



Forest Stewardship Council®






PSU Review Report

of

FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2

FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship

Title:	PSU Review Report of FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship
Status:	Approved
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The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, not for profit, non-government organization established to promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

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

Summary and recommendation

Reviewed Document

Document code	FSC-STD-01-001
Title	FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship
Objective of document	The FSC Principles are the essential rules or elements of environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management, and the Criteria provide the means of judging whether or not a Principle has been fulfilled. They are the foundation of the FSC certification scheme.
Last approval date	22 July 2015
Review triggered by	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Regular review as scheduled
	<input type="radio"/> GA Motion or Board decision
	<input type="radio"/> New or changed FSC policies or legislation
	<input type="radio"/> Change Requests
	<input type="radio"/> Other (please specify):
Reviewer	Name: Achim Droste and Dorothee Jung
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Draft Review Report	13 June 2018
Public consultation	15 January – 06 March 2019
Final Review Report	04 June 2019

Recommendation

<input type="radio"/> Full revision is recommended
<input type="radio"/> Minor revision is recommended ¹
<input type="radio"/> Editorial revision is recommended
<input checked="" type="radio"/> No revision needed
<input type="radio"/> Document should be withdrawn

¹ According to FSC-PRO-01-001 V3-1 Annex 4

I. Introduction

According to the Preamble of the FSC Principles and Criteria (P&C) Version 5-2 “the next review of the FSC Principles and Criteria shall occur within three years of the approval of the International Generic Indicators, with a view to completion of any necessary revisions within two years of the review.”

Therefore, the FSC International Board of Directors mandated the Performance and Standards Unit (PSU) in its meeting in March 2018 to conduct a review of the P&C in Q2/2018.

II. Proposed recommendation

PSU recommends to not initiate a revision process of the P&C now and proposes to conduct the next regular review of the P&C in 2023, to allow for enough time to gain field experience once the transition of all National Forest Stewardship Standards to the new P&C has been completed.

This recommendation is based on the following considerations:

- The transition process of National Forest Stewardship Standards from the old P&C to the new P&C has not yet been completed. FSC needs to implement the new version and gain experience with the implementation before being able to conduct a meaningful review and concluding whether a revision is necessary.
- FSC needs to ensure stability of the Normative Framework and the P&C is the core document of the FSC Normative Framework. A revision process at this stage would pose a huge threat to the stability and functioning of the entire FSC system.
- While the transfer of National Forest Stewardship Standards to the new P&C is ongoing, PSU is working on a number of processes (see below) that aim to improve the relevance and effectiveness of the P&C and the respective International Generic Indicators (IGIs). Only once these supporting processes are completed and implemented, it will be possible to assess the need for a revision of the P&C.
 - **Risk-based and outcome-oriented approaches to the normative framework**
A conceptual model and supporting tools are developed to incorporate risk-based and outcome-oriented approaches into National Forest Stewardship Standards with the aim of improving the overall quality and efficiency of the audit process, by focussing the audit effort on relevant and high risk indicators.
 - **Development of new approaches for smallholders and communities**
Existing standards are improved and new solutions developed to make FSC certification more accessible to smallholders and communities.
 - **Emphasis on Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL)**
Clarifying FSC’s approach and progress on IFL protection to accompany and strengthen the implementation of the P&C.
 - **Revision of the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Guideline**

The revised guidelines aim to facilitate the understanding of FPIC requirements in the new P&C amongst certificate holders, certification bodies and communities.

- **New set of IGI based on ILO Core Conventions principles**
New indicators and sub-indicators have been added to the IGI standard (for the incorporation into National Forest Stewardship Standards) with the aim of improving certificate holders' compliance with fundamental workers' rights.
- **Making certification more attractive in tropical forests**
Developing proposals for tropical forest landowners to improve accessibility to the FSC scheme.

III. Stakeholder feedback

Stakeholders were invited to provide comments and feedback on the draft review report from 15 January until 06 March 2019 via the FSC consultation platform.

In total, FSC received 68 responses.

76% of the respondents voted against a revision, 13% are in favor (rest undetermined).

65% consider it a risk to revise the P&C now, 13% don't (rest undetermined).

Stakeholder composition

