



The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of the Portuguese Republic

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

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

1. FOREWORD

1.1 FSC International

The FSC is a global non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of responsible forest management worldwide. Founded in 1993 following the 1992 Rio Conference, FSC is now widely considered to be one of the most important initiatives established to improve the management of world forests. FSC is a certification system that provides standards, an accreditation system, and a logo that is recognized by the companies and organizations that wish to engage in sustainable forest development. To this end, FSC has established a set of principles and forest management criteria that serve as a world reference today. FSC certification is not limited to forest management, but also helps to distinguish wood-based products from responsibly managed forests by affixing a prominent logo that is recognized by everyone. The FSC label provides a credible link between the responsible production and consumption of forest products, enabling consumers and businesses to make decisions that benefit people and the environment, while providing ongoing business value. FSC is an international association of over 800 members, consisting of a diverse group of representatives from environmental and social groups, the timber trade, the forestry profession, Indigenous People's organizations, responsible corporations, community forestry groups, and forest product certification organizations from around the world. FSC has a unique governance structure that is built upon the principles of participation, democracy and equality.

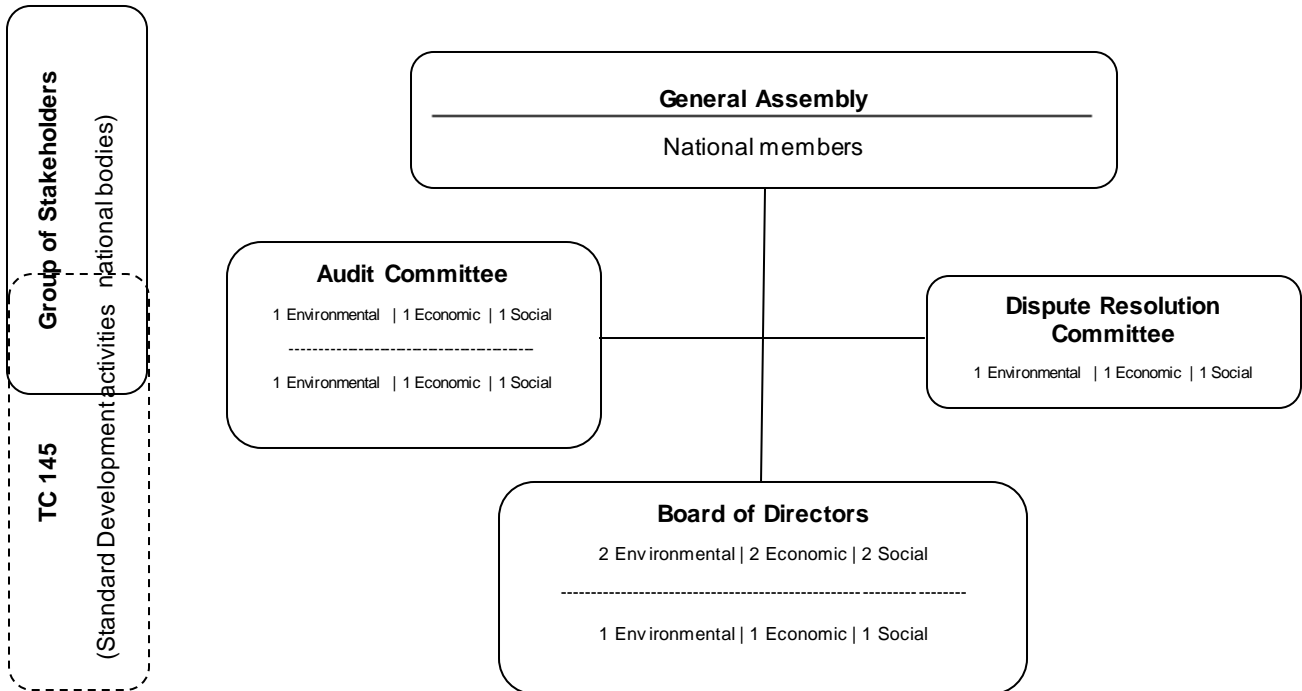
1.2 FSC Portugal

As an international forest certification scheme, FSC has national partners that represent it at a local level and supervise FSC development within the country in question. These national partners are expected to evolve from focal points to national representatives and finally to national offices.

Between 2006 and 2007 Portugal had a contact person – a designation previously assigned to the national representative – and, in late 2007, the main players in the Portuguese forestry sector joined forces and formed a non-profit organization called the Associação para uma Gestão Florestal Responsável (AGFR), with the sole objectives of providing local representation and regulating the FSC forest certification scheme in Portugal. In early 2010 the management of the AGFR applied to FSC International to become a FSC national office. This was approved on 1 July 2010. From that date the AGFR was able to use the name of FSC Portugal.

The governing bodies of FSC Portugal are the general assembly, the board of directors, the audit committee and the conflict resolution committee. The mandate of the governing bodies is three years and may be renewed for an equal period.

AGFR complies with national rules applicable to non-profit organizations, but also incorporates additional requirements of FSC International, namely the existence of a body composed of three elected members, whose purpose is to resolve conflicts related to certification in Portugal. The organizational structure and the AGFR decision-making bodies are shown on the next page.



Like FSC Asociación Civil (FSC AC), the AGFR is organized around three chambers: environmental, economic, and social, formed according to its members’ interests in forestry.

Currently, FSC Portugal has 52 national members, made up of individual and collective members, together with 7 international members.



1.3 Standard development activities

FSC International considers it vital that the process of preparing and/or adapting international standards to local conditions take into account the widest possible range of interests, so that the standards are representative and widely recognized.

Standards were already being devised before the first FSC standard development process was initiated in 2007. The existing model was voluntary, democratic, and participatory, and worked very well, with the result that it was also adopted for FSC Portugal.

Any person or organization can participate in the activities of FSC Portugal, whether in an active way or indirectly, by attending the technical sessions at which the FSC standards for Portugal are devised or adapted. To do this, stakeholders need only to register with FSC Portugal. The group of individuals and/or organizations that originally expressed a formal interest in participating in the development of the FSC forest management standard for Portugal was called the **Grupo de Partes Interessadas** (GPI), Group of Stakeholders.

For this second process of devising forest management standards, the board of FSC Portugal, at the request of its members, stakeholders, and certificate holders, made efforts to ensure that these could be developed as part of the remit of the sustainable forest management standards technical committee (TC 145).

The internal regulation of TC 145 was reviewed, revised, and approved, and from January 2015 all activities relating to establishing standards were carried out by this technical committee, although the group of stakeholders continued to exist temporarily and in parallel to it. The creation of the TC 145 enhanced the process of embedding the FSC forest management standard by attracting more stakeholders, allowing greater engagement with regulatory bodies, and facilitating access to technical experts whenever needed.

FSC Portugal started the process of switching to the new FSC Principles and Criteria in early 2013, following the guidelines of FSC International. As mentioned above, the model used was similar to that used previously: focused monthly meetings going over each principle in turn, with the main difference being the adoption of external technical coordinators in order to stimulate the growing involvement of stakeholders. The work was later interrupted (in July of that year), by consensus with the group of stakeholders, and over 2013 and 2014 standardization activities, focused on reviewing of interim releases of the international generic indicators (IGIs), the key document that served as an essential basis for the transition process. This decision was primarily caused by the fruitless discussions that were unfolding around concepts that have not yet been definitively approved.

Work resumed in early 2015, when the final version of the IGI was released by FSC International, leading to an intense schedule of about 20 face-to-face meetings.

The public consultation ran from 12 October to 12 November, during which specific sessions targeting smallholders were promoted.

During this period on the request of some stakeholders work that had previously been carried out on indicators for forest areas that sought to include game management within FSC certification was reviewed and updated. A number of face-to-face meetings were held with experts and the final draft was field tested in early November.

After the public consultation period, one last meeting was held to analyse the feedback received via formal and informal channels. A recommendation for approval was made in the following forums:

- ✓ **23 November** – the Consultative Forum, which in Portugal is composed of members of the Group of Stakeholders and members of TC 145;
- ✓ **3 December** – the Standard Development Group, i.e. the FSC Portugal Board of Directors;
- ✓ **9 December** – the national members of FSC Portugal, with statutory approval by the General Assembly.



1.4 References

The following documents were used as a reference and/or as basis for work carried out during the process of transitioning to the FSC Standard for Forest Management in Portugal:

FSC documents:

- ✓ FSC-STD-01-001 *FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship*
- ✓ FSC-STD-01-003 *SLIMF Eligibility Criteria*
- ✓ FSC-STD-60-002 *Structure and Content of National Forest Stewardship Standards*
- ✓ FSC-STD-60-004 *International Generic Indicators*
- ✓ FSC-STD-60-006 *Process Requirements for the Development and Maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards*
- ✓ FSC-TPT-60-007 *Proposal for the Transfer of Forest Stewardship Standards to the Principles and Criteria Version 5*
- ✓ FSC-TPT-60-008 *Transfer Matrix*
- ✓ FSC-GUI-60-100 *Guidance on the Interpretation of the FSC Principles and Criteria, taking account of the Scale and Intensity of Forest Management*



2. NATIONAL CONTEXT

2.1 Scope

The scope of the Portuguese forest management standard includes all types of forest areas present in Portugal (plantations, semi-natural and natural forests). It can also be applied to different scales (large industrial owners and smallholders) and levels of intensity (eucalyptus and pine plantations and cork oak stands).

For those areas that want to include hunting under their FSC certification, additional indicators and guidance notes explicitly identified in this standard must be met. It is important to note that legal aspects relating to hunting also need to be complied with for all forest management certificates. These aspects include, for example, threatened flora and fauna or illegal activities, which are expressed in a number of compulsory indicators for all forest management certificates.



2.2 Scale, intensity and risk

All of the technical work sessions for transferring the FSC forest management standard to the new Principles and Criteria using the international generic indicators occurred before FSC International published the first version of the document *Scale, Intensity, and Risk (SIR): Guidelines for Standard Developers* for public consultation, which only happened on 27 November 2015.

For this reason, Portugal has decided to retain the previously used concept of the Small- and Low-Intensity Managed Forest (SLIMF), although it used this opportunity to revise the criteria for classification of those areas, based on years of experience of implementing the standard. In parallel, the various drafts of the FSC International document were analysed and several aspects incorporated into the standard, as the means of verification or guidance notes. The revised criteria are shown in the table below.

Management units	Criterion
Small	Areas smaller than 500 hectares
Low intensity	Areas where the rate of harvesting is less than 20 per cent of the mean annual increment (MAI) AND the annual harvest is less than 5,000 m ³ . Guidance note: The threshold of 5,000 m ³ is considered as the average annual harvest over five years (during the period of validity of the certificate).

Management units in which non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are the main production are considered to be low-intensity SLIMFs. If there is any other timber production (e.g. wood), it should be evaluated against Table 1.

Evaluation of management units classified as SLIMFs

In order to facilitate access of small- or low-intensity managed forests (SLIMFs) to FSC certification, specific indicators have been explicitly defined in the current standard.

Regarding **SLIMF groups**, all members of the group must comply with SLIMF eligibility criteria, but there is no limit to the size of the group.

Evaluation of management units classified as mixed (SLIMFs and non-SLIMFs)

In a mixed group, whereby some of the members are eligible to be considered as SLIMFs, a normal assessment is carried out. However, the group may set out internally simplified procedures for those members.

In a SLIMF group where there is a possibility that in the future some of the members would not be eligible as SLIMFs, a SLIMF assessment is carried out. The group may benefit from simplified assessment procedures until a non-SLIMF member joins the group. From that point onwards, the assessment will be carried out in the standard way.

2.3 Ecosystem services

At this stage, it was decided not to include the work of FSC International on ecosystem services within the current standard, although indicator 5.1.3 and Annex C of FSC-STD-60-004 *International Generic Indicators* have both been analysed and adapted to the national context. These are highlighted in bright pink.

2.4 General comments

Principle 3 and Criterion 4.8 were considered non-applicable to the Portuguese national context. However, all of the other indicators apply to all forest areas covered by the scope of this standard, unless otherwise specified. Specific provisions were defined for small- and low-intensity managed forests and for areas that wish to include hunting within the scope of their FSC certification.

The term 'culturally appropriate' only received an explicit mention in two indicators, but it applies to all indicators across the entire standard notably to indicators that require culturally appropriate engagement.

This version (FSC-STD-PRT-01-2016 V1-1) was produced by introducing an amendment in the version FSC-STD-PRT-01-2016 (V1-0) by removing two guidance notes after Indicator 5.2.2. The update was approved by FSC Performance and Standards Unit on 9 November 2018.

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.

Indicators		Means of verification
1.1.1	Legal registration authorizing it to carry out all activities within the scope of the certificate is documented and unchallenged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (identification records such as national identity card number, taxpayer number, company identification number, commercial registry certificate (duly updated), constitutional documents, etc.)
1.1.2	Legal registration has been granted by an entity that is legally responsible according to legally prescribed processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (identification records such as national identity card number, taxpayer number, company identification number, commercial registry certificate (duly updated), constitutional documents, etc.)

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.

Indicators		Means of verification
1.2.1	Legal tenure to manage and use resources within the scope of the certificate is documented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (e.g. real estate registry, lease agreements, land use agreements, loan of use free of charge, maps, etc.).
1.2.2	Legal tenure is granted by an authority that is legally responsible according to legally prescribed processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (e.g. real estate registry, lease agreements, land use agreements, free of charge loan of use, maps, etc.).
1.2.3	The boundaries of all management units within the scope of the certificate are clearly marked or documented and shown on maps.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (e.g. maps, etc.).

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.

Indicators		Means of verification
1.3.1	All activities undertaken in the management unit are carried out in compliance with: 1) Applicable laws and regulations and administrative requirements, 2) Legal and customary rights; and 3) Obligatory codes of practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. procedures); • Records (e.g. labour and social obligations, forestry activities obligations, compliance with landscape plans, etc. Concrete examples: obligatory '1360 template', contract with service providers in case of outsourced health and safety services, qualification of the organization's health and safety officer, annual safety report, labour insurance policy, felling declarations, training and awareness records, etc.); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections; • Stakeholder consultation (including regulatory authorities and local communities).
1.3.2	Payment is made in a timely manner for all legally prescribed charges connected with forest management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. records of payment); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including regulatory authorities).
1.3.3	Activities covered by the management plan are designed to comply with all applicable legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation.
1.3.4	Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate: An agreement on the right to exploit game species is in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Consultation with local communities.
1.3.5	Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate: During drive hunting for large animals, the organization ensures that public paths and service roads that cross the hunting area are adequately signed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Consultation with local communities.
1.3.6	Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate: Releasing of game species is not allowed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with forest management agents; • Consultation with local communities.
1.3.7	<p>Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate: Species used in releases must come from breeders authorized by the relevant authorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including the relevant authorities).

<p>Criterion 1.4 The Organization shall develop and implement measures, and/or shall engage with regulatory agencies, to systematically protect the Management Unit from unauthorized or illegal resource use, settlement and other illegal activities.</p>		
Indicators		Means of verification
1.4.1	<p>A system is implemented to prevent and monitor illegal or unauthorised activities.</p> <p>Guidance note: examples of the activities mentioned above include harvesting, hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting, settlement, and other unauthorized activities, as well as garbage disposal, unlicensed use of metal detectors, vandalism, or illicit removal of archaeological assets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. monitoring records); • Field inspections (with no evidence of illegal or unauthorised activities); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
1.4.2	<p>Applicable to non-SLIMFs</p> <p>The system mentioned in Indicator 1.4.1 is intended to assist the regulatory bodies in identifying, reporting, controlling, and discouraging unauthorized or illegal activities.</p> <p>Guidance note: for better adaptation to the Portuguese context, the term ‘regulatory bodies’ was translated to relevant authorities, which includes both the regulatory and enforcement authorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. implementation of control system, such as reports to the relevant authorities); • Field inspections.
1.4.3	<p>If illegal or unauthorized activities are detected, measures are undertaken to address them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. communication records, implementation records, etc.); • Field inspections (with evidence of implementation of the control measures); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including regulatory bodies).

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

Indicators		Means of verification
1.5.1	Demonstrates compliance with applicable national laws, local laws, ratified international conventions, and obligatory codes of practice relating to the transportation and trade of forest products up to the point of first sale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including regulatory authorities).
1.5.2	Demonstrates compliance with CITES provisions, including through possession of certificates for harvest and trade in any CITES species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (list of species, etc.); • Stakeholder consultation (including regulatory authorities).

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

Indicators		Means of verification
1.6.1	A publicly available dispute resolution process is in place, developed through culturally appropriate engagement with affected stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
1.6.2	Disputes related to issues of applicable or customary legislation that can be settled out of court are addressed in a timely manner and are either resolved or are dealt with in the dispute resolution process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
1.6.3	Up-to-date records of disputes related to issues of applicable or customary legislation are available, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Steps taken to resolve disputes; 2) Outcomes of all dispute resolution processes; and 3) Unresolved disputes, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
1.6.4	Operations cease in areas where there are disputes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation;

<p>1) of a significant magnitude; or 2) of a significant duration; or 3) involving a significant number of interests.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
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Criterion 1.7 The Organization shall publicize a commitment not to offer or receive bribes in money or any other form of corruption, and shall comply with anti-corruption legislation where this exists. In the absence of anti-corruption legislation, The Organization shall implement other anti-corruption measures proportionate to the scale and intensity of management activities and the risk of corruption.

Indicators		Means of verification
1.7.1	A policy is implemented that includes a commitment not to offer or receive bribes of any description.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. the organization's policy); • Records (e.g. communication and distribution); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including regulatory authorities).
1.7.2	The policy meets or exceeds related legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. the organization's policy); • Records (e.g. communication and distribution); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including regulatory authorities).
1.7.3	The policy is publicly available at no cost.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. the organization's policy); • Records (e.g. communication and distribution); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including regulatory authorities).
1.7.4	Bribery, coercion and other acts of corruption do not occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including regulatory authorities).
1.7.5	Corrective measures are implemented if corruption does occur.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including regulatory authorities).

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

Indicators		Means of verification
1.8.1	A written policy, endorsed by an individual with authority to implement the policy, that includes a long-term commitment to forest management practices consistent with FSC Principles and Criteria and related policies and standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (management policy); • Records (e.g. of communication, list of forest areas, etc.) • Field inspections; • Stakeholder consultation.
1.8.2	The policy is publicly available at no cost.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (management policy); • Field inspections (place of public display) • Stakeholder consultation.

PRINCIPLE 2: WORKERS' RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

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

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

Indicators		Means of verification
2.1.1	Employment practices and conditions for workers demonstrate conformity with or uphold the principles and rights of work addressed in the eight ILO Core Labour Conventions as defined in the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (evidence of compliance such as outsourcing contracts, requirements for subcontractors, social security reports); Interviews with forest management agents (including subcontractors).
2.1.2	Workers are able to establish or join labour organizations of their own choosing subject only to the rules of the labour organization concerned.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with forest management agents.
2.1.3	The implemented agreements are the result of collective bargaining with formal and informal workers' organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan and/or associated documentation; Records (e.g. minutes of meetings) Interviews with forest management agents.

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

Indicators		Means of verification
2.2.1	Systems are implemented that promote gender equality and prevent gender discrimination in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of engagement, and management activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (e.g. outsourcing criteria; employment criteria; evidence of employment, job advertisements, etc.); Interviews with forest management agents; Stakeholder consultation.
2.2.2	Job opportunities are open to both women and men under the same conditions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (e.g. outsourcing criteria; employment criteria; evidence of employment, job advertisements, etc.); Interviews with forest management agents; Stakeholder consultation.

2.2.3	Women and men are paid the same wage when they do the same work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (e.g. diagrams of hierarchical structures, salary payments, etc.) Interviews with forest management agents.
2.2.4	Workers are informed and consulted about decision-making processes insofar as these directly affect working terms and conditions and social rights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (e.g. minutes of meetings, etc.) Interviews with forest management agents.
2.2.5	Confidential and effective mechanisms exist for reporting and eradicating cases of sexual harassment and discrimination based on gender, marital status, parenthood, sexual orientation, race, or religion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan and/or associated documentation; Records (e.g. mandatory worker consultation under occupational health and safety legislation) Interviews with forest management agents.

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

Indicators		Means of verification
2.3.1	Health and safety practices are developed and implemented that meet or exceed the ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan and/or associated documentation; Records; Field inspections; Interviews with forest management agents (including subcontractors).
2.3.2	Workers have personal protective equipment appropriate to their assigned tasks. Guidance note: This requirement is applicable to all workers (staff and subcontractors).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (e.g. list of personal protective equipment necessary for each job, records of non-compliance); Field inspections; Interviews with forest management agents.
2.3.3	The use of personal protective equipment is enforced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (e.g. list of personal protective equipment necessary for each job, records of non-compliance); Field inspections; Interviews with forest management agents.
2.3.4	Records are kept in relation to health and safety practices, including accident rates and time lost to accidents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (e.g. accident records, workplace accident reports, etc.); Interviews with forest management agents;

	Guidance note: Social obligations and health and safety requirements defined by national law already include all of the records required by FSC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field inspections (e.g. implementation of preventative measures).
2.3.5	<p>The frequency and severity of accidents is consistently lower than the sectoral incidence rate.</p> <p>Guidance note 1: The sectoral incidence rate can be obtained based on the best information available.</p> <p>Guidance note 2: When calculating the incidence rate of accidents for the organization, the number of accidents for the total workforce each year is taken into account.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. accident records, workplace accident reports, etc.); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections.
2.3.6	Health and safety practices are reviewed and revised as required after major incidents or accidents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. annual health and safety report, etc.); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections (e.g. implementation of preventative measures).
2.3.7	<p>Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate: The existence of a pack registration form is guaranteed and the use of signaling collars (e.g. fluorescent orange or reflective strips) is required for hunting dogs. In the case of packs of large animals, the use of protective collars or vests (e.g. Kevlar) is advised.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. electronic chips and other electronic records); • Interviews with forest management agents.
2.3.8	<p>Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate: The location of the hunt is clearly defined, with artificial light, if necessary, and washable floor and the collection of water in tanks or sewerage systems, ensuring that the treatment and analysis of eviscerated carcasses is safe and hygienic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents.
2.3.9	<p>Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate: The Best Practices Guide for Hygiene and Sanitation – Large Animals (available from the ICNF site)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents.

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

Indicators		Means of verification
2.4.1	Wages paid by the organization meet or exceed: 1) the minimum legal wage; or 2) minimum forest industry standards, or other recognized forest industry wage agreements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (e.g. contracts, pay slips, etc.); Interviews with forest management agents.
2.4.2	Wages, salaries, and contracts are paid on time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (e.g. contracts, invoices, pay slips, etc.); Interviews with forest management agents.

Criterion 2.5 The Organization shall demonstrate that workers have job-specific training and supervision to safely and effectively implement the management plan and all management activities.		
Indicators		Means of verification
2.5.1	The workers understand the tasks they are responsible for and have received adequate training. Guidance note: See also Annex III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (e.g. identification of training needs, training plan, records of training sessions, training certificates, outsourcing contracts); Interviews with forest management agents.
2.5.2	The workers, including those of subcontractors, are properly supervised in order to ensure that the management plan is correctly executed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews with forest management agents.
2.5.3	Up-to-date training records are kept for all workers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (e.g. training plan, records of training sessions, training certificates, etc.).

Criterion 2.6 The Organization through engagement with workers shall have mechanisms for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation to workers for loss or damage to property, occupational diseases, or occupational injuries sustained while working for The Organization.		
Indicators		Means of verification
2.6.1	A dispute resolution process is in place, developed through culturally appropriate engagement with workers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan and/or associated documentation; Records; Interviews with forest management agents; Stakeholder consultation (workers, etc.).

2.6.2	Workers' grievances are identified and responded to, and are either resolved or are addressed in the dispute resolution process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (workers, etc.).
2.6.3	<p>Up-to-date records of workers' grievances relating to the loss or damage of property, occupational diseases, or injuries are maintained, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) steps taken to resolve grievances; 2) outcomes of all dispute resolution processes including fair compensation; and 3) unresolved disputes, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (workers, etc.).
2.6.4	Fair compensation is provided to workers for work-related loss or damage of property and occupational disease or injuries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (workers, etc.).

PRINCIPLE 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S 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.

NOT APPLICABLE TO PORTUGAL

In Portugal, there are no Indigenous Peoples as defined by the FSC, based on the United Nations Declaration. As such, the Consultative Forum and the Standards Development Group decided to deem this principle not applicable, a decision that was later ratified by the national members. This decision follows the same approach as that followed in the previous NFSS accreditation process back in 2007.

PRINCIPLE 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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

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

Indicators		Means of verification
4.1.1	Local communities that exist within the management unit and those that may be affected by management activities are identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. list of people and groups); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
4.1.2	For the local communities identified in 4.1.1, legal or customary rights relating to the following points are documented and/or mapped: a) tenure; b) access and use; c) rights and obligations; d) areas where rights are contested between local communities, governments, and/or others; and e) the aspirations and goals of local communities in relation to management activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. records identifying local communities or establishing legal or customary rights of tenure or use, maps); • Stakeholder consultation.

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

Indicators		Means of verification
4.2.1	Free, prior and informed consent is granted by local communities prior to management activities that affect their identified rights through a process that includes: a) Ensuring local communities know their rights and obligations regarding the resource;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. relationships with differing degrees of formality, including contracts relating to common land agreements, documentation relating to water rights, access, pasture, paths, etc., or hunting rights);

	<p>b) Informing the local communities of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the value, in economic, social and environmental terms, of the resources over which they are considering delegation of control; – current and future planned forest management activities; and – their right to withhold consent to the proposed management activities to the extent necessary to protect their rights and resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including local communities).
4.2.2	<p>Applicable to non-SLIMFs</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including local communities).
4.2.3	<p>The legal and customary rights of local communities to maintain control over management activities are not violated by the organization. Where evidence exists that legal and customary rights of local communities related to management activities have been violated, the situation is corrected, if necessary, through culturally appropriate engagement and/or through the dispute resolution process set out in Criteria 1.6 or 4.6.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including local communities).

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

Indicators		Means of verification
4.3.1	<p>Reasonable opportunities are communicated and provided to local communities, local contractors and local suppliers for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) employment, b) training, and c) other services <p>Guidance note: SLIMF organizations and group entities (SLIMFs and non-SLIMFs) give preference to local people and services, or, in the case of group certification, to group members.</p> <p>Non-SLIMFs promote the local provision of employment and services. In order to be able to employ local people for regular activities, training opportunities may need to be provided in order to build up local availability in the medium to long term.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. employment procedures); • Records (e.g. outsourcing criteria; employment criteria; evidence of employment of local workers or local subcontractors, job advertisements in local newspapers); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including local communities, agents and subcontractors).

Criterion 4.4 The Organization shall implement additional activities, through engagement with local communities, that contribute to their social and economic development, proportionate to the scale, intensity and socio-economic impact of its management activities.		
Indicators		Means of verification
4.4.1	Opportunities for local social and economic development are identified through engagement with local communities or other relevant organizations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including local communities, agents and subcontractors).
4.4.2	<p>Applicable to non-SLIMFs</p> <p>Projects and additional activities are implemented and/or supported that contribute towards local social and economic development and are proportionate to the socio-economic impact of the management activities.</p> <p>Guidance note: Non-SLIMF organizations are actively involved in local and/or regional processes and projects (e.g. county commissions for the defence of forests against fires; county safety committees, etc.).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including local communities, agents and subcontractors).

Criterion 4.5 The Organization, through engagement with local communities, shall take action to identify, avoid and mitigate significant negative social, environmental and economic impacts of its management activities on affected communities. The action taken shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of those activities and negative impacts.		
Indicators		Means of verification
4.5.1	<p>Applicable to non-SLIMFs</p> <p>Measures are implemented to identify, avoid, and mitigate significant negative social, environmental, and economic impacts of management activities. These measures are identified through engagement with the local communities.</p> <p>Guidance note: Non-SLIMF organizations are expected to develop a local community engagement strategy to identify the potential social and economic impacts of their operations. This strategy should, for example, identify the local communities and community members to be involved,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. social impact evaluation reports, minutes of meetings); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including the people and groups identified).

	establish the methodology and timeline for engagement, and link to the dispute resolution process.	
4.5.1	<p>Applicable to SLIMFs</p> <p>Measures are implemented to avoid and mitigate any negative social, environmental and economic impact of management activities. Upon request, these measures are communicated to neighbours and adjacent landowners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including the people and groups identified).

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

Indicators		Means of verification
4.6.1	A publicly available dispute resolution process is in place, implemented with the involvement of local communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
4.6.2	Grievances related to the impacts of management activities are responded to in a timely manner, and are either resolved or are addressed in the dispute resolution process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
4.6.3	Up-to-date records are kept of grievances relating to the impact of management activities, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) steps taken to resolve grievances 2) outcomes of all dispute resolution processes including fair compensation to local communities and individuals; and 3) unresolved disputes, the reasons they are not resolved, and how they will be resolved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
4.6.4	Operations cease in areas where there are disputes that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) are of significant magnitude; 2) are of significant duration; or 3) involve a significant number of interests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.

Criterion 4.7 The Organization, through engagement with local communities, shall identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance, and for which these local communities hold legal or customary rights. These sites shall be recognized by The Organization, and their management and/or protection shall be agreed through engagement with these local communities.		
Indicators		Means of verification
4.7.1	Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious, or spiritual significance for which local communities hold legal or customary rights are identified through culturally appropriate engagement and are recognized by the organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
4.7.2	Measures to protect the sites identified in 4.7.1 are agreed, documented, and implemented through culturally appropriate engagement with local communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
4.7.3	Whenever sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious, or spiritual significance are newly recognized or discovered, management activities cease immediately in the vicinity until protective measures have been agreed upon with local communities, and as directed by local and national laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.

NOT APPLICABLE TO PORTUGAL

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.

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 environmental and social 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.

Indicators		Means of verification
5.1.1	The range of resources and ecosystem services that could strengthen and diversify the local economy are identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
5.1.2	Taking the management objectives into consideration, the identified benefits and products are produced by the organization and/or made available for others to produce, in order to strengthen and diversify the local economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
5.1.3	When the organization makes FSC-related promotional claims regarding the maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services, Annex C is followed in relation to additional requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.

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

Indicators		Means of verification
5.2.1	Timber harvesting levels are based on an analysis of the best information currently available on growth and yield, an inventory of the forest, mortality rates, and the maintenance of ecosystem functions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation;

	Guidance note: in Portugal, some forest products (e.g. pine cones, forest fruit (<i>Arbutus unedo</i>, etc.) might be commercialized based on estimated yield/quantities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. declarations of production, scientific publications, records of past harvests, technical reports, inventory results); • Interviews with forest management agents.
5.2.2	Based on the timber harvesting level analysis, a maximum allowable annual timber cutting level is determined that does not exceed the harvest level that can be permanently sustained, ensuring that harvest rates do not exceed growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. declarations of production, scientific publications, records of past harvests, technical reports, inventory results); • Interviews with forest management agents.
5.2.3	Actual annual harvest levels are recorded for timber.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records.
5.2.4	The harvest over a defined period does not exceed the allowable cut determined in 5.2.2 for the same defined period. Guidance note: The period of analysis refers directly to the forestry and model species. There may be annual changes due to natural disasters (fires, pests, diseases, or wind).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. declarations of production, scientific publications, records of past harvests, technical reports, inventory results); • Interviews with forest management agents.
5.2.5	The harvest level of non-timber forest products under the organization's control is based on the best information available and complied with accordingly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. declarations of production, scientific publications, records of past harvests, technical reports, inventory results); • Interviews with forest management agents.
5.2.6	Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate: Game bag sizes are pre-defined according to population monitoring, taking particular account of the abundance, productivity, and management objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. scientific publications, inventory/monitoring results; population dynamics models, etc.); • Interviews with forest management agents.

Criterion 5.3 The Organization shall demonstrate that the positive and negative externalities of operation are included in the management plan.		
Indicators		Means of verification
5.3.1	Costs related to the prevention, mitigation, or compensation of negative social and environment impacts of management activities are quantified and documented in the management plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. budgets, budget revisions, expenses, income, sales, inventory, sources of information, social and environmental costs, etc.).
5.3.2	Benefits related to positive social and environmental impacts of management activities are identified and included in the management plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. budgets, budget revisions, expenses, income, sales, inventory, sources of information, social and environmental costs, etc.).

Criterion 5.4 The Organization shall use local processing, local services, and local value adding to meet the requirements of The Organization where these are available, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk. If these are not locally available, The Organization shall make reasonable attempts to help establish these services.		
Indicators		Means of verification
5.4.1	Where cost, quality, and capacity of non-local and local options are at least equivalent, local goods, services, processing, and value-added facilities are used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. local dissemination of processing / sales information, outsourcing criteria; employment criteria; evidence of employment of local workers or local subcontractors, job advertisements in local newspapers); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including local communities/ agents).

Criterion 5.5 The Organization shall demonstrate through its planning and expenditures proportionate to scale, intensity and risk, its commitment to long-term economic viability.		
Indicators		Means of verification
5.5.1	An annual budget that shows expected costs, investments and revenues is available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (e.g. budgets, budget revisions, expenses, income, sales, inventory, sources of information, social and environmental costs, etc.).
5.5.2	The budget is based on credible projections of yield and value of the products or services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (e.g. budgets, budget revisions, expenses, income, sales, inventory, sources of information, social and environmental costs, etc.).
5.5.3	<p>The planning, and corresponding budgeting, of forest operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> takes account of the environmental, social, and economic impact of the operations proposed; and ensures the investment necessary to maintain the ecological and productive value of the management unit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan and/or associated documentation; Records (e.g. budgets, budget revisions, expenses, income, sales, inventory, sources of information, social and environmental costs, etc.).
5.5.4	<p>Applicable to non-SLIMFs</p> <p>A financial plan estimates the cost and expected revenue from implementing the forest management plan (including social and environmental commitments) over at least the following five-year period.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan and/or associated documentation; Records (e.g. budgets, budget revisions, expenses, income, sales, inventory, sources of information, social and environmental costs, etc.).
5.5.5	<p>Applicable to non-SLIMFs</p> <p>Expenditure and investments are made to implement the management plan in order to meet this standard and ensure long-term economic viability.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan and/or associated documentation; Records (e.g. budgets, budget revisions, expenses, income, sales, inventory, sources of information, social and environmental costs, etc.).

PRINCIPLE 6: ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND IMPACTS

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

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

Indicators		Means of verification
6.1.1	<p>The best information available is used to identify environmental values within and – where potentially affected by management activities – outside the management unit.</p> <p>Guidance note: The best available information includes: representative sample areas showing environmental values in their natural condition; field surveys; databases relevant to the environmental values; consultation with local and regional experts; engagement with local communities, affected stakeholders, and interested stakeholders. For SLIMFs, the best available information is based on the knowledge and observations of the existing landowner, neighbours, and other local stakeholders. In the case of grounds, the body managing the group could compile some of this information and make it available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. evaluation records such as species lists and maps); • Stakeholder consultation (including specialists).
6.1.2	<p>Assessments of environmental values are carried out at a level of detail and frequency such that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) impacts of management activities on the identified environmental values can be assessed as per Criterion 6.2; 2) the conservation measures required to protect these values can be identified as per Criterion 6.3; and, 3) monitoring of impacts or environmental changes can be conducted as per Principle 8. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. list of habitats that are present, implementation of measures, record of accomplished activities, monitoring records, etc.); • Field inspections; • Stakeholder consultation (including specialists).

Criterion 6.2 Prior to the start of site-disturbing activities, The Organization shall identify and assess the scale, intensity and risk of potential impacts of management activities on the identified environmental values.		
Indicators		Means of verification
6.2.1	<p>Applicable to non-SLIMFs</p> <p>An environmental impact assessment identifies potential present and future impacts of management activities on environmental values, from the stand level to the landscape level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. pre-assessments, operational plans, records of activities carried out, etc.); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections, including of on-going operations.
6.2.1	<p>Applicable to SLIMFs</p> <p>An environmental impact assessment identifies potential impacts of management activities on environmental values.</p> <p>Guidance note: SLIMF organizations could use the existing FSC tools for streamlined social and environmental impact assessments (FSC website).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. pre-assessments, operational plans, records of activities carried out, etc.); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections, including of on-going operations.
6.2.2	<p>Assessments of environmental impact are completed prior to the commencement of any activities that may disrupt the ecological balance of the site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections, including of on-going operations.

Criterion 6.3 The Organization shall identify and implement effective actions to prevent negative impacts of management activities on the environmental values, and to mitigate and repair those that occur, proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of these impacts.		
Indicators		Means of verification
6.3.1	<p>Management activities are planned and implemented to prevent negative impacts and to protect environmental values.</p> <p>Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate: It is forbidden to use lead ammunition if there are viable alternatives.</p> <p>Guidance note 1: Regarding wildfowl hunting in wetlands, it is understood that there are viable alternatives, so the ban of lead ammunition is compulsory. In other situations, such a ban should be analysed on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections.

	Guidance note 2: In other situations, outside of wetlands, the use of lead ammunition is only allowed when it is shown there are no viable alternatives, particularly due to a lack of alternative ammunition or due to the risks of using it, where applicable. Where viable alternatives exist, the prohibition also applies outside of wetlands.	
6.3.2	If there are negative impacts on environmental values, measures are adopted to prevent further damage, and negative impacts are mitigated and/or repaired.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections, including of on-going operations.

Criterion 6.4 The Organization shall protect rare species and threatened species and their habitats in the Management Unit through conservation zones, protection areas, connectivity and/or (where necessary) other direct measures for their survival and viability. These measures shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities and to the conservation status and ecological requirements of the rare and threatened species. The Organization shall take into account the geographic range and ecological requirements of rare and threatened species beyond the boundary of the Management Unit, when determining the measures to be taken inside the Management Unit.

Indicators		Means of verification
6.4.1	Based on the best available information, the presence or likely presence of rare and threatened species and their habitats (e.g. nesting, shelter and feeding areas) within or adjacent to the forest management unit is assessed. Guidance Note 1: Protected species are covered by legal conservation instruments applicable to our country (Habitats Directive, Bird Directive, Bern, Bonn and CITES conventions). When identifying them, the Natura 2000 Sectoral Plan and the national report on the implementation of the Habitats Directive should be taken into consideration, among other documents. The identification of threatened species takes account of but does not limit itself to the three IUCN categories of conservation status: critically threatened, threatened, and vulnerable. In the case of Portugal, these have been set out in the <i>Red List of Threatened Species of Portugal</i>. Portuguese and Iberian endemism are also taken into consideration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. evaluation records such as species lists and maps); • Stakeholder consultation (including specialists).

	Guidance Note 2: If the forest management organization does not have enough knowledge concerning the subject, it can involve specialists, non-governmental organizations and regulatory authorities.	
6.4.2	<p>Potential impacts of management activities on rare and threatened species and their conservation status and habitats are identified and management activities are modified to avoid negative impacts.</p> <p>Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate: Game management practices and hunting are compatible with the presence of rare, threatened, and endangered species present in the forest management unit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. list of potential impacts, changes to planned activities, etc.); • Field inspections; • Stakeholder consultation (including specialists).
6.4.3	<p>Rare and threatened species and their habitats are protected, including through the provision of conservation zones, protected areas, connectivity, and other direct means of supporting their survival and viability.</p> <p>Guidance note: In the case of SLIMF groups (or for the SLIMF members of a mixed group), this requirement can be fulfilled at a group level.¹</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. implementation of measures, etc.); • Field inspections; • Stakeholder consultation (including specialists).
6.4.4	<p>Hunting, fishing, trapping, and the collection of rare or threatened species is prevented.</p> <p>Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate: In Portugal, the list of game species, hunting periods and daily bag limits are defined by law (DL 2/2011, 06-01). Although daily bags have been heavily reduced and hunting periods adjusted for the hunting of these species, for the purpose of this standard the hunting of species with rare and endangered status at the global and national level is prohibited, even if appears in the hunting calendar. For this indicator, species listed as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List and the <i>Red Book of Vertebrates of Portugal</i> should be taken into account.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. implementation of measures, such as reports to the relevant authorities); • Field inspections.

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

¹ As per document FSC-GUI-60-001 V1-0 EN – *Guidance on the Interpretation of FSC Principles and Criteria to take account of small scale and low intensity*

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.

Guidance note: In the case of group certificates, the criteria can be fulfilled at group level.²

Indicators	Means of verification
<p>6.5.1 The best available information is used to identify native ecosystems that exist, or would exist under natural conditions within the management unit. Guidance note: The representative samples of the ecosystems mentioned in this indicator are selected by taking account of their proximity to their natural state, based on the sources listed in indicator 6.4.1, and other land use planning instruments, such as council plans and regional forest plans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. list of ecosystems that are present, maps); • Field inspections; • Stakeholder consultation (including specialists).
<p>6.5.2 Representative sample areas of native ecosystems are protected, where they exist.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. list of identified ecosystems, mapping, etc.); • Field inspections.
<p>6.5.3 Applicable to non-SLIMFs Where representative sample areas do not exist, or where existing sample areas inadequately represent native ecosystems or are otherwise insufficient, a proportion of the management unit is restored to more natural conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. list of identified ecosystems, mapping, etc.); • Field inspections.
<p>6.5.4 The size of representative sample areas and/or restoration areas is proportionate to the conservation status and value of the ecosystems at landscape level, the size of the management unit and the intensity of forest management. See also Annex V.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. list of identified ecosystems, mapping, etc.); • Field inspections.

² As per document FSC-STD-30-005 (V1-0) EN - FSC standard for group entities in forest management groups:

Landscape level requirements: requirements of the applicable FSC standard that are implemented at the level of the group entity in a forest management group (e.g. protection of representative samples of ecosystems, protection of high conservation values).

6.5.5	<p>Representative sample areas in combination with other components of the conservation and protected areas comprise a minimum 10 per cent area of the management unit.</p> <p>Guidance note: In the case of small-scale SLIMFs, the area reserved for this purpose may be less than 10 per cent, if properly justified in environmental, economic, and social terms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. list of identified ecosystems, mapping, etc.); • Field inspections.
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Criterion 6.6 The Organization shall effectively maintain the continued existence of naturally occurring native species and genotypes, and prevent losses of biological diversity, especially through habitat management in the Management Unit. The Organization shall demonstrate that effective measures are in place to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting.

Indicators	Means of verification
<p>6.6.1 Management activities maintain the plant communities and habitat features found within native ecosystems where the management unit is located.</p> <p>Guidance note: Habitat features that should be considered include: diversity, composition and structure; maintenance of old or dead trees, standing or fallen; riparian zones, clearings, rotation, and connectivity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. operational procedures, etc.); • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents.
<p>6.6.2 Management activities maintain, enhance, or restore habitat features associated with native ecosystems, to support the diversity of naturally occurring species and their genetic diversity.</p> <p>Guidance note: See also Guidance note 6.6.1. In the case of dead trees, the danger of an outbreak of pests and diseases should be considered, to avoid putting the forest's health at risk.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. list of habitats that are present); • Field inspections.
<p>6.6.3 Effective measures are taken to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping, and collecting activities, thus ensuring that naturally occurring native species, their genetic diversity and their natural distribution are maintained.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. implementation of control system, such as reports to the relevant authorities); • Field inspections.
<p>6.6.4 Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate: Predator control is sporadic, justified in accordance with population monitoring and management objectives, and its effectiveness evaluated within the context of the monitoring programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. implementation of control system); • Field inspections.

<p>Interpretative note: The methods used are as selective as possible for the species concerned. If using cage-traps, these are placed preferably in the shade and visited in the morning and at dusk, Specimens subject to control are killed in such a way that their suffering is minimized. Any other species caught accidentally are released immediately.</p>	
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Criterion 6.7 The Organization shall protect or restore natural water courses, 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.		
Indicators	Means of verification	
<p>6.7.1 Protection measures are implemented to protect natural watercourses, water bodies, riparian zones, and their connectivity, including water quantity and water quality. These measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • buffer zones to protect water systems or riparian zones; • maintenance of vegetation and native riparian habitats; • shaded zones; • maintenance of natural stream flows; • measures to prevent impacts from construction, maintenance and use of infrastructures; • measures to prevent sedimentation and soil erosion; • measures to prevent negative impacts from chemicals or fertilizers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. operational procedures, etc.); • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents. 	
<p>6.7.2 If the protection measures referred to in 6.7.1 are not effective, restoration activities are implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. operational procedures, etc.); • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents. 	
<p>6.7.3 If the areas referred to in 6.7.1 have been damaged by past activities under the responsibility of the organization, restoration activities are implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. operational procedures, etc.); • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents. 	
<p>6.7.4 If there is ongoing degradation to watercourses, water bodies, water quantity, and water quality caused by previous managers or the activities of third parties, measures are implemented to prevent or mitigate this degradation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. operational procedures, etc.); • Field inspections; 	

		• Interviews with forest management agents.
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Criterion 6.8 The Organization shall manage the landscape in the Management Unit to maintain and/or restore a varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales and regeneration cycles appropriate for the landscape values in that region, and for enhancing environmental and economic resilience.

Guidance note: In the case of group certificates, the criteria can be fulfilled at group level.³

Indicators		Means of verification
6.8.1	A varying mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales, and regeneration cycles is maintained that is appropriate to the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents.
6.8.2	<p>Applicable only to non-SLIMF or low-intensity SLIMF organizations</p> <p>The mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales, and regeneration cycles is restored where it has not been maintained, in keeping to the landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents.

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

a) affects a very limited portion of the area of the Management Unit, and

b) will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation benefits in the Management Unit, and

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

Indicators		Means of verification
6.9.1	There is no conversion of natural forest to plantations, nor conversion of natural forests to non-forest land use, nor conversion of plantations on sites	• Management plan and/or associated documentation;

³ According to document FSC-STD-30-005 (V1-0) EN - FSC standard for group entities in forest management groups:

Landscape level requirements: requirements of the applicable FSC standard that are implemented at the level of the group entity in a forest management group (e.g. protection of representative samples of ecosystems, protection of HCVs).

<p>directly converted from natural forest to non-forest land use, except when the conversion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) affects a very limited portion of the management unit, and 2) the conversion will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure, and long-term conservation benefits in the management unit, and 3) does not damage or threaten the high conservation values, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those high conservation values. <p>Guidance note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ ‘Plantations on sites directly converted from natural forests’ are areas that were natural forest immediately prior to being converted to plantation. ✓ 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. historical records of land use, planning of new buildings); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation; • Field inspections.
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Criterion 6.10 Management Units containing plantations that were established on areas converted from natural forest after November 1994 shall not qualify for certification, except where:

a) clear and sufficient evidence is provided that The Organization was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion, or

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

Indicators		Means of verification
6.10.1	Based on the best available information, accurate data exists for all conversions since 1994.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. historical records of land use, ownerships records, aerial photographs, etc.); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation; • Field inspections.
6.10.2	<p>Areas converted from natural forest to plantation since November 1994 are not certified, except where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) the organization provides clear and sufficient evidence that it was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion, or 2) the conversion is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure, and long-term conservation benefits in the management unit, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. historical records of land use, ownership records, aerial photographs, etc.); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation; • Field inspections.

	3) the total area of plantation on sites converted from natural forest is less than 5 per cent of the total area of the management unit.	
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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.

Indicators		Means of verification
7.1.1	Applicable to non-SLIMFs Policies (vision and values) that contribute towards meeting the requirements of this standard are defined.	• Management plan and/or associated documentation.
7.1.1	Applicable to SLIMFs Policies that contribute towards meeting the requirements of this standard are defined.	• Management plan and/or associated documentation.
7.1.2	Specific, operational management objectives that address the requirements of this standard are defined.	• Management plan and/or associated documentation.
7.1.3	Summaries of the defined policies and management objectives are included in the management plan and made public.	• Management plan summary; • Records (e.g. requests, publicizing material).

Criterion 7.2 The Organization shall have and implement a management plan for the Management Unit which is fully consistent with the policies and 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.

Indicators		Means of verification
7.2.1	The management plan includes management actions, procedures, strategies, and measures to achieve the management objectives.	• Management plan and/or associated documentation.
7.2.2	The management plan addresses the results of assessments, including:	• Management plan and/or associated documentation;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. natural resources and environmental values, as identified in Principle 6 and Principle 9; ii. social, economic and cultural resources and conditions, as identified in Principle 6, Principle 2 to Principle 5, and Principle 9; iii. major social and environmental risks in the area, as identified in Principle 6, Principle 2 to Principle 5, and Principle 9; and iv. the maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services for which FSC-related promotional claims are made, as identified in Criterion 5.1 and Annex C. <p>Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate: There is an annual plan of exploitation of game species, defined before the start of the hunting operation, which should take into account the results of monitoring.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records.
7.2.3	<p>The management plan addresses programmes and activities regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. stakeholder engagement and the resolution of disputes, as identified in Principle 1, Principle 4, and Principle 7; See Indicator 4.5.1 for applicability to SLIMFs. ii. planned management activities and timelines, silvicultural systems used, typical harvesting methods and equipment, as identified in Principle 10; <p>Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate (1): Re-introductions, restocking and releases, the latter only sporadic (may not exceed three releases per hunting season), are duly justified in the face of management objectives and taking into account the characteristics of the area under management.</p> <p>Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate (2): In hunting zones that have seen reintroductions and/or in the locations within the hunting zone where there have been restocking actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • these should be done with the clear objective of ensuring adequate levels of the species concerned; and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. procedures or work instructions, etc.); • Records.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in the case of reintroductions, a minimum of one reproductive cycle must be fulfilled and at least two year passes before any hunting activity involving the species takes place; and the hunting of re-introduced or restocked species should only take place when that level is reached (which should be evaluated in the monitoring programme). <p>Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate (3): If there are reintroductions and restocking, they should present clear, substantial, additional, secure, and long-term benefits of conservation for the management unit.</p> <p>Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate (4): There is a record of releases, repopulation, reintroductions, or introductions of species bred in captivity.</p> <p>iii. The rationale for harvesting rates of timber and other natural resources, as identified in Principle 5.</p>	
7.2.4	<p>The management plan addresses measures to conserve and/or restore:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> rare and threatened species and habitats; water bodies and riparian zones; landscape connectivity, including wildlife corridors; declared ecosystem services as identified in Criterion 5.1; representative sample areas as identified in Principle 6 (see Indicator 6.5.5 for applicability to SLIMFs); and high conservation values, as identified in Principle 9. <p>Guidance note: In the case of group certificates, the indicator can be fulfilled at group level⁴</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. operational procedures, etc.); Records.
7.2.5	<p>The management plan addresses measures to assess, prevent, and mitigate negative impacts of management activities on:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan and/or associated documentation; Records.

⁴ According to document FSC-STD-30-005 (V1-0) EN - FSC standard for group entities in forest management groups:

Landscape level requirements: requirements of the applicable FSC standard that are implemented at the level of the group entity in a forest management group (e.g. protection of representative samples of ecosystems, protection of HCVs).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. environmental values, as identified in Principle 6 and Principle 9; ii. declared ecosystem services, as identified in Criterion 5.1; iii. social values, as identified in Principle 2 to Principle 5 and Principle 9. 	
7.2.6	<p>The management plan addresses a description of the monitoring programme, as identified in Principle 8, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Growth and yield, as identified in Principle 5; ii. Declared ecosystem services, as identified in Criterion 5.1; iii. environmental values, as identified in Principle 6; iv. operational impacts, as identified in Principle 10; v. high conservation values, as identified in Principle 9; and vi. Stakeholder engagement planned or in place, as identified in Principle 2 to Principle 5 and Principle 9. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records.
7.2.7	<p>Applicable to non-SLIMFs</p> <p>The forest management organization has maps that pinpoint, at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the forest resources; ii. the conservation zones and protected areas; iii. the operations planned for each area; and iv. land ownership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. maps).
7.2.7	<p>Applicable to SLIMFs</p> <p>The forest management organization has maps that pinpoint, at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the forest resources; ii. the conservation zones and protected areas; and iii. land ownership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. maps).
7.2.8	<p>The management plan has been implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. monitoring results); • Field inspections.

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

Indicators	Means of verification
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7.3.1	<p>Verifiable targets and the frequency with which they are assessed are established for monitoring progress towards each management objective and used as the basis for monitoring in Principle 8.</p> <p>Guidance note: Examples of verifiable targets to be established include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – site productivity, yield of all products harvested; – growth rates, regeneration and condition of the vegetation; – composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna; – water quality and quantity; – soil erosion, compaction, fertility and carbon content; – wildlife populations, biodiversity and status of high conservation values; – sensitive cultural and environmental resources; – stakeholder satisfaction with engagement; – benefits of management operations provided to local communities; – number of occupational accidents; and – overall economic viability of the management unit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records.
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Criterion 7.4 The Organization shall update and revise periodically the management planning and procedural documentation to incorporate the results of monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder engagement or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.

	Indicators	Means of verification
7.4.1	<p>A mechanism for periodic review and revision of the management plan, for the next five years, even if the revision does not alter the document, is established and documented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation.
7.4.2	<p>Revisions of the forest management plan include, at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – changes in environmental, social and economic conditions (e.g. fires, change of ownership, disasters); – monitoring results, including results of certification audits; – relevant new scientific or technical information; and – stakeholder engagement results. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. of the revision of the management plan); • Interviews with forest management agents.

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

Indicators	Means of verification
<p>7.5.1 A summary of the management plan in a format comprehensible to stakeholders, including maps but excluding confidential information, is made available to stakeholders at no cost. Guidance note: Examples of confidential information include data and content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – related to investment decisions; – about intellectual property rights; – which is client confidential; – which is, by law, confidential; – whose dissemination could put at risk the protection of wildlife species and habitats; and – about sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious, or spiritual significance to Indigenous Peoples or local communities (see Criterion 4.7) as requested by these groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan summary. • Records (e.g. requests, publicizing material).
<p>7.5.2 Relevant components of the management plan, excluding confidential information, are available to affected stakeholders on request at the actual costs of reproduction and handling. Guidance note: Examples of confidential information include data and content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – related to investment decisions; – about intellectual property rights; – which is client confidential; – which is, by law, confidential; – whose dissemination could put at risk the protection of wildlife species and habitats; and – about sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious, or spiritual significance to indigenous peoples or local communities (see Criterion 4.7) as requested by those groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan summary. • Records (e.g. requests, publicizing material).

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

Indicators		Means of verification
7.6.1	A list of people and groups that are directly affected by the forest management activities is maintained and representatives and contact points are determined (including, where appropriate, local institutions, organizations and authorities).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. list of people and groups); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
7.6.2	Culturally appropriate engagement is used to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – ensure that all of those involved are represented and engaged equally; – determine mutually agreed communication channels allowing for information to flow in both directions; and – ensure meetings, points discussed and relevant agreements reached are recorded and approved; and – ensure that the results of all culturally appropriate engagement activities are shared with those involved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. list of people and groups); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
7.6.3	Affected stakeholders are given an opportunity to engage with the monitoring and planning processes for management activities that affect their interests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. engagement processes); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
7.6.4	On request, interested stakeholders are provided with an opportunity for engagement in monitoring and planning processes of management activities that affect their interests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. engagement processes); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.

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.

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

Indicators		Means of verification
8.1.1	<p>8.1.1 The organization document and implements a monitoring plan, which assesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the degree to which policies and management objectives have been implemented; – the degree to which verifiable targets have been achieved; – any deviations from planned forest management activities; and – changes to the conditions of the management unit, with and without interventions. <p>Guidance note 1: This implies that baseline data exists. Guidance note 2: The Monitoring Plan can be part of the overall management plan or a separate document.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. operational plans, records of deviations, and assessments of environmental and social impacts, communication records, and minutes).
8.1.2	<p>8.1.2 The monitoring mechanism mentioned in indicator 8.1.1 is scheduled in the management planning cycles, and is appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management operations as well as the relative complexity and fragility of the management unit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. operational plans, records of deviations, and assessments of environmental and social impacts, communication records, and minutes).
8.1.3	<p>8.1.3 Monitoring procedures are consistent and replicable to allow comparison of results and assessment of changes over time, and identification of risks and unacceptable impacts.</p> <p>Guidance note 1: This does not invalidate the implementation of possible changes to procedures that could improve their effectiveness or efficiency.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. operational plans, records of deviations, and assessments of environmental and social impacts, communication records, and minutes).

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.		
Indicators	Means of verification	
8.2.1	<p>Monitoring is sufficient to characterize the <u>environmental impacts</u> of management activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The results of regeneration activities (Criterion 10.1); ii. Adverse impacts associated with alien species within and outside the management unit. The need to monitor impacts of alien species outside the management unit is restricted to cases in which the organization was responsible for introducing the alien species (Criterion 10.3); iii. The results of silvicultural activities (Criterion 10.5); iv. Adverse impacts due to the use of fertilizers (Criterion 10.6); v. Adverse impacts due to the use of pesticides (Criterion 10.7); vi. The impacts due to natural hazards (Criterion 10.9); vii. The impacts (when assessed as significant) of infrastructural development, transport activities, and silviculture on rare and threatened species, habitats, ecosystems, and landscape values in relation to water and soil (Criterion 10.10); viii. The impacts of harvesting and extraction of timber or non-timber forest products, environmental values, merchantable wood waste, and other products and services (Criterion 10.11); and ix. Environmentally appropriate disposal of waste materials (Criterion 10.12) <p>Guidance note: Monitoring required is always within the management unit only, unless otherwise specified. This note applies to the entire Principle 8.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. operational plans, monitoring of operational plans, field inspections, accounting, inventory, records of production and sales, communication records, field inspections, etc.).
8.2.2	<p>The following <u>economic impacts/aspects</u> are assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Yield and productivity of forest products (actual compared with projected harvests), including hunting resources; – Income and costs, including hunting resources; – The condition of the forest resources; – The success of operational activities carried out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. operational plans, monitoring of operational plans, field inspections, accounting, inventory, records of production and sales, communication records, field inspections, etc.).

	<p>Guidance note 1: The condition of the forest resources can be assessed by the presence of pests, diseases, or invasive species, nutrient deficiencies or fire risk.</p> <p>Guidance note 2: The success of operational activities carried out can be assessed by the success of forest regeneration efforts.</p>	
8.2.3	<p>The following <u>social impacts/aspects</u> are assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Compliance with applicable laws and ratified international conventions (including occupational health and safety and labour legal requirements) (Criterion 1.5); – Programmes and activities relating to occupational health and safety activities (e.g. as measured by EU-OSHA indicators) (Criterion 2.3). – Worker training (Criterion 2.5); – Protection of sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious, or spiritual significance to local communities, including high conservation values 5 and 6 (Criterion 4.7); and – Significant social impacts, including those resulting from exploitation through hunting and other related activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. operational plans, monitoring of operational plans, field inspections, accounting, inventory, records of production and sales, communication records, field inspections, etc.).
8.2.4	<p>The following <u>changes in environmental conditions</u> are assessed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services (Criterion 5.2) (if the organization makes FSC-related promotional claims regarding the provision of ecosystem services, or receives payment for the provision of ecosystem services); ii. Environmental values, including the effectiveness of actions identified and implemented to prevent, mitigate, and rectify negative impacts to environmental values, including population dynamics and health conditions of wild game populations (Criterion 6.3); iii. Rare and threatened species, and the effectiveness of actions implemented to protect them and their habitats (Criterion 6.4); iv. Representative sample areas and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.5); v. Naturally occurring habitats and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.6); 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. operational plans, monitoring of operational plans, field inspections, accounting, inventory, records of production and sales, communication records, field inspections, etc.).

	<p>vi. Water courses, water bodies, water quantity and water quality, and the effectiveness of actions implemented to conserve and/or restore them (Criterion 6.7);</p> <p>vii. High conservation values 1 to 4, as identified in Criterion 9.1, and the effectiveness of actions implemented to maintain and/or enhance them.</p>	
8.2.5	<p>Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate: Areas where reintroduction, restocking programmes or releases of hand-reared animals take place are monitored to identify potential adverse impacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. monitoring results, etc.).

Criterion 8.3 The Organization shall analyze the results of monitoring and evaluation and feed the outcomes of this analysis back into the planning process.		
Indicators		Means of verification
8.3.1	Adaptive management procedures are implemented so that monitoring results feed into periodic updates to the management plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. monitoring results, revision of the management plan, records of deviations from the management plan).
8.3.2	If monitoring results show non-conformities with the FSC standard then management objectives, verifiable targets and/or management activities are revised.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. monitoring results, revision of the management plan, records of deviations from the management plan).

Criterion 8.4 The Organization shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring free of charge, excluding confidential information.		
Indicators		Means of verification
8.4.1	<p>A summary of the monitoring results, including those listed in criteria 8.1 and 8.2, is made publicly available at no cost in a format comprehensible to stakeholders, including maps and excluding confidential information.</p> <p>Guidance note: The entire results of any monitoring can be provided if this reduces the administration burden.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. summary of monitoring results, records of publicizing material related to the monitoring summary, etc.).

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

Indicators		Means of verification
8.5.1	A system is implemented to track and trace all products that are marketed as FSC-certified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. product identification procedure, sales procedure); • Records (e.g. operational plans, outsourcing agreements, sales agreements, transport documentation, invoices); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections.
8.5.2	<p>Applicable to non-SLIMFs</p> <p>Information about all products sold is compiled and documented, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Common and scientific species name; 2) Product name or description; 3) Volume (or quantity) of the product; 4) Information to trace the material to its original logging block; 5) Logging date; 6) If basic processing activities take place in the forest, the date and volume produced; and 7) Whether or not the material was sold as FSC-certified. <p>Guidance note: Records are sufficient to allow evaluation of the quantity of product harvested versus the quantity sold, and of that projected for the harvesting block.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. operational plans, inventories, transport documentation, invoices); • Field inspections.
8.5.3	<p>Sales invoices or similar documentation are kept for a minimum of five years for all products sold with an FSC claim, giving the following information at a minimum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Name and address of purchaser 2) The date of sale; 3) Common and/or scientific species name; 4) Product name or description; 5) The volume (or quantity) sold; 6) The source of the certified product (name of the estate/site/management unit). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. outsourced service provision contracts, sales agreements, transport documentation, invoices); • Field inspections.

7) Certificate code; and 8) The FSC claim 'FSC 100%', identifying products sold as FSC-certified.	
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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.

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.

Indicators	Means of verification
<p>9.1.1 An assessment is completed using the best available information, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the location and status of high conservation value categories 1–6, as defined in Criterion 9.1; and – the high conservation value areas they rely upon, and their condition. <p>Guidance note: Best available information includes, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – High conservation value surveys of the management unit; – Relevant databases and maps; – Consultation with relevant local and regional experts; – Other available sources; and/or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. description of the methodology for evaluating the condition of HCV, information on HCV – ecosystems, landscape units, habitats, species, protected areas, environmental services, social services and cultural values). • Records (e.g. records of the identification and description of the attributes of high conservation value).

	– Review of the results by knowledgeable expert(s) independent of the organization.	
9.1.2	The assessment uses results arising from the involvement of affected stakeholders and those with an interest in the conservation of the high conservation values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. records of the identification and description of the attributes of high conservation values, consultation records, etc.); • Stakeholder consultation.
9.1.3	Applicable to non-SLIMFs The results of the assessment are recorded in formats that are accessible to interested stakeholders, including maps at an appropriate scale.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. HCV maps, monitoring records for the percentage of the forest management unit covered by HCVs).

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

Indicators		Means of verification
9.2.1	Threats to high conservation values are identified using the best available information. Guidance note: The best available information includes, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – High conservation value surveys of the management unit; – Relevant databases and maps; – Consultation with relevant local and regional experts; – Other available sources; and/or – Review of the results by knowledgeable expert(s) independent of the organization. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. description of the methodology for evaluating the condition of the HCVs, information on the HCVs – ecosystems, landscape units, habitats, species, protected areas, environmental services, social services, and cultural values, including threats). • Records (e.g. records of the identification and description of the attributes of the high conservation values).
9.2.2	Management strategies and actions are developed to maintain and/or enhance the identified high conservation values and to maintain associated high conservation value areas prior to implementing potentially harmful management activities. Guidance note: See also Annex VI, which provides guidance on how to use the National HCV Framework for identifying the high conservation values in the management unit and for developing management strategies to protect these high conservation values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. description of the management measures for HCVs); • Records (e.g. monitoring records for the percentage of HCVs under effective management); • Field inspections.

9.2.3	Affected and interested stakeholders and experts are engaged in the development of management strategies and actions to maintain and/or enhance the identified high conservation values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records (e.g. records of the identification and description of the attributes of high conservation values, list of stakeholders, consultation records); Stakeholder consultation.
9.2.4	The management measures for high conservation values are included in the publicly available management plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public summary of the management plan.

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

Indicators		Means of verification
9.3.1	The high conservation values and the high conservation value areas on which they depend are maintained and/or enhanced, including by implementing the strategies developed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. description of the management measures for HCVs); Records (e.g. monitoring records for the percentage HCVs under effective management); Field inspections.
9.3.2	The strategies and actions prevent damage and avoid risks to high conservation values, even if the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of the high conservation values are uncertain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. description of the management measures for the HCVs); Records (e.g. monitoring records for the percentage of HCVs under effective management); Field inspections.
9.3.3	Activities that harm high conservation values cease immediately and actions are taken to restore and protect the high conservation values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. description of the management measures for HCVs); Records (e.g. monitoring records for the percentage of HCVs under effective management); Field inspections.

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

Indicators	Means of verification
<p>9.4.1 A programme of periodic monitoring assesses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Implementation of strategies; 2) The status of high conservation values, including the high conservation value areas on which they depend; and 3) The effectiveness of management strategies and actions for the protection of high conservation values to ensure that they are fully maintained and/or enhanced. <p>See also Criterion 8.2 Guidance note 1: SLIMF organizations could use the existing FSC tools for monitoring (FSC website). Non-SLIMF organizations are expected to set up and implement monitoring programmes that measure the effectiveness of all of their management activities. Guidance note 2: Whenever the identified high conservation values are under a monitoring programme carried out by public or private entities that detain that responsibility, the organization should contact them in order to obtain the information related to items: 2) The status of high conservation values, including high conservation value areas on which they depend; and 3) The effectiveness of the management strategies and actions for the protection of high conservation values in order to ensure that they are fully maintained and/or enhanced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. monitoring procedure, monitoring programme); • Records (e.g. monitoring records and/or records of the ongoing conservation of aspects relating to high conservation value); • Stakeholder consultation; • Field inspections.
<p>9.4.2 The monitoring programme includes engagement with affected and interested stakeholders and experts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. monitoring procedure, monitoring programme); • Records (e.g. monitoring records and/or records of the ongoing conservation of aspects relating to high conservation value); • Stakeholder consultation; • Field inspections.
<p>9.4.3 The monitoring programme has sufficient scope, detail and frequency to detect changes in high conservation values, relative to the initial assessment and status identified for each high conservation value.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. monitoring procedure, monitoring programme);

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. monitoring records and/or records of the ongoing conservation of aspects relating to high conservation value); • Stakeholder consultation; • Field inspections.
9.4.4	The strategies developed are effective at maintaining and/or enhancing the high conservation values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. monitoring procedure, monitoring programme); • Records (e.g. monitoring records and/or records of the ongoing conservation of aspects relating to high conservation value); • Stakeholder consultation; • Field inspections.
9.4.5	Management strategies and actions are adapted when monitoring or other new information shows that these strategies and actions are insufficient to ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of high conservation values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. monitoring procedure, monitoring programme); • Records (e.g. monitoring records and/or records of the ongoing conservation of aspects relating to high conservation value); • Stakeholder consultation; • Field inspections.

PRINCIPLE 10: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

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

Criterion 10.1 The Organization shall use silvicultural practices that are ecologically appropriate for the vegetation, species, sites and management objectives.

Indicators		Means of verification
10.1.1	Silvicultural practices are implemented that are ecologically appropriate for the vegetation, species, sites, and management objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. operational procedures, etc.); • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.

Criterion 10.2 After harvest or in accordance with the management plan, The Organization shall, by natural or artificial regeneration methods, regenerate vegetation cover in a timely fashion to pre-harvesting or more natural conditions.

Guidance Note 1: For an existing plantation, the species harvested may be the same as the one(s) used to regenerate. However, there may be solid ecological, social, and economic reasons for changing the species and structure. The chosen species must be ecologically well adapted to the site and the management objectives consistent with Criterion 10.3.

Guidance Note 2: The justification may be included in the management plan.

Indicators		Means of verification
10.2.1	Harvested sites are regenerated in a timely manner that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) protects affected environmental values; and 2) is suitable to recover overall pre-harvest or natural forest composition and structure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. operational procedures, etc.); • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
10.2.2	Regeneration activities are implemented in a manner that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) for the harvesting of existing plantations regenerate to the level of vegetation cover that existed prior to the harvest or to more natural conditions using ecologically well-adapted species; 2) for the harvesting of natural forests, regenerate to pre-harvest or to more natural conditions; or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. operational procedures, etc.); • Records; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.

	3) for the harvesting of degraded natural forests, regenerate to more natural conditions.	
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Criterion 10.3 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.		
Indicators		Means of verification
10.3.1	Species chosen for regeneration are ecologically well adapted to the site, are native species and are of local provenance, unless clear and convincing justification is provided for using non-local genotypes or non-native species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. performance evaluation results, monitoring results, etc.); • Field inspections.
10.3.2	Species chosen for regeneration are consistent with the regeneration objectives and with the management objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. performance evaluation results, monitoring results, etc.); • Field inspections.

Criterion 10.4 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.		
Indicators		Means of verification
10.4.1	Alien species are used only if direct experience and/or the results of scientific research demonstrate that invasive impacts can be controlled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. monitoring records, records of evaluation of adverse impacts; complaints, etc.); • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
10.4.2	Alien species are used only if effective mitigation measures are in place to control their spread outside the area in which they are established.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. monitoring records, records of evaluation of adverse impacts; complaints, etc.); • Field inspections;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
10.4.3	The spread of invasive species introduced by the organization is controlled.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. monitoring records, records of evaluation of adverse impacts; complaints, etc.); • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
10.4.4	Management activities are implemented, preferably in cooperation with separate regulatory bodies where these exist, with the aim of controlling the invasive impacts of alien species that were not introduced by the organization.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. monitoring records, records of evaluation of adverse impacts; complaints, etc.); • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
10.4.5	<p>Applicable for areas with hunting included in the scope of the certificate:</p> <p>The introduction of exotic game species is not allowed in certified areas except when there is enough scientific and technical evidence that a particular exotic species has long-term beneficial impacts for the area. Hunting zones in which exotic species have previously been introduced will be accepted by FSC, provided that they comply with all Principles and Criteria. The effective date for the ban will be the date of accreditation of this standard by FSC International. Whenever negative impacts caused by game exotic species occur and mitigation of those impacts is not effective, those exotic species should be removed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. monitoring records, records of evaluation of adverse impacts; complaints, etc.); • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.

Criterion 10.5 The Organization shall not use genetically modified organisms in the Management Unit.		
Indicators		Means of verification
10.5.1	Genetically modified organisms are not used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. lists of sources of biological material and suppliers); • Interviews with forest management agents.

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

Indicators		Means of verification
10.6.1	The use of fertilizers is minimized or avoided and when used, their ecological and economic benefits are equal to or higher than those of silvicultural systems that do not require fertilizers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. records of chemical use in the forest management unit). • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
10.6.2	Applicable to non-SLIMFs When fertilizers are used, their types, rates, frequencies and site of application are documented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. records of chemical use in the forest management unit). • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
10.6.3	When fertilizers are used, environmental values are protected, including through implementation of measures to prevent damage. Buffer zones that exclude the use of fertilizers around rare plant communities, riparian zones, watercourses, and water bodies are implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. records of chemical use in the forest management unit). • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.
10.6.4	Damage to environmental values resulting from fertilizer use is mitigated or rectified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. records of chemical use in the forest management unit). • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation.

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

Indicators	Means of verification
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10.7.1	<p>Integrated pest management, including the selection of silviculture systems, is used to avoid or aim to eliminate the frequency, extent, and amount of chemical pesticides used, and to result in non-use or overall reductions in their use.</p> <p>Guidance note: A compilation of relevant information regarding FSC requirements on the use of pesticides is available on the FSC IC website and the FSC Pesticides website.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. integrated strategy for pest and disease control); • Records (e.g. records of pesticide use); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections (including visits to chemical storage areas).
10.7.2	<p>Chemical pesticides prohibited by FSC's Pesticide Policy are not used in the management unit unless FSC has granted an exemption.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. integrated strategy for pest and disease control); • Records (e.g. records of pesticide use); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections (including visits to chemical storage areas).
10.7.3	<p>When pesticides are used:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The selected pesticide, application method, timing and pattern of use offers the least risk to humans and non-target species; and 2) Objective evidence demonstrates that the pesticide is the only effective, practical, and cost-effective way to control the pest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. integrated strategy for pest and disease control); • Records (e.g. records of pesticide use); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections (including visits to chemical storage areas).
10.7.4	<p>Records of pesticide usage are maintained, including trade name, active ingredient, quantity of active ingredient used, period of use, location and area of use, and reason for use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. integrated strategy for pest and disease control); • Records (e.g. records of pesticide use); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections (including visits to chemical storage areas).
10.7.5	<p>The use of pesticides complies with the ILO document <i>Safety in the use of chemicals at work</i>, regarding requirements for the transport, storage, handling, application, and emergency procedures for clean-up following accidental spillages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. integrated strategy for pest and disease control); • Records (e.g. records of pesticide use); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections (including visits to chemical storage areas).
10.7.6	<p>Application methods minimize quantities used, while achieving effective results, and provide effective protection for surrounding landscapes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. integrated strategy for pest and disease control); • Records (e.g. records of pesticide use); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections (including visits to chemical storage areas).

10.7.7	Damage to environmental values and human health from pesticide use is prevented and mitigated or repaired where damage occurs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. integrated strategy for pest and disease control); • Records (e.g. records of pesticide use); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections (including visits to chemical storage areas).
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Criterion 10.8 The Organization shall minimize, monitor and strictly control the use of biological control agents in accordance with internationally accepted scientific protocols. When biological control agents are used, The Organization shall prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values.

Indicators		Means of verification
10.8.1	The use of biological control agents is justified, monitored, and controlled, with the aim of minimizing their use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. integrated pest and disease strategy, etc.).
10.8.2	The use of biological control agents complies with internationally accepted scientific protocols, including the <i>FAO Code of Conduct for the Import and Release of Exotic Biological Control Agents</i> , and any national regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. integrated pest and disease strategy, etc.).
10.8.3	The use of biological control agents is recorded, including type, quantity, period, location, and reason for use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. integrated pest and disease strategy); • Records (e.g. records of use of biological control agents); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including specialists).
10.8.4	Damage to environmental values caused by the use of biological control agents is prevented and mitigated or rectified where damage occurs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. Integrated pest and disease strategy); • Records (e.g. records of use of biological control agents); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Stakeholder consultation (including specialists).

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.⁵

⁵ For more details request FSC PT “Interpretation Note for P#10”

Indicators		Means of verification
10.9.1	Management activities mitigate the potential impacts of natural hazards that are relevant to the management unit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Field inspections; • Stakeholder consultation.
10.9.2	The risk that management activities will increase the frequency, distribution, or severity of natural hazards is identified for those hazards that may be affected by management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Field inspections; • Stakeholder consultation.
10.9.3	Management activities are modified and/or measures are developed and implemented in order to reduce the identified risks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records; • Field inspections; • Stakeholder consultation.

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.

Indicators		Means of verification
10.10.1	Written guidelines are in place that provide for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • erosion control; • the minimization of forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and other mechanic disturbances; • the protection of water resources within the FMU and the avoidance of negative impacts on the water outside the FMU. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. operational procedures); • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents.
10.10.2	Implementation of the guidelines are clearly and consistently evidenced in site level management practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents.
10.10.3	In the specific case of protection against erosion, road construction in narrow valleys, slip-prone or other unstable areas, natural drainage channels, and stream sides are minimized.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. operational procedures); • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents.

10.10.4	In the specific case of protection of water resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of stream crossings is minimized, • Roads are kept as far back from the stream as possible, • Stream crossings are established so as not to obstruct fish circulation nor destroy areas identified as natural habitats or other areas with well-preserved streamside vegetation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. operational procedures); • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents.
10.10.5	In the specific case of minimising damage during forest maintenance or harvesting operations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conservation zones and protected areas are identified before commencing any forest operation; • the possibility of phasing out felling in space and time are considered, appropriate to the area and characteristics of the site; • harvesting machinery does not enter streams except at designated stream crossings; • lop and top is not be left in streams nor roads; • extraction is stopped when soils are saturated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. operational procedures); • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents.
10.10.6	Forest workers are aware of the significant impacts of their activities, and the way these can be prevented or mitigated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. training records); • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents.
10.10.7	Disturbance or damage to rare and threatened species* and/or habitats* is prevented, mitigated, and rectified in a timely manner*, and management activities modified to prevent further damage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. operational procedures); • Records; • Field inspections; • Interviews with forest management agents.

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

Indicators		Means of verification
10.11.1	Harvesting and extraction practices for timber and non-timber forest products are implemented in a manner that conserves the environmental values as identified in Criterion 6.1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. operational procedures; good practice codes, manuals, or guides);

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections.
10.11.2	Harvesting practices optimize the use of forest products and merchantable materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. operational procedures; good practice codes, manuals, or guides); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections.
10.11.3	Sufficient amounts of dead and decaying biomass and forest structure are retained to conserve environmental values. Guidance note: In the case of dead trees the danger of an outbreak of pests and diseases are taken into consideration, to avoid putting the forest's health at risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation; • Records (e.g. list of habitats that are present); • Field inspections.
10.11.4	Harvesting practices avoid damage to standing residual trees and other environmental values and avoid the removal of the residual woody debris on the ground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. operational procedures; good practice codes, manuals or guides); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections.

Criterion 10.12 The Organization shall dispose of waste materials in an environmentally appropriate manner.		
Indicators		Means of verification
10.12.1	Collection, clean up, transportation, and disposal of all waste materials is done in an environmentally appropriate way that upholds the environmental values as identified in Criterion 6.1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. work instructions or procedures regarding waste management); • Records (e.g. evidence of an adequate licence for the waste management operator used, waste forms, etc.); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections.
10.12.2	A mechanism is established to ensure the collection, temporary storage, and adequate disposal of chemicals, containers, and liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil, according to legislation applicable to the various types of waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management plan and/or associated documentation (e.g. work instructions or procedures regarding waste management);

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. evidence of an adequate licence for the waste management operator used, waste forms, etc.); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections.
10.12.3	There is no evidence that the enterprise's waste products are disposed of other than at the listed sites (as listed in Indicator 10.12.4), and in accordance with environmentally safe methods and applicable legal requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field inspections.
10.12.4	A list identifying the off-site location(s) for the disposal of all its chemicals, containers, and liquid and solid non-organic wastes (including fuel and oil) is kept up to date.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records (e.g. evidence of an adequate licence for the waste management operator used, waste forms, list of different destinations, etc.); • Interviews with forest management agents; • Field inspections.

ANNEX I: TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

FSC terms used in this standard but not defined in Annex I follow the definitions included in the FSC glossary of terms.

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

Alien species - A species, subspecies or lower taxon, introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; includes any part, gametes, seeds, eggs, or propagules of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce (Based on Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Invasive Alien Species Programme).

Affected stakeholder - Any person, group of persons or entity that is or is likely to be subject to the effects of the activities of a Management Unit. Examples include, but are not restricted to (for example in the case of downstream landowners), persons, groups of persons or entities located in the neighborhood of the Management Unit. (Based on FSC 2011).

The following are examples of affected stakeholders:

- Local communities;
- Indigenous peoples;
- Workers;
- Forest dwellers;
- Neighbors.

Best Available Information - Data, facts, documents, expert opinions, and results of field surveys or consultations with stakeholders that are most credible, accurate, complete, and/or pertinent and that can be obtained through reasonable* effort and cost, subject to the scale* and intensity* of the management activities and the Precautionary Approach*.

Biological diversity - The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems (Based on Convention on Biological Diversity 1992, Article 2).

Biological control agents - Organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other organisms (Based on FSC 1994 and World Conservation Union (IUCN)).

Connectivity - A measure of how connected or spatially continuous a corridor, network, or matrix is. The fewer gaps, the higher the connectivity. Related to the structural connectivity concept; functional or behavioral connectivity refers to how connected an area is for a process, such as an animal moving through different types of landscape elements. Aquatic connectivity deals with the accessibility and transport of materials and organisms, through groundwater and surface water, between different patches of aquatic ecosystems of all kinds (Based on R.T.T. Forman. 1995. Land Mosaics. The Ecology of Landscapes and Regions. Cambridge University Press).

Conservation zones and protection areas - Defined areas that are designated and managed primarily to safeguard species, habitats, ecosystems, natural features or other site-specific values because of their natural environmental or cultural values, or for purposes of monitoring, evaluation or research, not necessarily excluding other management activities. For the purposes of the Principles and Criteria, these terms are used interchangeably, without implying that one always has a higher degree of conservation or protection than the other. The term 'protected area' is not used for these areas, because this term implies legal or official status, covered by national

regulations in many countries. In the context of the Principles and Criteria, management of these areas should involve active conservation, not passive protection (Based on FSC 2011).

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

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

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

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

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

Ecosystem - A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit (Based on Convention on Biological Diversity 1992, Article 2).

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

- Provisioning services such as food, forest products and water;
- Regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, air quality, climate and disease;
- Supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling;
- And cultural services and cultural values such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other nonmaterial benefits.

Engaging or engagement - The process by which The Organization communicates, consults and/or provides for the participation of interested and/or affected stakeholders ensuring that their concerns, desires, expectations, needs, rights and opportunities are considered in the establishment, implementation and updating of the management plan (Based on FSC 2011)

Environmental Impact Assessment - Systematic process used to identify potential environmental and social impacts of proposed projects, to evaluate alternative approaches, and to design and incorporate appropriate prevention, mitigation, management and monitoring measures (Based on Environmental impact assessment, guidelines for FAO field projects).

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

- Ecosystem functions (including carbon sequestration and storage);
- Biological diversity
- Water resources
- Soils

- Atmosphere
- Landscape values (including cultural and spiritual values).

The actual worth attributed to these elements depends on human and societal perceptions (Based on FSC 2011).

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

Genetically modified organism - An organism in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination (Based on FSC-POL-30-602 FSC Interpretation on GMO).

Genotype - The genetic constitution of an organism (Based on FSC 2011).

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

High Conservation Value (HCV) (Based on FSC 2011):

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.

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

Hunting Activity (for Game Indicators) – Acts of hunting which are not controlled by the regulatory standards established for the exercise of hunting (activities at shooting estates and correction of overpopulations).

Intact Forest Landscapes - A territory within today's global extent of forest cover which contains forest and non-forest ecosystems minimally influenced by human economic activity, with an area of at least 500 km² (50,000 ha) and a minimal width of 10 km (measured as the diameter of a circle that is entirely inscribed within the boundaries of the territory) (Based on Intact Forests / Global Forest Watch).

Interested stakeholder - Any person, group of persons, or entity that has shown an interest, or is known to have an interest, in the activities of a Management Unit (Based on FSC 2011).

The following are examples of interested stakeholders:

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

Invasive species - Species that are rapidly expanding outside of their native range. Invasive species can alter ecological relationships among native species and can affect ecosystem function and human health (Based on World Conservation Union (IUCN)).

Landscape - A geographical mosaic composed of interacting ecosystems resulting from the influence of geological, topographical, soil, climatic, biotic and human interactions in a given area (Based on World Conservation Union (IUCN)).

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

Local communities - Communities of any size that are in or adjacent to the Management Unit, and also those that are close enough to have a significant impact on the economy or the environmental values of the Management Unit or to have their economies, rights or environments significantly affected by the management activities or the biophysical aspects of the Management Unit.

Long term - The time-scale of the forest owner or manager as manifested by the objectives of the management plan*, the rate of harvesting, and the commitment to maintain permanent forest cover. The length of time involved will vary according to the context and ecological conditions, and will be a function of how long it takes a given ecosystem to recover its natural structure and composition following harvesting or disturbance, or to produce mature or primary conditions (Based on FSC-STD-01-002 V1-0 FSC Glossary of Terms (2009)).

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

Management Unit - A spatial area or areas submitted for FSC certification with clearly defined boundaries managed to a set of explicit long-term management objectives which are expressed in a management plan (Based on FSC 2011).

This area or areas include(s):

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

Native species - Species, subspecies, or lower taxon, occurring within its natural range (past or present) and dispersal potential (that is, within the range it occupies naturally or could occupy

without direct or indirect introduction or care by humans) (Based on Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Invasive Alien Species Programme).

Natural conditions/native ecosystem - For the purposes of the Principles and Criteria and any applications of restoration techniques, terms such as 'more natural conditions', 'native ecosystem' provide for managing sites to favor or restore native species and associations of native species that are typical of the locality, and for managing these associations and other environmental values so that they form ecosystems typical of the locality (Based on FSC 2011).

Natural forest - A forest area with many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems, such as complexity, structure and biological diversity, including soil characteristics, flora and fauna, in which all or almost all the trees are native species. 'Natural forest' does not include land which is not dominated by trees, was previously not forest, and which does not yet contain many of the characteristics and elements of native ecosystems. Young regeneration may be considered as natural forest after some years of ecological progression.

Non-timber forest products (NTFP) - All products other than timber derived from the Management Unit (Based on FSC 2011).

Occupational accident - An occurrence arising out of, or in the course of, work which results in fatal or non-fatal injury (Based on International Labour Organization (ILO). Bureau of Library and Information Services).

The Organization - The person or entity holding or applying for certification and therefore responsible for demonstrating compliance with the requirements upon which FSC certification is based (Based on FSC 2011).

Pesticide - Any substance or preparation prepared or used in protecting plants or wood or other plant products from pests; in controlling pests; or in rendering such pests harmless. This definition includes insecticides, rodenticides, acaricides, molluscicides, larvaecides, fungicides and herbicides (Based on FSC-POL-30-001 FSC Pesticides Policy (2005)).

Plantation - A forest area established by planting or sowing with using either alien or native species, often with one or few species, regular spacing and even ages, and which lacks most of the principal characteristics and key elements of natural forests (Based on FSC 2011). The description of plantations may be further defined in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards, with appropriate descriptions or examples, such as:

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

Precautionary approach - An approach requiring that when the available information indicates that management activities pose a threat of severe or irreversible damage to the environment or a threat to human welfare, The Organization will take explicit and effective measures to prevent the damage and avoid the risks to welfare, even when the scientific information is incomplete or

inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of environmental values are uncertain (Based on Principle 15 of Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992, and Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle of the Wingspread Conference, 23–25 January 1998).

Rare species - Species that are uncommon or scarce, but not classified as threatened. These species are located in geographically restricted areas or specific habitats, or are scantily scattered on a large scale. They are approximately equivalent to the IUCN (2001) category of Near Threatened (NT), including species that are close to qualifying for, or are likely to qualify for, a threatened category in the near future. They are also approximately equivalent to imperiled species (Based on IUCN. (2001). IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK).

Reinforcement (for Game Indicators) – Hunting activity consisting of releasing game species reared in captivity for capture on the same day or within 3 days, to be carried out only within the hunting season of such species.

Release (for Game Indicators) – Release, on shooting estates, of animals from game species that have been reared in captivity, for slaughter on the same day.

Representative sample area - Portions of the Management Unit* delineated for the purpose of conserving or restoring viable examples of an ecosystem that would naturally occur in that geographical region (Based on IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA). 2008. Establishing Marine Protected Area Networks – Making it Happen. Washington D.C.: IUCN-WCPA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and The Nature Conservancy).

Resilience - The ability of a system to maintain key functions and processes in the face of stresses or pressures by either resisting or adapting to change. Resilience can be applied to both ecological systems and social systems.

Restocking (for Game Indicators) – Release, in a determined area, of game species, with the objective of achieving population levels compatible with the potential of the area and its sustainable exploitation.

Restore / Restoration - These words are used in different senses according to the context and in everyday speech. In some cases, 'restore' means to repair the damage done to environmental values that resulted from management activities or other causes. In other cases, 'restore' means the formation of more natural conditions in sites which have been heavily degraded or converted to other land uses. In the Principles and Criteria, the word 'restore' is not used to imply the recreation of any particular previous, pre-historic, pre-industrial or other pre-existing ecosystem (Based on FSC 2011).

Semi natural forest - Semi natural forests can be defined as neither a forest undisturbed by man nor a plantation as defined separately. They represent mainly managed forests modified by man through silviculture and assisted regeneration.

Species Introduction (for Game Indicators) – The dissemination or release, by means of human activity, deliberate or accidental, of animal species outside their past or present distributional range.

Species Reintroduction (for Game Indicators) – the dissemination or release, by means of human activity, deliberate or accidental, of animal species within their past or recent distributional range.

Shooting Estates (for Game Indicators) – areas destined for the year-round practice of shooting game species reared in captivity.

Tenure - Socially defined agreements held by individuals or groups, recognized by legal statutes or customary practice, regarding the 'bundle of rights and duties' of ownership, holding, access and/or usage of a particular land unit or the associated resources there within (such as individual trees, plant species, water, minerals, etc.) (Based on World Conservation Union (IUCN).

Threatened species - Species that meet the IUCN (2001) criteria for Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR), and are facing a high, very high or extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. These categories may be re-interpreted for FSC purposes according to official national classifications (which have legal significance) and to local conditions and population densities (which should affect decisions about appropriate conservation measures) (Based on IUCN. (2001). IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK).

Use rights - Rights for the use of resources of the Management Unit that can be defined by local custom, mutual agreements, or prescribed by other entities holding access rights. These rights may restrict the use of particular resources to specific levels of consumption or particular harvesting techniques (Based on FSC 2011).

Very Limited portion - The area affected shall* not exceed 0.5% of the area of the Management Unit* in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% of the area of the Management Unit* (Based on FSC 2011).

Workers - All employed persons including public employees as well as 'self-employed' persons. This includes part-time and seasonal employees, of all ranks and categories, including laborers, administrators, supervisors, executives, contractor employees as well as self employed contractors and sub-contractors (Based on ILO Convention C155 Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981)

ANNEX II: LIST OF NORMATIVE REFERENCES

The normative references pertinent to Portugal are listed in a separate Excel file called Annex II_List of Normative References (P #1). This annex is not intended to be a complete list of all national, European Union and international legislation relevant to forest management. Rather, its aim is to constitute a primary source for certification bodies and forest management organizations intending to apply this standard. Given the ongoing evolution of applicable legislation, the websites of enforcement and regulatory authorities working in areas relating to society, the environment, forestry, and international conventions are also provided, as they are the major themes covered in this standard.

Other relevant sources of information for the implementation of the FSC standard are also given: a list and additional references for rare and endangered species in Portugal.

1. SOCIAL

European Agency for Health and Safety at Work – <http://osha.europa.eu/OSHA>

Ministry of Solidarity, Employment and Social Security – www.portugal.gov.pt/en/

Social Security Institute – www.seg-social.pt

Authority for Working Conditions – www.act.gov.pt

Commission for Equality in Labour and Employment – www.cite.gov.pt/en

OIT Lisbon - <http://www.ilo.org/public/portugue/region/eurpro/lisbon/index.htm>

Note: The seven key conventions indicated by the International Labour organization – conventions numbers 87, 98, 29, 105, 100, 101, and 138 – have all been ratified by Portugal and transposed to national law.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL

Ministry for Agriculture and the Sea – www.portugal.gov.pt/

Portuguese Environment Agency – www.apambiente.pt

Nature Conservation and Forests Institute – <http://www.icnf.pt/portal/icnf/en>

3. FORESTRY

Ministry for Agriculture and the Sea – www.portugal.gov.pt/

Nature Conservation and Forests Institute – <http://portal.icn.pt/ICNPortal/vPT>

4. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS RATIFIED BY PORTUGAL

Directorate-General for Justice Policy – <http://www.dgpj.mj.pt/sections/relacoes-internacionais/anexosorgint2/convencoes-ratificadas/>

5. ENDANGERED SPECIES

Red Books

Cabral, M.J. (coord.), Almeida, J., Almeida, P.R., Dellinger, T., Ferrand de Almeida, N., Oliveira, M.E., Palmeirim, J.M., Queiroz, A.I., Rogado, L., and Santos-Reis, M. (eds.) (2005) *Livro Vermelho dos Vertebrados de Portugal*. Instituto da Conservação da Natureza, Lisbon. 660 pp.

Sérgio, C., Garcia, C.A., Sim-Sim, M., Vieira, C., Hespanhol, H., and Stow, S. (2013) *Atlas e Livro Vermelho dos Briófitos Ameaçados de Portugal (Atlas and Red Data Book of Threatened Bryophytes of Portugal)*. MUHNAC, Documenta, Lisbon. 464 pp.

ATLAS

Invertebrates

Aguiar, C. and Serrano, A. (2013) *Catálogo e Atlas Coleópteros Carabídeos (Coleoptera: Carabidae) de Portugal Continental*. 265 pp.

Boudot, J.P., Kalkman, V.J., Azpilicueta Amorín, M., Bogdanović, T., Cordero Rivera, A., Degabriele, G., Dommanget, J.L., Ferreira, S., Garrigós, B., Jović, M., Kotarac, M., Lopau, W., Marinov, M., Mihoković, N., Riservato, E., Samraoui, B., and Schneider, W. (2009) *Atlas of the Odonata of the Mediterranean and North Africa*. Libellula Supplement 9: 1–256.

Garcia-Barros, E., Mungira, M.L., Martin, J.C., Romo, H., Garcia-Pereira, P., and Maravalhas, E.S. (2004) *Atlas de las mariposas diurnas de la Península Ibérica e islas Baleares (Lepidoptera: Papilionoidea & Hesperioidea)*. Monografias S.E.A. 11, 226 pp.

Maravalhas, E. (2003) *As Borboletas de Portugal (The Butterflies of Portugal)*. 464pp.

Maravalhas, E. and Soares, A. (2013) *As Libélulas de Portugal (The Dragonflies of Portugal)*. Booky Publisher, 336 pp.

Reis, J. (coord.) (2006) *Atlas dos bivalves de água doce em Portugal Continental*. Instituto da Conservação da Natureza, Lisbon, 130pp.

Serrano, A., Aguiar, C.A., Boieiro, M.R., and Zuzarte, A.J. (2008). *Os Coleópteros Carabóides do Parque Natural da Serra de S. Mamede: Atlas ilustrado e uma abordagem à sua biodiversidade*. Sociedade Portuguesa de Entomologia SPEN, 157pp.

Matos RMA (2004) *Non-Marine Testaceous Gastropoda of Continental Portugal and Berlengas Islands I*. Catalogue and Bibliography, Arquivos do Museu Bocage, Nova Série, Vol. IV, No. 1, pp. 1–158.

Fish

Ribeiro, F., Beldade, R., Dix, M., and Bochechas, J. (2007). *Carta Piscícola Nacional*. Direcção Geral dos Recursos Florestais-Fluviatilis, Lda. Available at <http://www.cartapiscicola.org/>

Sousa Santos (coord.), Almada, V., Robalo, J., Ferreira, T., Santos, J.M., Branco, P., Sousa, M., Castilho, R., Ramos, A., and Doadrio, I. (2013). *FISHATLAS - Atlas da diversidade genética de ciprinídeos de Portugal*. Project funded by the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (PTDC/AAC-CLI/103110/2008). (Also available at <http://www.fishatlas.net/>.)

Amphibians and reptiles

Loureiro, A., Ferrand de Almeida, N., Carretero, M.A., and Paulo, O.S. (eds.) (2008) *Atlas dos anfíbios e répteis de Portugal*. Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e da

Biodiversidade, Lisbon, 257 pp. (Also available at <http://www.icnf.pt/portal/naturaclas/patrinatur/atlas-anfi-rept>)

Birds

Equipa Atlas (2008) *Atlas das Aves Nidificantes em Portugal (1999–2005)*. Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e da Biodiversidade, Sociedade Portuguesa para o Estudo das Aves, Parque Natural da Madeira e Secretaria Regional do Ambiente e do Mar. Assírio & Alvim, Lisbon.

Mammals

Rainho, A., Alves, P., Amorim, F., and Marques, J.T. (coord.) (2013) *Atlas dos morcegos de Portugal continental*. Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas, 76 pp plus appendices.

Mathias (coord.) (1999) *Guia dos mamíferos terrestres de Portugal Continental, Açores e Madeira*. Instituto da Conservação da Natureza (ICN)/Centro de Biologia Ambiental da Universidade de Lisboa, Lisbon, 200 pp.

Flora

Flora Digital de Portugal, available at <http://jb.utad.pt/flora>

Flora-On, available at <http://www.flora-on.pt/>

OTHER SOURCES

ICNF (2013) *Relatório Nacional de Aplicação do art. 17º da Directiva Habitats (2007-2012) – distribuição de 324 espécies (191 da flora e 133 da fauna) e 99 habitats naturais e seminaturais protegidos pela Directiva Habitats*. Available at <http://www.icnf.pt/portal/naturaclas/rn2000/dir-ave-habit/rel-nac-art-12-diretiva-aves-2008-2012>

ICNF (2014) *Relatório Nacional de Aplicação do art. 12º da Directiva Aves (2008-2012) – distribuição de 196 espécies (Portugal Continental) protegidas pela Directiva Habitats*. Available at <http://www.icnf.pt/portal/naturaclas/rn2000/dir-ave-habit/rel-nac/rel-nac-07-12>

Naturdata – <http://naturdata.com/>

BioDiversity4all – <http://www.biodiversity4all.org/>

ANNEX III: TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR WORKERS

Criterion 2.5 specifies that the organization managing the forest areas must demonstrate that its workers have specific professional training and adequate supervision to implement, in a safe and effective way, the management plan and all management activities. Annex B identifies various elements that should be included in the training plans of the organizations.

Guidance note: Within the scope of FSC certification, training is defined in the broadest sense, including anything from more informal awareness actions to training in the context of work or classroom-based instruction.

Workers are able to:

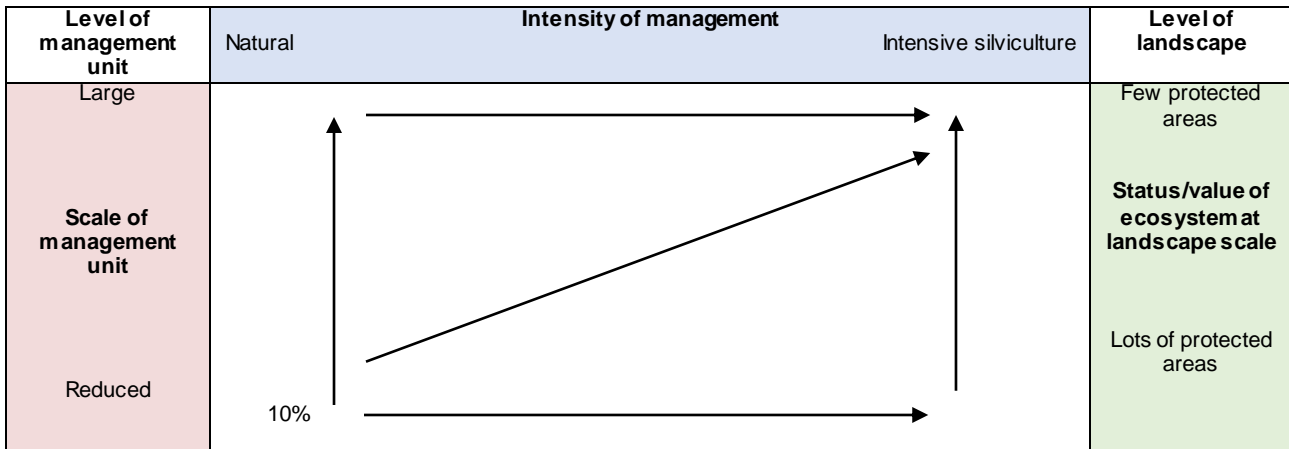
- 1) Implement forest activities to comply with applicable legal requirements (Criterion 1.5);
- 2) Understand the content, meaning and applicability of the eight ILO Core Labour Conventions (Criterion 2.1);
- 3) Recognize and report on instances of sexual harassment and gender discrimination (Criterion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

ANNEX IV: ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

This Annex and the accompanying normative and guidance documents set out the requirements and methods for certifying the maintenance of ecosystem services as the basis for promotional claims for improved market access to ecosystem service payments. For the certification of ecosystem services, all other requirements in this standard continue to apply. Receiving payment or making claims for ecosystem services is voluntary. There is an overlap between the management and monitoring activities for environmental values and those for ecosystem services. If the organization makes FSC-related promotional claims regarding the maintenance and/or enhancement of ecosystem services, additional management and monitoring requirements apply in order to ensure the credibility of claims and demonstration of impacts.

The Portuguese Standard Development Group and Consultative Forum has chosen at this stage not to include in this FSS the ability of organizations to make FSC-related promotional claims about the maintenance of the ecosystem services (Indicator 5.1.3 and Annex C).

ANNEX V: CONSERVATION AREA NETWORK CONCEPTUAL DIAGRAM



The diagram shows how the area of the management unit included in the conservation area network is generally expected to increase from the 10 per cent minimum as the size, intensity of management, and/or the status and value of ecosystems at the landscape level increase. The arrows and their direction represent these increases.

The column on the far right, called ‘Ecosystems status/value in the Landscape’ signifies the extent to which native ecosystems are protected at a landscape level and the relative requirements for further protection in the management unit.

The column on the far left, called ‘Area of management unit’ shows that as the management unit area increases, the management unit will itself be at the landscape level and so will be expected to have a conservation area network containing functional examples of all of the naturally occurring ecosystems for that landscape.

ANNEX VI: STRATEGIES FOR IDENTIFYING AND MAINTAINING HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES

The current annex includes two distinctive sections:

- ✓ Part A – separate Word document called Annex VI_A_National Framework of High Conservation Values. This document includes all the previous technical work developed by the Standard Development Group and Consultative Forum and was only briefly reviewed and revised to make sure it was in line with the IGI requirements. It is planned to be completely revised during 2016 (as soon as FSC guidance on HCV management, currently under development by FSC International, is published); and
- ✓ Part B – presented below, including an adaptation of Annex H – Strategies for maintaining high conservation values.

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PART B – STRATEGIES FOR MAINTAINING HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES

Strategies for maintaining high conservation values may not necessarily preclude harvesting. However, the only way to maintain some high conservation values is through the protection of the high conservation value area that supports them.

HCV 1 – Protection zones, harvest prescriptions, and/or other strategies to protect threatened, endangered, or endemic species, or other concentrations of biological diversity and the ecological communities and habitats upon which they depend, to a level sufficient to prevent reductions in the extent, integrity, quality, and viability of habitats and species. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to develop, expand, and/or restore habitats for such species are in place.

HCV 2 – Strategies that fully maintain the extent and intactness of the forest ecosystems and the viability of their biodiversity concentrations, including plant and animal indicator species, keystone species, and/or guilds associated with large intact natural forest ecosystems. Examples include protection zones and set-aside areas, with any commercial activity in areas that are not set-aside being limited to low-intensity operations that fully maintain forest structure, composition, regeneration, and disturbance patterns at all times. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and reconnect forest ecosystems, their intactness, and habitats that support natural biological diversity are in place.

HCV 3 – Strategies that fully maintain the extent and integrity of rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats or refuges. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and/or develop rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refuges are in place.

HCV 4 – Strategies to protect any water catchments of importance to local communities located within or downstream of the management unit, and areas within the unit that are particularly unstable or susceptible to erosion. Examples may include protection zones, harvest prescriptions, chemical use restrictions, and/or prescriptions for road construction and maintenance, to protect water catchments and upstream and upslope areas. Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore water quality and quantity are in place. **Where identified HCV 4 ecosystem services include climate regulation, strategies to maintain or enhance carbon sequestration and storage are in place.**

HCV 5 – Strategies to protect the community’s needs in relation to the management unit are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of local communities.

HCV 6 – Strategies to protect cultural values are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of local communities.