



FSC Honduran National SLIMF Standard

FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD FOR HONDURAS



Title	National standard for voluntary certification for Small and/or Low Intensity Managed Forest (SLIMF), managing natural forest in Honduras.
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The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, not for profit, non-government organization established to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

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

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1. Preface

1.1. Descriptive statement of FSC:

FSC is an independent, non-governmental, not for profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. It provides standard setting, trademark assurance and accreditation services for companies and organizations interested in responsible forestry. Products carrying the FSC label are independently certified to assure consumers that they come from forests that are managed to meet the social, economic and ecological needs of present and future generations. FSC maintains representation in some 80 countries.

Forests provide us with clean water, fresh air, and help combat global warming. They also provide food, medicine and important natural resources, such as timber and paper. If managed responsibly, forests and plantations benefit forest people and the global community. However, in some countries as much as 80% of the timber is harvested illegally. This often involves violation of human rights and felling of protected forests.

For further information, please visit: www.fsc.org

1.2. Descriptive statement of the National Office / Standard Setting Group

The National Standards for Voluntary Forest Certification for small and low intensity MFU's managing natural forests in Honduras are a concrete product of Honduran civil society in building a better future. They are an example of harmony and will by consensus and contribute to fulfillment of our international commitments as a country, derived from the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED, 1992).

The Principles and Criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) serve as a framework for these standards. **Their scope extends only to natural forests, except for mangrove forests.**

Forest certification is understood to be a transparent, voluntary process, with independent assessment based on market forces and promotion of responsible use, through which recognition is given to good forest management and forest products that originate from well-managed forests.

In terms of voluntary forest certification, we understand good forest management to be:

Environmentally appropriate, when it preserves biological diversity, its associated values and resources, fragile ecosystems and the landscape, and maintains and/or enhances the forest's ecological functions and integrity.

Socially beneficial, when it ensures the existence, application and respect for the legal and/or customary rights of indigenous peoples and ethnic communities related to tenure, use and access to their lands, territories and resources, as well as respect for workers' rights. All of this within the framework of promoting human development and gender equality.

Economically viable, when forest operations can be sustained over time, generating economic benefits for forest managers, company proprietors, and forest owners, within the legal framework related to fiscal and other payments stipulated in the laws of the government of Honduras, without detriment to forest productive capacity and ecological functions.

It is worth mentioning that in the event that changes are made to the forest law to permit an annual harvest closer to the AMI, the standards will be reviewed to adjust them and bring them into harmony with those measures.

Adherence to the FSC scheme, Principles and Criteria

These Standards are based on the FSC Principles and Criteria as their international framework, and their general objectives are promotion of good forest management and access to domestic, regional and international markets for Honduran forest products.

The contribution of certified forest groups, together with the Coatlahl/Nepenthes Project for “Certification for Agroforest Workers’ Groups in Honduras” and the Honduran Council for Voluntary Forest Certification (CH-CFV for its initials in Spanish) consisted of development of the indicators for each criterion for each of the FSC Principles.

These standards are also subject to the laws, regulations, procedures and development requirements, as well as the FSC dispute resolution mechanisms. For the latter, the National Initiative has at its disposal similar instances and mechanisms for handling disputes related to forest certification processes at the first level.

2. Introduction to the standard.

2.1. Purpose

This standard sets out the required elements against which FSC accredited Certification Bodies shall evaluate forest management practices within the given scope (see section 2.2 below) of the standard. The FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship provide an internationally recognized standard for responsible forest management. However, any international standard for forest management needs to be adapted at the regional or national level in order to reflect the diverse legal, social and geographical conditions of forests in different parts of the world. The FSC Principles and Criteria therefore require the addition of indicators that are adapted to regional or national conditions in order to be implemented at the forest management unit (FMU) level. The FSC Principles and Criteria together with a set of such indicators accredited by FSC constitute an FSC Forest Stewardship Standard.

This standard follows the requirements of FSC-STD-60-002 Structure and content of forest stewardship standards to improve consistency and transparency in certification decisions between different certification bodies in Honduras and in different parts of the world, and thereby to enhance the credibility of the FSC certification scheme as a whole.

2.2. Scope and duration of the standard

Considering the characteristics of forest management in Honduras, **Forest Management Units in most cases consist of Small and Low Intensity Forest areas (SLIMF)**. The SLIMF Standards will permit: i) reduced certification costs, ii) easier access to certification for small producer groups, and iii) an increase in the certified area in Honduras. For that reason, the CH-CFV took the initiative to formulate standards intended for small and low intensity management operations (SLIMF) at the national level.

For Honduras, **a SLIMF operation is one that has a maximum total area of 1,000 hectares and/or the rate of harvesting is less than 20% of the FMU’s Annual Mean Increment (AMI), that is, without considering protection or other areas.** However, when Motion 32, approved by the General Assembly held in November 2008 in South Africa, takes effect, the criterion applied will be the production area. Motion 32 reads as follows:

“The area of a small forest shall be defined in relation to the production forest area. This means that permanent production areas and areas with other uses within the forest management unit that are clearly indicated in the Management Plan and on the ground will not be considered when calculating the size of the unit that is applying to be classified as a SLIMF”.

These standards **are applicable to natural forests located anywhere within the nation’s territory, with the exception of mangrove forests and plantations.** However, the CH-CFV considers that indicators and verifiers should be developed later to apply to both plantations and mangroves.

These standards should be reviewed periodically every five years and amended if necessary by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the CH-CFV. A review prior to five years will be permitted at the request of two members of the CH-CFV and with the support of two-thirds of its members, both for acceptance of the review and for approval of amendments.

Due to the extensive use of reference to the tools for forest management established by the forestry law and the ICF’s technical norms in these forest certification standards, a revision of the forestry law will normally also result in a revision of this document.

Development process:

The SLIMF standards were developed thanks to support from the COATLAHL/Nepenthes Project for Certification for Agroforest Workers' Groups in Honduras, and the Honduran Council for Voluntary Forest Certification (CH-CFV).

The consultation process conducted by this project took place over a period of 27 months, during which time constant communications were maintained with 15 groups of agro-forest workers with FSC certification located in the northern zone of Honduras, 14 of which are in the Department of Atlántida, 2 in the Department of Gracias a Dios (La Mosquitia) and one in the Department of Colón. (See Annex f)

The process began with the development of the first forest certification training module, in which an event was held with each group in their communities to share with them the general aspects of forest certification, including topics such as: the concept of certification, types of certification, the history, origin, mission and activities of the FSC, how certification works, steps and components of certification, and the principles and criteria of FSC certification.

At the conclusion of this first stage of the work, a second training module was developed, which consisted of analyzing each of the FSC principles and criteria with the target groups (group sessions where the producers answered questions directed towards developing the SLIMF indicators). Two versions: Spanish and Misquito. Fifteen workshops were held in Module 2.

Next, 7 seminars were held with the target groups and other stakeholders (representatives of community organizations such as boards of trustees, water boards, women's groups, students, and representatives of the national police) to open group discussions and improve the information obtained in Module 2.

With the enhanced information obtained, the technical people and project adviser prepared the document of the first draft of the SLIMF Standards.

A seminar was held with the producers' Forest Certification Working Group to analyze the draft of the SLIMF Standards, in which important comments were obtained that improved the draft.

A total of 501 people attended all of the events described above, 18% of whom were women, who contributed valuable ideas to the development of the proposed standards.

It is important to mention that in carrying out this work, the project's technical personnel devoted a great deal of time to developing the educational material, illustrated with the experiences of the groups themselves that could be easily understood by the participants. This produced good results for obtaining basic information in developing the document.

During the course of this whole process, agro-forest groups have had good communications with the Honduran Council for Voluntary Forest Certification (CH-CFV), as evidenced by the attendance of their representatives at the following meetings:

1. Meeting of the CH-CFV held in the facilities of CUPROFOR in San Pedro Sula in October 2003.
2. Meeting with the Mr. Daniel Arancibia, FSC Coordinator for Latin America, held in the city of La Ceiba in March 2004.
3. Second Regular Assembly of the CH-CFV in La Ceiba in September 2004.
4. Regional Workshop for Consultation on the SLIMF Standards in the Department of Olancho in November 2005.
5. Regional Workshop for Consultation on the SLIMF Standards in the Department of Yoro, also in November 2005.

In addition, a field test of the document was held in two communities in the northern zone of Honduras and the process concluded by holding 2 regional consultation workshops with pine forest producers, one of which was held in the city of Juticalpa in the Department of Olancho and the other in the city of Olanchito in the Department of Yoro.

From all of the above, it is felt that the Standards as developed are a proposal that was born from the life and practical experiences of agroforest producers, who hope to have standards that are realistic, easily understood, applicable to good management and low costs so that forest certification will be accessible to the agroforest groups that manage small and low impact forest areas.

2.3. List of members of the committee that prepared the standard

Technical Team:

Medardo Castillo, Director of the Project for Certification for Agroforest Workers' Groups in Honduras (CGCAH).

Isis Lagos, Assistant for the CGCAH Project.

Jens Kanstrup, Technical Adviser, Nepenthes.

Members of the CH-CFV who participated in the review based on comments from the FSC:

1. Economic Chamber:
Manuel Hernández-Individual
Sergio Herrera-Individual

2. Social Chamber:
Medardo Caballero-Individual
Carlos Rivera- Individual
Isis Lagos-Individual
Rosa Almendares-individual

3. Environmental Chamber:
Jorge Flores-CURLA
Carlos Sandoval-Individual

2.4. List of key consultants and advisers who assisted the committee

Members of the Technical Committee:

1. Economic Chamber:
Sergio Elías Herrera-Individual
Luís Trochez-Madera Subirana

2. Social Chamber:
Filipo Del Gatto-Individual
Cándido López-COATLAHL

3. Environmental Chamber:
Miguel Roberto Mendieta-Honduran Society of Forest Engineers (CIFH, for its initials in Spanish)
Noé Polanco Meza-Individual

3. Hierarchical framework

Structure of the standards

In developing the standards, FSC Principles 1 to 9 were used, with their respective criteria under each one. It should be mentioned that both the principles and criteria were retained exactly as written by the FSC.

The indicators and their verifiers were developed by the Honduran Council for Voluntary Forest Certification (CH-CFV), and are the product of consultations with agro-forest groups.

In order to differentiate, the principles are written in bold type and are easily identified. The criteria are identified with two numerals; the first identifies the principle to which they correspond and the second identifies the criterion itself. For example: 1.1 means Principle 1 and Criterion 1. The indicators are identified as 1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.1.3, etc., and the verifiers are marked with a bullet.

Some indicators have several verifiers, but we also find some indicators with a single specific verifier and under them, other verifiers.

Example:

1.1 In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) and Convention on Biological Diversity shall be respected.

1.1.1 The FMU respects all national laws. (Criterion 1.1)

- Consultation with the Forest Protection Unit or the regional office of the ICF. The management and member workers and/or employees of the FMU know which animals and plants are protected.
- The FMU has a list of protected animals and plants and the closed seasons.
- Interviews with the management and member workers and/or employees of the FMU.

Interpretation Note:

Where an indicator requires that a procedure or system is documented, it is also required that the documented system is implemented *and* that a person has been appointed with the responsibility to ensure that the system is implemented.

Where an indicator refers to a system or procedure, it is assumed that it is the job of the certification body in all cases to verify that the procedure is implemented. The existence of staff responsible for doing this would be one means of verification.

Contractors: in several places indicators emphasize that the requirements apply equally to forest enterprise staff and to contractors. This should be taken as the basis for *all* indicators. The indicators apply to all staff, personnel, third parties etc., operating within the forest area.

For each Criterion a number of Indicators are listed. Where indicators are simply numbered, with no additional letter (e.g. Indicator 1.1.1), the indicator is intended to be applicable to all sizes and types of forest and plantation. This approach has been inspired by FSC-GUI-60-004V1-0EN (*FSC Forest Stewardship Standards: structure, content and suggested indicators*) that aims to develop threshold requirements to address all forest types and sizes. Care has been taken not to include those indicators that would apply only for large operations.

FSC Principle 1: Compliance with laws and FSC principles.

Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.

FSC Criterion 1.1

Forest management shall respect all national and local laws and administrative requirements.

Indicators

1.1.1 The FMU shall comply with all applicable national and local laws and standards. (Annex a).

Verifiers

- Consultation with the Forest Management Unit or the regional office of the ICF.
- Consultation with the municipality.
- Consultation with the principal stakeholders for implementation of CITES.

1.1.2 If any non-compliances with legal or regulatory requirements have been identified by the enterprise or by third parties in the previous five years, they shall have been documented by the enterprise, were promptly corrected, and effective action has been taken to prevent their recurrence.

[Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Consultation with the Forest Management Unit or the regional office of the ICF.

FSC Criterion 1.2

All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.

Indicators

1.2.1 The FMU shall comply with all legal requirements: Payment of municipal taxes, payment of stumpage and fees for utilization of ICF services and others. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Invoices and payment receipts.
- Consultation with the Forest Protection Unit or the regional office of the ICF and the municipal treasury.

1.2.2 The enterprise shall ensure that the requirements of this Criterion are also met by contractors and others managing forestry operations on the property. [Ok](#)

- Consultation with the Forest Protection Unit or the regional office of the ICF.
- Field trips

FSC Criterion 1.3

In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreement such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.

Indicators

1.3.1 Forest management shall comply with international and regional agreements and conventions in force (See Annex b: International and Regional Agreements and Conventions in force). [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- List of agreements and conventions in force in the FMU.
- Consultations with the manager and the respective authorities.

FSC Criterion 1.4

Conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and criteria shall be evaluated for the purposes of certification on a case by case basis, by the certifiers and the involved or affected parties.

Indicators

1.4.1 Cases of conflicts between the FSC P&C and national laws shall be resolved on a case by case basis by the FMU, together with the National Office and/or the certifiers. [Ok](#)

1.4.2. The enterprise shall document the results of any such attempt to resolve the conflict. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Copies of communication between the involved parties.
- Interview with involved parties

1.4.3. In the event of any conflict being identified, the enterprise shall consult with the body responsible for interpretation of the FSC standard (i.e. either the certification body or the FSC National office), and/or with the relevant authority responsible for interpreting legal requirements, in an attempt to resolve the conflict. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Copies of communication between the involved parties.
- Interview with involved parties

1.4.3. The enterprise shall document the results of any such attempt to resolve the conflict, including written evidence of any government, certification body or FSC National Office formal interpretations, approvals, designations, authorizations, exceptions/ exemptions from requirements, which might allow the conflict to be resolved. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Copies of communication between the involved parties.
- Interview with involved parties

FSC Criterion 1.5

Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.

Indicators

1.5.1 The boundaries of the FMU shall be clearly identified on the ground at the main points of entry, areas of potential conflicts, and/or where the boundary does not follow the natural boundaries. ¹ [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Maps
- Visit for verification on the ground.

1.5.2. The FMU shall conduct surveillance activities to identify damages to the forest. [Ok](#)

~~1.5.3-~~ The FMU and shall file complaints with the authorities in cases of: Illegal logging, illegal hunting, human settlements, fires, and other unauthorized activities. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- List of complaints filed with government institutions (See Annex 3 of the Protocol for Forest Complaints) and the status of the proceedings.
- Protection Plan.
- Interviews with personnel in charge of surveillance.

FSC Criterion 1.6

Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.

Indicators

1.6.1 The Forest Manager shall sign a public statement endorsed by the owner/most senior management authority in the enterprise in which it demonstrates its commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria and long-term forest management. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Policy Review.

1.6.2. When the certification does not include all the forest areas in which the applicant is involved, the manager/owner shall document the reasons for this and shall not conduct activities in those areas that are in conflict with the FSC Principles and Criteria. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Visits to areas outside the certified FMU in which the manager of the FMU is also involved.
- Interviews

1.6.3 Forest management plans (see Principle 7) and ongoing operations shall be fully consistent with long-term compliance with the FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Forest management plan

FSC Principle 2: Tenure and use rights and responsibilities

Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.

FSC Criterion 2.1

¹ Ridges, ravines, rivers, etc.

Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g. land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.

Indicators

2.1.1 Forest manager shall have documentary evidence of long term tenure and forest use rights to land. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Use contracts, land titles, and forest management contracts in force.
- Interview with neighbors and community stakeholders.

FSC Criterion 2.2

Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.

Indicators

2.2.1 The Forest ~~Manager~~ ~~Manager shall identifies-identify~~ together with the local communities and document legal or customary rights of those communities. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with persons with customary rights, neighbors and community stakeholders.

2.2.2. Where forest operations occur on lands on which local communities have legal or customary tenure or use rights, the organization shall demonstrate the communities in question have EITHER: Maintained clear and direct control over forest operations to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources; [Ok](#)

OR: have delegated such control with free and informed consent to other agencies or the organization [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Existing documentation of the process (Minutes, agreement or contract).
- Interview with persons with customary rights, neighbors and community stakeholders.

2.2.3. In the event that communities with rights voluntarily delegate control of forest management, they shall be kept informed about important aspects of the forest activities conducted. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Reports
- Interviews

FSC Criterion 2.3

Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified

Indicators

2.3.1 There shall be no major unresolved disputes relating to tenure and use rights in the forest. Other disputes or grievances are being resolved using locally accepted mechanisms and/or institutions [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Agreements
- Interview stakeholders
- Minutes and reports.

2.3.2 Disputes or claims related to tenure and use rights shall be resolved through mutually agreed direct mechanisms or with the intervention of institutions² accepted by the parties involved or established by law. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with the FMU's management.
- Interviews with neighbors and community stakeholders.
- Memorandum on agreements between the FMU and users of the land.
- Consultation with the institutions involved.

2.3.3. The Forest owner/Manager shall be acquainted with and has good relations with the neighbors in the area under management through open, communications. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with the FMU's manager/owner.
- Interviews with neighbors.

2.3.4. The Forest Owner/Manager shall keep an up-to-date list with the main information items about neighbors with rights to plots within the area under forest management. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- List of neighbors. (Name, area, address, etc.)

2.3.5. In the case of community forest groups, they shall be invited to a meeting with community stakeholders at least once a year for the purpose of informing them about forest management, coordinating activities, and discussing any pending problems. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Invitation, minutes, list of participants.
- Interview with the leaders of community groups.
- Interview with community stakeholders.

FSC Principle 3: Indigenous peoples' rights.

The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.

FSC Criterion 3.1

Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.

Indicators

Note2: In case management is done by a different entity other than the indigenous people, the following indicators shall apply:

3.1.1 The Forest Manager shall identify and map all lands or territories of Indigenous Peoples (including migratory groups) in which it may carry out management activities. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Maps.

3.1.2 The Forest Manager shall demonstrate that indigenous peoples have control over the management of their own territories. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Written agreement between the FMU's management and the indigenous peoples with legal or customary rights.

² Institutions such as INA, ICF, Property Registry and Property Institute

3.1.3 If the Indigenous People have delegated this control to other groups, the Forest Manager shall demonstrate that the Indigenous People concerned have delegated such control with free and informed consent. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Written agreement between the FMU's management and the indigenous peoples with legal or customary rights.
- Interview with representatives of the indigenous or Afro-Honduran peoples.
- Interview with the FMU's management.

3.1.4 Indigenous Peoples formally indicate, clearly, unambiguously and normally in writing or by traditional means, that their legal and customary rights over their lands, territories and resources have been recognized and respected [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Written agreement between the FMU's management and the indigenous peoples with legal or customary rights.
- Interview with representatives of the indigenous or Afro-Honduran peoples.

3.1.5 Agreements with indigenous and Afro Honduran³ peoples shall describe and give legitimacy to the operation and are approved internally by an assembly. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with representatives of the indigenous or Afro-Honduran peoples.
- Minutes of General Assembly

3.1.6 If the indigenous or Afro-Honduran peoples delegate control of forest management with free and informed consent, they shall be informed about important aspects of the forest activities that are conducted. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with representatives of the indigenous or Afro-Honduran peoples.
- Interview with the FMU's management.
- Written agreement between the FMU's management and the indigenous peoples with legal or customary rights.

3.1.7 If the management operation has been delegated to a third party, there shall be legally-established contracts, and distribution of profits among the parties is equitable and reflects respect for the use or property rights of the indigenous or Afro-Honduran community. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with representatives of the indigenous or Afro-Honduran peoples.
- Interview with the FMU's management.
- Signed contracts.

Note3: For consent to be informed requires that the peoples concerned were fully and accurately informed of the implications of any agreements and were consulted through appropriate procedures and through their representative institutions (Ref, ILO Convention 169, Article 6(1)).

Note4 For consent to be free requires that it was given by the Indigenous Peoples through their representative institutions and was freely expressed without coercion or duress. (Ref: ILO Convention 169 Article 7(1)).

FSC Criterion 3.2

³ This refers to Hondurans of African origin or ancestry, and includes English speakers and those who speak Garífuna. The latter are located in the northern zone of Honduras.

Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.

Indicators

3.2.1 There shall be no evidence or indication that the FMU threatens the resources or rights of the indigenous or Afro-Honduran peoples. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interviews with the peoples' representatives and with the FMU's neighbors.
- Interview with the FMU's manager.

3.2.2. Indigenous peoples and/or Afro descendants shall participate in defining their rights and, if necessary, in securing their rights, and also in planning and monitoring forest operations. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interviews with representatives of indigenous peoples and with neighbors of the FMU.
- Field visits

3.2.3. If any adverse impacts have been identified, the Forest Management shall take immediate measures to resolve the situation. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interviews with representatives of indigenous peoples and with neighbors of the FMU.
- Interview with the FMU's manager.
- Field visits

FSC Criterion 3.3

Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.

Indicators

3.3.1. All sites of special significance to indigenous peoples or ethnic minorities in the zone shall be identified jointly with them. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the FMP.
- Interviews with the persons involved in forest operations and representatives of the indigenous or Afro-Honduran peoples affected.

3.3.2 All sites identified in 3.3.1 above shall be included in the FMP. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the FMP.

3.3.3. Indigenous people demonstrate that they are satisfied with the protection given to all the sites that are of interest to them. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interviews with the indigenous or Afro-Honduran peoples affected.

3.3.4. Areas and evidence of cultural or archaeological significance shall be carefully managed for and protected in consultation with local Indigenous People. [Ok](#)

[3.3.5](#) Wherever cultural or archaeological evidence is observed or discovered, harvesting operations shall cease immediately until direction has been obtained from the Indigenous People.

Verifiers

- Interviews with the persons involved in forest operations and representatives of the

<ul style="list-style-type: none">indigenous or Afro-Honduran peoples affected.Review of the FMP.
FSC Criterion 3.4 Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.
Indicators 3.4.1. Indigenous Peoples' traditional practices or knowledge that has commercial value shall be recognised and shall be documented if wished for by the indigenous peoples. Ok Verifiers <ul style="list-style-type: none">Written agreements.Interviews with the indigenous or Afro-Honduran peoples affected 3.4.2 If such traditional knowledge is used by the forest management enterprise or by any other organization under agreement with the forest management enterprise, the relevant Indigenous Peoples shall be compensated for the fair market value of such knowledge, and in agreement with the Indigenous People concerned. Ok Verifiers <ul style="list-style-type: none">Interviews with the persons involved in forest operations and various traditional leaders who are representatives of the indigenous peoples affected.Payment receipts. 3.4.3. Where applicable, the compensation systems shall be agreed upon formally between the indigenous communities and the FMU. Ok Verifiers <ul style="list-style-type: none">Written agreement or it may be oral agreement if illiteracy is involved, to the compensation system. 3.4.4 If traditional knowledge is used by the forest management enterprise or by any other organization under agreement with the forest management enterprise, the enterprise shall actively assist the Indigenous People in obtaining formal, legal recognition of tribal intellectual property rights. Ok Verifiers <ul style="list-style-type: none">Interviews with the indigenous or Afro-Honduran peoples affected.Documents, contratos, etc.

FSC Principle 4: Community relations and worker's rights
Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.
FSC Criterion 4.1 The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.
Indicators 4.1.1 Demonstrable efforts shall be made to employ, and/or if necessary provide training, for workers from local communities (including forest dependent people) before workers are sought from further afield. Ok

NOTE 5: Training shall be mandatory when local people are hired.

Verifiers:

- List of employees and/or contractors.
- List of participants in training
- payroll
- Interviews

4.1.2. The FMU shall train⁴ employees in aspects related to forest management and supervises their work to ensure that the MFP is executed properly. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with employees and/or contractors.
- List of participants in workshops.

4.1.3. Local residents and neighbors shall have supervised access to the FMU area to harvest non-timber forest products and to establish water projects for the benefit of the community. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interviews with residents who harvest non-timber products.
- Interview with the FMU's management.
- Consultation with stakeholders in the communities adjoining the forest.

FSC Criterion 4.2

Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.

Indicators

4.2.1 Workers shall wear basic safety equipment available in the domestic market. The equipment must consist as a minimum of helmets and hearing protectors and in addition should include safety boots, protective goggles or visor and gloves. [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Interview with member workers and/or employees.
- Field visit while forest harvesting work is being done.

4.2.2. The FMU shall have a basic first aid kit (See Annex a). [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Interview with member workers and/or employees.
- Field visit while forest harvesting work is being done.

4.2.3. The FMU shall actively seek opportunities to train workers in first aid. For example, internal workshops to share experiences among member workers and/or employees or participation in workshops given by the Red Cross, the community health center, etc. [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Interview with the FMU's management and review of the documentation, if it exists in writing.

4.2.4. The FMU shall allot an amount from the yearly profits to an accident fund to cover basic needs⁵. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

⁴ Through participation in workshops and/or through practical follow-up in the field by people who have already been trained.

⁵ Transportation to a hospital, medications, food during the recovery period and death-related expenses.

- Review of the book showing the current fund's income and expenditures.

4.2.5. In cases where this applies, the FMU shall pay its employees wages and social benefits in accordance with national laws. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the book showing expenses, invoices, receipts.
- Interview with employees.

4.2.6. The FMU's management shall consider the safety of its member workers and/or employees while performing forest operations. [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Interview with member workers and/or employees and the FMU's management.

4.2.7. In all work performed in the FMU, the national laws on health and safety shall be observed. [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Interview with member workers and/or employees
- Field trip while forest harvesting work is being done

FSC Criterion 4.3

The rights of workers to organize and voluntarily negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Indicators

4.3.1 The FMU shall recognize the right of its workers to organize voluntarily, without any restrictions, threats, or reprisals, in unions and other forms of collective association to defend their rights and benefits. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with employees and union officers.
- Interview with the FMU's management.

4.3.2. The FMU shall recognize the right of its workers to negotiate collectively without any restrictions, threats, or reprisals. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with employees and union officers.
- Interview with the FMU's management.

FSC Criterion 4.4

Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.

Indicators

4.4.1 Every five years, during the review of the FMP, the FMU shall make an evaluation of the social impact of forest management on employment (muleteers, helpers, sawmill operators, carpenters, etc.), the FMU's income⁶, investments in the community, participation in community activities, etc. (Ref. to Criterion 2.3). [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Interview with the FMU's management.
- Interviews with community stakeholders.
- Review of the FMP.

⁶ Through participation in workshops and/or through practical follow-up in the field by people who have already been trained.

4.4.2. During the review of the FMP, the FMU consults local stakeholders for the purpose of obtaining inputs for the evaluation of social benefits. [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Memorandum and/or interview with the FMU's management and community stakeholders.

4.4.3. If the PMF shows negative development, the FMU shall take action to improve social impact. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Memorandum and/or interview with the FMU's management and community stakeholders.

4.4.4. There shall be fluent communication between the FMU and persons affected by forest operations. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interviews with the FMU's management and persons affected by forest operations.

FSC Criterion 4.5

Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.

Indicator

4.5.1: Cases of claims and/or compensation shall be solved preferably directly and if necessary through instances recognized legally and/or locally. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with the FMU's management.
- Interviews with neighbors and community stakeholders.
- Consultation with the institutions involved.

4.5.2. The FMU's management shall be acquainted with and maintains permanent contact with the neighbors and recognized instances for handling claims and compensation in the area under management. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with the FMU's management.
- Interviews with neighbors.
- Review of memorandums, etc.

4.5.3 Where grievances are raised they shall be responded to promptly and fairly. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with the claimers
- Written answers to claimers

4.5.4 Fair compensation shall be offered in the case of any loss or damage caused by the forest enterprise and affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources or livelihoods of local peoples. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with the claimers
- Written answers to claimers

The following 'FSC Criterion' is not part of the FSC Principles and Criteria. It has been included because implementing the results of Motion 40, approved at the 2nd FSC General Assembly and subsequently implemented through *FSC-GUI-30-002 FSC and ILO Conventions: Guidance on implementation* could otherwise conflict with paragraph 3.9 of *FSC-STD-20-002 Structure and Content of Forest Stewardship Standards* which states that "Indicators shall only include elements that contribute to the achievement of the objective of the applicable FSC Criterion". The best way to implement the requirements of FSC-GUI-30-002 whilst complying with the requirements of FSC-STD-20-002 appears to be to create a new Criterion 4.6. This would be in line with the requirements of FSC-STD-20-002 which states "The standard may include additional criteria which are not part of *FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria of Forest Stewardship*". This permits the inclusion of indicators which it could be argued do not otherwise contribute directly to the achievement of previously specified FSC Criteria.

[Criterion 4.6 Forest management shall comply with all ILO Conventions that have an impact on forestry operations and practices (Implementation of 2nd FSC General Assembly Motion 40)]

Indicators

4.6.1 The enterprise shall adhere to the minimum age provisions of national labor laws and regulations and of international standards. (Ref: ILO Conventions 138 and 182, ILO Declaration 1998, or equivalent national legislation). [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Interview with employees and union officers.
- Interview with the FMU's management.

4.6.2 There shall be no workers (including employees, self-employed or contractors) in debt bondage or other forms of forced labor. [Ok](#)

(Ref: ILO Conventions 28 & 105, ILO Declaration 1998, or equivalent national legislation).

Verifiers:

- Interview with employees and union officers.
- Interview with the FMU's management.

4.6.3 Wages or income of workers, including self-employed workers and contractors, shall be at least as high as those in comparable occupations in the same region and in no case lower than the established minimum wage. [Ok](#)

(Ref: ILO Convention 131, or equivalent national legislation).

Verifiers:

- Interview with employees and union officers.
- Interview with the FMU's management.
- Review of the book showing employees payments.

FSC Principle 5: Benefits from the forest

Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.

FSC Criterion 5.1

Forest management should strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.

Indicators

5.1.1 The FMU's management shall be familiar with the relevant prices and costs⁷ [Ok](#)

5.1.2 ~~The FMU's and shall~~ makes a calculation of economic viability of forest operations (whether documented or not). [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Review of the expense and income books and/or sales invoices.
- Interview with the FMU's management.

5.1.2 ~~The A~~ budget [done by the Forest Manager](#) shall include costs for all significant activities and necessary investments (including the cost of meeting all social and environmental commitments) identified or implied in the forest management plan and associated policies and planning documentation.

- AOPs and 5 years activities plan

FSC Criterion 5.2

Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.

Indicators

5.2.1. Forest managers shall make a proportion of their production available to local enterprises, such as small-scale industries and processing operations, unless there is an over-riding reason, which makes this impossible. See also Criterion 5.4 [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Sales invoices.
- Interview with the management of local small businesses.

5.2.2: When the technical conditions exist and it is economically feasible, the FMU processes forest products locally (sawn wood, furniture, handcrafts, and ornamental pieces). [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Sales invoices.
- Interview with the management of local small businesses.

5.2.3. The FMU shall train workers in techniques to improve wood quality and encourages the use of non-traditional and non-timber species. [Ok](#)

⁷ Sawing, mule back-packing, transportation, loading/unloading, stumpage, taxes, invoices, forest inventory (AOP), closure, nursery/reforestation, expenses of equipment maintenance and tools, signage, security, training sessions, meetings, and information campaigns.

Verifiers:

- Visit to the cutting area.
- Review of sales invoices.
- Evaluation of processing and wood quality at the work site.

5.2.4. When feasible and allowed by law, the FMU shall facilitate the use by communities of the residues left after harvesting for domestic use (firewood, charcoal, handcrafts, etc.). [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Interviews with residents who utilize the harvesting residues.

5.2.5 [In appropriate cases where possible](#), harvested products shall be subject to classification and selection in order to augment or maintain commercial value. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Visit to the cutting area and/or yard.

FSC Criterion 5.3

Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and onsite processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.

Indicators

5.3.1 Harvesting techniques shall be designed to avoid log breakage, timber degrade and damage to the forest stand. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Field visit.
- Review of post harvesting evaluations

5.3.2. [Felling/Falling](#) debris (branches, tops, etc) shall be used to protect soils on skid trails. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Field visit.
- Interviews with employees

5.3.3 Harvested and processed wood and/or products processed on-site shall be transported from the forest before any deterioration occurs. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Field visit.
- Interviews with employees

5.3.4 Removal of unused biomass shall be minimized; to an extent that ensures that a part of the branches and bark pieces remains in the forest as far as possible and whole tree harvesting shall not be practiced. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Field visit.
- Interviews with employees

FSC Criterion 5.4

Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product

Indicators

5.4.1 The FMU shall promote alliances with other stakeholders, such as businesses, members of the community, and forest projects to promote the utilization and marketing of a diversity of forest products⁸. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with the FMU's management, local businesses and community stakeholders.

5.4.2 Managers shall have information on the range of potential products and services that could be supplied from their FMU; including 'lesser known' timber species, Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and opportunities for forest recreation. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with the FMU's management.
- List of products and services of the forest unit.

5.4.3 Managers shall have assessed the possibility of selling or marketing such products or services locally, either on their own account or through the involvement of local enterprises. (See also Criterion 5.2) [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of sales invoices.
- Interviews with local people and business man

5.4.4. The enterprise shall allow local people to have access to the forest, and to harvest forest products for their own or local commercial use, where this does not interfere with the social, financial or ecological objectives of management. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interviews with local people and business man
- agreements between UMF and community to allow PFNM harvesting.

FSC Criterion 5.5

Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.

Indicators

5.5.1 The FMU shall carry out activities according to the FMP approved by the ICF. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of closure documents.
- Review of the document updating the Management Plan.

5.5.2. The forest management shall maintain the value of forest resources and services. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Field visit.

Reference is made to indicator 6.5.2.

FSC Criterion 5.6

The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.

Indicators

5.6.1 The FMU shall harvest according to the annual harvesting rates established in the FMP

⁸ Non-timber products such as wicker, pacaya (*Chamaedorea costarricana*), palmiche (*Roystonea regia*), capuca, jilotillo (*Asplundia utilis*), and medicinal plants, as well as non-traditional wood species, wood from branches, wood with knots, etc.

calculated based on estimates of growth and yield approved by the ICF⁹. [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Review of Management and Operating Plans and sales invoices.

5.6.2. The planned and actual extraction rate of the forest resource (Including NTFPs) shall not jeopardize the forest's productive potential nor its potential to maintain food supply for wildlife, its environmental, ecological and social services in the medium and long term. [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Review of Management and Operating Plans and sales

5.6.3. The enterprise shall keep clear, accurate and up-to-date records of harvested volumes of all commercial timber species, and of the commercial harvest of any non-timber forest products. [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Harvesting contracts
- Harvesting registers

FSC Principle 6: Environmental Impact

Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.

FSC Criterion 6.1

Assessment of environmental impacts shall be completed -- appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources -- and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on-site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site-disturbing operations.

Indicators

6.1.1 The FMP shall include an environmental impact assessment completed prior to commencement of site disturbing activities [Ok](#)

6.1.2. ~~The FMP and,~~ shall ~~indicate~~ [identify](#) the main environmental impacts of management, taking account of the size and intensity of the operations being undertaken, and the sensitivity of the site to such operations and in accordance with the ICF rules. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the FMP and approved AOP's.

6.1.3~~2~~ The assessments of impacts referred to in Indicators 6.1.1 shall identify the main environmental impacts of management [at landscape level](#), taking account of the size and intensity of the operations being undertaken, and the sensitivity of the site to such operations. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the EIA report
- Field visits
- Report of 5 years period..

6.1.3. The assessments of impacts referred to in Indicators 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 shall explicitly considers potential impacts on any High Conservation Values identified within the FMU. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the EIA report

⁹ Technical and regulatory norms for development of Forest Management Plans and Operating Plans, both for pine forests and hardwood forests.

6.1.4. The [forest manager-FMU](#) shall plan forest operations including actions to mitigate negative environmental impacts generated by forest management [and onsite processing facilities](#). [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of FMP and AOP
- Pot harvesting evaluations.
- Field visits

FSC Criterion 6.2

Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting shall be controlled.

Indicators

6.2.1. The FMU's management and member workers and/or employees shall know, have an upto date list of the rare and threatened or endangered species and their habitat and shall protect these species in the FMU (See Annex b) [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with the management and member workers and/or employees.
- Review FMP

6.2.2. The FMP shall indicate on maps the areas designated for protection of wildlife and their habitat, water sources and/or rare ecosystems in accordance with the rules established by the ICF. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the FMP.
- Field visits.

6.2.3. The management plans and other relevant policies and procedures of the enterprise shall clearly identify actions that are taken to protect maintain or enhance the presence of rare, threatened or endangered species and their habitats within the FMU as a whole. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the FMP.

6.2.4. The FMU includes protection of rare, threatened and endangered species as a topic in meetings with representatives of the community. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Invitation, minutes, memorandum, list of participants, etc.
- Interview with community stakeholders.

Reference is also made to Criterion 1.5.

FSC Criterion 6.3

Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:

- a) Forest regeneration and succession.**
- b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity.**
- c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.**

Indicators

- A) Forest regeneration and succession**

6.3.1. The forest replacement system shall foster installation and management of natural regeneration shall be in accordance with the rules established by the ICF, striving to maintain plant structure and composition. Reforestation will be carried out when there is not enough natural regeneration based on field assessments of the area. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the post harvesting evaluations.
- Reports on regeneration and reforestation assessment

B) Genetic, species and ecosystem diversity

6.3.2. The AOP shall establish that seed trees shall be marked in order to ensure a sufficient seed production for regeneration and that genetic diversity is maintained. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the AOP's.
- Field visits

6.3.3 Small-scale sites of high ecological value (e.g. nesting sites, small wetlands, ponds, small open areas, etc) shall be systematically retained and protected (e.g. through appropriate buffer zones) throughout the production area of the FMU. [ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the FMP and AOP's
- Field visits

C) Natural cycles (see Glossary)

6.3.4. Site preparation and harvesting methods shall have been designed to minimize soil erosion and compaction and maximizes the retention of nutrients on site. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the FMP and AOP's
- Field visits

6.3.5. Protective areas shall be established between the management areas and the areas, which have high risk of fire or erosion (e.g. bordering on pastures or small farming areas). [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the FMP, AOP's and protection plan

6.3.6. There shall be no evidence that the harvesting of material from the site is reducing the potential productivity of the soil in the long term. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the FMP, AOP's and protection
- Field visit

6.3.7. The FMU shall conserve standing and/or fallen overly-mature and dry trees, except in cases in which removing them is technically justified and does not have a negative effect on the forest's natural cycles or ecological functions. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Field visit.
- Review of the FMP

FSC Criterion 6.4

Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations

and the uniqueness of the affected resources.

Indicators

6.4.1. Forest Management Plans shall contain maps identifying representative samples of the existing ecosystems within the landscape, in accordance with the rules of the ICF. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the FMP.

Reference is also made to Criterion 6.2.

6.4.2 The conservation zones designated by the forest enterprise (see Criterion 6.2) shall include representative areas of any examples of ecosystems in their natural state as identified in 6.4.1. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the FMP.

Note: Apply only for low intensity management SLIMF; do not apply to small forests.

6.4.3 Management prescriptions shall be specified in the enterprise's forest management plan and other documents in order to protect the representative examples of ecosystems within conservation zones in their natural state and in the long term. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the FMP.

Note: Apply only for low intensity management SLIMF; do not apply to small forests.

FSC Criterion 6.5

Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.

Indicators

6.5.1: The FMU shall use the ICF's technical rules in planning and building roads for machinery such as tractors and trucks¹⁰ in order to minimize forest damage. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Field visit.
- Interview with the FMU's management.

6.5.2: During forest harvesting, the FMU shall respect the ICF's technical rules¹¹, which establish: protection zones along the banks of rivers, streams, and ravines; restricted harvesting in sites with steep slopes, and measures to prevent contamination¹² of water sources. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the post harvesting documents and/or consultation with the regional ICF.
- Visit to cutting areas.

FSC Criterion 6.6

Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides

¹⁰ Technical and regulatory norms for development of Forest Management Plans and Operating Plans, both for pine forests and hardwood forests.

¹¹ Technical and regulatory norms for development of Forest Management Plans and Operating Plans, both for pine forests and hardwood forests.

¹² For example, fuel, gasoline, burnt oil, dual-phase oil, sawdust, plastics and used batteries.

that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimize health and environmental risks.

EITHER: The enterprise has a clear, documented policy not to use pesticides, and shall not use Pesticides [Ok](#)

OR: the enterprise shall comply with the following indicators for the use of pesticides.

Indicators

6.6.1 The enterprise shall have an up-to-date copy of FSC's list of 'highly hazardous' pesticides, and shall apply for and obtain 'derogations' in accordance with the current FSC Pesticide Policy, prior to any use. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- List of prohibited pesticides
- Derogation application

6.6.2: If chemicals are used, they shall be applied with protective equipment. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interviews with manager and workers
- Field visit

6.6.3: Training on the use of chemicals shall be given to workers. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interviews with manager and workers
- List participants

6.6.4. In no case shall chemicals prohibited by the FSC be used. (See Annex d). [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with the FMU's management and member workers and/or employees.
- Field visit.
- List of prohibited chemic

FSC Criterion 6.7

Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.

Indicators

6.7.1: Containers, wastes or chemical residues in the forest, sawmill or yard shall be disposed of appropriately off-site in such a way that they do not contaminate persons, soil, water, animals or plants. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with the FMU's management and member workers and/or employees.
- Visit to the forest, sawmill and yard.

6.7.2. The enterprise shall keep an up to date list identifying the off-site location(s) for the disposal of all its chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes (including fuel and oil). [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- List and location of disposal sites

FSC Criterion 6.8

Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.

Indicators

6.8.1 If biological control agents are used, the FMU shall document, minimize and strictly control their use. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Assessment on the ground.
- Interview with the FMU's management.
- Documentation of use of biological agents.

6.8.2 If biological control agents are used, the enterprise shall demonstrate that such use is in strict compliance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interviews with manager and workers.
- Review of Law and rules.

6.8.3. The FMU shall not use genetically modified organisms. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Assessment on the ground.
- Interview with the FMU's management.
- Decrees, resolutions or policies regarding this subject.

FSC Criterion 6.9

The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.

Indicators

6.9.1: Exotic species shall not be used in natural forests. [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Consultation with the regional ICF office.
- Visit to cutting areas.

6.9.2. If invasive exotic species are present, they shall be monitored and controlled. [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Field visit.

6.9.3. If an exotic species is present within the FMU, the enterprise shall have a documented policy and procedures specifying that if evidence of invasiveness or other adverse ecological impacts is found, the enterprise shall take prompt and effective action to eliminate the species from the FMU and from all other sites immediately outside the FMU in which it may regenerate. (see also Indicator 8.2.6L) [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Control rules for exotic species

FSC Criterion 6.10

Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion:

a) entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and

b) does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; and

c) will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.

Indicators

6.10.1: Conversion of natural forests to plantations shall not be permitted¹³. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Assessment on the ground.
- Consultation with the ICF regional office.

In the event of conversion, the following indicators shall apply:

6.10.2. The enterprise shall clearly identify any parts of the FMU that are scheduled for conversion from natural or semi-natural forest to plantation or non-forest use, over the next five year period. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review FMP

6.10.3 The areas scheduled for conversion:

- Shall not include any High Conservation Value Forest areas (see Principle 9), AND

- EITHER total less than 5% of the total area of the FMU and shall enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation benefits across the forest management unit, [Ok](#)

- OR shall be converted in order to restore the land securely and in the long term to a pre-existing "High Conservation Value" habitat. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review FMP
- Field visits

6.10.4 The enterprise shall have all necessary approvals for the conversion, in line with national requirements [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Permit from ICF

6.10.5 Indigenous communities shall permit exceptions where the converted area is for the production of food for local consumption where it is part of an agreed participatory land use plan. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Permit from ICF
- Interviews with people on the communities

FSC Principle 7:

A management plan -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations -shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.

FSC Criterion 7.1

The management plan and supporting documents shall provide:

- a. Management objectives.**
- b. Description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands.**
- c. Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories.**

¹³ According to the ICF's Technical Norms, efforts should be made to maintain the biodiversity of the managed area.

- d. **Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection.**
- e. **Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics.**
- f. **Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments.**
- g. **Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species.**
- h. **Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership.**
- i. **Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.**

Indicators

7.1.1: The FMU shall have a management plan that includes, at least, the following:

- a) Management objectives;
- b) Description of the forest;
- c) How the objectives will be achieved (actions to be taken);
- d) Harvesting methods and silvicultural systems;
- e) Sustainable harvesting limits;
- f) Environmental/social impacts of the plan;
- g) Conservation of rare species;
- h) Maps of the forest showing protected areas, planned management and land ownership.
- i) Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used. [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Up-dated FMP and AOP's in force.

7.1.2. The management plan and/or supporting documents shall include a description of the silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories (see also Criteria 5.6, 6.3, 8.1, 8.2). [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Up-dated FMP and AOP's in force.

7.1.3. The management plan and/or supporting documents shall provide a clear rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection (see also Criterion 5.6). [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Up-dated FMP and AOP's in force.

7.1.4 The management plan and/or supporting documents shall describe the provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics (see also Criterion 8.2). [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Up-dated FMP and AOP's in force.

7.1.5 The management plan and/or supporting documents shall specify environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments (see also Criterion 6.1, 9.3 [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Up-dated FMP and AOP's in force.

7.1.6. The management plan and/or supporting documents shall include plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species (see also Criteria 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 9.3). [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Up-dated FMP and AOP's in force.

7.1.7 There shall be clear and accessible maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership, at appropriate scales for their respective purposes [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Up-dated FMP and AOP's in force.

7.1.8 The management plan and/or supporting documents shall include specific consideration of the presence of any High Conservation Value areas (see Principle 9) within the FMU, and describe the specific measures that will be taken to maintain or enhance these values within the FMU (see Criterion 9.3). [Ok](#)

Verifiers:

- Up-dated FMP and AOP's in force.

FSC Criterion 7.2

The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.

Indicators

7.2.1: The FMP for the FMU shall be revised and kept up-dated¹⁴ every 5 years, in accordance with the ICF's technical and regulatory norms. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Document 5 years revising the FMP
- Consultation with the Forest Protection Unit or the Regional Office of the ICF.

7.2.2 The management plan (and supporting documentation) shall incorporate the results of monitoring by the forest enterprise up to the date of its last revision. (see also Criterion 8.4) [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Up-dated FMP

FSC Criterion 7.3

Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.

Indicators

7.3.1 Member workers and/or employees shall be trained (formally or informally) on:

- a) Use and maintenance of the chain saw,
- b) Directed felling of trees
- c) Administrative controls
- d) Efficient harvesting of saw logs
- e) Silvicultural treatments
- f) First aid
- g) Health and safety topics¹⁵
- h) Identification of protected species
- i) Identification of commercial species [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Visit to the harvesting area.
- List of participants
- Interview with member workers and/or employees

7.3.2. Managers and supervisors (including those employed by contractors) shall have education, training or experience to a level to ensure that they are able to plan, organize and supervise forestry operations in accordance with enterprise's plans, policies and procedures. [Ok](#)

¹⁴ Based on monitoring the social impact and environmental impact (Criteria 4.4, 6.1 and 9.4) and new scientific information

¹⁵ Preliminary treatment of injuries, fractures, snake bites, proper use of working equipment and use of alternative (natural) medicine.

Verifiers

- Register of employees (managers and supervisors)
- Interview with employees

FSC Criterion 7.4

While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, including those listed in Criterion 7.1.

Indicators

7.4.1: The FMU shall have an up-dated version of the FMP and shall be willing to provide a copy to the public in response to an oral or written request. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the FMP.
- Interview with community stakeholders.
- Interview with the FMU's management.

7.4.2. The document shall include maps describing the forest resource base and including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Maps of the FMU

FSC Principle 8: Monitoring and Assessment

Monitoring shall be conducted -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management -- to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.

FSC Criterion 8.1

The frequency and intensity of monitoring should be determined by the scale and intensity of forest management operations as well as the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures should be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.

Indicators

8.1.1 Procedures for collecting the data specified in Criterion 8.2, below, shall be clearly documented. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Technical rules of the ICF.
- FMP

8.1.2 The procedures shall describe the techniques for collecting the data for each Indicator of Criterion 8.2, and specify the frequency with which data is collected. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Technical rules of the ICF.
- FMP

8.1.3: The FMU shall meet its commitment to request issuance of the Post harvest evaluations by the ICF (See Annex h). [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Consultation with the Forest Protection Unit or the Regional Office of the ICF.
- Review of post-harvesting reports.

8.1.4. The FMU requests copies of the post-harvesting reports and implements the recommendations

in forest management. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Consultation with the Forest Protection Unit or the Regional Office of the ICF
 - Review of the closure reports.
- **Note:** Closure report (Post-harvest evaluation) is a written report made by ICF after a final evaluation of harvesting operations and other activities made in an annual operative area.
-

FSC Criterion 8.2

Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators:

- a) Yield of all forest products harvested.
- b) Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest.
- c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna.
- d) Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations.
- e) Costs, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.

Yield of all forest products harvested:

8.2.1 The forest enterprise shall collect and maintain data on the quantity of each forest product harvested within the FMU updated on at least an annual or periodic basis depending on forest usage.

[Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Registers of harvested volume

Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest:

8.2.2. Pre- and post- harvest inventory shall be carried out for all harvested areas. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Forest inventories reports

Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations:

8.2.3 The data collected during pre- and post- harvest inventory shall be sufficient to identify any significant environmental impacts of harvesting. See Criterion 4.4 for monitoring of social impacts [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Forest inventories reports

8.2.4 The forest enterprise shall have a specific programme for collecting data sufficient to demonstrate the maintenance (or otherwise) of any High Conservation Values (see Criterion 9.1.1, 9.1.2) within the FMU. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- HCV Data collecting reports

Costs, productivity, and efficiency of forest management:

8.2.5. The FMU's management shall know the costs and yields of forest operations. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of invoices, receipts, etc.
- Interview with the FMU's management.

8.2.6 If in the case of some projects, NGO's, institutions and universities are willing to provide support

by establishing and monitoring permanent research plots, the FMU shall facilitate the field work with labor and surveillance of the plots. The FMU requests the entities doing the research and data collection to transfer the knowledge and train the FMU's members or employees. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Interview with the FMU's management.
- Agreements, correspondence or interviews with representatives of the above-mentioned stakeholders.

Reference is made to Criterion 8.1 and Indicator 9.4.1.

FSC Criterion 8.3

Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain of custody."

Indicators

8.3.1 The FMU shall keep a record of invoices that includes volumes, species, and customers for the wood harvested and transported. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of invoices and receipts.

8.3.2. The number of the certificate issued by the certifier shall be included in the invoices. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of invoices and receipts.

8.3.3. Certified forest products (timber and non timber) shall be marked and readily identified as such from the time of harvesting in the FMU's yard, to the point of sale. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Verification visit to the yard.
- Interview with the FMU's management.

FSC Criterion 8.4

The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.

Indicators

8.4.1: The FMU shall incorporate into the Operating Plans and the FMP any results of monitoring that are applicable to them. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Results of monitoring.
- Review of the Operating Plans and the FMP.
- Review of the five-year Management Plans.

8.4.2 Managers shall be able to demonstrate how the results of monitoring have influenced subsequent changes to the management plan and associated documents. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the Operating Plans and the FMP.
- Review of the five-year Management Plans.

FSC Criterion 8.5

While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion

8.2.

Indicators

8.5.1 The FMU shall make a summary of the results of monitoring available to the public. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the summary of monitoring.
- Interview with community stakeholders.
- Interview with the FMU's management.

FSC Principle 9: Maintenance of high conservation value forests

Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes, which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.

FSC Criterion 9.1

Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.

Indicators

9.1.1 The FMP shall include the outcome of assessment of the FMU for of attributes of High Conservation Value Forests¹⁶ identified below. [Ok](#)

- .HCV1. Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).
- HCV2. Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- HCV3. Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.
- HCV4. Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).
- HCV5. Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).

HCV6. Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

Verifiers

- Review of the FMP.

9.1.2 If the FMP does not include a description of these attributes, the FMU shall request the ICF for an assessment for the purpose of incorporating the result in the FMP. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the FMP.
- Consultation with the Forest Protection Unit or the Regional Office of the ICF.
- Request from the FMU to the ICF.

¹⁶ For example, sources of water for human consumption, areas in the forest of regional/national/international importance for rare, threatened or endangered species or ecosystems and areas of regional/national/international importance identified under Criterion 3.3.

FSC Criterion 9.2

The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.

Indicators

9.2.1: The FMU shall consult the ICF and local stakeholders to identify High Conservation Value Forest and the options for maintenance of the attributes of high conservation value and maintain a file of the comments submitted. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Minutes of Consultations meetings with Stakeholders
- Consultations with the FMU's management.
- Consultations with the ICF.

FSC Criterion 9.3

The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.

Indicators

9.3.1: The FMP shall describe measures¹⁷ to ensure maintenance of the attributes identified. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the FMP.
- Consultation with the Forest Protection Unit or the Regional Office of the ICF.

9.3.2. Measures included in the management plan mentioned in 9.3.1 above shall be implemented to ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Review of the AOP and five years activities Plan.

9.3.3 Measures mentioned in 9.3.1 and 9.3.2 shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- FMP Summary.

FSC Criterion 9.4

Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.

Indicators

9.4.1. The FMU shall conduct surveillance activities to identify damage to the high conservation value attributes and files complaints with the authorities in cases of: Illegal logging, illegal hunting, human settlements, fires, and other unauthorized activities. [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- List of complaints filed with government institutions (See Annex 3, Protocol for Forest Complaints) and their processing status.
- Report of surveillance visits.
- Interview with personnel in charge of surveillance.

¹⁷ For example, protection areas (small watersheds and wildlife).

9.4.2. Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to enhance attributes of HCV [Ok](#)

Verifiers

- Monitoring reports
- Field trips

FSC Principle 10: Plantations

Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1 - 9 and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.

Notes:

FSC Plantations Policy Working Group Recommendation 7: One Common Set of Principles & Criteria

The Group recommends that FSC develops one integrated set of common Principles and Criteria for all management units. (This decision was taken following the rules for voting outlined in the procedures for this Review and supported by ten out of twelve of the Group members constituting a majority from each chamber. One social and one environmental representative voted against.

The main reasons given were fear of obliterating the distinction between certification of forests and plantations; concerns of 'converting by management' certified forests to plantations; concerns that certified productive plantations will still be at an advantage compared to less productive managed natural forests; and a general feeling that the recommendations from the Group – and the new policies that will flow from them - should be tested and evaluated before structural changes are made to the P&C.)

It is the understanding of the Group that such a common set of P&C still leaves room for national initiatives to develop standards for specific sub-sets of forests and/or plantations, should they wish to do so. Secondly, the Group recommends that FSC certification be open to operations across the whole continuum from low-impact management of natural forests, to high-intensity, short-rotation plantations.

However, to maintain ecosystem integrity and avoid incentives for managers to gradually transform natural forests to plantation regimes, requirements that differ as a function of the position along the continuum must be consistently complied with.

The Group also recommends that FSC:

- Refers to 'forest' and 'plantation' as separate categories in its database so that, in recognition of the marked environmental, social and economic differences that characterise the ends of the continuum, plantations are not called forests;
- Uses more inclusive or neutral terminology, such as 'forests and plantations' or 'management units', for formulations in P&C, standards and guidelines that refer to all management units.

Indicators

10.1.1 xxx

Verifiers

- **xxx**

FSC Criterion 10.2

The design and layout of plantations should promote the protection, restoration and conservation of natural forests, and not increase pressures on natural forests. Wildlife corridors, streamside zones and a mosaic of stands of different ages and rotation periods shall be used in the layout of the plantation, consistent with the scale of the operation. The scale and layout of plantation blocks shall be consistent with the patterns of forest stands found within the natural landscape.

Indicators

<p>10.2.1 xxx</p> <p>Verifiers - xxx</p>
<p>FSC Criterion 10.3 Diversity in the composition of plantations is preferred, so as to enhance economic, ecological and social stability. Such diversity may include the size and spatial distribution of management units within the landscape, number and genetic composition of species, age classes and structures.</p>
<p>Indicators 10.3.1 xxx</p> <p>Verifiers - xxx</p>
<p>FSC Criterion 10.4 The selection of species for planting shall be based on their overall suitability for the site and their appropriateness to the management objectives. In order to enhance the conservation of biological diversity, native species are preferred over exotic species in the establishment of plantations and the restoration of degraded ecosystems. Exotic species, which shall be used only when their performance is greater than that of native species, shall be carefully monitored to detect unusual mortality, disease, or insect outbreaks and adverse ecological impacts.</p>
<p>Indicators 10.4.1 xxx</p> <p>Verifiers - xxx</p>
<p>FSC Criterion 10.5 A proportion of the overall forest management area, appropriate to the scale of the plantation and to be determined in regional standards, shall be managed so as to restore the site to a natural forest cover.</p>
<p>Indicators 10.5.1 xxx</p> <p>Verifiers - xxx</p>
<p>FSC Criterion 10.6 Measures shall be taken to maintain or improve soil structure, fertility, and biological activity. The techniques and rate of harvesting, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the choice of species shall not result in long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality, quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.</p>
<p>Indicators 10.6.1 xxx</p> <p>Verifiers - xxx</p>
<p>FSC Criterion 10.7 Measures shall be taken to prevent and minimize outbreaks of pests, diseases, fire and invasive plant introductions. Integrated pest management shall form an essential part of the management plan, with primary reliance on prevention and biological control methods rather than chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Plantation management should make every effort to move away from chemical pesticides and fertilizers, including their use in nurseries. The use of chemicals is also covered in Criteria 6.6 and 6.7.</p>
<p>Indicators 10.7.1 xxx</p> <p>Verifiers - xxx</p>
<p>FSC Criterion 10.8 Appropriate to the scale and diversity of the operation, monitoring of plantations shall include</p>

regular assessment of potential on-site and off-site ecological and social impacts, (e.g. natural regeneration, effects on water resources and soil fertility, and impacts on local welfare and social well-being), in addition to those elements addressed in principles 8, 6 and 4. No species should be planted on a large scale until local trials and/or experience have shown that they are ecologically well-adapted to the site, are not invasive, and do not have significant negative ecological impacts on other ecosystems. Special attention will be paid to social issues of land acquisition for plantations, especially the protection of local rights of ownership, use or access.

Indicators

10.8.1 xxx

Verifiers

- xxx

FSC Criterion 10.9

Plantations established in areas converted from natural forests after November 1994 normally shall not qualify for certification. Certification may be allowed in circumstances where sufficient evidence is submitted to the certification body that the manager/owner is not responsible directly or indirectly of such conversion.

Indicators

10.9.1 xxx

Verifiers

- xxx

Annexes to a Forest Stewardship Standard

Mandatory Annexes

a. List of the national and local forest laws and administrative requirements which apply in Honduras:

#	Name of the document
1.	Decree 131 dated January 11, 1982. Constitution of the Republic of Honduras and its amendments
2.	Decree 31-92. Law for modernization and development of the agricultural sector
3.	Decree 134-90 Law on municipalities
4.	Decree 104-03. General law on the environment and regulations (decree 109-93)
5.	Decree 118-2003, Framework law on the potable water and sanitation sector and regulations (Ministry of Public Health Resolution 006-2004).
6.	Decree 180-2003. Law on land use planning.
7.	Decree 170-1974. Agrarian reform law and amendments.
8.	Decree 292-98. General law on mining.
9.	Decree 228-94. Law on the Public Prosecutor's Office.
10.	Decree 163-93. Law on reforestation incentives.
11.	Decree 323-98. National reforestation program.
12.	Decree. 65-87. Law on cooperatives.
13.	Decree. 1118-92. Declaration of protected areas.
14.	Decree No. 87-87. Law on cloud forests.
15.	Decree No. 189 dated July 15, 1959 Labor Code and amendments.
16.	Decree 65-91. Health Code and General Environmental Health Regulations. (Ministry of Public Health Resolution 004-1997)

Protocol for Filing Forest Complaints

In the regulations for application of penalties and collection of fines for failure to comply with Article 2 of the Forest Law, in accordance with Decree 85 of the Forest Law of November 18, 1971 and Decree 31-92 (Law for Agricultural Modernization and Development), the following are forest criminal offenses:

- a) Falsifying, altering or erasing any mark established by the ICF to distinguish products from national forest areas.
- b) Moving, destroying, or mutilating any milestone, boundary stone or sign that indicates the boundaries of a forest area or any zone marked by the AFE in coordination with the National Agrarian Institute and the respective municipalities.
- c) Burning forests, brushlands, grain fields, grasslands, or plantings, except in the cases and under the conditions specified in Decree 85 dated November 18, 1971 or in special regulations.
- d) Illegally harvesting, damaging or removing forest products from a public or private forest area with profit as the objective, or using violence, intimidation of persons or force in so doing.
- e) Illegally occupying, marking, clearing or grazing a forest area, offering resistance to forest, civil and military authorities or land owners, in the case of private areas.

In Article 7, forest misdemeanors are typified as follows:

- a) Mutilating, circling, and debarking trees to extract resins, gums or other juices for commercial purposes, in ways not authorized by the forest laws and regulations or in the provisions contained in the management plans.
- b) Introducing or keeping livestock in forest areas without prior approval from the ICF or a management plan that includes agroforest grazing activities.
- c) Harvesting forest products contravening provisions in the management plan's annual operating plans in the management plan or in authorizations for harvesting for non-commercial purposes.

- d) Performing forest harvesting on dates other than those specified in the corresponding management plans' Annual Operating Plan or authorizations for harvesting for non-commercial purposes.
- e) Performing commercial harvesting in geographic areas other than those specified in the management plan's annual operating plans or authorizations for harvesting for non-commercial purposes.
- f) Underestimating when calculating volumes or areas, for the purpose of obtaining a greater annual cutting volume than what results by applying the principle of sustained yield from the resource.
- g) Failing to comply with forest fire preventive measures or committing imprudent acts that might cause them.
- h) Failure to comply with the responsibility to reforest areas after harvesting based on the provisions in the corresponding management plan.
- i) Failure to take preventive and combative measures to protect the forest against fires and forest pests.
- j) Harvesting forest products without being covered by a management plan approved by the AFE.
- k) Harvesting forest products in violation of the measures to mitigate the environmental impact.
- l) Harvesting protected areas or occupying them for colonization purposes, without the authorization of the AFE.
- m) Cutting seed trees during the period of reforestation of the area.
- n) Falsifying or manipulating information for the purpose of obtaining approval of management plans.
- o) Failure to comply with the norms established in the management plans for building roads for purposes of forest harvesting.
- p) Any other violations of the laws, regulations and special provisions that are identified as misdemeanors, including any action or omission that violates the management plans.

Procedure for filing complaints and imposition and payment of penalties:

Through the Surveillance Board or Committee, the members of sawmill groups should conduct surveillance operations in the areas under management, in accordance with a protection plan, and when they observe a forest violation or misdemeanor should file the corresponding written complaint, keeping a copy for the organization's files.

A form for filing a complaint is shown below:

Forest Complaint

- 1. Name of the organization filing the complaint:

- 2. Date on which the violation or criminal offense was discovered:

- 3. Explain the reason for the complaint:

- 4. Name of the place where the forest violation or criminal offense was committed:

- 5. Department and municipality:

6. Land tenure: National ____ Communal ____ Private ____

7. Name of the violator and place of residence:

Signature for the forest group
of Trustees

Signature for the Board

The complaint shall be sent to the Public Prosecutor's Office in the Office of Criminal Offenses, to the Regional Head of the ICF, to the Environmental Protection Agency and the Forest Protection Unit in the jurisdiction.

The next step is to reach an agreement with the official in charge of verifying the information and conduct an inspection on the ground.

When the inspection on the ground is scheduled, it is important for at least three members of the group who are familiar with the site to accompany the party, in order to ensure that the information that is gathered is correct and truthful with regard to what is occurring.

Basic first aid kit.

- Sterile bandages (4)
- Sterile gauze pads (4)
- Sticking plasters
- Elastic bandages (2)
- Triangular bandage (for the arm)
- Bandages, adhesive tape
- Scissors and tweezers
- Swabs
- Disposable plastic gloves
- Disinfectant (for example, hydrogen peroxide or alcohol)
- Sedative tablets (for example, Ibuprofen or Panadol)
- Clinical thermometer
- First aid handbook

b. List of the multilateral environmental agreements and conventions that the country has ratified and the ILO Conventions listed in FSC-POL-30-401 FSC and the ILO Conventions which must be complied with in all FSC certified forests,

- *Convention on Biological Diversity* www.cbd.int
- *ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries* www.oitchile.cl
- *Central American Convention on Forests* www.iucn.org/places/orma
- *KYOTO Protocol, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate* www.cambio-climatico.com/protocolo-de-kyoto
- *Convention for the Conservation of Biodiversity and the Protection of Wilderness Areas in Central America* www.biodiv.org/biosafety/protocol.asp
- *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna y Flora* www.conabio.gob.mx
- *CITES Convention* www.cites.org
- *Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance* www.ramsar.org

- *ILO Convention 87 (Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise)* www.ilo.org
- *Convention establishing the Central American Commission on the Environment and Development* www.sica.int

- c. List of or reference to official lists of, endangered species in the country or region in which the standard is to be used.

Endangered Species in Honduras

No.	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
1	Granadillo Negro (Rosewood)	<i>Dalbergia tucurensis</i>	Endangered
2	Granadillo Rojo	<i>Dalbergia cubilquitrensis</i>	Endangered
3	Nogal (Black cedar)	<i>Juglans olanchanus</i>	Endangered
4	Guanacaste (Elephant's Ear/Ear Pod Tree)	<i>Enterolobium cyclocarpum</i>	Endangered
5	Guayacan (Holywood)	<i>Guaiaacum sanctum</i>	Endangered
6	Ceiba (Kapok tree/White silk cotton tree)	<i>Ceiba pentandra</i>	Endangered
7	Sauce (Chilean willow)	<i>Salix humboltiana</i>	Endangered
8	Zapotillo (Mamey tree)	<i>Pouteria viride (Pittler)</i>	Endangered
9	Jigua	<i>Ocotea sp</i>	Endangered
10	San Juan Guayapeño	<i>Vochysia ferruginea</i>	Endangered
11	Cortés (Guayacan trumpet tree)	<i>Tabebuia guayacan</i>	Endangered
12	Hormigo	<i>Platymisciun dimorphandrum</i>	Endangered
13	Carreto (Rain tree)	<i>Samanea saman</i>	Endangered
14	Carreto Real	<i>Albizzia guachepele</i>	Endangered
15	Caoba (Mahogany)	<i>Swietenia humilis</i>	Endangered
16	Caoba	<i>Swietenia salvadorensis</i>	Endangered

(Harvesting banned by the ICF)

Endangered Invertebrate Species in Honduras

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Curiles	<i>Anadara similis tuberastosa</i>	Threatened
Casco de Burro	<i>Grandiarca grandis</i>	Endangered
Coral Negro (Black Coral)	<i>Antipathes sp</i>	Threatened

Endangered Species of Fish and Reptiles, Vertebrate Category, in Honduras

Category	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Fish	Cuyamel (Bobo mullet)	<i>Jothurus pichardi</i>	Threatened
	Tepemerin (Mountain mullet)	<i>Agonostomus monticola</i>	Threatened
Reptiles	Caimán (Caiman)	<i>Caimán crocodilus chiapensis</i>	Threatened
	Cocodrilo Lagarto	<i>Cocodylus acutus</i>	Endangered

	(American crocodile)		
	Tortuga Caguama (Loggerhead sea turtle)	<i>Carretta carreta</i>	Endangered
	Tortuga Baula	<i>Dermochelys olivacea</i>	Endangered
	Cascabel (South American rattlesnake)	<i>Crotalus durissus</i>	Threatened
	Iguana (Green iguana)	<i>Iguana iguana</i>	Endangered
	Garrobo Jamo (Spiny-tailed iguana)	<i>Ctenosaura palearis</i>	Endemic

Endangered Vertebrate Birds in Honduras

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Aguilucho Blanco-Negro (Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle)	<i>Spizastur melanoleucus</i>	Endangered
Halcón Pecho Anaranjado (Orange-breasted falcon)	<i>Falco deiroleucas</i>	Endangered
Gavilán Cola Blanco (White-tailed Hawk)	<i>Buteo albicaudatus</i>	Rare
Gavilán Panza Blanca (Plumbeous hawk)	<i>Leucoptemis semiplumbea</i>	Rare
Guara Roja (Scarlet macaw)	<i>Ara macao</i>	Threatened
Guara Verde (Great green macaw)	<i>Ara ambigua</i>	Endangered
Tucán Pico Rojo (Chestnut-mandibled toucan)	<i>Ramphastos swainsonii</i>	Rare
Ticanillo Oreja Amarillo (Yellow-eared toucanet)	<i>Selenidera spectabilis</i>	Rare
Lora Corona Amarilla (Yellow-crowned Amazon)	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i>	Endangered
Lora Corona Azul	<i>Amazona farinona</i>	Threatened
Perico Pacífico (Pacific parakeet)	<i>Aratinga strenua</i>	Endangered
Periquito Barbilla Anaranjada (Orange-chinned parakeet)	<i>Brotogeris jugularis</i>	Threatened
Pato Negro (Muscovy duck)	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	Threatened
Rey Zope (King Vulture)	<i>Sarcoramphus papa</i>	Endangered
Pajuil (Great curassow)	<i>Crac rubra</i>	Threatened
Pava de Monte (Crested guan)	<i>Penélope purpurascens</i>	Threatened
Chachala Negra (Highland guan)	<i>Penelopina nigra</i>	Threatened
Turquita Pecho Marrón (Maroon-chested ground dove)	<i>Claravis mondetoura</i>	Rare
Búho Blanco y Negro (Black and white owl)	<i>Ciccaba nigrolineata</i>	Rare
Colibrí Esmeralda Catracha (Honduran Emerald)	<i>Amazilia luciae</i>	Endemic
Toregón Cuello Azul (Blue-throated motmot)	<i>Aspatha gularis</i>	Rare
Colibrí esmeralda catracho	<i>Amazilia lucie</i>	Endemic

Endangered Species of Mammals, Vertebrate Category, in Honduras

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Manatí (West Indian Manatee)	<i>Thrichechus manatus</i>	Endangered
Guatuza de Roatán (Ruatán Island agouti)	<i>Dasyprocta ruatanica</i>	Endemic
Perro de Agua, Nutria (Neotropical River otter)	<i>Lutra longicaudis</i>	Threatened
Jaguar, Tigre (Jaguar)	<i>Panthera onca</i>	Endangered
Danto, Tapir (Baird's tapir)	<i>Tapirus bairdii</i>	Endangered
Mono Aullador, Olingo (Mantled howler monkey)	<i>Alouatta palliata</i>	Endangered
Mono Cara Blanca (White-faced capuchin)	<i>Cebus capucinus</i>	Threatened
Puma, León (Cougar, puma)	<i>Felis concolor</i>	Threatened
Tigrillo, Ocelote (Ocelot)	<i>Leopardos (Felis) pardalis</i>	Endangered
Onza	<i>Herpailurus yaguarundi</i>	Endangered
Perezoso de Tres Dedos (Black and white ruffed lemur)	<i>Variegatus griseus</i>	Rare
Venado Cola Blanco (White-tailed deer)	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	Threatened
Oso Hormiguero (Northern tamandua)	<i>Tamandua mexicana</i>	Threatened
Quequeo, Chancho de Monte (Collared peccary)	<i>Pacari tajacu</i>	Threatened
Jaquilla, Chanco de Monte (White-lipped Peccary)	<i>Tayassu pecari</i>	Threatened
Tepezcuintle (Paca)	<i>Agouti paca</i>	Threatened

d. List of Banned Chemicals

List of Chemical Pesticides Banned in Certified Forests (Taken from: Chemical Pesticides in Certified Forests: Interpretation of the FSC Principles and Criteria. FSC International Policy; 2002):

The contents of the following tables have been taken from the FSC Guidance Document on Implementation of FSC Pesticide Policy (FSC-GUI-30-001 VERSION 2-0 EN).

Pesticides identified by the FSC as “highly hazardous”

Aldicarb	Diquat dibromide	Metasystox
Aldrin	Diuron	Oxyfluorfen
Alpha-cypermethrin	Endosulfan	Paraquat
Aluminium phosphide	Endrin	Parathion
Amitrole	Epoconazole	Pendimethalin
Atrazine *Benomyl	Esfenvalerate	Pentachlorophenol
Brodifacoum	Ethion	Permethrin
Bromadiolone	Fenitrothion	Propaquizafop
Carbaryl	Fipronil	Propyzamide
Carbosulfan	Fluazifop-butyl	Quintozene
Chlordane	Flufenoxuron	*Simazine
Chlorothalonil	Gamma-HCH, lindane	Sodium cyanide
Chlorpyrifos	Heptachlor	Sodium fluoroacetate,
Cyfluthrin	Hexachlorobenzene	1080

<p>Cypermethrin 2,4-D, 2-ethylhexyl ester *2-(2,4-DP), dma salt (= dichlorprop, dma salt) DDT Deltamethrin Diazinon *Dicamba, dma salt Dicofol Dieldrin Dienochlor Difethialone Diflubenzuron Dimethoate</p>	<p>Hexazinone *Hydramethylnon Isoxaben Lamba-cyhalothrin Mancozeb Metam sodium Methoxychlor Methylarsonic acid (monosodium methanearsenate, MSMA) Methylbromide Mirex *Naled Oryzalin Oxydemeton-methyl</p>	<p>Strychnine Sulfluramid 2,4,5-T Tebufenozide Terbumeton Terbutylazine Terbutryn Thiodicarb Toxaphene (Camphechlor) Triadimenol Trifluralin Warfarin Zeta-cypermethrin Zinc phosphide</p>
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* Indicates that was listed as “highly hazardous” based on certain indicators and shall remain on the FSC list of “highly hazardous” pesticides until information on reproductive or developmental toxins has been obtained.

Pesticides Type I A (extremely hazardous) according to WHO

<p>Aldicarb Brodifacoum Bromadiolone Bromethalin Calcium cyanide Captafol Chlorethoxyfos Chlormephos Chlorophacinone Difenacoum</p>	<p>Difenacoum Difethialone Diphacinone Disulfoton EPN Ethoprophos Flocoumafen Hexachlorobenzene Mercuric chloride Mevinphos</p>	<p>Parathion Parathion-methyl Phenylmercury acetate Phorate Phosphamidon Sodium fluoroacetate Sulfotep Tebupirimfos Terbufos</p>
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Pesticides Type I B (highly hazardous) according to WHO

<p>Acrolein Allyl alcohol Azinphos-ethyl Azinphos-methyl Blasticidin-S Butocarboxim Butoxycarboxim Cadusafos Calcium arsenate Carbofuran Chlorfenvinphos 3-Chloro-1,2-propanediol Coumaphos Coumatetralyl Zeta-cypermethrin Demeton-S-methyl Dichlorvos Dicrotophos Dinoterb</p>	<p>DNOC Edifenphos Ethiofencarb Famphur Fenamiphos Flucythrinate Fluoroacetamide Formetanate Furathiocarb Heptenophos Isoxathion Lead arsenate Mecarbam Mercuric oxide Methamidophos Methidathion Methiocarb Methomyl Monocrotophos Nicotine</p>	<p>Omethoate Oxamyl Oxydemeton-methyl Paris green Pentachlorophenol Propetamphos Sodium arsenite Sodium cyanide Strychnine Tefluthrin Thallium sulfate Thiofanox Thiometon Triazophos Vamidothion Warfarin Zinc phosphide</p>
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- e. **Terms and definitions (those which are crucial to the standard and are not defined in the FSC principles and criteria)**

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

Glossary

FSC Principles and Criteria of Forest Stewardship (P&C)

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

Forest Stewardship Standard

The normative document which specifies the requirements with which a forest management enterprise must conform in order to obtain FSC certification. Such a standard must include the exact language of the FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship, together with the additional indicators necessary to permit implementation at the level of the forest management unit.

Principle

An essential rule or element; in FSC's case, of forest stewardship.

Criterion (pl. criteria)

A means of judging whether or not a Principle (of Forest Management) has been fulfilled

Indicator

A quantitative or qualitative variable which can be measured or described, and which provides a means of judging whether a forest management unit complies with the requirements of an FSC Criterion. Indicators and the associated thresholds thereby define the requirements for responsible forest management at the level of the forest management unit and are the primary basis of forest evaluation.

Means of verification

A potential source of information that allows an auditor to evaluate compliance with an indicator. Means of verification are not normative and the certification body may justifiably use alternatives to those listed.

Verbal forms for the expression of provisions

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

“*Shall*”: indicates requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform to the standard.

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

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

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

Biological control agents: Living organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other living organisms.

High Conservation Value Forests: High Conservation Value Forests are those that possess one or more of the following attributes:

- a) forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refuges) and/or large landscape level forests, contained within or containing the management unit, where valuable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- b) Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.
- c) Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).
- d) forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

Natural forests: Forest areas where many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems such as complexity, structure and diversity are present, as defined by FSC-approved national and regional standards of forest management.

Chain of custody: The process of monitoring the distribution channel for the product from the forest to its end use.

Forest certification: A voluntary, independent process based on an assessment of the environmental, social and economic aspects of forest operations.

Natural cycles: Nutrient and mineral cycles in forest ecosystems that affect the productivity of the area. Natural cycles involve interactions between soil, water, plants and animals.

Criterion: A means of judging whether a Principle (of Forest Management) has been fulfilled or not.

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

Use rights: Rights for the use of forest resources that can be defined by local customs, mutual agreements or prescribed by other entities holding access rights. These rights may restrict the use of some resources, particularly in regard to specific levels of consumption and harvesting techniques.

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

Ecosystem: A community of plants and animals and their physical environment, functioning together as an interdependent unit.

Rare ecosystems: Different ecosystems found in a low management forest.

Precautionary approach: Tool for the implementation of the precautionary principle.

Threatened species: Any species that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a portion of its range.

Endangered species: Any species that is in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Native species: A species that occurs naturally in the region; endemic to the area.

Exotic species: An introduced species that is not native or endemic to the area.

Rare species: Species with small populations that might also be endangered.

Non-traditional species: All little-known, managed timber tree species with similar or better characteristics than those commonly used in different wood processing activities.

Closure document: A document prepared by the ICF at the request of the FMU after an annual cutting area has been harvested, which states that the activities covered in the operating plan were performed satisfactorily and therefore steps can be initiated for a new operating plan.

Forest integrity: The composition, dynamics, functions and structural attributes of a natural forest.

Long term: The time scale of the forest owner, manager or concession holder as manifested in the management plans, 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.

Local laws: These include all legal norms given by organisms of government whose jurisdiction is less than the national level, such as departmental, municipal and indigenous norms.

Forest Management/Manager: These terms include the people responsible for the operational management of the forest resource and of the enterprise, the management system and structure and planning and field operations.

Genetically modified organisms: Biological organisms that have been induced by various means to have genetic changes.

Other forest types: Forest areas that do not fit the criteria for plantation or natural forests and which are defined more specifically by FSC-approved national and regional standards of forest stewardship.

Landscapes: A geographical mosaic composed of interacting ecosystems resulting from the influence of geological, topographical, soil, climatic, biotic and human interactions in a given area.

Annual Operating Plan (AOP): A detailed description of the activities and treatments to be conducted in a given year which appears in a general way in the management plan. The AOP is a tool by which forest extension agents can transmit information to forest owners and is a practical mechanism for payment of taxes to the municipality and the State. It is a control instrument so that the ICF can provide oversight and assessment of the silvicultural activities described in the management plan.

Management Plan: This is a tool that allows owners to manage the forest with the proper silvicultural techniques. It sets forth the technical planning that regulates the use and rational, sustained harvesting of the natural, renewable resources of forestry land or, without having this use, has forest cover, for the purpose of obtaining the maximum economic benefit, at the same time ensuring conservation, environmental protection and mitigation of eventual negative environmental impacts..

Plantation: Forest areas lacking most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems, which result from planting or silvicultural treatments.

Principle: An essential rule or element; in this case, in forest management.

Non-timber forest products: All forest products except timber. These include other materials obtained from trees, such as resins and leaves, as well as any other plant and animal products.

Indigenous peoples: "The descendants of the peoples who inhabited the present territory of a country, wholly or partially, at the time when persons of a different culture or ethnic origin arrived there from other parts of the world, overcame them and, by conquest, settlement, or other means reduced them to a non-dominant or colonial situation; who today live more in conformity with their particular social, economic and cultural customs and traditions than with the institutions of the country of which they now form a part, under State structure which incorporates mainly the national, social and cultural characteristics of other segments of the population which are predominant." (Working definition adopted by the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Peoples).

Chemicals: The range of fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides and hormones that are used in forest management.

SLIMF: Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests. This policy was designed by the FSC to allow certifiers to identify operations that are eligible for assessment and oversight using simplified certification procedures and reducing certification costs for small and/or low intensity forest operations.

Succession: Progressive changes in species composition and forest community structure caused by natural processes (nonhuman) over time.

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.)

Indigenous lands and territories: The total environment of the lands, air, water, sea, sea-ice, flora and fauna, and other resources which indigenous peoples have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. (Draft Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Part VI).

Biological diversity values: The intrinsic ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components. (See Convention on Biological on Biological Diversity, 1992).

Communities: A group of people who live together under certain rules or who have the same interests or characteristics.

f. Agroforest groups that participated in the development of the standards.

No.	Name of the group	Community	Department
1.	Peralta and Associates	Río Viejo	Atlántida
2.	Tinoco and Associates	Yaruca	Atlántida
3.	Fúnez and Associates	San Marcos	Atlántida
4.	Calero and Associates	Piedras Amarillas	Atlántida
5.	Reyes and Associates	Toncontin	Atlántida
6.	Amaya and Associates	Nueva Granada	Atlántida
7.	Abraham Ramírez & Associates	Matarras	Atlántida
8.	Margarito Deras and Associates	Mezapita	Atlántida
9.	Vitalino Reyes and Associates	Mezapita	Atlántida
10.	Federico López and Associates	Piedras de Afilas	Atlántida
11.	Ocampo and Associates	Camelias	Atlántida
12.	López and Associates	Santiaguito	Atlántida
13.	CODA	Mocorón	Gracias a Dios
14.	Tinky Dawan	Mocorón	Gracias a Dios
15.	Barahona Romero & Associates	Copen	Colón

g. The FMP as a framework to ensure FMU sustainability

Explanation of how the FMP complies with points a-i of Criterion 7.1	
a) General management objective	To contribute to forest sustainability based on socially just, economically viable and ecologically acceptable principles. (See objectives of forest management plans.)
b) Description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, status of the property and land use, socio-economic conditions and a profile of adjacent areas.	Based on the general inventory of the forest in the management plan, the present commercial species and others that potentially can be marketed are described. A description is also made of the internal limitations for applying management in the biophysical, socio-economic and technical aspects and externally in the legal and policy aspects (See present and potential commercial species, volume tables.)
c) Description of the silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the forest ecology and the information obtained through forest inventories.	The minimum cutting diameter according to the forest inventory is described. The cutting cycle, which is the time that a tree needs to reach maturity, cutting intensity, which is the percentage to be harvested to ensure future harvests, allowable annual cut, and the base area to determine the intensity of silvicultural interventions. (See the silvicultural criteria in the management plan.)
d) Justification for the annual harvesting rate	Commercial species are selected based on the

<p>and species selection.</p>	<p>minimum cutting diameter and cutting intensity, as: Commercial species with normal distribution, commercial species with irregular distribution, and commercial species with no big trees. (To determine volumes to be harvested and because in Honduras there are no growth studies in hardwood forests, the Silvicultural Possibility is calculated based on the following formula: $SP = \frac{SIVI + SIIVII + SIIIVIII}{30 \text{ years}}$ Where: SP = Silvicultural possibility SI = Area of the stratum VI = Harvestable volume (m³/ha) of the stratum For this, the minimum cutting diameter has been set at 50cms. (See the calculation of silvicultural possibility in the MP.)</p>
<p>e) Measures for monitoring forest growth and dynamics.</p>	<p>These are based on complementary silvicultural sampling, which has been practiced in various zones with similar ecological conditions in the Central American region, in which it is proposed to do: diagnostic sampling, remnant sampling, silvicultural sampling and regeneration sampling. (See the calculation of Silvicultural possibility in the MP.)</p>
<p>f) Preventive environmental measures based on environmental assessments.</p>	<p>In every management plan an environmental impact statement is developed which describes the biophysical components, the magnitude of the impact and measures to be taken to mitigate impacts during forest interventions. (See the Environmental Impact Statement in the management plan.)</p>
<p>g) Plans for identifying and protecting rare, threatened or endangered species.</p>	<p>The environmental impact statement includes a recommendation that threatened or endangered species should not be harvested, as well as that there should be conservation of nesting sites, protection of natural breeding and feeding habitats and awareness of hunting activities created in the population.</p>
<p>h) Maps that describe the forest resource base, including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership.</p>	<p>The following maps are attached to the management plans: Location of the area, strata, sampling plan, protection plan and proposed annual cutting areas.</p>
<p>i) Description and justification of harvesting techniques and the equipment to be used.</p>	<p>The harvesting system to be used shall have a reduced impact, which includes the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Selection, identification, and marking of trees on the ground based on the information in the operating plan document. ✿ Tree cutting applying the directed logging method, using the best technology within the group's possibilities. ✿ Transportation in the form of boards on mules and other pack animals using bridle paths from the corrals to the gathering centers in the community ✿ Proper waste disposal.

	The equipment to be used in harvesting is a power saw with the minimum equipment for operator protection. (See the harvesting operating plan.)
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h. Post harvesting evaluation document form

FORM FOR TOTAL CLOSURE
FOR NON-COMPLIANCE OR NOT WITH THE TECHNICAL NORMS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of the site: _____
Jurisdiction: _____
Department: _____
Forest region: _____
Name of the site owner: _____
Resolution No.: _____
Prepared by: _____
Date of preparation: _____
Effective period: _____

I SPECIFIC CLAUSES

1.1 LOCATION OF THE AREA

The location corresponds to that shown in the operating plan

Yes ___ No ___

The size and marking of the area correspond to the original indication on the ground.

Yes ___ No ___

1.2 VOLUMETRIC DATA

The results of the inventory were:

Gross commercial volume: _____

Net commercial volume: _____

No. of commercial trees to be cut: _____

Actual harvested volume: _____

The utilization standards were:

The standards were followed Yes ___ No ___

1.3 ROAD SPECIFICATIONS

The road specifications were:

These specifications were followed Yes ___ No ___

1.4 THE PHYSICAL MARKING WAS:

Plan boundaries were indicated with paint of this color: _____
The cutting unit boundary was indicated with paint of this color: _____
Seed trees were indicated with paint of this color: _____
Trees selected for cutting were indicated with paint of this color: _____

These markings are in accordance with what is stipulated in the operating plan
Yes ____ No ____

1.5 FORMS OF PAYMENT

Payments of administrative expenses were made as follows:

The operating plan was paid in full Yes ____ No ____

1.6 EXPIRATION DATE

According to the operating plan, it will expire: _____

The operating plan expired later than the expected date by volume

Yes ____ No ____ on this date _____

II STANDARD CLAUSES

2.1 PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF CLEARINGS

Boundaries : _____ Mts
Signs made : _____ Has.
No. de controlled clearings : _____
No. de hectares affected : _____
Type of species affected : _____

2.2 REPRESENTATIVE AND OPERATIONAL CONTROL

Representative:

The ICF's technical forest representative was _____
_____ professional society membership _____
with membership No. _____

Control of operations:

On behalf of the ICF in: _____

2.3 USE OF A SINGLE INVOICE

The owner complied with the use of a single invoice Yes ____ No ____

Was found to be transporting wood without an invoice Yes ____ No ____

Due to having transported without an invoice, a forest complaint was filed No. _____

Which was cancelled Yes ____ No ____ according to receipt No. _____ dated

2.4 LOGGING OPERATIONS

Safety measures in operations, felling and crosscutting, thinning and protection of watersheds and water sources were applied done correctly Yes ____ No ____

2.5 WASTE TREATMENT

The method for treating wastes indicated by the ICF was:

This was followed Yes ____ No ____

2.6 SILVICULTURAL TREATMENT OR PRESCRIPTION

The prescription for the forest was: _____

_ This was followed Yes ____ No ____

2.7 EROSION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

For erosion prevention and control, it was decided to use the following method(s):

__ This was followed: Yes ____ No ____

Based on what is set forth in the specific and standard clauses; the Forest Region _____ referring to compliance with the technical norms, in this site _____ Jurisdiction _____ Department _____ whose owner is _____

The following decision is made:

Denial of total closure of resolution No. _____ located in the city of _____ can be released.

Approval of total closure of resolution No. _____ located in the city of _____

Place and date

Stamp, name and signature of the Head of the Forest Administration Unit

Stamp, name and signature of the Head of Norms and Control, Forest Region

Stamp, name, and signature of the Head of the Region