on location are delineated on maps consistent with the scale* of the designation (e.g., global, national, regional, large home range, isolated occurrence, etc.).</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 9.1.4</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>Information regarding the location and identity of sensitive sites is held in confidence.</p>	<p><b>INTENT:</b> Sensitive sites referred to in this Indicator* are HCVs* that are especially vulnerable to human presence. These sites may include cultural values of spiritual or historic importance and ecological values that are sensitive to damage or disruption.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 9.1.5</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>A review by one or more qualified specialists* is completed. Input from the review is addressed in the HCV assessment*.</p>	<p><b>INTENT:</b> For this Indicator*, qualified specialists* includes individuals who were not involved in the development of the HCV assessment* report. The area of expertise of the qualified specialist(s)* should be appropriate for the content of the HCV assessment*. For example, it may be necessary for the document to be reviewed by an ecologist and a social scientist, depending on the extent to which these topics feature prominently in the HCV assessment*. On the other hand, a single reviewer may be sufficient if the person has broad experience in FSC's approach to HCVs*.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 9.1.6</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>The HCV assessment* report is updated every five years. Portions of the assessment are updated more frequently in response to changes in the status of species at risk* or when there are significant changes in the state of other HCVs* or HCV areas*.</p>	<p><b>INTENT:</b> When significant changes to the HCV assessment* report are implemented or when the report is updated after five years, the expectation is that the update process includes engagement* with stakeholders* and culturally appropriate* engagement* with Indigenous Peoples*. Examples of significant changes include: recognition of ecosystems* that have declined markedly in abundance (HCV 3), change in the recognition that the forest* plays in meeting the needs of local communities* (HCV 5), or when the boundaries of the certified forest* are expanded to encompass additional area. Incorporating revisions in the status of species at risk* is not considered a significant change.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 9.1.7</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>If significant changes have been made to the HCV assessment* as a result of implementation of Indicator 9.1.6, a review of the updated</p>	

assessment report is completed by one or more qualified specialists*.	
Indicator 9.1.8	Verifiers & Guidance:
The HCV assessment* report and review are made publicly available*, including in electronic format.	
Criterion 9.2	<b><i>The Organization* shall* develop effective strategies that maintain and/or enhance the identified High Conservation Values*, through engagement* with affected stakeholders*, interested stakeholders* and experts.</i></b>
Indicator 9.2.1	Verifiers & Guidance:
Threats to High Conservation Values* are identified using Best Available Information*.	
Indicator 9.2.2	Verifiers & Guidance:
Management strategies and actions that use a precautionary approach* are developed and are effective to maintain and/or enhance HCVs* and to maintain associated HCV areas* prior to implementing management activities*.	
Indicator 9.2.3	Verifiers & Guidance:
Indigenous Peoples*, affected* and interested stakeholders*, and qualified specialists* and/or experts* are engaged* in the development of management strategies and actions to maintain and/or enhance the identified HCVs* and HCV areas*.	
Indicator 9.2.4	Verifiers & Guidance:
Management strategies are reviewed and updated in conjunction with updates to the HCV assessment* report, as described in Indicators 9.1.6 and 9.1.7.	
Criterion 9.3	<b><i>The Organization* shall* demonstrate that periodic monitoring is carried out to assess changes in the status of High Conservation Values*, and shall* adapt its management strategies to ensure their effective protection*. The monitoring shall* be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk* of management activities, and shall* include engagement* with affected stakeholders*, interested stakeholders* and experts.</i></b>
Indicator 9.3.1	Verifiers & Guidance:
The HCVs* and HCV areas* on which they depend are maintained and/or enhanced, including by implementing the strategies developed through the Indicators* in Criterion 9.2.	
Indicator 9.3.2	Verifiers & Guidance:

<p>Implementation of the strategies developed in Criterion 9.2 prevent damage and avoid risks to HCVs*, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of HCVs* are uncertain.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 9.3.3</b></p>	
<p>Activities that are inconsistent with strategies developed in Criterion 9.2 cease immediately and actions are taken to restore* and protect* the HCVs* and HCV areas*.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 9.3.4</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>The Organization* works within its sphere of influence* to facilitate implementation of activities required to maintain and/or enhance HCVs* and HCV areas*.</p> <p>Where a specific HCV* or HCV area* abuts or straddles a Management Unit* boundary, or is potentially affected by activities outside of the Management Unit*, The Organization* works within its sphere of influence* to coordinate activities with managers and users of adjacent lands to maintain and/or enhance the HCVs* or HCV areas*.</p>	
<p><b>Criterion 9.4</b>     <i>The Organization* shall* demonstrate that periodic monitoring is carried out to assess changes in the status of <b>High Conservation Values*</b>, and shall* adapt its management strategies to ensure their effective <b>protection*</b>. The monitoring shall* be proportionate to the <b>scale, intensity and risk*</b> of management activities, and shall* include <b>engagement*</b> with <b>affected stakeholders*</b>, <b>interested stakeholders*</b> and experts.</i></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 9.4.1</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>A program of periodic monitoring assesses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implementation of management strategies;</li> <li>2. The status of HCVs* including the HCV areas* on which they depend; and</li> <li>3. The effectiveness of management strategies and actions for the protection of HCVs*, to fully maintain and/or enhance the HCVs*.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Indicator 9.4.2</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>The monitoring program includes engagement* with affected* and interested stakeholders*, Indigenous Peoples*, and experts* and/or qualified specialists*.</p>	<p><b>INTENT:</b> Affected* and interested stakeholders*, Indigenous Peoples*, and experts* and/or qualified specialists* should be involved or consulted in the design of the monitoring program. The extent to which they play a role in implementation of monitoring will depend on the technical expertise needed, their interest, abilities, and capacity required to participate, and the confidentiality of the information being collected. The role of the potential participants in monitoring should be determined based on discussions between the parties and The Organization*.</p>

<p><b>Indicator 9.4.3</b></p> <p><b>A program of periodic monitoring assesses:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Implementation of management strategies;</b></li> <li><b>2. The status of HCVs* including the HCV areas* on which they depend; and</b></li> <li><b>3. The effectiveness of management strategies and actions for the protection of HCVs*, to fully maintain and/or enhance the HCVs*.</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p>INTENT:</p> <p>Monitoring can have significant costs. It is reasonable* that The Organizations* look for efficiencies in its efforts to design practical monitoring programs.</p> <p>Monitoring periodicity should be based on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The period over which there may be a reasonable* expectation of change in the status of HCVs*.</li> <li>2. The period over which it is possible to detect the effects of management strategies and actions; and</li> <li>3. The risk* and intensity* of the forestry operations.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Indicator 9.4.4</b></p> <p><b>Management strategies and actions are adapted when monitoring or other new information shows that these strategies and actions are ineffective at addressing the maintenance and/or enhancement of HCVs*.</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 9.4.5</b></p> <p><b>Monitoring needs are reviewed in conjunction with updates to the HCV assessment* report as described in Indicators 9.1.6 and 9.1.7 and the updates to the management strategies as described in Indicator 9.2.4.</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>PRINCIPLE 10. IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:</b></p>	
<p>Management activities conducted by or for <i>The Organization*</i> for the <i>Management Unit*</i> shall* be selected and implemented consistent with <i>The Organization*</i>'s economic, environmental and social policies and <i>objectives*</i> and in compliance with the <i>Principles*</i> and <i>Criteria*</i> collectively.</p>	
<p><b>Criterion 10.1</b>     <b>After harvest or in accordance with the <i>management plan*</i>, <i>The Organization*</i> shall*, by natural or artificial regeneration methods, regenerate vegetation cover in a timely fashion to pre-harvesting or more <i>natural conditions*</i>.</b></p> <p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p>The period required for regeneration is typically shorter for areas to be planted or seeded (artificial regeneration) than areas selected for natural regeneration. This <i>Criterion*</i> does not give preference to planting as a way to shorten the period for regeneration, because in certain cases, natural regeneration approaches are more suitable.</p> <p>Regeneration is expected to be achieved for each <i>stand*</i> but the composition and structure <i>objectives*</i> may be achieved at the block or the <i>landscape*</i> level.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 10.1.1</b></p> <p><b>Harvested sites are regenerated in a timely manner* to maintain environmental values*.</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.1.2</b></p> <p><b>Regeneration activities are implemented in a manner that:</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>

<p>1. <i>Is suitable to recover or improve overall pre-harvest* or natural forest* composition and structure; or</i></p> <p>2. <i>According to the best available information*, promote or enhance the resilience* of the future stand* while considering climate change.</i></p>	
<p><b>Criterion 10.2</b>    <i>The Organization* shall* use species for regeneration that are ecologically well adapted to the site and to the management objectives*. The Organization* shall* use native species* and local genotypes* for regeneration, unless there is clear and convincing justification for using others.</i></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 10.2.1</b></p> <p><i>Species* chosen for regeneration are ecologically well adapted to the site, are native species* and are of local provenance, unless clear and convincing justification is provided for using non-local genotypes* or non-native species*.</i></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.2.2</b></p> <p><i>Species chosen for regeneration are consistent with the regeneration objectives*.</i></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Criterion 10.3</b>    <i>The Organization* shall* only use alien species* when knowledge and/or experience have shown that any invasive impacts can be controlled and effective mitigation measures are in place.</i></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 10.3.1</b></p> <p><i>An alien species* is used only when direct experience or the results of scientific research demonstrate that the species is not invasive.</i></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.3.2</b></p> <p><i>A plan to prevent the spread of invasive species* introduced by The Organization* is developed and implemented in a timely manner*.</i></p> <p><i>Where The Organization*, as a tenure* holder, does not have authority over the control of invasive species* on the Management Unit*, The Organization* works within its sphere of influence* to prevent the spread of invasive species*.</i></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p>The introduction of invasive species* is not permitted as per Indicator 10.3.1. Rather, Indicator 10.3.2 applies to invasive species* introduced by The Organization* inadvertently or prior to certification.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.3.3</b></p> <p><i>Management activities* are implemented in cooperation with regulatory bodies and/or experts* where these exist, with the aim to minimize or control the most significant negative impacts of invasive* alien species* that were not introduced by The Organization* but that are within the scope of The Organization's* management activities*.</i></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>

<b>Criterion 10.4    <i>The Organization* shall* not use genetically modified organisms* in the Management Unit*.</i></b>	
<b>Indicator 10.4.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b><i>Genetically modified organisms* are not used.</i></b>	
<b>Criterion 10.5    <i>The Organization* shall* use silvicultural practices that are ecologically appropriate for the vegetation, species, sites and management objectives*.</i></b>	
<b>Indicator 10.5.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b>Silvicultural practices are implemented that are ecologically appropriate for the site and its associated fauna and flora, as well as for management objectives*.</b>	<p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p>This Indicator* is complementary to Indicators 10.1.1 and 10.1.2 as it applies to all silvicultural practices, such as site preparation, spacing, cleaning and pruning.</p> <p>Ecologically-appropriate silvicultural practices for the site means that the site will have the future capacity to support the native plant and animal species that existed pre-harvest. Ecosystem-based management and a mix of “coarse filter” and “fine filter” approaches can be used to meet this requirement.</p> <p>In this Indicator*, “ecologically appropriate” means that silviculture* practices should be performed to meet not only the management objectives* but also the requirements of Indicator 6.8.1 (if different).</p>
<b>Criterion 10.6    <i>The Organization* shall* minimize or avoid the use of fertilizers*. When fertilizers* are used, The Organization* shall* demonstrate that use is equally or more ecologically and economically beneficial than use of silvicultural systems that do not require fertilizers, and prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values*, including soils.</i></b>	
<b>INTENT:</b>	
These <i>Indicators*</i> apply to <i>fertilizer*</i> application directly on the <i>Forest Management Unit*</i> . <i>Fertilizer*</i> used in the growing of nursery stock, including remaining residues found on or around the plant, or <i>fertilizer*</i> added to the growing medium (e.g. commercial peat pellets), are not the focus of these <i>Indicators*</i> .	
<b>Indicator 10.6.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b>The use of <i>fertilizers*</i> is minimized or avoided.</b>	
<b>Indicator 10.6.2</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<p><b>When fertilizers* are used:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Measures are employed to avoid contamination of surface and ground water, protect non-timber forest values and maintain long-term* soil health, such as soil organic matter, pH balance, and so on;</b></li> <li><b>2. Buffer zones are used to protect rare plant communities, riparian zones*, watercourses* and water bodies*;</b></li> <li><b>3. Their types, application rates and frequencies, and sites of application are documented;</b></li> <li><b>4. Damage to environmental values* resulting from fertilizer* use is mitigated or repaired; and</b></li> </ol>	

<p><b>5. The ecological and economic benefits of using them are equal to or higher than the benefits of silvicultural systems* that do not require fertilizers*.</b></p>	
<p><b>Criterion 10.7</b>     <b><i>The Organization* shall* use integrated pest management and silviculture* systems which avoid, or aim at eliminating, the use of chemical pesticides*. The Organization* shall* not use any chemical pesticides* prohibited by FSC policy. When pesticides* are used, The Organization* shall* prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values* and human health.</i></b></p> <p><b>INTENT:</b></p> <p>The FSC Guide to Integrated Pest, Disease and Weed Management in FSC Certified Forests and Plantations (2009) is an optional generic framework that can assist managers in demonstrating that they have a strategy for reducing, minimizing or eliminating the impacts of <i>pesticide*</i> use. It can also assist managers in preventing and minimizing impacts from pests, diseases, fire and invasive plant introductions with prevention and alternative control methods rather than the use of chemical <i>pesticides*</i>.</p> <p>The Use of Herbicides in Canada</p> <p>Vegetation management is crucial to meeting <i>management objectives*</i>. In certain circumstances, the use of chemical <i>pesticides*</i> may be an acceptable practice. When chemical <i>pesticides*</i> are used, a rationale needs to be provided, as described in Indicator 10.7.2. <i>Pesticides*</i> are potentially acceptable when used for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Controlling composition: The use of herbicides could increase artificially regenerated <i>stands*</i> reaching free-to-grow status. (OMNR, 1986; OMNR, 1988; Armsen et al., 2001).</li> <li>2. Controlling <i>alien* invasive species*</i>: The control of <i>alien* invasive species*</i> may include an integrated pest management (IPM) approach involving chemical treatments. (Wikeem &amp; Miller, 2006).</li> <li>3. Increasing forest yield: While the use of intensive mechanical release combined with early reforestation of tall planting stock may be an asset in the implementation of ecosystem-based management, it could also pose problems where the <i>objective*</i> is to maximize wood production (Thiffault &amp; Roy, 2011). Herbicides in some cases have positive impacts on coniferous growth (Thiffault et al., 2003; Comeau, 2014; Homagain et al., 2011).</li> </ol> <p>The use of herbicide spraying on public forests has been, and continues to be, contentious across Canada (Wagner 1994; Buse et al., 1995; Wagner et al.; 1998; Thompson et al., 2012). Many communities, including <i>Indigenous Peoples*</i>, have expressed concern about the application of glyphosate-based herbicides (Kayahara and Armstrong, 2015), particularly its potential impacts on non-timber forest values such as the harvest of wildlife, fish and edible wild plants. It is important to consider these concerns when developing a vegetation management strategy. This aspect should be kept in mind and addressed through Criterion 4.5 that identify, avoid and mitigate impacts of <i>management activities*</i> on <i>local communities*</i> and through Criteria 7.5 and 7.6, which require the <i>management plan*</i> to be made available to the public and requires <i>complaints*</i> related to <i>management activities*</i> to be addressed. Furthermore, human and <i>environmental values*</i> and health are also addressed in Indicators 10.7.6 and 10.7.7.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 10.7.1</b></p> <p><b>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, and result in non-use or overall reductions in applications.</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.7.2</b></p> <p><b>When chemical pesticides* are used, a rationale for using them is developed and includes:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A description of all circumstances where pesticides* are being considered;</li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>

<p>2. The identification and documentation (using best available information*) of potentially effective non-pesticide* methods of control, including their impacts on various factors such as tree growth, forest composition, worker's* health and safety, and habitats* for species at risk*;</p> <p>3. A clear preference for non-pesticide* control methods when their effects meet management objectives* and they are not cost prohibitive;</p> <p>4. Objective evidence demonstrating that the pesticide* is the only effective, practical and cost-effective way to control the pest; and</p> <p>5. If pesticides* are used, and two or more pesticides* are equally effective, the lesser hazardous pesticide* is used.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 10.7.3</b></p> <p>Chemical pesticides* prohibited by FSC's Pesticide Policy are not used or stored by The Organization* in the Management Unit* unless FSC has granted a derogation. The Organization* works within its sphere of influence* to minimize the use and storage by other parties in the Management Unit* of prohibited chemical pesticides*.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.7.4</b></p> <p>Records of pesticide* usage including trade name, active ingredient, quantity of active ingredient used, date of use, location of use, and reason for use are maintained.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p>INTENT:</p> <p>It is advisable to maintain records for 10 years or more to be able to track the management usage and history, and to demonstrate the reduction of the quantity of pesticides through time. In addition, ten years should be a sufficient length of time for products used in Canada to track the toxicity levels of pesticides that remain in the environment over long periods of time.</p> <p>The Organization* is expected to maintain records, but it is acknowledged that while not desirable, it may be possible that some records are lost if ownership changes.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.7.5</b></p> <p>The use of pesticides* complies with all legal* requirements of Annex A related to the transport, storage, handling, application and emergency procedures for cleanup following accidental spillages of dangerous products.</p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p> <p>In this Standard, the ILO requirements of the document "Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work" regarding transport, storage, handling, application and emergency procedures for cleanup following accidental spillages are included in Canadian legislation. Refer to Annex A, sections 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 of the tables.</p>
<p><b>Indicator 10.7.6</b></p> <p>When pesticides* are used:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Measures are employed to avoid contamination of surface and ground water;</li> <li>2. The selected pesticide*, application method, timing and pattern of use offers the least risk* to humans and environmental values*; and</li> </ol>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>



3. While achieving effective results, quantities of pesticide* used are minimized.	
Indicator 10.7.7	Verifiers & Guidance:
Damage to environmental values* from pesticide* use is prevented and mitigated or repaired. Impacts on human health are avoided.	
<b>Criterion 10.8</b> <i>The Organization* shall* minimize, monitor* and strictly control the use of biological control agents* in accordance with internationally accepted scientific protocols*. When biological control agents* are used, The Organization* shall* prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values*.</i>	
Indicator 10.8.1	Verifiers & Guidance:
<p>The use of biological control agents* by The Organization* is minimized, monitored and controlled in compliance with internationally accepted scientific protocols*. Biological control agents* are used only where alternative pest control methods are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not available; or</li> <li>2. Ineffective in achieving silvicultural objectives*; or</li> <li>3. Prohibitively expensive, considering environmental and social costs, risks* and benefits.</li> </ol>	<p>INTENT:</p> <p>In this Standard, internationally accepted scientific protocols* refers to the FAO Code of Conduct for the Import and Release of Exotic Biological Control Agents that has been adopted as International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The Code sets out internationally-agreed procedures for agents capable of self-replication for research, for field release for biological control, or for use as biological pesticides. The Code is addressed to entities, to be followed where national legislation does not exist or is inadequate. In Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is Canada's representative to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Canada is a contracting party to the IPPC and ensures the compliance with the Convention.</p>
Indicator 10.8.2	Verifiers & Guidance:
Rationale for the use of biological control agents* is documented and based on peer-reviewed scientific evidence	
Indicator 10.8.3	Verifiers & Guidance:
The Organization* will work within its sphere of influence* to minimize the use of biological control agents* by other parties in the Management Unit*.	
Indicator 10.8.4	Verifiers & Guidance:
The use of biological control agents* by The Organization* is recorded including type, quantity used, period of use, location of use and reason for use.	
Indicator 10.8.5	Verifiers & Guidance:
Damage to environmental values* caused by the use of biological control agents* is prevented and mitigated or repaired within The Organization's* sphere of influence* and through cooperation with other parties.	

**Criterion 10.9**     ***The Organization\* shall\* assess risks\* and implement activities that reduce potential negative impacts from natural hazards\* proportionate to scale, intensity, and risk\*.***

**INTENT:**

Examples of *natural hazards\** may include droughts, floods, fires, landslides, storms, insects or diseases outbreaks and avalanche.

Recognizing that *natural hazards\** also include natural disturbances, such as wind and fire, mitigating *risk\** means also managing for *resilience\** as opposed to attempting to control or prevent *natural hazards\**.

There are two examples on how damage from *natural hazards\** may be reduced: 1) a reduction of the frequency, *intensity\**, distribution or severity of *natural hazards\**; and 2) the mitigation of their impacts, for example, by salvaging timber.

<b>Indicator 10.9.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b>Frequent and/or severe natural hazards* that occur regionally are identified using the best available information*.</b>	
<b>Indicator 10.9.2</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b>Potential significant negative impacts of natural hazards* on infrastructure*, forest resources, local communities* and Indigenous Peoples* in the Management Unit* are documented or assessed.</b>	
<b>Indicator 10.9.3</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b>Management activities* that can cause an increase in frequency, distribution or severity of natural hazards* are identified for those hazards that may be influenced by management.</b>	
<b>Indicator 10.9.4</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b>Management activities* are modified and/or measures are developed and implemented that reduce the identified risks*.</b>	<b>INTENT:</b> The Organization*, as a tenure* holder, may have limited control over some management activities*, for example, fire suppression. If they cannot modify the activity or if they cannot develop measures to limit the identified risk*, it would be reasonable for The Organization* to work within its sphere of influence* to reduce or limit the risk*.

**Criterion 10.10** *The Organization\* shall\* manage infrastructural development\*, transport activities and silviculture\* so that water resources and soils are protected, and disturbance of and damage to rare and threatened species\*, habitats\*, ecosystems\* and landscape values\* are prevented, mitigated and/or repaired.*

**INTENT:**

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

- Water resources: Indicators 6.3.1, 6.3.2, 6.7.1 to 6.7.6.
- Soils: Indicators 6.3.1 to 6.3.7.
- *Species at risk\**: 6.4.2 to 6.4.6.
- Rare and threatened habitats & ecosystems values: 6.6.3 and 6.6.4.

Rare and threatened landscape values: 6.8.1 to 6.8.6.

<b>Indicator 10.10.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b>Development, maintenance and use of infrastructure*, as well as transport activities, are managed to protect environmental values* identified in Criterion* 6.1.</b>	
<b>Indicator 10.10.2</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b>Silviculture* activities are managed to ensure protection of the environmental values* identified in Criterion* 6.1.</b>	
<b>Indicator 10.10.3</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b>Disturbance or damages to water courses*, water bodies*, soils, rare and threatened species*, habitats*, ecosystems* and landscape values* are prevented, mitigated and repaired in a timely manner*, and management activities modified to prevent further damage.</b>	
<b>Criterion 10.11</b> <i>The Organization* shall* manage activities associated with harvesting and extraction of timber and non-timber forest products* so that environmental values* are conserved, merchantable waste is reduced, and damage to other products and services is avoided.</i>	
<b>INTENT:</b>	
Certificate holders will meet the requirements of Criterion 10.11 if they conform with the three <i>Indicators*</i> below, as well as Indicators 6.3.1 to 6.3.7 and Indicators 6.6.1. and 6.6.2.	
<b>Indicator 10.11.1</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>
<b>Harvesting practices optimize the use of merchantable* timber, unless left on-site to provide structural diversity and wildlife habitat*, or for silvicultural or cultural reasons.</b>	
	<b>INTENT:</b> The harvesting of merchantable* but non-marketable* trees should be minimized.
<b>Indicator 10.11.2</b>	<b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b>

<p>Harvesting and silvicultural operations are conducted in such a way as to avoid or minimize damage to residual trees (crown, trunk and root), including non-merchantable*/non-marketable* trees and trees being left for future harvest.</p>	
<p><b>Indicator 10.11.3</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>Selection cutting shall maintain or improve stand* quality while ensuring that native tree species are maintained at an ecologically appropriate scale*, unless an alternative yet sound rationale is provided.</p>	
<p><b>Criterion 10.12    <i>The Organization* shall* dispose of waste materials* in an environmentally appropriate manner.</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Indicator 10.12.1</b></p>	<p><b>Verifiers &amp; Guidance:</b></p>
<p>Operational procedures related to handling of chemicals, liquid and solid non-organic wastes materials*, including fuel, oil, batteries and containers are in place and are implemented. At a minimum, the procedures address:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collection, storage, and disposal of waste in an environmentally appropriate manner;</li> <li>2. Adherence to a waste recycling program, where it exists;</li> <li>3. Measures to prevent spills;</li> <li>4. Emergency plans for cleanup and treatment of injuries following spills or other accidents;</li> <li>5. Refueling constraints, including buffers around riparian zones* and water bodies*;</li> <li>6. Removal of used materials, including machinery and equipment; and</li> <li>7. Securing abandoned buildings owned by The Organization* on the Management Unit*.</li> </ol>	

## ANNEX 1 Table 6.4.5. Requirements for the management of caribou habitat\*.

The numbers in the gray-shaded cells refer to the numbered requirements listed in the lower part of the table. The letters in the cells are for reference only.

Caribou range* Population Status	Range Risk* Category (% cumulative disturbance*)	Management Unit* Disturbance Category (% cumulative disturbance* in the portion of the Management Unit* that overlaps caribou range*)	
		≤35%	>35%
Stable or Increasing	Low (≤20%)	Cell A: 1	Cell B: 2
	Moderate (>20-35%)	C: 1, 3	D: 2, 4
	High (>35%)	E: 2, 5	F: 2, 4, 5, 6
Decreasing or Unknown <sup>2</sup>	Low (≤20%)	G: 1	H: 2
	Moderate (>20-35%)	I: 2, 3, 5, 6	J: 2, 4, 5, 6
	High (>35%)	K: 2, 4, 5, 6	L: 2, 4, 5, 6
Description of Required Management Strategies			
1.	Carefully planned implementation of <i>forest management activities*</i> that follow a <i>precautionary approach*</i> is permitted.		
2.	Carefully planned implementation of <i>forest management activities*</i> that follow a <i>precautionary approach*</i> is permitted. Access is managed to minimize impacts on caribou and caribou <i>habitat*</i> .		
3.	Planning efforts are in progress to maintain <i>cumulative disturbance*</i> within the <i>Management Unit*</i> at ≤ 35%.		
4.	At least 50% of the <i>undisturbed habitat*</i> as of January 1, 2018 (using the most up-to-date data for disturbance available) in the portion of the <i>Management Unit*</i> that is within a <i>caribou range*</i> is set aside from forest management for 30-50 years and remains reserved for the duration of that period. ECCC (2016) is used as a basis for identifying and managing <i>undisturbed habitat*</i> to be set aside. <i>Cumulative disturbances*</i> in the remaining areas only increase in the <i>near-term*</i> when linked to a plan demonstrating a shift to ≤35% at the <i>Management Unit*</i> level in the coming 30-50 years.		
5.	Planning efforts consider the level of <i>cumulative disturbance*</i> at the range level and contribute to efforts to maintain or reduce range disturbance to ≤ 35%.		
6.	<i>Habitat* restoration*</i> is in progress.		

<sup>2</sup> As described in the intent box for Approach 6.4.5b below, requirements associated with the population status of decreasing or unknown also apply to circumstances in which the population is stable or increasing due to extraordinary human intervention.

## APPENDIX A

A.	<b>NATIONAL LEGISLATION</b>
	<p><b>Legal Rights to Harvest:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Land tenure and management rights</b> <i>Legislation covering land tenure rights, including customary rights as well as management rights that includes the use of legal methods to obtain tenure rights and management rights. It also covers legal business registration and tax registration, including relevant legal required licenses.</i></li> <li>• <b>Concession licenses</b> <i>Legislation regulating procedures for the issuing of forest concession licenses, including use of legal methods to obtain concession license. Especially bribery, corruption and nepotism are well-known issues in connection with concession licenses.</i></li> <li>• <b>Management and harvest planning</b> <i>Any legal requirements for management planning, including conducting forest inventories, having a forest management plan and related planning and monitoring, as well as approval of these by competent authorities.</i></li> <li>• <b>Harvesting permits</b> <i>Legislation regulating the issuing of harvesting permits, licenses or other legal document required for specific harvesting operations. It includes the use of legal methods to obtain the permit. Corruption is a well-known issue in connection with the issuing of harvesting permits.</i></li> </ul>
1.	
2.	
	<p><b>Taxes and Fees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Payment of royalties and harvesting fees</b> <i>Legislation covering payment of all legally required forest harvesting specific fees such as royalties, stumpage fees and other volume based fees. It also includes payments of the fees based on correct classification of quantities, qualities and species. Incorrect classification of forest products is a well-known issue often combined with bribery of officials in charge of controlling the classification.</i></li> <li>• <b>Value added and sales taxes</b> <i>Legislation covering different types of sales taxes which apply to the material being sold, including selling material as growing forest (standing stock sales).</i></li> <li>• <b>Income and profit taxes</b> <i>Legislation covering income and profit taxes related to the profit derived from sale of forest products and harvesting activities. This category is also related to income from the sale of timber and does not include other taxes generally applicable for companies or related to salary payments.</i></li> </ul>
3.	
4.	
	<p><b>Timber Harvesting Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Timber harvesting regulations</b> <i>Any legal requirements for harvesting techniques and technology including selective cutting, shelter wood regenerations, clear felling, transport of timber from felling site and seasonal limitations etc. Typically this includes regulations on the size of felling areas, minimum age and/or diameter for felling activities and elements that shall be preserved during felling etc. Establishment of skidding or hauling trails, road construction, drainage systems and bridges etc. shall also be considered as well as planning and monitoring of harvesting activities. Any legally binding codes for harvesting practices shall be considered.</i></li> <li>• <b>Protected sites and species</b> <i>Covers legislation related to protected areas as well as protected, rare or endangered species, including their habitats and potential habitats</i></li> <li>• <b>Environmental requirements</b> <i>Covers legislation related to environmental impact assessment in connection with harvesting, acceptable level for soil damage, establishment of buffer zones (e.g. along water courses, open areas, breeding sites), maintenance of retention trees on felling site, sessional limitation of harvesting time, and environmental requirements for forest machineries.</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Health and safety</b> <i>Legally required personal protection equipment for persons involved in harvesting activities, use of safe felling and transport practice, establishment of protection zones around harvesting sites, and safety requirements to machinery used. Legally required safety requirements in relation to chemical usage. The health and safety requirements that shall be considered relate to operations in the forest (not office work, or other activities less related to actual forest operations).</i></li> <li>• <b>Legal employment</b> <i>Legal requirements for employment of personnel involved in harvesting activities including requirement for contracts and working permits, requirements for obligatory insurances, requirements for competence certificates and other training requirements, and payment of social and income taxes withhold by employer. Furthermore, the points cover observance of minimum working age and minimum age for personal involved in hazardous work, legislation against forced and compulsory labour, and discrimination and freedom of association</i></li> </ul>
5.	
6.	
	<p><b>Third Party Rights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Customary rights</b> <i>Legislation covering customary rights relevant to forest harvesting activities including requirements covering sharing of benefits and indigenous rights</i></li> <li>• <b>Free prior and informed consent (FPIC)</b> <i>Legislation covering "free prior and informed consent" in connection with transfer of forest management rights and customary rights to the organisation in charge of the harvesting operation</i></li> <li>• <b>Rights of indigenous peoples</b> <i>Legislation that regulates the rights of indigenous people as far as it's related to forestry activities. Possible aspects to consider are land tenure, right to use certain forest related resources or practice traditional activities, which may involve forest lands</i></li> </ul>
7.	
8.	
	<p><b>Trade and Transport</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Classification of species, quantities, qualities</b> <i>Legislation regulating how harvested material is classified in terms of species, volumes and qualities in connection with trade and transport. Incorrect classification of harvested material is a well-known method to reduce/avoid payment of legality prescribed taxes and fees</i></li> <li>• <b>Trade and transport</b> <i>All required trading permits shall exist as well as legally required transport document which accompany transport of wood from forest operation</i></li> <li>• <b>Offshore trading and transfer pricing</b> <i>Legislation regulating offshore trading. Offshore trading with related companies placed in tax havens combined with artificial transfer prices is a well-known way to avoid payment of legally prescribed taxes and fees to the country of harvest and considered as an important generator of funds that can be used for payment of bribery and black money to the forest operation and personal involved in the harvesting operation. Many countries have established legislation covering transfer pricing and offshore trading. It should be noted that only transfer pricing and offshore trading as far as it is legally prohibited in the country, can be included here.</i></li> </ul>
9.	
10.	
	<p><b>Custom regulations</b></p> <p><i>Custom legislation covering areas such as export/import licenses, product classification (codes, quantities, qualities and species)</i></p>
11.	
12.	
	<p><b>CITES</b></p> <p><i>CITES permits (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Washington Convention)</i></p>

13.	
14.	
	<b>Other</b>
15.	
16.	
<b>B.</b>	<b>REGULATIONS PERTINENT TO FORESTRY RELATED TO AND EMERGING FROM NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTIONS:</b>
17.	
18.	
<b>C.</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS PERTINENT TO FORESTRY</b>
19.	Convention on Biological Diversity
20.	Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
21.	International Labour Organisation (ILO) (insert all ILO conventions relevant to the country)
22.	
<b>D.</b>	<b>LOCAL STANDARDS AND BEST OPERATING PRACTICES</b>
23.	
24.	



## APPENDIX B

### LIST OF RARE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES LISTED FOR "INSERT NAME OF COUNTRY"

As an alternative to completing the table below, provide a reference to a website where this information can be found.

	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	STATUS
<b>A.</b>	<b>FLORA</b>		
1.			
2.			
3.			
<b>B.</b>	<b>FUANA (MAMMALS)</b>		
4.			
<b>C.</b>	<b>FUANA (REPTILES)</b>		
5.			
<b>D.</b>	<b>FUANA (BIRDS)</b>		
6.			
<b>E.</b>	<b>FUANA (FISH)</b>		
7.			

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## APPENDIX C

### LIST OF ISSUES OF CONTENTION RAISED BY STAKEHOLDERS IN TERMS OF THIS STANDARD

Issue Nr	Issue

**End of Standard**