



Forest Stewardship Council®



Guidance for Standard Development Groups: Developing National High Conservation Value Frameworks

FSC-GUI-60 009 V1-0 D1-2 EN


Title: FSC-GUI-60-009 V1-0 D1-2 EN


Document reference code: FSC-GUI-60-009 V1-0 D1-2 EN

Approval body: FSC Board of Directors

Contact for comments: FSC International Center
- Policy and Standards Unit -

Charles-de-Gaulle-Str. 5
53113 Bonn, Germany

 +49-(0)228-36766-0

 +49-(0)228-36766-30

 policy_standards@fsc.org

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**Guidance for Standard Development Groups:
Developing National High Conservation Value Frameworks**

FSC-GUI-60-009 V1-0 D1-2 EN

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. PREAMBLE

1.1 Context and Objective

Principle 9 requires extra safeguards and extra levels of protection, additional to those already provided under other Principles and Criteria, by requiring:

- Greater efforts to identify and assess High Conservation Values (HCVs) including environmental and social values not covered elsewhere in the Principles and Criteria;
- Respect the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of affected rights holders;
- Engagement with Indigenous Peoples, stakeholders and experts;
- Management strategies that include, at times, full protection; and
- Rigorous monitoring to ensure the effectiveness of the management strategies and the maintenance, enhancement and / or restoration of HCVs.

This Guidance provides directs Standard Development Groups (SDGs) to develop National HCV Frameworks, consistent with the normative requirements of the International Generic Indicators. Specifically, this Guidance provides detailed instructions and guidance to SDGs to develop National HCV Frameworks so that forest managers of FSC certified Management Units can:

- Assess the presence of each HCV;
- Engage with Indigenous Peoples, local communities and other stakeholders;
- Develop and implement strategies and action plans for maintaining and/or enhancing HCVs;
- Monitor the impacts of forest operations to HCVs; and
- Ensure these strategies and monitoring are consistent with a risk-based approach.

1.2 Scope

This Guidance is written to support SDGs in the development of National HCV Frameworks and aims to clarify the specific requirements for the identification, management planning, operations, monitoring and restoration of HCVs in FSC certified forests.

1.3 Objectives of National HCV Frameworks

This Guidance accompanies the High Conservation Value Frameworks Template (FSC-GUI-60-009a V1-0 D2 EN), to be used by SDGs to complete their National HCV Frameworks that are intended to provide nationally or regionally specific:

- Interpretations of the six HCV categories;
- Methodologies to support the identification, protection and monitoring of HCVs; and
- Best Available Information (BAI) for identifying, protecting and monitoring HCVs.

HCV Frameworks also provide an opportunity to clarify how measures to address HCVs relate to recent changes and developments in the FSC system. For example, the FSC's 2012 Guidance on Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is included in the Template Instructions' lists of Best Available Information that Standard Developers are to consider and adapt in their Frameworks. Intact Forest Landscapes and landscape-level cultural values are also addressed in the Template Instructions.

The HCV Frameworks Template also includes placeholders to indicate where expectations for the use of Best Available Information may be adjusted, proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk or management activities. Likewise, the FSC ecosystem services initiative is developing approaches for monitoring that may also be useful in the HCV context and can be considered by Standard Developers. If forest managers employ these they may provide access to market benefits of ecosystem services certification.

HCV National Interpretations or Toolkits may exist for some regions or countries, and those should also be observed for drafting National HCV Frameworks.

The HCV Framework is part of the broader normative framework as follows:

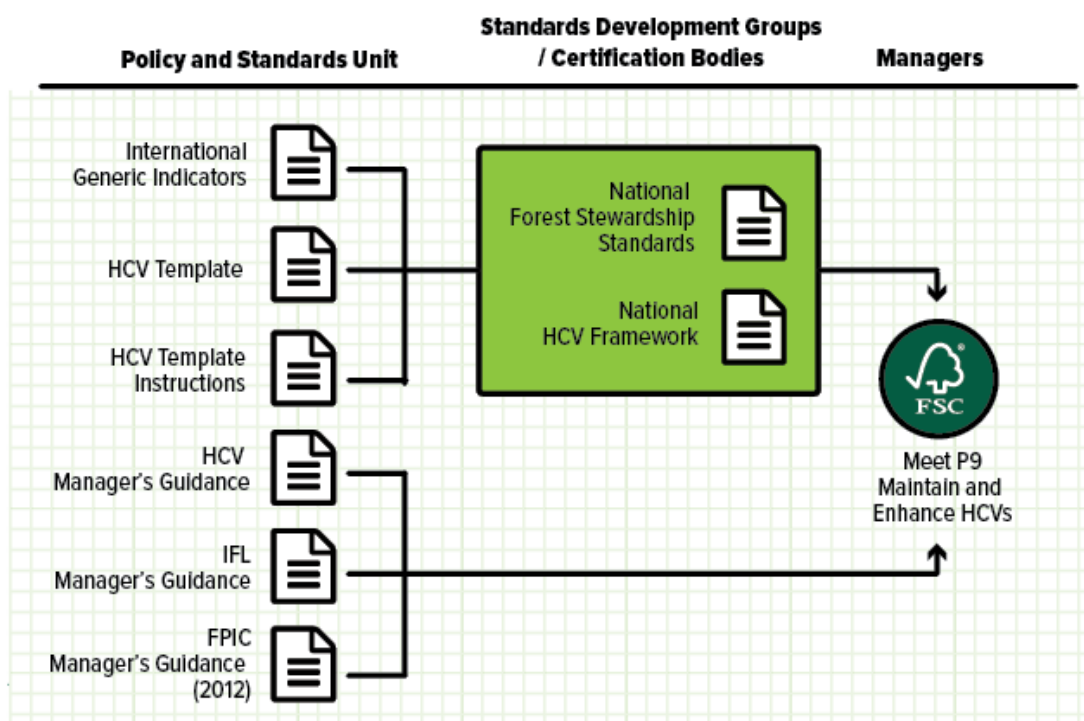


Figure 1. FSC Normative Framework aligned with the HCV Framework

1.4 FSC Network Roles and Responsibilities

A number of different documents are used to provide Guidance across the FSC Network on the effective implementation of Principle 9, including the development of National HCV Frameworks, as follows:

	AUDIENCE	PURPOSE	AUTHOR
HCV Template	SDGs/CBs	Blank form to be used by SDGs to produce HCV Framework	HCV Technical Working Group
Template Instructions	SDGs/CBs	Describes how to use the HCV Template to produce the National HCV Framework Introduces risk based approach, empowers SDGs to set thresholds and links directly to existing tools as examples Provides a cross reference to HCV Manager's Guidance, and IFL Manager's Guidance (both under development)	HCV Technical Working Group
HCV Manager's Guidance	Managers	Tells Managers how to identify, assess, maintain and/or enhance, and monitor HCVs Includes specific Guidance for Small, Medium and Large Managers to be developed in collaboration with Smallholder / New Approaches / Motion 83 Working Groups. To be developed after the GA	HCV Technical Working Group
Intact Forest Landscape Manager's Guidance	Managers	Tells Managers how to implement Motion 65 to protect Intact Forest Landscapes	HCV Technical Working Group
HCV Framework	Managers / Stakeholders	Tell Managers how to maintain and enhance HCVs	SDGs /CBs

Figure 2: HCV Guidance and Support Documents

The identification, protection and enhancement of HCVs are shared responsibilities across the FSC Network. Table 3 summarizes the complimentary roles and responsibilities in developing and using the HCV Frameworks:

FSC Policy and Standards Unit	Standard Development Groups	Certificate Holders	Certification Bodies
Development of the HCV Framework Template Review National HCV Frameworks	Use HCV Guidance for Standard Development Groups and the HCV Frameworks Template to produce a National HCV Framework	Use National HCV Framework for identifying the HCV areas, implement their management	During assessments, confirm that Certificate Holders have used National HCV Frameworks to

FSC Policy and Standards Unit	Standard Development Groups	Certificate Holders	Certification Bodies
and submit them to the Policy and Standards Committee for approval	Incorporate Scale Intensity and Risk into the National HCV Framework Submit the National HCV Framework to PSU for review and approval process.	strategies and monitoring effectiveness of their management, consistent with Principle 9	meet the indicators for Principle 9

Figure 3. Complimentary roles in developing and using the HCV Framework

1.5 Effective Date and Validity Dates

Approval date	DRAFT
Publication date	DRAFT
Effective date	DRAFT
Transition period	DRAFT
Period of validity	DRAFT (or until replaced or withdrawn)

1.6 References

The following referenced documents are essential for the application of this document. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

- FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship
- FSC-STD-01-002 FSC Glossary of Terms
- FSC-STD-60-004 V1-1 International Generic Indicators
- FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF eligibility criteria
- FSC-GUI-60-001 Guidance on the Interpretation of FSC Principles and Criteria to Take Account of Small Scale and Low Intensity
- FSC Step-by-step guide. Good practice guide to meeting FSC certification requirements for biodiversity and High Conservation Value Forests in Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMFs)
- FSC-STD-20-007 Forest Management Evaluations;
- FSC-STD-20-006 Stakeholder consultation for forest evaluations;
- FSC-STD-30-005 FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups;
- FSC guidelines for the implementation of the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) (2012);
- HCV Network: Common Guidance for the Identification of High Conservation Values (2013);

- Policy Motion 65 (2014)
- FSC-GUI-60-002 Guideline for Standards Developers for addressing risk of unacceptable activities in regards to scale and intensity (2016);
- FSC-PRO-XX-XXX Procedure for Ecosystem Services (2016)
- FSC-STD-30-010 (Version 2-0) FSC Controlled Wood Standard For Forest Management Enterprises (2006)

2. Scale, Intensity and Risk

While the application of Scale Intensity and Risk (SIR) is new with the Principles and Criteria, FSC manages risk throughout the global system. For example, the Principles and Criteria are based on the precautionary approach, three chambers govern the FSC, National standards are developed by chamber balanced working groups, Controlled Wood includes a risk assessment and ASI ensures global consistency. While forest managers routinely manage for risk, the threshold for the management of risk is set by Standard Developers. As a result, it is important to understand how risk is addressed across the normative framework.

2.1 SIR and the Principles and Criteria

Risk is built into the existing Principles and Criteria, particularly in how assessments of ecological values in Principle 6 and support the identification and protection of HCVs 1.

Criteria 6.1 to 6.8 require ecological values to be assessed, threats identified, and management strategies developed and implemented to prevent unacceptable negative impacts from management activities. Likewise, Criteria 3.1 to 3.6 require engagement with Indigenous Peoples to identify legal and customary rights, establish FPIC agreements and identify and protect special cultural sites. Similar requirements exist for Principle 4 related to *local* communities. Conformance with the requirements of these Principles provides the forest manager with the basis for meeting the requirements of Principle 9.

Risk

The probability of an unacceptable negative impact arising from any activity in the Management Unit combined with its seriousness in terms of consequences.

Central to this approach is the notion that as conservation values become more concentrated, threatened or rare, the strength of HCV management strategies must also increase. As the concentration of, threat to, or rarity of, conservation values increase further these HCV strategies may become protective reserves under Principle 9. Intact Forest Landscape core areas are an example of this. Figure 4 provides a conceptual diagram to illustrate this continuum for conservation values.

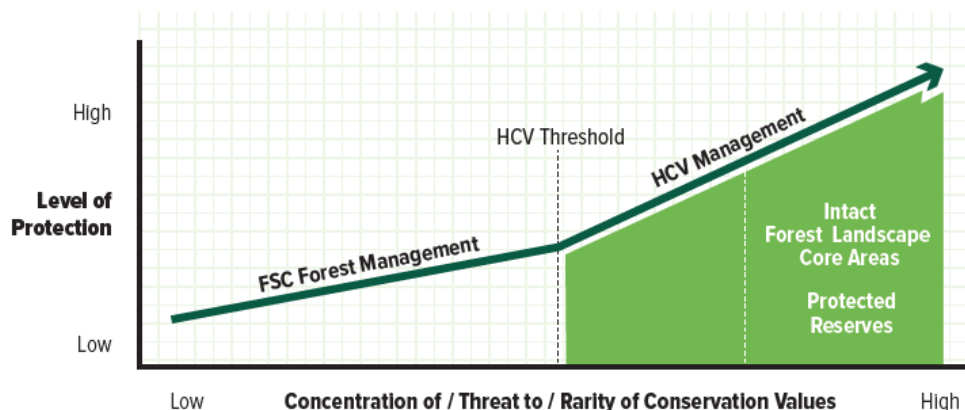


Figure 4. Relative Protection required for Conservation Values

This diagram shows the relationship between the level of effort of management required to protect and maintain cultural and ecological conservation value and the concentration of, threat to or rarity of those values. As the threat to conservation values increases, so too must the level of protection of these values. This level and type of protection can elevate from management activities as set out in Principle 9 right up to excluding human activities in the form of protective reserves. The Intact Forest Landscape Core Areas are shown as an example, and protective reserves may need to be used to protect other HCVs.

2.2 Incorporating SIR into National HCV Frameworks

Fundamental to reducing the potential unacceptable negative impact of management activities is incorporating a risk-based approach to management. Guideline for Standards Developers for addressing risk of unacceptable activities in regards to scale and intensity (2016) (FSC-GUI-60-002) contains several default assumptions:

- Activities with low potential of an unacceptable negative impact will require a reduced administrative burden to demonstrate conformance. This includes a reduced requirement for documenting engagement, conducting and documenting certain assessments, developing complex management plans and conducting and documenting monitoring.
- Activities with standard potential of an unacceptable negative impact must meet the requirements listed in the IGI, or as adapted in national standards through the transfer process;
- Activities with high potential of an unacceptable negative impact will be required to demonstrate their compliance with a higher level of effort and/or more robust management strategies; and

The variable levels of performance required under different circumstances shall be specified in FSC National Standards. These assumptions are summarized in Figure 5.

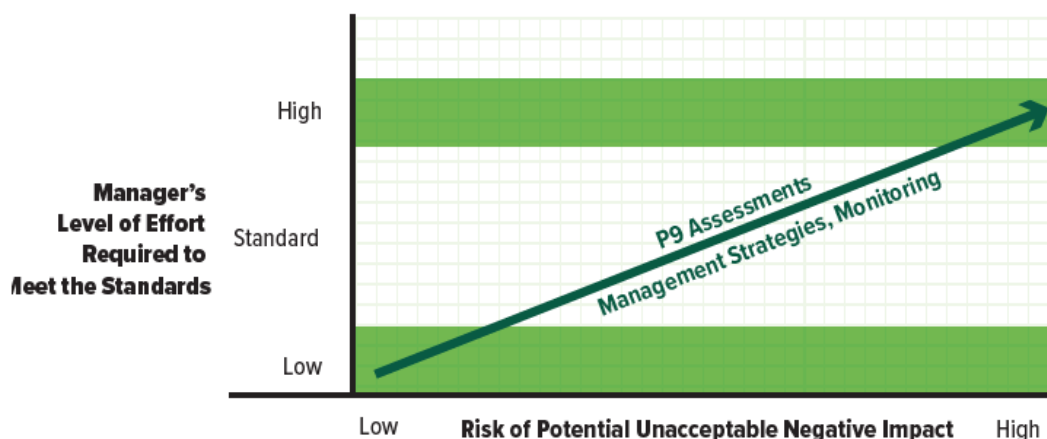


Figure 5. Risk Based Approach to HCV Assessments

As the risk of potential unacceptable negative impact increases, so too should the forest manager's level of effort required to meet the standards. For example, the greater the concentration of ecological values, the more effort is required by the manager to do assessments of these values. Likewise, the presence of Indigenous Peoples within and adjacent to the Management Unit increases the level of engagement required.

A Risk-based approach to meeting the requirements of Principle 9 should consider the following:

Regarding engagement:

- A low potential of unacceptable negative impacts means that the Organization can reduce requirements for stakeholder engagement to demonstrate conformance. This means that they should generally be required to understand the interests and concerns of neighbours and adjacent landowners without the need for extensive consultation. This may be extended to potentially affected stakeholders that are not adjacent neighbours, for example in Management Units located upstream from water users.
- A high potential of unacceptable negative impact means that the Organization has increased requirements to demonstrate conformance and engage local communities and Indigenous Peoples with a consultation strategy that sets out, for example, the scope of their activities, the expected outcomes, the target audience, and the link to the dispute resolution process.

Regarding policies, procedures and assessments:

- Activities with low potential unacceptable negative impact mean that the Organization has reduced requirements to demonstrate conformance and may verbally communicate policies and procedures. Likewise, some assessments may be completed using experience, observations and local experts. Group managers may also have an important role to play in developing procedures and policies and for conducting certain assessments.
- Activities with high potential unacceptable negative impact mean that the Organization has increased requirements to demonstrate conformance and is required to complete assessments with extensive fieldwork and professional expertise. Likewise, social and economic decisions should be supported by social science and market research.

2.3 Setting SIR Thresholds in National HCV Frameworks

Given the need to apply the precautionary approach to HCV management and in the interest of providing less administratively burdensome, within National HCV scale is an effective proxy for the application of a risk-based approach.

Thresholds for small, medium and large organizations shall be set at the national or regional level in order to effectively account for the variability of forest types, forest management regimes and national and regional regulations.

For small organizations as well as Group Management schemes with Group Members of an appropriate size, thresholds may be set or adapted at the national level consistent with SLIMF eligibility criteria. Additional considerations for thresholds for small organizations may be that the Management Unit is:

- Small sized (as defined at the national or regional level);

- Low intensity, for example areas where the annual cut is less than 20% of the Mean Annual Increment, or areas managed only for non-timber forest products;
- Situated in an area classified as low risk in relation to Controlled Wood (category 3); and
- Not situated in an area where Indigenous Peoples have legal or customary rights (unless these peoples or their representatives are also the certificate holders)

Potential considerations for thresholds for large organizations may include Management Units:

- Overlapping with Intact Forest Landscapes ¹;
- Overlapping with Global Biodiversity Hotspot ²;
- Planning to convert more than a very limited portion of natural ecosystems to plantations (assuming that such conversion remains an option after revision of P6.9).

A second, additional set of considerations that could categorize an organization as large may include Management Units in:

- Areas classified as unspecified CW risk for category 3 (HCVs) according to Central / national risk assessments for Controlled Wood; and
- Countries with less effective law enforcement, more insecure tenure rights, less effective means of addressing power imbalances between communities, companies and governments, less equality within communities – all factors possibly linked to higher risks that HCVs, particularly HCV5 and 6, are not appropriately identified or maintained;

Organizations that are between small and large can be categorized as medium organizations.

For more information please see: Guideline for Standards Developers for addressing risk of unacceptable activities in regards to scale and intensity (2016) (FSC-GUI-60-002).

1 <http://www.intactforests.org>

2 <http://www.conservation.org/How/Pages/Hotspots.aspx>

3. HCV Methodology: Guidance for SDGs

The methodology for the protection of HCVs is well established in the Criteria for Principle 9 and is comprised of several important elements: precautionary principle, experts, engagement and SIR. SIR is addressed above and these other elements are summarized here.

ELEMENTS	EXPERTS	ENGAGEMENT	PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE	SIR
9.1 Assess and Record • HCV status and presence according to SIR • Impacts of management activities on HCVs	✓	✓		✓
9.2 Develop Management Strategies	✓	✓		
9.3 Implement Management Strategies			✓	✓
9.4 Monitor effectiveness	✓	✓		✓

Figure 6: Key Elements of the HCV methodology

The use of experts to assist with developing management strategies and monitoring of effectiveness is unique to Principle 9. The characteristics of experts are as follows:

- Independent,
- Professional + adequately trained,
- Guided by performance monitoring with quality control

Specific to Principle 9, the following definition of expert exists:

An expert is an individual independent of the Organization and:

- Has knowledge or skill that is specialized and profound as the result of much practical or academic experience; and / or
- Is a recognized authority on a topic by virtue of the body of relevant material published on the topic, their stature within the professional community, and the broadly recognized accumulated related experience; and / or

- Possesses a wealth of experience on a topic such as may be accumulated through practical means including the accumulation of traditional knowledge

The precautionary principle is unique to Principle 9, specifically Criterion 9.3 for the implementation of management strategies. Avoiding risks when scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive is appropriate for Principle 9, especially given the vulnerability and sensitivity of the values in question.

When implementing the Precautionary Approach, HCVs are understood to be critical, fundamental, significant or valuable, and therefore any threat to a HCV is considered to be a threat of severe or irreversible damage.

Precautionary Principle

An approach requiring that when the available information indicates that management activities pose a threat of severe or irreversible damage to the environment or a threat to human welfare, The Organization will take explicit and effective measures to prevent the damage and avoid the risks to welfare, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of environmental values are uncertain.

The HCV methodology is elaborated here to provide guidance for SDGs.

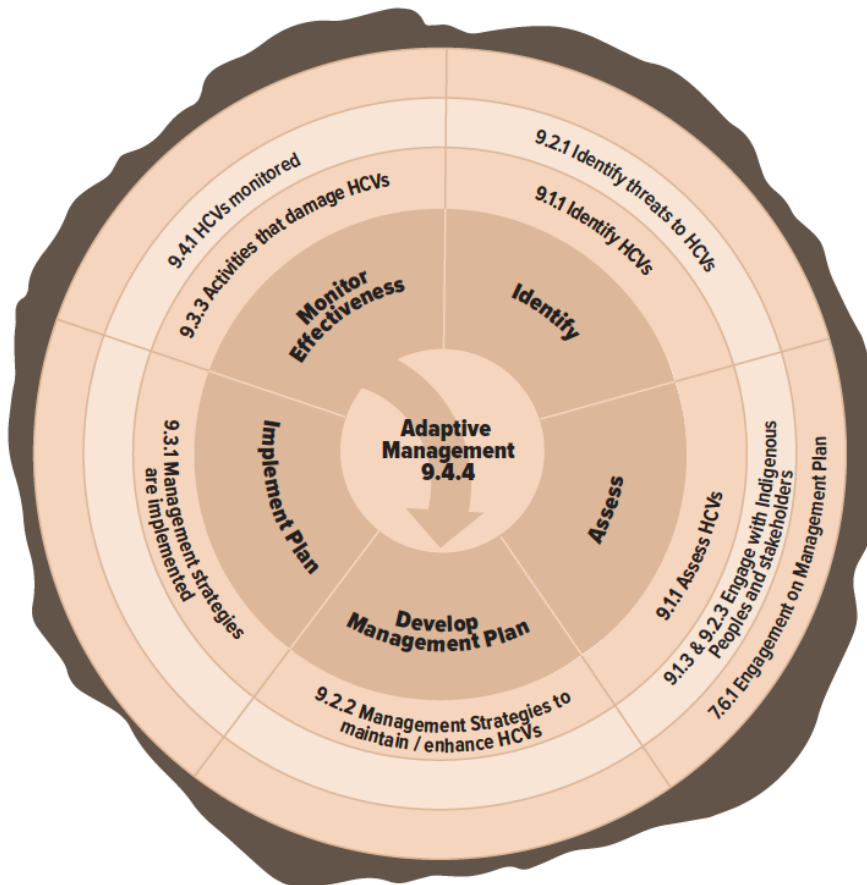


Figure 7. The HCV methodology

The HCV methodology includes identification, assessment, management strategies, implementation and Monitoring. These management activities are supported by requirements in other Principles and Criteria.

3.1 Support for HCV Protection and Enhancement throughout the Principles and Criteria

The methodology for the protection and enhancement of HCVs is set out in the Criteria 9. However, much of the identification, assessment and engagement for HCVs are addressed in other Principles and Criteria, as summarized here:

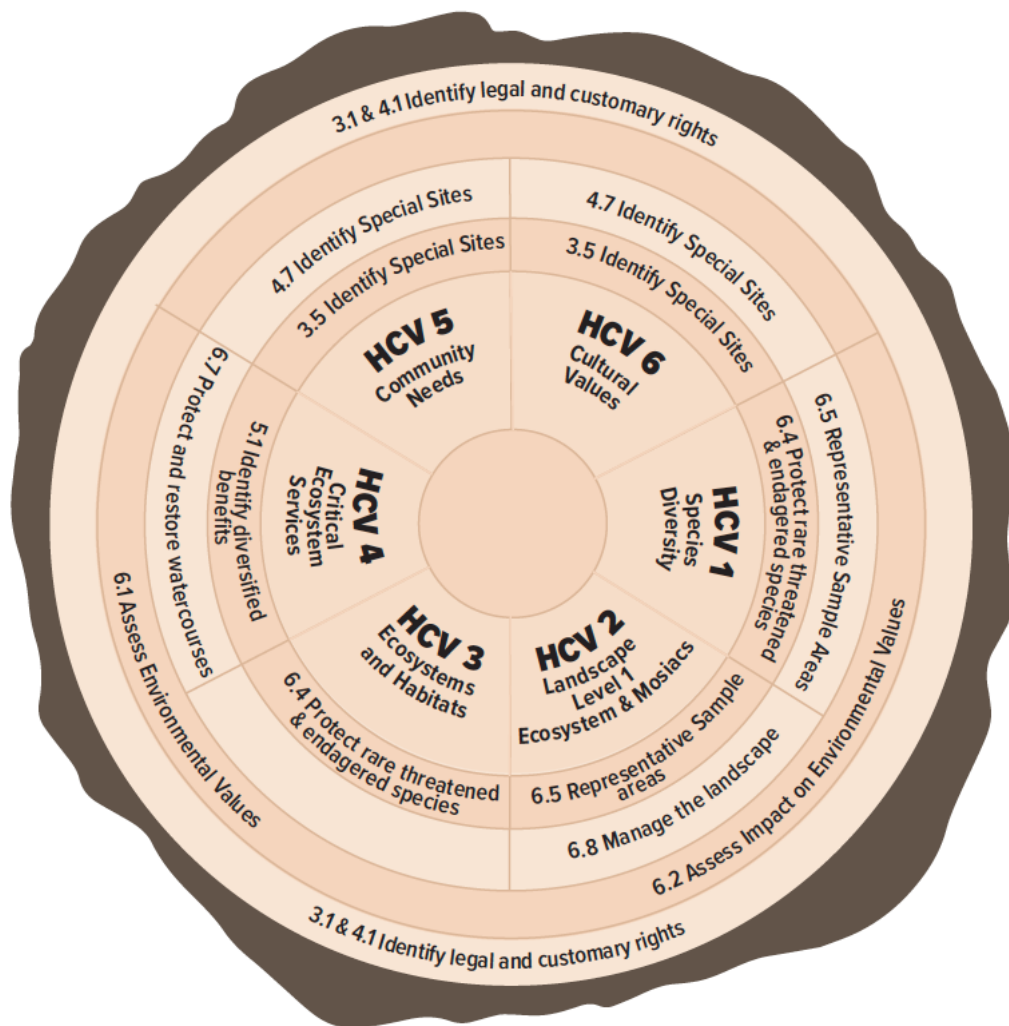


Figure 8. Support for HCV Protection and Enhancement throughout the Principles and Criteria

The HCV methodology includes identification, assessment, management strategies, implementation and Monitoring. These management activities are supported by requirements in other Principles and Criteria.

The following HCV methodology is provided as an overview only. For additional information, please refer to V1-0 D1 EN HCV Manager’s Guide (FSC-GUI-30-009), Manager’s Guide for Intact Forest Landscapes (FSC-GUI-30-00X V1-0 D1 EN), Guideline for Standards Developers for addressing risk of unacceptable activities in regards to scale and intensity (2016) (FSC-GUI-60-002); and FSC guidelines for the implementation of the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) (2012).

3.2 HCV Assessment

The assessment process includes identifying HCVs that may exist in the management unit. HCV Frameworks play an important role here, by providing forest managers with more nationally specific and user-friendly interpretations and Best Available Information for each of the six HCV categories. Forest managers then assess, through both scientific assessments and through engagement, whether those HCVs and any others are actually present in the management unit. The results are recorded and mapped.

Proportionate to the scale intensity and risk of impacts of management activities, and likelihood of the occurrence of HCVs, field surveys or evaluations for medium and large organizations of habitat suitability, should be performed by qualified experts and / or other suitably trained individuals in accordance with scientifically rigorous methods and identify locations of individuals or populations of single or multiple species, or habitat likely to be suitable for individuals or populations of single or multiple species. These surveys or evaluations may be undertaken in order to calibrate desktop assessments, inform landscape planning, inform operational management responses, monitor the effectiveness of management measures, or other purposes. Assessment procedures may be adapted for small organizations.

The analysis of threats to HCVs should be based on Best Available Information and be informed through culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples, experts and affected and interested stakeholders. Threats include:

- Those posed by management activities such as road building and logging and
- Those posed by non-forestry activities, such as climate change, poaching, slash and burn agriculture, and invasive species

Field surveys and assessments can be important for both environmental and social HCVs, and Frameworks should indicate where they are likely to be valuable for different HCV interpretations. Frameworks should also indicate any standard techniques that should be used for the field surveys and assessments for these HCV interpretations.

The specific steps to assessments are as follows:

Topics	Content
Define the scope of the assessment	Discuss the reasons for assessments, types of outcomes it needs to provide, and thus begin to introduce topic of how much effort to spend, types of effort to spend, etc

Topics	Content
Identify relevant Best Available Information	This includes BAI listed in the National Frameworks
Identify rights holders, affected and interested stakeholders, and communities and Indigenous Peoples	This may include informing stakeholders of their rights, what HCVs are, and other contextual information. Uses other culturally appropriate methods.
Engage experts, rights holders, affected and interested stakeholders, local communities and Indigenous Peoples	See engagement below
Identify HCVs in management unit	Assess the presence, location, status, and condition of HCVs and HCV Areas Use National HCV Framework and BAI, including regional and local experts. This includes databases, other existing knowledge.
Conduct surveys of the management unit	This is to confirm presence and to begin evaluating their condition Further assess the status and condition of the HCVs. Status refers to protected area status or other information on current management context. Condition refers to the ecological integrity, health, and such. Assess threats to HCVs
Review assessment results with independent experts, rights holders, affected and interested stakeholders, and communities and Indigenous Peoples	To review assessment results
Record the assessment results.	This includes maps of HCV Areas.

Figure 9. HCV Assessment Steps

3.3 Engagement

Engagement with interested and affected stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples and experts is central to the HCV methodology. Culturally appropriate engagement is the most effective way of ensuring that their knowledge, expertise, concerns, desires, expectations, needs, rights and opportunities are considered in the HCV assessment process.

Proportionate to the scale intensity and risk of impacts of management activities, and likelihood of the occurrence of HCVs, engagement should include those people and communities who might be interested in or affected by the management strategy and actions, such as Indigenous Peoples, forest dwellers, local or traditional communities that may rely on resources from the forest, neighbouring landowners, local processors, local businesses, forest workers, land use right holders, organizations comprising or acting on behalf of interested and affected stakeholders, for example social and environmental NGOs, labour unions, etc.

Interested and affected stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples and expert advice should be sought to gain co-operation and to make sure that concerns, desires, expectations, needs, rights and opportunities are considered in the planning and the implementation of

management strategies. In addition, methods for engagement for each of these groups will differ based on culturally appropriate requirements

Meaningful engagement considers that social groups are never homogenous. For example, perceptions of resources and cultural values, rules of use and their importance can vary within and between Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

The specific steps to Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities are as follows:

Step	Content
Develop Engagement Plan	<p>Human resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define audience and participants including Indigenous Peoples, government, experts, communities, stakeholders and others • Develop contact lists for each group <p>Through engagement define / confirm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spokespeople for each group • Intention of the engagement • Culturally appropriate engagement with all groups • Confirm affected rights holders (established through P3 and P4) • Engagement approaches and material / data sets required including how agreements are recorded, how participation is supported (financial and technical), dispute resolution mechanisms. May be different people for each HCV category. Expect different BAI, processes, engagement expectations, timelines, values, connections to the land for each group • Engagement in monitoring plan
Engagement Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish engagement schedule that shows overall project timeline as well as the specific opportunities for engagement by various participants • Summarize the different types of engagement: information out, inviting feedback, relationship building, working to FPIC agreement • Define engagement methods such as participatory mapping, community meetings, one on one meetings, surveys, public meetings, targeted stakeholder meetings • Consider budget considerations including honorariums for community participation, logistics
Implement engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement implemented according to agreed approach with each group • Develop and provide for each group culturally appropriate outreach material such as maps, brochures, FSC 101, HCV project timelines • Define key terms and concepts with each group such as what is meant by significant and critically important • Record agreements • Consent is required where management activities, including protection measures, negatively impact the legal and customary rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities

Monitor engagement effectiveness

- Process allows for incremental and continuous improvement in the relationship
- Change plan as required through adaptive management

Figure 10. HCV Engagement Steps with Indigenous Peoples and local communities

Along with field visits and surveys, engagement with relevant rights holders, stakeholders, communities, Indigenous Peoples, and experts are an important part of HCV assessments, consistent with Criteria 3.5, 4.5, 4.7, and 9.1. Engagement is a requirement throughout the Principles and Criteria, as set out here.

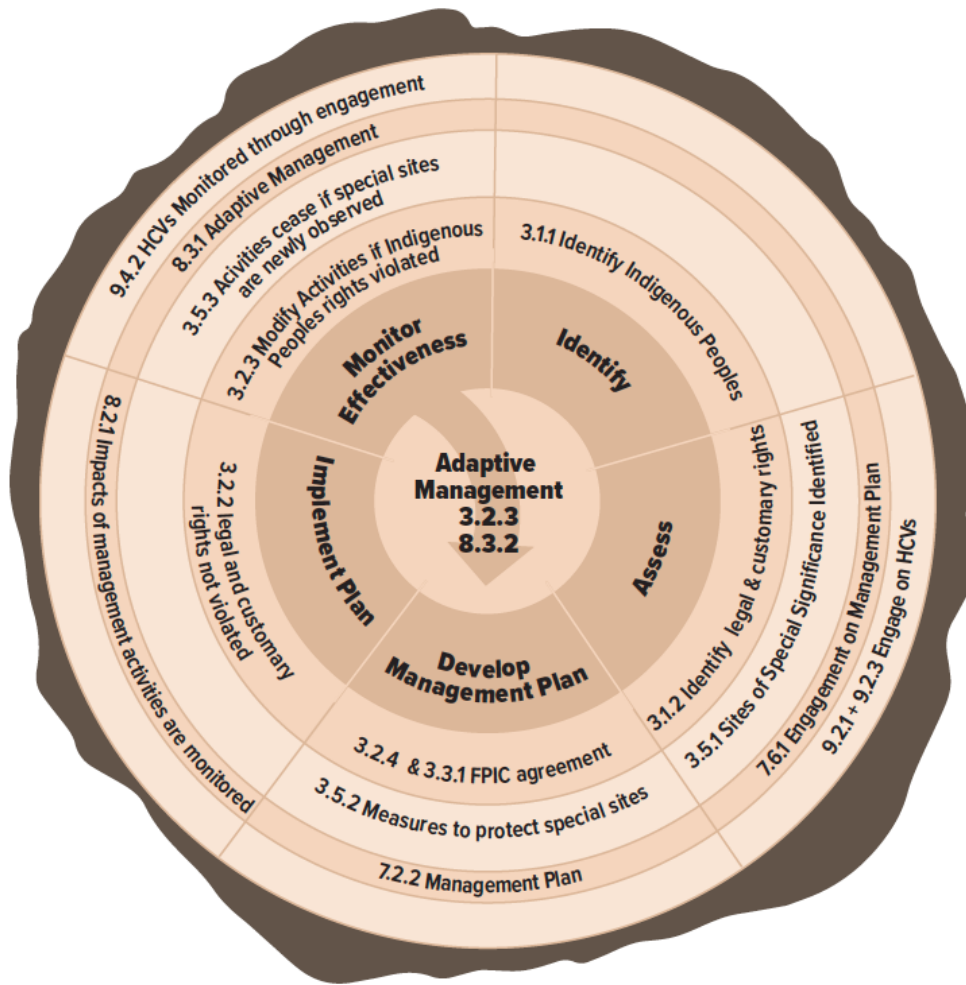


Figure 11. Engagement to Support Protection and Enhancement of HCVs

As shown above in Figure 11, engagement requirements throughout the Principles and Criteria ensure that the rights and interests of stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples and experts are included in the HCV methodology. In addition to this, engagement is embedded within Principle 9.

Through engagement stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples and experts may identify additional HCVs in the management unit. When additional HCVs are identified, they must also be evaluated, maintained and/or enhanced by management strategies, and monitored as required by National Forest Stewardship Standard and the National HCV Framework.

Monitoring the engagement process should also be participatory. An external party does not determine the project outcome. Rather, the evaluation must be participatory, with organizational staff, Indigenous Peoples and stakeholders having a voice. In general, the engagement process should be designed and based on the interests of local communities, stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples. When monitoring actions and results are shared in a transparent manner, the successful communication of different parties understandings and views will be more likely.

3.4 Management Strategies

Based on HCV assessment, forest managers develop strategies to maintain and/or enhance the HCVs that exist in the management unit. National HCV Frameworks can include direction on specific management practices suitable for the national interpretations of the six HCV categories, and on Best Available Information that can assist forest managers in developing or implementing HCV management strategies.

As with HCV assessments, HCV strategies are to be informed by engagement with relevant rights holders, stakeholders, communities, Indigenous Peoples, and experts. Management strategies must also address threats identified during the HCV assessment. HCV Frameworks can potentially support managers by providing nationally or regionally specific Best Available Information.

Managers shall use the precautionary approach when implementing their strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing the HCVs. In practice, this may also have implication for HCV assessments. For example, if it is uncertain whether an HCV exists in the management unit, then this HCV should probably be considered to be present. In addition, implementation of these strategies and actions shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities

3.5 Monitoring

Monitoring shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities and must be sufficient to detect changes in the HCVs. Managers shall adapt their management strategies when monitoring shows that HCVs are not being effectively maintained and/or enhanced.

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

- Compliance monitoring is used to determine whether prescribed management is actually conducted;
- Effectiveness monitoring is used to determine whether the management specified has achieved its objective and whether the outcome was actually a consequence of management. Effectiveness monitoring means that the key metric is not if a plan has been implemented, but if the plan has achieved the desired results; and

- Threats monitoring is used to determine changes in internal and external threats identified during the assessment process and to assess whether new threats have developed.

There are a wide range of options for effectiveness and threats monitoring, including systematic field survey programs; pre-harvest survey data collation; forest health monitoring; remote sensing; and use of and collaboration with third-party researchers; statistical modeling; and qualitative and expert assessments.

Monitoring must include engagement with relevant rights holders, stakeholders, communities, Indigenous Peoples, and experts. Participatory monitoring with local communities and Indigenous Peoples will be especially important for HCV occurrences involving rights-holders and also for HCV5 and HCV6.

The appropriate effectiveness monitoring methods can be determined by a number of factors, including management objectives, thresholds, and metrics; HCV scale, threat, risk, and vulnerability; ability to monitor multiple HCVs; cost and efficiency; and availability of existing programs and data.

Adaptive Management

The systematic process of continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of existing measures (World Conservation Union (IUCN)).

This means that the identification, assessment, maintenance and monitoring of HCVs is framed within the adaptive management framework.

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

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

Monitoring Steps are as follows:

Step	Content
Develop Workplan and budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the best use of limited resources • Cannot monitor everything • Consider level of effort required to effectively obtain BAI and conducting monitoring • Data storage to be considered • Determine what will be monitored. The list is too long to monitor everything so triage is required • Include Risk Based Approach

Obtain existing information	<p>Outcome of Assessment and engagement and includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of HCVs • List of HCVs • Status of HCV Areas
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design Monitoring Plan including methodology for monitoring, BAI for each HCV • Includes affected and interested stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and experts
Monitor HCVs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form a monitoring team • Establish baseline information • Establish metric to determine change, including periodicity • Define objectives, targets and variables of each HCV • Establish metric to determine change
Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link back to engagement to explain outcomes and adaptive management • Consider what to do with bad news, when the results show management strategies are not effective • Understand that there is a requirement to restore HCVs when management strategies damage HCVs • Public summary to be made available
Adaptive Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make changes to management plan if strategies are not effective

Figure 12: HCV Monitoring Steps

Indigenous Peoples, affected and interested stakeholders and experts must be involved in the design of the monitoring program. These groups should be provided the opportunity to review monitoring results, conduct field inspections to check the quality of the monitoring program and suggest improvements to the monitoring system.

The effectiveness of the engagement process should also be monitored and adjusted when improvements can be made. Monitoring the engagement process itself should be an integral part of the implementation of forest management strategies and this monitoring should be maintained at a steady and continuous pace in order to ensure continuity in the data and information collected

4. Instructions for SDGs for Using the HCV Frameworks Template

This Guidance provides both normative instructions for SDGs as well as informative Guidance

Instructions for Standard Developers provide specific directions that shall be considered in developing HCV Frameworks. The compulsory nature of each Instruction is reflected in its language, expressed according to the ISO ‘verbal forms for the expression of provisions’:

- “shall”: indicates Instructions strictly to be followed.

Non-normative Guidance for Standard Developers provides general directions that may be considered in developing the National HCV Framework. The informative nature of Guidance is reflected in its language expressed according to the ISO ‘verbal forms for the expression of provisions’:

- “should”: indicates possibilities that Standard Developer can implement in an equivalent way provided this can be demonstrated and justified.
- “may”: indicates a course of action permissible within the limits of the standard.
- “can”: is used for statements of possibility and capability, whether material, physical or causal.

Guidance is intended to:

- Explain the intent of the HCV Framework Template, for example how to complete a specific section of the HCV Template; and
- Introduce key terms and concepts that require national adaptation such as ‘best available information’.

Nationally or regionally specific definitions and interpretations may be required for some HCV elements, including where indicated in this section.

Where the definitions provided in Glossary do not provide nationally or regionally specific detail for assessing HCVs, Standard Developers shall use the Best Available Information, including recognized scientific, government and expert definitions. Terminology that will be practical and readily understood by Organizations and Certification Bodies should be used wherever possible.

4.1 General Instructions

To the extent possible, Standard Developers shall provide nationally or regionally specific HCV interpretations, Best Available Information for identifying HCV occurrences, and appropriate strategies, methods, and Best Available Information for assessing, managing, and monitoring the HCVs, suitable for the identified interpretations, in the corresponding grey boxes in the Framework Template.

Specific guidance on Best Available Information has been developed as a starting point for each of the six HCV categories. Additional guidance for Best Available Information to consider for all six HCV categories is also provided. Standard Developers shall ensure that Best Available Information is refined at the national or regional scale in order to provide clear

direction to Organizations and Certification Bodies (e.g., by naming databases, resource inventories, government agencies, etc.).

The grey boxes in the HCV template include blank columns in which Standard Developers can indicate which Best Available Information is applicable to Organizations with Low, Medium and High-risk rating. This can be done by inserting an “X” in the boxes when the Best Available Information is applicable.

Standard Developers shall ensure that the content of the National HCV Framework is as specific, practical, and straightforward as possible for use by Organizations and CBs. National HCV Frameworks are intended to reduce the amount of subjectivity and interpretation needed for maintaining and/or enhancing HCVs to meet the requirements of Principle 9.

In developing Frameworks, Standard Developers shall consider:

- *Common Guidance for the identification of High Conservation Values* developed by the HCV Resource Network (available on the FSC Website);
- *FSC step-by-step guide for SLIMFs* (available on the FSC Website);
- Annex H (of the FSC International Generic Indicators);
- FSC Guidance on HCV Management (under development by FSC);
- FSC-GUI-60-002 Scale, Intensity and Risk Guideline for Standards Developers (2012); and
- FSC guidelines for the implementation of the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) (2016)

An example of what a completed grey box in the Template might look like is provided below. The content in this example is hypothetical, and not the only approach to providing information on HCVs and Best Available Information in the Template. The number of national or regional HCV interpretations that are appropriate, and types of Best Available Information for identifying and addressing occurrences of those HCVs, is likely to vary significantly by country and region, and also amongst the six HCV categories.

National or regional interpretations of this HCV element:	Best Available Information for identifying occurrences of this interpretation:	BAI Small	BAI Medium	BAI Large
Old growth forests and stands.	Scientific descriptions and/or practical field guides for old growth forests (based on stand age and structure), relevant to the forest types in the management unit.	X	X	X
Diptocarp forests and other forest types/habitats that are prioritized for protection in national conservation plans.	National Assessment of Biodiversity. Forest type inventories of the management unit.	X	X	X
Rare ecological communities listed by federal or state agencies or expert organizations.	NatureServe and State Natural Heritage Programs (see natural communities ranked as S1, S2, and S3). State wildlife, fish, and game agencies. Federal wildlife agencies.	X	X	X

Ecosystems on the IUCN red list.	http://iucnrle.org/assessments/ ; and http://iucnrle.org/resources/published-assessments/	X	X	X
Other ecosystems that are threatened, greatly reduced in extent or function, or poorly protected at bioregional scales.	Consultation with local and regional experts, stakeholders, and government agencies.		X	X
Best Available Information for identifying multiple interpretations of this HCV element:		BAI Small	BAI Medium	BAI Large
Inventories of the management unit.		X	X	X
Habitat mapping and assessments.			X	X
Consultation with local and regional experts, stakeholders, and assessors with HCV expertise.			X	X
Review of the results by knowledgeable expert(s) independent of The Organization.			X	X
For guidance in identifying other examples of HCV 3 that may exist in the management unit, see: FSC HCV Guidance for Forest Managers (in development); and Common Guidance for the Identification of High Conservation Values, HCVRN, 2013 (e.g., Chapter 3.3, Identification of HCV 3).		X	X	X

Figure 13. Sample Interpretations and Best Available Information for HCV-3:

A blank References section is provided at the end of the Template, for supporting references and documentation for information included in the Framework. For example, endnote numbers can be attached to sources of Best Available Information, with the endnotes then placed in the References section

4.2 Interpretations and Identification of High Conservation Values

HCV interpretations shall be nationally or regionally specific interpretations of the definitions of HCV 1 to 6, and their component elements provided as the titles of Sections 3 through 8 of the Template, and as the headings for the grey boxes for the HCV interpretations.

The HCV interpretations, Best Available Information, and descriptions provided in the HCV Framework should not require much additional interpretation by forest managers or auditors. For subjective terms such as “significant” and “concentrations,” either provide more specific interpretations or thresholds, or ensure the Best Available Information and interpretations for HCV 1 provide clarity on which HCV occurrences are significant, etc.

Because HCVs are often defined in terms of how to identify them, the Template’s grey boxes for HCV Interpretations include Best Available Information for identifying occurrences of the HCV Interpretations. As a result, there is potential overlap with the Best Available Information that forest managers will use during the HCV Assessment process to determine whether these HCVs are present in their management units. In such cases, Standard Developers can include the Best Available Information in the grey boxes for both HCV Interpretations and HCV Assessments, or include the Best Available Information in one grey box, and cross-reference it in the other box.

National HCV Interpretations could include:

- HCV1: Specific species or ecosystems that qualify as HCV1, specific lists of species or ecosystems, specific data sets from resource inventory that qualify, types of

habitats essential for the species, specific areas that qualify (whether mapped or described), and/or specific land use designations that qualify;

- HCV2: Examples of landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics to consider include: native forests with successional stages, forest structures, and species composition that are similar in distribution and abundance to native forests that have experienced minimal human disturbance, excluding traditional Indigenous management regimes; forests recognized as being regionally significant at the bioregion or larger scale in formally recognized reports or peer-reviewed journals, due to the unusual landscape-scale biodiversity values provided by size and condition of the forest relative to regional forest land cover and land use trends; forests that provide regionally significant habitat connectivity between larger forest areas and/or refugia; and wilderness areas, forests that are roadless, and/or have not been affected by forest management activity;
- HCV3: Examples of rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia to consider include, but are not limited to: Old growth forests; mature forest remnants in degraded landscapes; ecosystems that are threatened, greatly reduced in extent or function, or poorly protected at bioregional scales; areas important for the conservation of important genes or genetically distinct populations;
- HCV 4: Ecosystem services are defined as the benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include: provisioning services such as food, forest products and water; regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, air quality, climate and disease; supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and cultural services and cultural values such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other non-material benefits. Criticality refers to the importance and risk for natural resources and environmental and socio-economic values. An ecosystem service is considered to be critical where a disruption of that service is likely to cause, or poses a threat of, severe negative impacts on the welfare, health or survival of local communities, on the environment, on HCVs, or on significant infrastructure such as roads, dams, buildings etc.;
- HCV5: Examples of sites and resources fundamental for the basic necessities of local communities or Indigenous Peoples and local communities can include: sources of water for drinking or other daily uses; water sources for irrigation; traditional foods and medicines; and other forest resources that communities or Indigenous Peoples depend on for their livelihoods. Particular attention should be given to areas where whole communities or significant portions of them are heavily dependent on forest ecosystems for their livelihoods, or where local people are dependent on Indigenous or traditionally managed ecosystems; and
- HCV 6: The significance, criticality and importance of sites, resources, habitats and must be identified through culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

4.3 Assessment of High Conservation Values

Because they are developed at the national or regional scale, the HCV interpretations provided in HCV Frameworks are unlikely to be exhaustive. Rather, they represent a minimum requirement of what must be considered proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of management activities. HCV Frameworks can also provide nationally specific information

on techniques and Best Available Information for assessing the national interpretations of the six HCV categories, thereby ensuring a minimum level of performance, while also providing support and guidance to forest managers.

HCV assessments must also identify specific threats to the maintenance and/or enhancement of identified HCVs. This includes an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence and the severity of consequences. Threats may include those from forest management activities such as road building and logging as well as from activities external to forest management such as climate change, poaching, slash and burn agriculture, and invasive species.

If there are nationally or regionally specific methodologies that are important or helpful for assessing the types of HCVs described in the HCV Interpretations sections of the Template / Framework, then this information should also be provided in the grey boxes for HCV Assessments. Examples of topics for which nationally specificity might be helpful include: guidance for identifying the specific type of HCV, information important to evaluating the status and condition of specific types of HCV, guidance for expert and stakeholder consultation, and guidance for field surveys, habitat evaluations, or threat assessments

National HCV frameworks can also indicate considerations for forest managers' assessments of specific threats to the maintenance and/or enhancement of HCVs including threats from management activities as well as external threats. If there are specific techniques or factors that managers should consider for specific HCV interpretations, they can be listed in the Assessments sections of the Template / Framework.

Standard Developers must also ensure that forest managers engage communities, Indigenous Peoples, rights-holders, other stakeholders, and experts when identifying and assessing HCVs

Best Available Information for Assessment of HCVs shall include:

- High Conservation Value surveys of the Management Unit;
- Relevant databases and maps;
- Engagement with rights-holders, per Criteria 3.5 and 4.7 of the Principles and Criteria;
- Culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples and affected and interested stakeholders;
- Consultation with relevant local and regional experts;
- Other available sources; and
- Review of the results by knowledgeable expert(s) independent of The Organization.

For HCV 2, Best Available Information for Assessment shall also include:

- Global Forest Watch Intact Forest Landscapes maps (2015) www.globalforestwatch.org; and

Additional sources of Best Available Information for assessments may also include:

- Databases, maps, and resource inventories (e.g., government listings of archaeological, historical, religious, and cultural sites);
- Databases and maps (e.g., government listings of traditional communities located within forest areas or with other connections to forest areas, and NGOs or Indigenous Peoples organizations familiar with the location of communities and Indigenous Peoples);

- Interactive mapping with Indigenous Peoples;
- Interactive mapping with local communities; and
- Published reports by governments, research institutions, or conservation organizations
- For HCV 2, mapping and other data on forest cover, age, succession, structure, species composition, habitat connectivity, anthropogenic disturbance, roadless areas, and wilderness.

4.4 Management Strategies to Maintain and Enhance High Conservation Values

Strategies for maintaining and/or enhancing HCVs should be as specific as possible, and explicit about the minimum level of performance required to maintain and/or enhance the HCVs. Strategies must be effective, and sufficient to prevent damage and avoid risks to HCVs, even when scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, including by preventing reductions in the extent, integrity, and quality of habitats and the HCVs, over both the short and long-term. Strategies should also address specific threats to each HCV, or be sufficient to address the full range of threats, including but not limited to those potentially from management. Where relevant, quantitative thresholds should be included in management strategies. For land use designations to be used as proxies for HCV protection, their management should be evaluated to confirm it protects the specific HCV element.

Where relevant, quantitative thresholds should be included in management strategies. Frameworks should also clearly reflect the expectation that all HCV occurrences in a management unit are maintained and/or enhanced, per the Principles and Criteria, except where Standards explicitly allow very limited portions of HCVs to be impacted. Where such specificity is not possible, Best Available Information sufficient to identify and evaluate management and protection strategies should be indicated. For land use designations to be used as proxies for HCV protection, their management should be evaluated to confirm it protects the specific HCV element.

If there is nationally or regionally specific Best Available Information that is important or helpful for developing management strategies for the HCVs described above in the HCV Interpretations sections of the Template/Framework, then this information should be provided in the grey text box for HCV Strategies. Where the Best Available Information for management strategies is the same as the Best Available Information for HCV Interpretations and Identification, that information can either be referenced or copied.

In addition to the examples of Best Available Information listed below, examples to consider providing nationally specific versions of include:

- Information on management strategies such as protection zones; target-based protections; landscape-scale protections; harvest exclusions, and/or retention in harvest areas;
- Information on broader HCV areas that may be needed to buffer or otherwise maintain the integrity of HCVs;
- Information on landscape scale protections, connectivity planning, or other measures may also be needed for some HCVs; and
- Information sources for other strategies as may be required to address identified threats.

Standard Developers should also remember that forest managers are required to engage communities, Indigenous Peoples, rights-holders, and other stakeholders, and experts when developing their management strategies, including as reflected in the lists of Best Available Information provided in the HCV-specific sections.

Best Available Information for Management Strategies of HCVs shall include:

HCV Category	Management Strategies
HCV 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection zones, harvest prescriptions, and/or other strategies to protect threatened, endangered, endemic species, or other concentrations of biological diversity and the ecological communities and habitats upon which they depend, sufficient to prevent reductions in the extent, integrity, quality, and viability of the habitats and species occurrences; and • Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to develop, expand, and/or restore habitats for such species are in place.
HCV 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies that fully maintain the extent and intactness of the forest ecosystems and the viability of their biodiversity concentrations, including plant and animal indicator species, keystone species, and/or guilds associated with large intact natural forest ecosystems. Examples include protection zones and set-aside areas, with any commercial activity in areas that are not set-aside being limited to <i>low-intensity</i> operations that fully maintain forest structure, composition, regeneration, and disturbance patterns at all times; • Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and reconnect forest ecosystems, their intactness, and habitats that support natural biological diversity are in place; and • The core area of each Intact Forest Landscape within the Management Unit is protected, comprising at least 80% of the Intact Forest Landscapes within the Management Unit³.
HCV 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies that fully maintain the extent and integrity of rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia; and • Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore and/or develop rare or threatened ecosystems, habitats, or refugia are in place.
HCV 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategies to protect any water catchments of importance to local communities located within or downstream of the Management Unit, and areas within the unit that are particularly unstable or susceptible to erosion. Examples may include protection zones, harvest prescriptions, chemical use restrictions, and/or prescriptions for road construction and maintenance, to protect water catchments and upstream and upslope areas;

³ Standard Development Groups may establish Thresholds above or below 80% consistent with considerations outlined by FSC. For details on these considerations, and more specific recommendations for IFL protection strategies, see the draft revised FSC International Generic Indicators, FSC-STD-60-004 V1-1 EN, and Advice Note 20-007-018 V1-0

HCV Category	Management Strategies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where identified HCV 4 ecosystem services include climate regulation, strategies to maintain or enhance carbon sequestration and storage are in place; and Where enhancement is identified as the objective, measures to restore water quality and quantity are in place.
HCV 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies to protect the community's and/or Indigenous Peoples' needs in relation to the Management Unit are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.
HCV 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategies to protect the cultural values are developed in cooperation with representatives and members of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

Figure 14. Best Available Information for Management Strategies of HCVs

4.5 Monitoring High Conservation Values

A variety of monitoring techniques exist, and HCV Frameworks can provide information on specific techniques, experts, and other Best Available Information that will be important and helpful for the HCVs covered by the national interpretations.

If there are nationally or regionally specific considerations or methodologies that are important or helpful for monitoring HCVs then this information should also be provided in the grey boxes for monitoring. Where the Best Available Information for monitoring is the same as the Best Available Information for HCV Interpretations and Identification, that information can be referenced or copied.

Standard Developers should also consider the cost and level of effort required for some monitoring approaches, and focus monitoring requirements and guidance on approaches that will be effective, efficient and of greatest priority.

Monitoring programs for HCVs must monitor the implementation of management strategies, monitor the status of HCVs, monitor the effectiveness of management strategies, and be sufficient to detect changes in HCVs, relative to the initial assessment.

Best Available Information for Monitoring of HCVs shall include:

- Engagement with rights-holders, consistent with Criteria 3.5, 4.5 and 4.7;
- Culturally appropriate engagement with Indigenous Peoples and affected and interested stakeholders;
- Information on engaging with representatives of the Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities; and
- Monitoring conducted by the Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities; and
- Engagement with experts

SDGs may also consider the following Best Available Information for Monitoring of HCV 4:

- FSC Ecosystem Services Procedure (draft);

Annex 1: Notes on development of this guide

This document has been developed for FSC purposes and is based on the document discussed at the FSC HCV2 / IFL Workshop in Bonn, in October 2012 and revised according to the participants' feedback at 2013 by FSC IC Policy and Standards Unit. Subsequently, FSC formed the HCV Technical Working Group in June 2015 to revise existing HCV Guidance, develop International Generic Indicators consistent with Motion 65 for Intact Forest Landscapes and develop an HCV template to support the development of National HCV Frameworks by Standard Development Groups.

Parallel to this, the HCV Resource Network has produced Common Guidance for the Identification of HCVs (2013), intended to provide a holistic identification of High Conservation Values, both for FSC stakeholders as well as for the wider audience.

Annex 2: Checklist for information sources

- National and regional data sources on HCV 1-6
- National and Regional High Conservation Value Guidance
- National and Regional definitions and examples of High Conservation Values in National and Regional Standards and National and Regional HCV Frameworks
- National HCV toolkits such as Malaysia
- National and Regional Standards from adjacent jurisdictions, to recognize neighbouring approaches and perhaps to support harmonization
- Check www.biodiversitya-z.org
- Biodiversity Hotspots (34 +): www.biodiversityhotspots.org
- Intact Forest Landscapes: www.intactforests.org Approx. 13 million km². Such areas are highly likely to have HCV 2, and may contain HCV 1.
- Frontier Forests: www.wri.org/publication/last-frontier-forests-ecosystems-and-economies-edge www.globalforestwatch.org
- WWF Terrestrial Ecoregions: www.worldwildlife.org/science/ecoregions “defined as relatively large units of land or water containing a distinct assemblage of natural communities sharing a large majority of species, dynamics, and environmental conditions. Ecoregions represent the original distribution of distinct assemblages of species and communities. This concept may be helpful for resolving issues of Scale, and for ensuring a full coverage of conservation sites.
- WWF Global 200 Ecoregions: www.worldwildlife.org/science/ecoregions/g200.cfm
- Important Bird Areas IBAs, ~12 000 sites worldwide, many quite small (e.g. 314 in Australia): Birdlife International www.birdlife.org These do one or more of three things: (1) They hold significant numbers of one or more globally threatened species, (2) They are one of a set of sites that together hold a suite of restricted-range species or biome-restricted species, and (3) They have exceptionally large numbers of migratory or congregatory species. Cf. also Endemic Bird Areas, EBAs, covering over 7 million km².
- PlantLife International: IPAs, Important Plant Areas: www.plantlife.org.uk
- World Heritage Sites (207 natural + mixed sites): UNESCO + IUCN. whc.unesco.org
- Centres of Plant Diversity, IUCN, WCMC. www.unep-wcmc.org/species/sca/GSPC.htm
- Conservation International: Key Biodiversity Areas and Important Plant Areas
- RAMSAR sites, designated under the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (~1900 sites): www.ramsar.org
- GSBAs: Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas, identified in some regions.
- KBAs, Key Biodiversity Areas, identified with IBAT: Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IUCN, CI and others), www.IBATforbusiness.org
- Natura2000: System of strict nature reserves in Europe: www.natura.org

- NatureServe: Database especially for species in USA and Canada.
www.NatureServe.org
- IUCN Red List of Threatened Species <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

Annex 3: Terms and Definitions

This glossary contains only new terms introduced for this Guidance. All other normative definitions for terms in *FSC-STD-01-002 FSC Glossary of Terms* also apply. This glossary includes internationally accepted definitions whenever possible. These sources include, for instance, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) as well as definitions from online glossaries as provided on the websites of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Invasive Alien Species Programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity. When other sources have been used they are referenced accordingly.

The term 'based on' means that a definition was adapted from an existing definition as provided in an international source.

Words used in the International Generic Indicators, if not defined in this Glossary of Terms or other normative FSC documents, are used as defined in the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary or the Concise Oxford Dictionary.

Expert: An expert is an individual independent of the Organization and:

1. Has knowledge or skill that is specialized and profound as the result of much practical or academic experience; and / or
2. Is a recognized authority on a topic by virtue of the body of relevant material published on the topic, their stature within the professional community, and the broadly recognized accumulated related experience; and / or
3. Possesses a wealth of experience on a topic such as may be accumulated through practical means including the accumulation of traditional knowledge.



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FSC International Center GmbH
Charles-de-Gaulle-Straße 5 · 53113 Bonn · Germany



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