






Forest Stewardship Council®



# The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of the United Kingdom



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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 that 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 the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

The Forest Stewardship Council A.C. (FSC) was established in 1993, as a follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro, 1992) with the mission to promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

Environmentally appropriate forest management ensures that the production of timber, non-timber products and ecosystem services maintains the forest's biodiversity, productivity, and ecological processes. Socially beneficial forest management helps both local people and society at large to enjoy long term benefits and also provides strong incentives to local people to sustain the forest resources and adhere to long-term management plans. Economically viable forest management means that forest operations are structured and managed so as to be sufficiently profitable, without generating financial profit at the expense of the forest resource, the ecosystem, or affected communities. The tension between the need to generate adequate financial returns and the principles of responsible forest operations can be reduced through efforts to market the full range of forest products and services for their best value (FSC A.C. By-Laws, ratified, September 1994; last revision in June 2011).

FSC is an international organization that provides a system for voluntary accreditation and independent third-party certification. This system allows certificate holders to market their products and services as the result of environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management. FSC also sets standards for the development and approval of FSC Stewardship Standards which are based on the FSC Principles and Criteria. In addition, FSC sets standards for the accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies (also known as Certification Bodies) that certify compliance with FSC's standards. Based on these standards, FSC provides a system for certification for organizations seeking to market their products as FSC certified.

### 1.2. Descriptive statement of the Standard Development Group

Forest management standard setting in the UK is led by the UK Woodland Assurance Standard (UKWAS) Steering Group, an independent standard-setting group. The UKWAS is therefore an independent certification standard which sets out the



requirements which woodland owners and managers and certification bodies can use to certify woodland management in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK). The certification standard is developed through an inclusive and transparent process which has involved a balanced representation of stakeholders from the UK forestry and environmental community.

## **2. Preamble**

### **2.1. Purpose of the standard**

This standard sets out the required elements against which FSC accredited Certification Bodies shall evaluate forest management practices within the scope (see 2.2 below) of the standard.

The FSC Principles and Criteria (P&C) for Forest Stewardship provides 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 P&C 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.

With the approval of *FSC-STD-60-004 V1-0 EN* the FSC *International Generic Indicators* (IGI) by the FSC Board of Directors in March 2015, the adaptation of the P&C to regional or national conditions is done using the IGI standard as the starting point. This has the advantage to:

- Ensure the consistent implementation of the P&C across the globe;
- Improve and strengthen the credibility of the FSC System;
- Improve the consistency and quality of National Forest Stewardship Standards;
- Support a faster and more efficient approval process of National Forest Stewardship Standards.

The FSC Principles and Criteria together with a set of national indicators approved by FSC Policy and Standards Committee (PSC) constitute an FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS).

The development of NFSS follows the requirements set out in the following FSC normative documents:



- *FSC-PRO-60-006 V2-0 EN Development and Transfer of National Forest Stewardship Standards to the FSC Principles and Criteria Version 5-1;*
- *FSC-STD-60-002 (V1-0) EN Structure and Content of National Forest Stewardship Standards AND*
- *FSC-STD-60-006 (V1-2) EN Process requirements for the development and maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards.*

The above documents have been developed by the FSC Performance and Standards Unit (PSU) to improve consistency and transparency in certification decisions between different Certification Bodies in the region/nation and in different parts of the world, and thereby to enhance the credibility of the FSC certification scheme as a whole.

## **2.2. Scope of standard**

This standard is applicable to all forest operations seeking FSC certification within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The standard applies to all forest types and scales, and to the production of timber and non-timber forest products.

## **2.3. Background information on the standard development**

This Standard revision follows a proposal for transfer to the revised Principles and Criteria which was approved by PSU on 15 August 2012. The role of the Standard Development Group was filled by the UKWAS Steering Group (see section 1.2 above), whose internal procedures were based on the transfer proposal and the requirements of FSC-STD-60-006 (V1-2) EN *Process requirements for the development and maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards*. The Steering Group rules, standard setting process and revision timetable may all be found at <http://ukwas.org.uk/documents>.

## **3. Version of the standard**

This draft Standard is version number FSC-STD-GBR-03-2016 EN Draft 3-2. It is a revision of FSC-STD-GBR-02-2011 EN *UK Forests and Woodlands*, which was effective from 1 July 2012. The next expected revision will be in 2021.

The Standard Development Group was the UKWAS Steering Group (see section 1.2 above). Technical drafting was carried out by a representative subset of Steering Group members, with all proposals subject to scrutiny and adjustment by the full Steering Group. Technical advice on FSC requirements was provided by the FSC UK



Forest Standards Manager.

#### **4. Context**

The physical geography of the UK varies greatly. England comprises lowland landform, with mountainous terrain north-west of the Tees-Exe line including the Cumbrian Mountains of the Lake District, the Pennines and limestone hills of the Peak District, Exmoor and Dartmoor. Scotland is distinguished by the Highland Boundary Fault – a geological rock fracture – which traverses the Scottish mainland from Helensburgh to Stonehaven. The faultline separates the two distinctively different regions of the Highlands to the north and west and the lowlands to the south and east. Wales is mostly mountainous, though south Wales is less mountainous than north and mid Wales. In general, the topography of Northern Ireland resembles a saucer, with a relatively low-lying interior dominated by a large freshwater water body giving way on almost all sides to hills or mountains. The climate of the UK varies, but is generally temperate, though significantly warmer than some other locations at similar latitude, due to the warming influence of the Gulf Stream. In general, the south is warmer and drier than the north. The prevailing winds are southwesterly, from the North Atlantic Current. Average annual rainfall varies from over 3,000 mm (118.1 in) in the Scottish Highlands down to 553 mm (21.8 in) in Cambridge. The area of woodland in the UK at 31 March 2016 is estimated to be 3.16 million hectares, or 13% of the total land area.

Annex K lists the members of the Standard Development Group, matching UKWAS constituencies to FSC economic, environmental and social chambers and technical experts.

Annex L lists the technical experts, individuals and groups who comprised the consultative forum.

#### **5. References**

The following referenced documents are relevant for the application of this standard. For references without a version number, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

FSC-POL-01-004	Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC
FSC-POL-20-003	The Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification
FSC-POL-30-001	FSC Pesticides Policy



FSC-POL-30-401	FSC Certification and the ILO Conventions
FSC-POL-30-602	FSC Interpretation on GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms)
FSC-STD-01-002	Glossary of Terms
FSC-STD-01-003	SLIMF Eligibility Criteria
FSC-STD-20-007	Forest Management Evaluations
FSC-STD-30-005	FSC Standard for Group Entities in Forest Management Groups
FSC-STD-60-002	Structure and Content of National Forest Stewardship Standards
FSC-STD-60-006	Development of National Forest Stewardship Standards
FSC-PRO-01-001	The Development and Revision of FSC Normative Documents
FSC-PRO-01-005	Processing Appeals
FSC-PRO-01-008	Processing Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme
FSC-PRO-01-009	Processing Policy for Association Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme
FSC-DIR-20-007	FSC Directive on Forest Management Evaluations

## 6. Note on the interpretation of Indicators

For each Criterion a number of Indicators are listed. These are intended to be applicable to **all sizes** and **types of forest and plantation**, except where reference is made to 'large enterprises'; for further information, see the UKWAS introduction below. The Standard includes non-normative guidance on fulfilling these Indicators.





## **7. UKWAS introduction**

*Explanatory note: This is the introduction to the UK Woodland Assurance Standard fourth edition, and is a normative part of the UK national forest stewardship standard. Square brackets indicate where the UKWAS term 'requirement' has been replaced with the FSC term 'indicator' or where FSC-specific requirements have been set out.*

### **7.1. Background and purpose**

Primarily, the certification standard is designed to reflect the requirements set out in the governmental UK Forestry Standard and thereby the General Guidelines adopted by European Forestry Ministers at Helsinki in 1993, the Pan-European Operational Level Guidelines (PEOLG) subsequently adopted at Lisbon in 1998 and other relevant international agreements.

In response to the demand from the UK forestry and forest products sector, the certification standard is also designed to reflect the requirements of the two leading global forest certification schemes – the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes (PEFC). Products certified through these schemes are in much demand in the UK and global timber market as they provide a widely recognised way to inform customers that timber products come from responsibly managed sources.

The UK arms of FSC and PEFC take responsibility for submitting the UKWAS standard to their international parent bodies for assessment and provided the UKWAS standard is judged to be conformant with each scheme's requirements it will provide a certification standard for certification through each of these schemes. A list of certification schemes that currently use the UK Woodland Assurance Standard as the basis for certification in the UK can be found on [www.ukwas.org.uk](http://www.ukwas.org.uk).

### **7.2. Procedures for use of the certification standard**

#### **The woodland management unit**

The unit of certification is a woodland management unit (WMU). A WMU is a clearly defined woodland area, or areas, with mapped boundaries, managed to a set of explicit long-term objectives. The WMU is covered by the management planning documentation set out [under Criterion 7.2]. Elements of management planning documentation may apply to a specific WMU, or may be set at a higher level (such as



group schemes, or state forest services) and apply to multiple WMUs.

For example, a WMU might be a single ownership incorporating several areas of woodland that are managed within a woodland management plan; several separate ownerships managed within a woodland management plan; a community-managed forest; a management subdivision of a national forest service such as a forest district covered by a woodland management plan.

In large and/or widely geographically dispersed WMUs, the spirit of the certification standard and any best practice should be conformed to throughout the WMU.

Note: The terms 'woodland management unit' and 'forest management unit' are synonymous.

### **Flexibility in meeting requirements**

Not all requirements will be applicable to every WMU, for example requirements relating to plantations on ancient woodland sites can only apply if such sites are present.

While all applicable requirements must be met, there may be flexibility in exactly how requirements are fulfilled. Any different approach taken must be an equally or more effective way of achieving the objectives intended by the requirement. The impacts of the approach taken shall be carefully monitored and recorded.

The certification body carrying out the audit shall make a professional judgement as to the acceptability of the flexibility (see Interpretation of the certification standard).

See also 'Using the certification standard' regarding flexibility in verifiers (see definition of example verifiers in that section).

### **Research**

The establishment of research trials or plots may be undertaken only in the context of a research policy and should conform to the spirit of the certification standard.



### **Third party rights - Leases, burdens in title, ownership rights and legal restrictions on management**

In certain situations, pre-existing leases, burdens in title and third party ownership rights may restrict management actions in such a way that the owner/manager may not be able to fully meet all the requirements of the certification standard. For example:

- Forestry-only or long-term sporting leases where sporting or access rights may be restricted
- Timber leases under which the restocking obligation reverts to the landowner
- Wayleaves, and servitude rights
- Mineral extraction rights held by third parties
- Traditional rights (e.g. peat cutting).

In these circumstances conformance to the certification standard may still be achieved provided the owner/manager is able to demonstrate that:

- The holder of the third party rights has been made aware of those requirements of the standard which are relevant to the rights they hold and how they can assist with conformance. It is not however necessary for the third party to agree to conform to the requirements of the standard
- All reasonable measures have been taken to mitigate negative impacts caused by the holders of third party rights
- The third party rights have not been created intentionally to avoid conformance.

[FSC] requirements which apply when the owner/manager does not have full management control of a woodland management unit [are set out in FSC-POL-20-003 *The Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification*].

### **Timing for full implementation of the requirements relating to woodland structure and layout**

A special feature of woodland management is its long-term nature. Decisions made in the past have a strong influence on the woodlands of today.

Therefore, when assessing conformance with the certification standard, certification bodies will not evaluate woodlands solely on the present structure and layout, but will consider the plans for management in the short, medium and long term.



Where present structure and layout fail to meet the requirements, woodland owners/managers will need to demonstrate through management planning documentation and on-going activities in the woodland that they are taking active measures to achieve conformance with the requirements. They will also need to demonstrate that there is a time frame for achieving full conformance based on sound management principles. Further guidance on how non-conformities are dealt with can be obtained from certification bodies or group scheme managers.

### **Application of the certification standard to different scales of woodland management unit and intensities of operation**

Woodland management units vary in terms of the scale and intensity of management and the risk of negative impacts. While the principles remain the same regardless of woodland size and intensity of management, the level and complexity of management needed to meet the requirements of the certification standard, and the nature of the evidence to demonstrate conformance, may vary depending on the size and type of the woodland management unit. Certification schemes have different sampling intensities depending on the scale and intensity of management and operations. In drafting this standard, every effort has been made to ensure that requirements are sufficiently flexible to apply to all scales and intensities of management.

In the UK context, scale has not been found to be closely correlated with intensity or risk of woodland management; for example, many large operations may be in woodlands with relatively low environmental or social values, while the potential impacts of operations in those small woodlands which have higher environmental and social values may be commensurately high. As such, it has not proved possible to define a threshold or specify different requirements for lower potential impact operations, although this will be subject to review in future revisions of this standard. However, it is considered appropriate to specify different requirements for higher potential impact operations, and some of the requirements of this standard apply only where the entity holding or applying for certification, and therefore responsible for demonstrating conformance, is a large enterprise, as defined in the glossary.

### **Use of the certification standard by certification bodies**

Individual certification schemes may have specific requirements regarding the official version of this standard to be used by auditors. Certification bodies should check with



the relevant scheme. [FSC requires that this version of the standard be used as the formal basis for auditing.]

### **7.3. Interpretation of the certification standard**

The UKWAS Interpretation Panel provides the UKWAS Steering Group and users of the certification standard with advice on its interpretation. Further information is available on the UKWAS website including interpretation advice notes relevant to the current edition of the standard and how to submit a request for interpretation to the Interpretation Panel. [Interpretations are only valid following review and approval by the FSC Performance and Standards Unit.]

### **7.4. Using the certification standard**

In using the certification standard, owners/managers and certification bodies shall also take full account of the introduction, glossary and appendix.

The certification standard is set out as follows:

#### **[Indicators]**

These are the compulsory elements of the certification standard and are stated as 'shall'. Woodland management must meet all relevant [indicators] and certification bodies will check that each [indicator] is being met.

#### **Example verifiers**

These are examples of objective evidence – documents, actions or discussions – that owners/managers may present to the certification body for their consideration in order to demonstrate that the [indicator] is being met. Certification bodies are required to undertake audits and owners/managers should be able to present sufficient evidence to allow the auditor to report compliance. It will not always be necessary to use any or all of the verifiers suggested, and conformance to [indicators] may be demonstrated in other ways. The selected verifiers should be appropriate to the scale and intensity of management of the WMU and the risk of negative impacts.

The three most common example verifiers are:

- Discussion with the owner/manager. The owner/manager may explain in conversation with the auditor their understanding of the standard, their knowledge of the WMU or the rationale for management decisions, or they may



describe actions they have taken to conform to the standard.

- Field observation. The auditor may look for tangible evidence in the WMU of conformance to the standard.
- Management planning documentation. The owner/manager may demonstrate through written documents, records or maps their knowledge of the WMU, the rationale for management decisions, or the actions they have taken to conform to the standard. Note that if specific management planning documentation is expected to be produced it will be described in the [indicators] of the standard. Documentation may include that produced by third parties, for example a felling licence.

### **Guidance notes**

These aim to help both the woodland owner/manager and the certification body to understand how [indicators] should be applied in practice. More information is provided to elaborate some [indicators], the meaning of certain terms or phrases is explained, and examples of appropriate action are given. Where guidance is stated as 'should' it indicates a recommendation. Where it is stated as 'may' it indicates an option or a list of options.

Note: The guidance note can include 'Advice to owners/managers' on related matters which are beyond the direct scope of a forest management certification standard e.g. owners/managers are advised to check the specific [FSC requirements] in relation to chain-of-custody certification matters. Such information is clearly marked and is provided as an advisory note only: it shall not be considered by certification bodies when assessing conformance with the certification standard.

### **Key to icons**



#### **References**

Check the Appendix for references providing further guidance.

*Explanatory note: The UKWAS Appendix is a normative part of the UK national forest stewardship standard, maintained as a separate document so that it may be constantly updated in response to changes in legislation and technical guidance. It is available online at <http://ukwas.org/documents>.*



## 8. Principles, Criteria and National Indicators

*Explanatory note: The UKWAS approach (see sections 1.2 and 7 above) results in a standard with its own unique structure. In this FSC version of the standard, the UKWAS text has been re-ordered to follow the Principles and Criteria. Throughout this section, square brackets enclose either references to UKWAS sections (e.g. [UKWAS 1.1.1]), cross-references between UKWAS sections which have been adapted to the FSC Principles and Criteria structure, or other minor editorial changes to the text of indicators which ensure that they are coherent and comprehensible in the context of this standard.*

*Explanatory note: Guidance notes are non-normative. Use of this guidance and the reference icon is explained in section 7. References in guidance to the Appendix are to the UKWAS Appendix (see explanatory note in section 7 above).*

<p><b>PRINCIPLE 1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS</b></p> <p>The Organization shall comply with all applicable laws, regulations and nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements.</p>
<p><b>Criterion 1.1</b> The Organization shall be a legally defined entity with clear, documented and unchallenged legal registration, with written authorization from the legally competent authority for specific activities.</p>
<p>Indicator 1.1.1 The legal identity of the owner/manager shall be documented. [UKWAS 1.1.3(a)]</p> <p>Verifiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term unchallenged use</li> <li>• Integrated Agriculture Control System (IACS) registration</li> <li>• A signed declaration detailing nature and location of tenure documentation</li> <li>• Solicitor's letter</li> <li>• Title deeds</li> <li>• Land registry records</li> <li>• Companies House records.</li> </ul>
<p>Indicator 1.1.2 Legal authority to carry out specific operations, where required by the relevant authorities, shall be documented. [UKWAS 1.1.3(d)]</p> <p>Verifiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licences</li> <li>• Written permissions from competent authorities.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Guidance note on Indicator 1.1.2:</i></p> <p>Depending on the nature of woodland operations, the competent authorities</p>



providing legal authorisation may include the relevant forestry authorities or other statutory bodies.

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

Indicator 1.2.1 The boundaries of the owner's/manager's legal ownership or tenure shall be documented. [UKWAS 1.1.3(b)]

Verifiers:

- Long term unchallenged use
- Integrated Agriculture Control System (IACS) registration
- A signed declaration detailing nature and location of tenure documentation
- Solicitor's letter
- Title deeds
- Land registry records
- Companies House records.

*Explanatory note: In the UK context, tenure and use rights are closely linked. See Indicator 1.3.1 regarding legal rights to manage the Management Unit.*

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

Indicator 1.3.1 The scope of the owner's/manager's legal rights to manage the WMU and to harvest products and/or supply services from within the WMU shall be documented. [UKWAS 1.1.3(c)]

Verifiers:

- Long term unchallenged use
- Integrated Agriculture Control System (IACS) registration
- A signed declaration detailing nature and location of tenure documentation
- Solicitor's letter
- Title deeds





- Land registry records
- Companies House records.

Indicator 1.3.2 Payment shall be made in a timely manner of all applicable legally prescribed charges connected with forest management. [UKWAS 1.1.3(e)]

Verifiers:

- Records of payments.

*Guidance note on Indicators 1.3.1 and 1.3.2:*

Long term unchallenged use might be demonstrated by the existence of previous grant scheme documentation or long-term certification to this standard.

Examples of circumstances which may affect the scope of the owner's/manager's legal rights to manage the WMU and to harvest products and/or supply services from within it include:

- The sporting or mineral rights are held by third parties
- The owner/manager is bound by a restrictive covenant
- The WMU is managed under a forestry-only lease.

See the section on third party rights in [section 7].

Legally prescribed charges connected with forest management may include fees for licences or permissions, or grant repayments where grant conditions have not been fulfilled.

Indicator 1.3.3 There shall be compliance with the law. There shall be no substantiated outstanding claims of non-compliance related to woodland management. [UKWAS 1.1.1]

Verifiers:

- No evidence of non-compliance from audit
- Evidence of correction of any previous non-compliance
- A system to be aware of and implement requirements of new legislation.

*Guidance note on Indicator 1.3.3:*

The certification standard does not go into detail in all areas covered by UK legislation. The Appendix provides a non-exhaustive list of relevant legislation.

Certification bodies will be checking that there is no evidence of non-compliance with

relevant legal requirements including that:

- Management and workers understand and comply with all legal requirements relevant to their roles and responsibilities
- All documentation including procedures, work instructions, contracts and agreements meet legal requirements and are respected
- No issues of legal non-compliance are raised by regulatory authorities or other interested parties.

In the event of a perceived conflict between the requirements of the certification standard and legal requirements owners/managers should seek guidance from the UKWAS Interpretation Panel.



*See the list of applicable legislation in Annex A.*

Indicator 1.3.4 There shall be conformance to the spirit of any relevant codes of practice or good practice guidelines. [UKWAS 1.1.2]

Verifiers:

- No evidence of non-conformance from audit
- Evidence of correction of any previous non-conformance
- A system to be aware of and conform to new codes of practice and good practice guidelines.

*Guidance note on Indicator 1.3.4:*

The Appendix provides further information on good practice guidelines and codes of practice.

Conformance to the spirit means that the owner/manager is aiming to achieve the principles set out in relevant codes of practice or good practice guidelines and that:

- Management and workers understand and conform to the spirit of codes and guidelines relevant to their roles and responsibilities
- All documentation including procedures, work instructions and contracts conform to the spirit of relevant codes and guidelines.

In the event of a perceived conflict between the requirements of the certification standard and relevant codes and guidelines, owners/managers should seek

guidance from the UKWAS Interpretation Panel.



**Criterion 1.4** The Organization shall develop and implement measures, and/or shall engage with regulatory agencies, to systematically protect the Management Unit from unauthorized or illegal resource use, settlement and other illegal activities.

Indicator 1.4.1 The owner/manager shall take all reasonable measures, including engagement with the police and statutory bodies, to prevent or stop illegal or unauthorised uses of the woodland that could jeopardise fulfilment of the objectives of management. [UKWAS 1.2.1]

Verifiers:

- The owner/manager is aware of potential and actual problems
- Evidence of response to actual current problems
- Evidence of a pro-active approach to potential and actual problems including follow-up action
- Engagement with statutory bodies.

*Guidance note on Indicator 1.4.1:*

The phrase 'reasonable measures' means measures that are both within the law, within the terms of any forestry tenancy and within the jurisdiction of the owner/manager and that the measures are economically viable and environmentally and socially acceptable.


The scope of illegal activities which the owner/manager may encounter is so diverse that it is not possible to prescribe actions in every case. In specific cases a legal opinion may be required in order to prescribe 'reasonable measures'.

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

Indicator 1.5.1 There shall be compliance with legislation relating to the transportation and trade of forest products, including, where relevant, the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) and phytosanitary requirements. [UKWAS 1.1.7]



<p>Verifiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant procedures and records.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Guidance note on Indicator 1.5.1:</i></p> <p>The owner/manager should comply with any relevant phytosanitary movement licences and other statutory plant health requirements.</p> <p>In rare cases the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) may apply. The import, export and use for commercial gain of certain species requires a CITES permit. CITES species present in the UK include Snowdrops (<i>Galanthus</i> spp.) and Monkey-puzzle (<i>Araucaria araucana</i>).</p>
<p><i>See the list of applicable legislation in Annex A.</i></p>
<p>Indicator 1.5.2 Priority species shall not be harvested or controlled without the consent of the relevant statutory nature conservation and countryside agency. [UKWAS 2.4.4]</p> <p>Verifiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion with the owner/manager</li> <li>• Monitoring records</li> <li>• Species inventories.</li> </ul>
<p><i>See also Indicator 1.3.3 regarding compliance with the law, and Indicator 1.3.4 regarding conformance to best practice.</i></p>
<p><b>Criterion 1.6</b> The Organization shall identify, prevent and resolve disputes over issues of statutory or customary law, which can be settled out of court in a timely manner, through engagement with affected stakeholders.</p>
<p>Indicator 1.6.1 Mechanisms shall be employed to identify, prevent and resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights through appropriate consultation with interested parties. [UKWAS 1.1.4(a)]</p> <p>Verifiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of dispute resolution mechanism.</li> </ul>
<p><i>See also the guidance note on Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 regarding appropriate consultation.</i></p>
<p>Indicator 1.6.2 Where possible, the owner/manager shall seek to resolve disputes out of court and in a timely manner. [UKWAS 1.1.4(b)]</p>

<p>Verifiers as for Indicator 1.6.1.</p>
<p><i>Guidance note on Indicators 1.6.1 and 1.6.2:</i></p> <p>Unresolved disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an entity from being certified.</p> <p>Examples of relevant tenure claims and use rights may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water supplies</li> <li>• Joint access routes</li> <li>• Shooting rights.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Criterion 1.7</b> The Organization shall publicize a commitment not to offer or receive bribes in money or any other form of corruption, and shall comply with anti-corruption legislation where this exists. In the absence of anti-corruption legislation, The Organization shall implement other anti-corruption measures proportionate to the scale and intensity of management activities and the risk of corruption.</p>
<p>Indicator 1.7.1 There shall be conformance to guidance on anti-corruption legislation. [UKWAS 1.1.6(a)]</p> <p>Verifiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion with the owner/manager</li> <li>• Written procedures</li> <li>• Public statement of policy.</li> </ul>
<p>Indicator 1.7.2 Large enterprises shall have and implement a publicly available anti-corruption policy which meets or exceeds the requirements of legislation. [UKWAS 1.1.6(b)]</p> <p>Verifiers as for Indicator 1.7.1.</p>
<p><i>Guidance note on Indicators 1.7.1 and 1.7.2:</i></p> <p>Guidance on procedures to prevent bribery is available from the Ministry of Justice.</p>

<p><i>Explanatory note: The principal anti-corruption legislation in the UK is the Bribery Act 2010.</i></p>
<p><b>Criterion 1.8</b> The Organization shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria in the Management Unit, and to related FSC Policies and Standards. A statement of this commitment shall be contained in</p>



a publicly available document made freely available.

Indicator 1.8.1 The owner/manager shall:

- Commit to conformance to this certification standard, and
- Have declared an intention to protect and maintain the woodland management unit and its ecological integrity in the long term. [UKWAS 1.1.5(a)]

Verifiers:

- Signed declaration of commitment
- Dissemination of the requirements of this certification standard to workers, licensees and leaseholders
- Public statement of policy.

Indicator 1.8.2 A statement of these commitments shall be made publicly available upon request. [UKWAS 1.1.5(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 1.8.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 1.8.1 and 1.8.2:*

Workers, licensees and leaseholders should be informed of the aim of the certification standard and, to the degree that is relevant, of the practical implications for them in carrying out their activities. This might be done through, for example, meetings or briefings and the provision of appropriate written material.

If a substantial failure has led to withdrawal of a woodland certification to this standard in the past, then substantial changes in ownership, policy commitment and management regime should have been implemented or a two-year track record of conformance established.

*Advice to owners/managers*

Owners/managers may be subject to additional requirements from their certification scheme relating to any adjustment of the area in the woodland management unit. Owners/managers are advised to seek guidance from their certification body or group scheme manager.

**Go to Annex A.**

**PRINCIPLE 2: WORKERS' RIGHTS AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS**

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

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

Indicator 2.1.1 There shall be compliance with workers' rights legislation, including equality legislation. [UKWAS 5.6.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with workers
- Documented policies.

*Explanatory note: The UK has ratified all eight of the ILO Core Labour Conventions, and their requirements are incorporated into UK legislation. See the list of applicable legislation in Annex A, section 3.5.*

Indicator 2.1.2 Workers shall not be deterred from joining a trade union or employee association. [UKWAS 5.6.1(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 2.1.1.

Indicator 2.1.3 Direct employees shall be permitted to negotiate terms and conditions, including grievance procedures, collectively should they so wish. [UKWAS 5.6.1(c)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 2.1.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 2.1.1, 2.1.2 and 2.1.3:*



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

Indicator 2.2.1 There shall be compliance with workers' rights legislation, including equality legislation. [UKWAS 5.6.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with workers
- Documented policies.

*Guidance note on Indicator 2.2.1:*



*Explanatory note: The principal equality legislation in Great Britain is the Equality Act 2010. The principal gender equality legislation in Northern Ireland is the Equal Pay Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 and the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976.*

Indicator 2.2.2 Methods of consultation and engagement shall be designed to ensure that local people, relevant organisations and other interested parties have reasonable opportunities to participate equitably and without discrimination. [UKWAS 2.3.1(d)]

Verifiers:

- Consultation with the relevant forestry authority
- Evidence that users of the WMU are informed about high impact operations (e.g. signs, letters or other appropriate means)
- A list of interested parties
- Established means of pro-active communication
- A public contact point.

*See also the guidance note on Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 regarding appropriate consultation.*

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

Indicator 2.3.1 There shall be:

- Compliance with health and safety legislation
- Conformance with associated codes of practice
- Conformance with FISA guidance. [UKWAS 5.4.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Field observation that health and safety legislation and codes of practice are being implemented
- Discussion with workers demonstrates that they are aware of relevant requirements and have access to appropriate FISA codes of practice



- Contracts specifying health and safety requirements
- Records maintained and up to date (e.g. accident book, site risk assessments, chemical record book, tree safety reports)
- System to ensure that anyone working in the woodland has had relevant instruction in safe working practice and that the appropriate number has had training in basic first aid and, where relevant, holds a certificate of competence
- Procedure for monitoring compliance with safety requirements (written for larger organisations) and for dealing with situations where safety requirements are not met
- Documented health and safety policy and consideration of issues in all procedures and work instructions
- Evidence of a systematic approach to accident prevention.

Indicator 2.3.2 There shall be contingency plans for any accidents. [UKWAS 5.4.1(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 2.3.1.

Indicator 2.3.3 There shall be appropriate competency. [UKWAS 5.4.1(c)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 2.3.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.3:*

This requirement relates to anyone on the work site, including workers and members of the public.

*Advice to owners/managers*

With respect to health and safety, it is important for owners/managers to be aware of their legal responsibilities in regard to fulfilling one or more of the relevant management roles as described in FISA guidance.

See FISA Guidance listed in the Appendix.



*Explanatory note: FISA is the Forest Industry Safety Accord. FISA guidance sets out best practice for the management of health and safety in forestry.*



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

Indicator 2.4.1 Wages paid to workers shall meet or exceed the statutory national living wage. [UKWAS 5.6.1(e)]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with workers
- Documented policies.

*Guidance note on Indicator 2.4.1:*

The statutory national living wage is defined in national minimum wage regulations. The owner/manager may choose to pay wages that are higher than the statutory national living wage, for example a voluntary living wage such as that calculated by the Living Wage Foundation.

*Explanatory note: In the UK context there are no minimum forest industry wage standards or other recognised forest industry wage agreements. Under the National Minimum Wage Act 1998, the 'national minimum wage' established under the National Minimum Wage Regulations 2015 is replaced by a 'national living wage rate' under the National Minimum Wage (Amendment) Regulations 2016 from 1 April 2016.*

**Criterion 2.5** The Organization shall demonstrate that workers have job-specific training and supervision to safely and effectively implement the management plan and all management activities.

Indicator 2.5.1 All workers shall have appropriate qualifications, training and/or experience to carry out their roles in conformance to the requirements of this standard, unless working under proper supervision if they are currently undergoing training. [UKWAS 5.5.1]

Verifiers:

- Copies of appropriate certificates of competence
- Discussion with workers
- System to ensure that only workers who are appropriately trained or supervised work in the woodland
- No evidence of workers without relevant training, experience or qualifications



<p>working in the woodland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documented training programme for employees</li> <li>• Training records for all employees.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Guidance note on Indicator 2.5.1:</i></p> <p>Where requirements of the work are likely to change, a programme of ongoing training and development should be undertaken.</p>
<p><i>See Annex B.</i></p> <p><i>See also Indicator 2.3.3 regarding appropriate competency.</i></p>
<p><b>Criterion 2.6</b> The Organization through engagement with workers shall have mechanisms for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation to workers for loss or damage to property, occupational diseases, or occupational injuries sustained while working for The Organization.</p>
<p>Indicator 2.6.1 Direct employees shall be permitted to negotiate terms and conditions, including grievance procedures, collectively should they so wish. [UKWAS 5.6.1(c)]</p> <p>Verifiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion with workers</li> <li>• Documented policies.</li> </ul>
<p>Indicator 2.6.2 Workers shall have recourse to mechanisms for resolving grievances which meet the requirements of statutory codes of practice. [UKWAS 5.6.1(d)]</p> <p>Verifiers as for Indicator 2.6.1.</p>
<p>Indicator 2.6.3 The owner/manager and workers shall be covered by adequate public liability and employer's liability insurance. [UKWAS 5.7.1]</p> <p>Verifiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insurance documents</li> <li>• Self-insurance with a policy statement.</li> </ul>

**Go to Annex B.**



**PRINCIPLE 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS**

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

*Explanatory note: Within the international context of FSC, indigenous peoples, as defined, are not considered to be present in the UK.*



**PRINCIPLE 4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS**

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

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

Indicator 4.1.1 Local people, relevant organisations and interested parties shall be identified and made aware that:

- New or revised management planning documentation, as specified under [Criterion 7.2], is being produced
- High impact operations are planned
- The woodland is being evaluated for certification. [UKWAS 2.3.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Consultation with the relevant forestry authority
- Evidence that users of the WMU are informed about high impact operations (e.g. signs, letters or other appropriate means)
- A list of interested parties
- Established means of pro-active communication
- A public contact point.

Indicator 4.1.2 The owner/manager shall ensure that there is full co-operation with the relevant forestry authority's consultation processes. [UKWAS 2.3.1(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 4.1.1.

*See also Indicator 7.6.1 regarding appropriate consultation.*

Indicator 4.1.3 At least 30 days shall be allowed for people to respond to notices, letters or meetings before certification. [UKWAS 2.3.1(f)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 4.1.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3:*

The owner should be able to justify the frequency and level of consultation and the certification body will look for corroborating evidence. Examples of methods for identifying and making local people and relevant organisations aware include:



- Statutory consultations by the relevant forestry authority or voluntary consultation with statutory bodies
- Letters to individuals or groups
- Temporary or permanent signs in or near the affected woodland
- Information in local newspapers or other publications
- Meetings and dialogue
- Internet
- Consultation with the relevant archaeology service.

Consultation and engagement with local people should be sufficient to identify:

- their permissive or traditional uses of the woodland
- sites or features of special cultural or historical significance.

For social and economic issues include those who derive their income from the forest or are dependent on the supply of forest products such as forest workers, hauliers and timber processors.

For access issues, owners/managers should seek to identify and consult local representative groups or bodies which can represent users, including the statutory Local Access Forum where relevant.

For biodiversity issues, owners/ managers should seek to identify and consult local representative groups or bodies which can represent biodiversity interests, including the Local Biodiversity Partnership (or equivalent) where relevant.

Consultation and engagement should be appropriate to the scale and intensity of woodland management and to the risk of potential impacts on the interests of stakeholders. For smaller woodlands, engagement may be informal and largely verbal. For larger woodlands with many potentially affected local people, it may be more appropriate to engage with representatives of local communities rather than with individuals.

Whether an operation is high impact depends very much on circumstances and must be assessed on a case by case basis. A proportionate, risk-based assessment of

social impacts might be carried out in a similar way to the assessment of environmental impacts required in [Indicator 6.2.1]. The owner/manager should be able to demonstrate that they have considered how many interests will be affected, to what degree and over what timescale.

*See also [Indicator 9.1.7] which covers sites and features of special cultural or historical significance and [Indicator 4.1.4] which covers permissive or traditional uses.*



Indicator 4.1.4 Existing permissive or traditional uses of the woodland shall be identified and sustained except when such uses can be shown to threaten the integrity of the woodland or the achievement of the objectives of management.  
[UKWAS 5.1.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Documentation or maps of all existing permissive and traditional uses of the woodland
- Discussion with interested parties
- Field observation of public rights of way
- Evidence presented to justify any restriction of permissive or traditional uses.

*Guidance note on Indicator 4.1.4:*

Permissive and traditional uses include:

- Permissive access routes
- *De facto* access to well-known landmarks
- Gathering fruit or fungi by the public for their own consumption where this does not jeopardise the achievement of biodiversity objectives (having regard to codes of good practice)
- Water supplies.

Permissive routes can be closed annually to maintain their permissive status.

Traditional uses that exploit the woodland resource (e.g. peat cutting) should be carried out at a traditional scale.

'Integrity' refers principally to the ecological maintenance of the woodland.



See also Indicator 1.3.3 regarding compliance with the law.

*Explanatory note: In the UK context, most rights of tenure, access and resource use will be held by statutory law.*

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

*Explanatory note: In the UK context, while local communities may have various rights relating to land within or adjoining the Management Unit, they would not have legal or customary rights to control management activities. As such, this Criterion is not considered to be applicable. However, the Organization would have to be mindful of the rights of local communities as per Indicators 1.3.3 and 4.1.4.*

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

Indicator 4.3.1 The owner/manager shall promote the integration of woodlands into the local economy by:

- Making the best use of the woodland's potential products and services consistent with other objectives.
- Providing local people with equitable opportunities for employment and to supply goods and services. [UKWAS 5.3.1]

Verifiers:

- Local or specialist market opportunities
- Promoting and encouraging enterprises to strengthen and diversify the local economy
- Provision for local employment and suppliers.

*Guidance note on Indicator 4.3.1:*

Promotion of integration into the local economy may be achieved by:

- Allowing local or specialist markets opportunities to purchase small scale or specialist parcels





- Promoting and encouraging enterprises which will strengthen and diversify the woodland economy and the local economy
- Making equitable provision for local employment for contractors and suppliers to provide services and supplies and making this known.

The woodland's potential products include non-timber woodland products and recreational activities.

An example of how the owner/manager might help to diversify the processing industry is that a proportion of timber parcels are advertised and sold by open tender or auction.

Reference to country forestry strategies and engagement with local woodland and community forest initiatives may highlight opportunities to fulfil this requirement.

*See also Indicator 5.4.2 regarding training and recruitment.*

**Criterion 4.4** The Organization shall implement additional activities, through engagement with local communities, that contribute to their social and economic development, proportionate to the scale, intensity and socio-economic impact of its management activities.

Indicator 4.4.1 There shall be provision for some public access subject only to limited exemptions. [UKWAS 5.1.2(a)]

Verifiers:

- Field observation to confirm that access is available
- Maps show public rights of way and/or core paths through or beside the wood
- Evidence of publicised annual open days or guided walks
- Access agreements with local authorities
- Evidence that account has been taken of local demand
- Evidence from consultation with interested parties
- Records of publicised annual open days or guided walks, school visits or research undertaken in the woodland
- Evidence of access provision, path maintenance, conservation management (particularly in regard to visitor erosion) and interpretation at significant cultural and historic environment assets.



Indicator 4.4.2 Where there is a special demand for further public access for the purpose of environmental education, the owner/manager shall make reasonable efforts to meet this demand. [UKWAS 5.1.2(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 4.4.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 4.4.1 and 4.4.2:*

Woodlands containing or adjoining notable historic environment or ecological features may attract large numbers of visitors even to small properties. This presents an opportunity to promote public access and/or educate visitors about the multiple benefits of forestry.

Professional associations can advise on necessary safety and insurance provisions, ways of supporting educational visits and studies, and methods for recovering some or all of the extra costs of satisfying public demand.

*In Scotland:*

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act (2003) provides for responsible access on foot, cycle or horse and also for responsible management of access by land owners and managers.

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code provides guidance on responsible behaviour of those taking and managing access together with circumstances where access may be restricted.

In addition, supplementary guidance is published on specific aspects such as events and core paths.

*In England, Wales and Northern Ireland:*

There is no statutory right of general access to woodland thus emphasising the value of allowing some public access which may be provided through one or more of:

- A permissive freedom to roam
- Public rights of way through or beside the wood
- Publicised open days or guided walks each year
- Permissive access on specified routes
- Access management agreements with local authorities

- In England and Wales only - by voluntarily dedicating woodland for public access under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW).

Public access, other than on public rights of way, and environmental education may be denied in the following example situations:

- Woodlands under 10 ha in size with a high private amenity value
- Areas that adjoin dwellings or private gardens
- Isolated woodlands to which there is no ready access route for the public across adjoining land
- Woodlands where there is current evidence of serious and sustained abuse or damage. Persistent vandalism may force owners/managers to place particular woodland blocks or areas 'out of bounds'. Reasons should be communicated through local schools, libraries, post offices and parish halls to help stimulate community co-operation to combat damage
- Areas of the woodland that contain sites, species or features that would be particularly vulnerable to disturbance
- Periods or days when country sports, outdoor recreation or special events would be jeopardised
- Temporary closures in order to ensure public safety.



*See also Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 7.6.1 regarding engagement with local communities.*

**Criterion 4.5** The Organization, through engagement with local communities, shall take action to identify, avoid and mitigate significant negative social, environmental and economic impacts of its management activities on affected communities. The action taken shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of those activities and negative impacts.

Indicator 4.5.1 The owner/manager shall respond to issues raised or requests for ongoing dialogue and engagement and shall demonstrate how the results of the consultation including community and social impacts have been taken into account in management planning and operations. [UKWAS 2.3.1(e)]

Verifiers:

- A list of interested parties

- Established means of pro-active communication
- A public contact point.

Indicator 4.5.2 The owner/manager shall mitigate the risks to public health and safety and other negative impacts of woodland operations on local people. [UKWAS 5.2.1]

Verifiers:

- No evidence of legal non-compliance
- Evidence that complaints have been dealt with constructively
- Documented evidence that owners/managers have considered actual and potential impacts of operations on local people and interest groups and have taken steps to mitigate them
- Use of risk assessment and site management with safety signs and diversions around active operational sites.

*Guidance note on Indicator 4.5.2:*

Examples of impacts include:

- Public safety and access implications of woodland operations
- Timber traffic, particularly in and around the woodland
- Natural hazards to workers and the public, e.g. hazardous trees
- Smoke
- Management of hazards caused by visitor use.



*See also Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 7.6.1 regarding engagement with local communities, and Indicator 5.3.1 regarding impacts of operations.*

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

Indicator 4.6.1 The owner/manager shall respond constructively to complaints, seek to resolve grievances through engagement with complainants in the first instance, and follow established legal process should this become necessary. [UKWAS 5.2.2]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with interested parties
- A complaints process



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A public contact point.</li> </ul>
<p><i>See also Indicator 2.6.3 regarding liability insurance, and Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 7.6.1 regarding engagement with local communities.</i></p>
<p><b>Criterion 4.7</b> The Organization, through engagement with local communities, shall identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance, and for which these local communities hold legal or customary rights. These sites shall be recognized by The Organization, and their management and/or protection shall be agreed through engagement with these local communities.</p>
<p>Indicator 4.7.1 Through engagement with the relevant statutory historic environment agencies, local people and other interested parties, and using other relevant sources of information, the owner/manager shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify sites and features of special cultural and historical significance,</li> <li>• Assess their condition, and</li> <li>• Adopting a precautionary approach, devise and implement measures to maintain and/or enhance them. [UKWAS 4.8.1]</li> </ul> <p>Verifiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any known features mapped and/or documented</li> <li>• Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates rationale for management of relevant sites</li> <li>• Records of consultation with statutory bodies, local authorities and interest groups to identify features</li> <li>• Documented plans.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Guidance note on Indicator 4.7.1:</i></p> <p>Examples of relevant sources of information include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maps</li> <li>• Databases</li> <li>• Field observations.</li> </ul> <p>Typical examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prominent viewing points</li> <li>• Landscape features</li> <li>• Veteran and other notable trees</li> <li>• Historical features and archaeological sites</li> </ul>

- Woodlands which feature in literature or which are of artistic significance
- Historic landscapes and woodlands which are still managed under traditional systems.

Where relevant, a professional archaeological walkover survey may be required to inform decisions and provide baseline evidence.

Sites of potential historical importance discovered during the course of forest management should be reported to the relevant statutory historic environment agencies.

*See also [Indicators 4.1.1 to 4.1.3, 4.5.1 and 7.6.1] in relation to consultation.*



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

*Explanatory note: In the UK context, as elsewhere in Europe, there are unlikely to be situations in which the Organization can exploit the traditional knowledge of local communities. As such, this Criterion is not considered to be applicable. However, intellectual property is protected by law, for example under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, and the Organization would have to be mindful of the rights of local communities as per Indicator 1.3.3.*



**PRINCIPLE 5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST**

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

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

Indicator 5.1.1 All areas in the WMU shall be covered by management planning documentation which shall be retained for at least ten years and shall incorporate:

5.1.1.1 Assessment of relevant components of the woodland resource, including potential products and services which are consistent with the management objectives. [UKWAS 2.2.1 (part)]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation
- Appropriate maps and records.

Indicator 5.1.2 The owner/manager shall promote the integration of woodlands into the local economy by:

- Making the best use of the woodland's potential products and services consistent with other objectives.
- Providing local people with equitable opportunities for employment and to supply goods and services. [UKWAS 5.3.1]

Verifiers:

- Local or specialist market opportunities
- Promoting and encouraging enterprises to strengthen and diversify the local economy
- Provision for local employment and suppliers.

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

Indicator 5.2.1 The owner/manager shall plan and implement measures to maintain and/or enhance long-term soil and hydrological functions. [UKWAS 2.4.1]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation
- Field observation.



*Guidance note on Indicator 5.2.1:*

Protection of basic ecosystem functions in terms of soils and hydrology is fundamental to sustainable forest management. The owner/manager should refer to relevant guidelines on soils and water.

Indicator 5.2.2 Timber shall normally be harvested from the WMU at or below a level which can be permanently sustained. [UKWAS 2.4.2(a)]

Verifiers:

- Compartment records
- Growth and yield estimates
- Production records or appropriate standing sale volume assessments and reconciliation with estimates
- Demonstrated control of thinning intensity
- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Field observation.

Indicator 5.2.3 Selective harvesting shall not be to the long-term detriment of the quality and value of stands. [UKWAS 2.4.2(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 5.2.2.

*Guidance note on Indicators 5.2.2 and 5.2.3:*

Timber harvesting in excess of increment may be justified:

- During restructuring of even-aged woodlands
- During habitat management or restoration for biodiversity
- In response to pests, diseases or storm damage.

Examples of growth and yield estimates include:

- Average growth rates or yield class for major species on different site types
- Predictions of thinning and felling yields for different crop types
- Forecasts of areas to be subject to harvesting operations in future years.

Accuracy of growth and yield estimates should be appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operation.

The resilience of the woodland and different species to climate change should be considered.





In low intensity managed woodlands, or in woodlands being restructured in areas of high windthrow risk, area rather than volume predictions are acceptable in planning and monitoring.

Timber crops should not be creamed or high graded [Indicator 5.2.3]. However, selective harvesting of high quality stems may be entirely appropriate in stands which have been managed to promote regeneration from the most promising individuals, for example.

Indicator 5.2.4 Harvesting of non-timber woodland products or use of ecosystem services from the WMU shall be at or below a level which can be permanently sustained. [UKWAS 2.4.3]

Verifiers:

- Evidence from records and discussion with the owner/manager that quantities harvested are in line with sustainable growth rates and that there are no significant adverse environmental impacts.

*Guidance note on Indicator 5.2.4:*

Non-timber woodland products include foliage, moss, fungi, berries, seed, venison and other animal products.

It is recognised that objective information on sustainable harvesting levels for NTWPs is limited, and also that in the case of venison it may be desirable to harvest at a level that reduces the deer population in the long term. However, in all cases the owner/manager should give careful thought to the annual allowable harvest and should be able to justify harvest levels on the basis of their objectives and best practice.

*See also [Indicator 10.3.4] in relation to protection from wild mammals, and [Indicator 6.6.7] in relation to game management.*

**Criterion 5.3** The Organization shall demonstrate that the positive and negative externalities of operation are included in the management plan.

Indicator 5.3.1 Woodland management planning shall take fully into account the long-term positive and negative economic, environmental and social impacts of proposed operations, including potential impacts outside the WMU. [UKWAS 2.1.2]



Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Management planning documentation.

*Guidance note on Indicator 5.3.1:*

Management planning should be proportionate to the scale and intensity of woodland management, and to the potential economic, environmental and social impacts of management activities.

**Criterion 5.4** The Organization shall use local processing, local services, and local value adding to meet the requirements of The Organization where these are available, proportionate to scale, intensity and risk. If these are not locally available, The Organization shall make reasonable attempts to help establish these services.

Indicator 5.4.1 The owner/manager shall promote the integration of woodlands into the local economy by:

- Making the best use of the woodland's potential products and services consistent with other objectives.
- Providing local people with equitable opportunities for employment and to supply goods and services. [UKWAS 5.3.1]

Verifiers:

- Local or specialist market opportunities
- Promoting and encouraging enterprises to strengthen and diversify the local economy
- Provision for local employment and suppliers.

*Guidance note on Indicator 5.4.1:*

Promotion of integration into the local economy may be achieved by:

- Allowing local or specialist markets opportunities to purchase small scale or specialist parcels
- Promoting and encouraging enterprises which will strengthen and diversify the woodland economy and the local economy
- Making equitable provision for local employment for contractors and suppliers to provide services and supplies and making this known.

The woodland's potential products include non-timber woodland products and recreational activities.



An example of how the owner/manager might help to diversify the processing industry is that a proportion of timber parcels are advertised and sold by open tender or auction.

Reference to country forestry strategies and engagement with local woodland and community forest initiatives may highlight opportunities to fulfil this requirement.

*Explanatory note: In the UK context, the preferential use of local services is limited by the EU Competition Directive. While it may not be possible to give preference to local service providers, they should not be disadvantaged.*

Indicator 5.4.2 The owner/manager of large enterprises shall promote training, and encourage and support new recruits to the industry. [UKWAS 5.5.2]

Verifiers:

- Documented policy
- Involvement with industry bodies promoting training, including FISA
- Records of training sessions, provision of sites for training, subsidies for training courses.

*Guidance note on Indicator 5.4.2:*

Promotion of training may be achieved through:

- Providing sites for training courses
- Offering subsidies for training courses.

*Explanatory note: In the UK context, it is unlikely to be reasonable to make any attempts to establish local services beyond generally increasing levels of training and capacity amongst workers.*

**Criterion 5.5** The Organization shall demonstrate through its planning and expenditures proportionate to scale, intensity and risk, its commitment to long-term economic viability.

Indicator 5.5.1 Woodland management planning shall demonstrate a commitment to long-term economic viability. [UKWAS 2.1.3(a)]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Management planning documentation
- Financial records relating to the woodland resource
- Budget forecasting, expenditure and potential sources of funding.



Indicator 5.5.2 The owner/manager shall aim to secure the necessary investment to implement the management plan in order to meet this standard and to ensure long-term economic viability. [UKWAS 2.1.3(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 5.5.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 5.5.1 and 5.5.2:*

Management planning should be proportionate to the scale and intensity of woodland management.

Management planning should show how the stated policy and objectives of management can be achieved and sustained economically in the long term, for example from future timber production or other sources of income. Detailed projections are not required but there should be evidence that the longer term resourcing of essential forest operations has been considered. For example, management planning documentation may show how silvicultural systems, species choice and tree densities and other woodland management are designed to achieve long-term economic viability.



**PRINCIPLE 6: ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AND IMPACTS**

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

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

Indicator 6.1.1 All areas in the WMU shall be covered by management planning documentation which shall be retained for at least ten years and shall incorporate:  
6.1.1.1 Assessment of environmental values, including those outside the WMU potentially affected by management, sufficient to determine appropriate conservation measures and to provide a baseline for detecting possible negative impacts. [UKWAS 2.2.1 (part)]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation
- Appropriate maps and records.

**Criterion 6.2** Prior to the start of site-disturbing activities, The Organization shall identify and assess the scale, intensity and risk of potential impacts of management activities on the identified environmental values.

Indicator 6.2.1 The impacts of new planting and other woodland plans on environmental values shall be assessed before operations are implemented, in a manner appropriate to the scale of the operations and the sensitivity of the site. [UKWAS 2.5.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation
- Documented environmental impact assessment or Appropriate Assessment where such has been requested by the relevant forestry authority
- Documented environmental appraisals
- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Field observation.

*Guidance note on Indicator 6.2.1:*

The owner/manager should be aware of relevant legal requirements for environmental impact assessment.

Depending on scale and sensitivity the assessment of environmental impacts may be:

- Brief environmental appraisals for planting or felling which might affect sites recognised for cultural, landscape, hydrological or ecological value
- Ecological assessments of ancient semi-natural woodland and projections of their response to management and natural processes
- Specific assessments for unusual and/or extensive operations
- Checks against relevant country level plans for priority habitats and species.

It may be appropriate to seek specialist advice on the potential impacts of operations, for example in relation to:

- Priority habitats and species
- Historic environment sites and landscapes
- Flood risk and mitigation potential in accordance with local flood risk management plans or strategies.



**Criterion 6.3** The Organization shall identify and implement effective actions to prevent negative impacts of management activities on the environmental values, and to mitigate and repair those that occur, proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of these impacts.

**Indicator 6.3.1** The results of the environmental assessments shall be incorporated into planning and implementation in order to avoid, minimise or repair adverse environmental impacts of management activities. [UKWAS 2.5.1(b)]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation
- Documented environmental impact assessment or Appropriate Assessment where such has been requested by the relevant forestry authority
- Documented environmental appraisals
- Discussion with the owner/manager

- Field observation.

Indicator 6.3.2 The owner/manager shall adopt management practices that minimise diffuse pollution arising from woodland operations. [UKWAS 3.7.1]

Verifiers:

- Records of consultation with statutory environment protection agencies
- Field observation
- Operational plans
- Incident response plans
- Diffuse pollution risk assessment in high risk situations
- Use of biodegradable lubricants.

*Guidance note on Indicator 6.3.2:*

Diffuse pollution may arise from:

- Oil spills and leaks
- Cutting-chain lubricants
- Siltation of water courses or drains that connect to watercourses
- Pesticide or fertiliser run-off
- Smoke.

Biodegradable cutting-chain lubricants should be used where practicable. Practicability encompasses operator health and costs of running machinery.



Indicator 6.3.3 Plans and equipment shall be in place to deal with accidental spillages of fuels, oils, fertilisers or other chemicals. [UKWAS 3.7.2]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager and relevant workers
- Appropriate equipment available in the field
- Written plans.

*Guidance note on Indicator 6.3.3:*



**Criterion 6.4** The Organization shall protect rare species and threatened species and their habitats in the Management Unit through conservation zones, protection areas, connectivity and/or (where necessary) other direct measures for their survival



and viability. These measures shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of management activities and to the conservation status and ecological requirements of the rare and threatened species. The Organization shall take into account the geographic range and ecological requirements of rare and threatened species beyond the boundary of the Management Unit, when determining the measures to be taken inside the Management Unit.

Indicator 6.4.1 Appropriate measures shall be taken to protect identified priority species and habitats in accordance with plans agreed with nature conservation agencies. In planning and implementing measures within the WMU, the owner/manager shall take into account the geographic range and ecological requirements of priority species beyond the boundary of the WMU. [UKWAS 4.1.2]

Verifiers:

- Field observation
- Management planning documentation
- Discussion with the owner/manager.

*Guidance note on Indicator 6.4.1:*

Measures should include steps to protect features such as breeding sites, resting places and display sites of priority species.

*See also Indicator 1.5.2 regarding harvesting and control of priority species.*

*See also Indicators under Criteria 6.5 and 6.6 for specific measures to maintain and manage habitats.*

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

**NOTE:** By default, riparian zones do not qualify to be included in the Conservation Area Network. Riparian zones may however be included, if those areas fully meet the definitions of representative sample areas, conservation zones, protection areas, connectivity as exemplified by wildlife corridors, providing the riparian zones are not disproportionately represented in the Conservation Area Network. Riparian zones





"created" or planted for purely functional roles, e.g. erosion control should be excluded.

Indicator 6.5.1 Management planning shall identify a minimum of 15% of the WMU where management for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity is the primary objective. [UKWAS 2.11.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation including maps
- Field observation.

Indicator 6.5.2 This shall include conservation areas and features identified in the following sections:

- Statutory designated sites ([Indicator 9.1.1])
- Ancient semi-natural woodland ([Indicator 9.1.3])
- Plantations on ancient woodland sites ([Indicators 9.1.4 and 9.1.5])
- Other valuable semi-natural habitats ([Indicators 6.5.3 to 6.5.8])
- Areas and features of critical importance for watershed management or erosion control ([Indicator 9.1.6])
- Natural reserves ([Indicator 6.6.1])
- Long-term retentions and/or areas managed under lower impact silvicultural systems (LISS) ([Indicator 6.6.2]). [UKWAS 2.11.1(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 6.5.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2:*

Where areas and features identified in [Indicator 6.5.2] comprise less than 15% of the WMU additional areas should be identified.

The balance of areas managed with conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as a major objective may include:

- Natural reserves
- Long-term retentions
- Riparian zones integral to the WMU
- Lower impact silvicultural systems
- Existing open habitats integral to the WMU.

In larger and more dispersed woodland management units, this requirement may be fulfilled across the WMU as a whole rather than reserving specified areas in each



and every wood.

Aim for a balance between the dispersal of sites across the WMU and a concentration of sites in important locations with benefits for conservation and/or enhancement of biodiversity.

The conservation areas and features identified under [Indicator 6.5.2] may fall into more than one category but can only be counted once towards the 15% of the WMU managed with conservation and enhancement of biodiversity as the major objective.

*Explanatory note: There are specific area requirements, contributing to the 15% of the WMU forming the Conservation Area Network as per Indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2, for natural reserves (Indicator 6.6.1), long-term retentions and/or areas managed under LISS (Indicator 6.6.2), and other valuable semi-natural habitats (Indicator 6.5.8).*

Indicator 6.5.3 Areas, species and features of conservation value in [woodlands not on ancient woodland sites] shall be identified. [UKWAS 4.4.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Field observation
- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Management planning documentation
- Historical maps
- Monitoring records.

*Explanatory note: Woodlands on ancient woodland sites are considered under Principle 9.*

Indicator 6.5.4 The identified areas, species and features of conservation value shall be maintained and where possible enhanced. [UKWAS 4.4.1(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 6.5.3.

Indicator 6.5.5 Adverse ecological impacts shall be identified and inform management. [UKWAS 4.4.1(c)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 6.5.3.

*Guidance note on Indicators 6.5.3, 6.5.4 and 6.5.5:*

This requirement relates to woodlands other than ASNW and PAWS (see [Indicators 9.1.3 and 9.1.4]).



Priority should be given to woodlands or woodland relicts that may have retained/acquired valuable ecological characteristics.

Typically, these values may be found in:

- Semi-natural woodlands
- Long established woodlands of planted origin
- Woodland relicts
- Veteran trees
- New native woodlands.

Potential adverse impacts may include:

- Browsing by rabbits, deer and other animals
- Grazing by livestock
- Colonisation by invasive non-native species
- Visitor pressure.

Indicator 6.5.6 Valuable small-scale semi-natural habitats that have been colonised, planted, or incorporated into the WMU, but which have retained their ecological characteristics (or have a high potential to be restored), shall be identified and enhanced, restored or treated in a manner that does not lead to further degradation of their potential for restoration. [UKWAS 4.4.2(a)]

Verifiers:

- Workers are aware of such sites and of any plans for their management
- For all potentially damaging operations, awareness demonstrated of how areas shall be protected and/or safeguarded
- Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrate how such areas will be managed
- Planning documentation shows how areas will be managed.

Indicator 6.5.7 Adverse ecological impacts shall be identified and inform management. [UKWAS 4.4.2(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 6.5.6.

*Guidance note on Indicators 6.5.6 and 6.5.7:*

This requirement relates to small-scale habitats within the WMU, which may include:

- Moorland
- Peatland

- Heathland
- Wood pasture
- Grassland
- Freshwater habitats such as ponds.

Appropriate management may include:

- Rides and glades containing remnant semi-natural communities are widened and extended
- Areas with a rich ground flora and shrub layer are heavily thinned
- Remnants of wood pasture, veteran trees or other 'open-forest' habitat are gradually opened up
- Heathland, bog and other open habitats are re-created by premature felling without restocking
- Maintenance of open ground around historic environment sites.

Particular attention should be paid to priority habitats and to habitats identified in country level forest and peatland policies.

Potential adverse impacts may include:

- Browsing by rabbits, deer and other animals
- Grazing by livestock
- Colonisation by invasive non-native species
- Drainage.

Non-native species may be retained where they have a high ecological or cultural value.

Woodland removal to facilitate infrastructure or built development which is not integral to the management of the rest of the woodland cannot meet this requirement.

*See also [Indicators 6.9.2 and 6.9.3] which cover larger scale habitat restoration through conversion to non-forested land.*



Indicator 6.5.8 Areas of semi-natural habitats shall constitute a minimum of 5% of the WMU. Where existing habitats or restored remnant features comprise less than 5% of the WMU, the owner/manager shall take action to convert other areas to more natural conditions. [UKWAS 4.4.3]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation
- Field observation.

*Guidance note on Indicator 6.5.8:*

Preference should be given to restoring to semi-natural woodland unless there are clear biodiversity gains to be made by restoring to open habitats.

These areas contribute to the minimum of 15% of the WMU where management for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity is the primary objective, as identified in [Indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2].

*Explanatory note: Indicators 6.5.3 to 6.5.8 apply to semi-natural habitats which are not statutory designated sites or on ancient woodland sites, all of which are treated as high conservation values under Principle 9. The extent of habitat to be restored will depend on the extent of existing habitats and/or remnant features, particularly priority habitats, but must constitute a minimum of 5% of the WMU as per Indicator 6.5.8. These areas contribute to the minimum of 15% of the WMU forming the Conservation Area Network as per Indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2.*

**Criterion 6.6** The Organization shall effectively maintain the continued existence of naturally occurring native species and genotypes, and prevent losses of biological diversity, especially through habitat management in the Management Unit. The Organization shall demonstrate that effective measures are in place to manage and control hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting.

Indicator 6.6.1 Natural reserves shall:

- Be located where they will deliver the greatest biodiversity benefit
- Constitute a proportion of the WMU equivalent to at least 1% of the plantation area and 5% of the semi-natural woodland area. [UKWAS 4.6.1]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation including maps

- Field observation.

*Guidance note on Indicator 6.6.1:*

Where a WMU is made up of more than one woodland, the owner/manager should locate natural reserves where they will deliver greatest biodiversity benefit, rather than necessarily in every individual woodland.

There should be no loss of existing natural reserves.

Areas managed as natural reserves within the areas identified by [Indicators 9.1.1 to 9.1.6 and Indicators 6.5.3 to 6.5.8] may fulfil this requirement.

These areas contribute to the minimum of 15% of the WMU where management for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity is the primary objective, as identified in [Indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2].



Indicator 6.6.2 Long-term retentions and/or areas managed under lower impact silvicultural systems (LISS) shall constitute a minimum of 1% of the WMU. Where this is impracticable, an additional minimum 1% of natural reserve shall be identified. [UKWAS 4.6.2]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation including maps
- Field observation.

*Guidance note on Indicator 6.6.2:*

Where a WMU is made up of more than one woodland, the owner/manager should locate long-term retentions or LISS areas where they will deliver greatest biodiversity benefit, rather than necessarily in every individual woodland.

Areas managed as long-term retentions and/or LISS within the areas identified by [Indicators 9.1.1 to 9.1.6 and Indicators 6.5.3 to 6.5.8] may fulfil this requirement.

These areas contribute to the minimum of 15% of the WMU where management for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity is the primary objective, as identified in [Indicators 6.5.1 and 6.5.2].

Indicator 6.6.3 The owner/manager shall plan and take action to maintain continuity of veteran tree habitat by:

- Keeping existing veteran trees, and
- Managing or establishing suitable trees to eventually take the place of existing veterans. [UKWAS 4.6.3]

Verifiers:

- Field observation
- Harvesting contracts
- Discussion with the owner/manager and workers
- If there is a conflict with safety, the issues have been documented
- Management planning documentation.

*Guidance note on Indicator 6.6.3:*

This requirement applies in WMUs where there are existing veteran trees.

Owners/managers of WMUs without veteran trees may choose to promote future veteran trees, as part of their wider management to maintain and/or enhance biodiversity value.

Actions may include:

- Freeing from shading and/or competition
- Pollarding younger trees or lopping older trees to prolong their life.

Veteran tree management should not conflict with safety of the public or workers.



Indicator 6.6.4 The owner/manager shall plan and take action to accumulate a diversity of both standing and fallen deadwood over time in all wooded parts of the WMU, including felled areas. [UKWAS 4.6.4(a)]

Verifiers:

- Field observation
- Harvesting contracts
- Discussion with the owner/manager and workers
- If there is a conflict with safety or woodland health, the issues have been documented

- Management planning documentation.

Indicator 6.6.5 The owner/manager shall identify areas where deadwood is likely to be of greatest nature conservation benefit, and shall plan and take action to accumulate large dimension standing and fallen deadwood and deadwood in living trees in those areas. [UKWAS 4.6.4(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 6.6.4.

*Guidance note on Indicators 6.6.4 and 6.6.5:*

The owner/manager should refer to deadwood guidance produced by relevant statutory conservation agencies, forestry authorities and others when identifying areas of greatest nature conservation benefit and when planning actions to accumulate deadwood.

Current evidence suggests that, over the long term, deadwood (not including stumps, which are usually retained after felling) should accumulate to roughly 20 m<sup>3</sup> per hectare averaged – though not uniformly distributed – across the WMU.

In most hectares there should be a few standing and fallen stems contributing to the overall deadwood provision.

Deadwood management should not conflict with safety of the public or workers or the health of the woodland.

Actions may include:

- Keeping standing dead trees and snags
- Keeping and protecting old and/or previously pollarded trees alive through appropriate management
- Only harvesting windblow when it is of significant value unless more than 3 m<sup>3</sup>/ha is blown and sufficient deadwood is already accumulating on site
- Keeping naturally fallen trees or major branches
- When thinning or clearfelling, and where safe to do so, creating snags and providing fallen deadwood where insufficient has already accumulated.

The accumulation of deadwood throughout a rotation provides for greater continuity of the full range of deadwood habitat types.



The most valuable areas within which to develop deadwood habitats are where linkages can be made with existing deadwood habitats to develop ecological connectivity over time; these areas include:

- Wood pasture/parklands
- Ancient semi-natural woodland with veteran trees
- Long-term retentions and natural reserves
- Riparian or wet woodland.

Retained deadwood should be matched to the requirements of those species likely to be important on the site. Habitat diversity is improved by having:

- Stems of greater than 20 cm diameter, particularly large dimension timber from native species
- Snags at variable height
- A range of tree/shrub species at varying stages of decay and in a variety of light conditions
- Deadwood in living trees.

*See also [Indicator 4.5.2] in relation to mitigation of risks to public health and safety.*



Indicator 6.6.6 Where appropriate and possible, the owner/manager shall consider opportunities for cooperating with neighbours in landscape scale conservation initiatives. [UKWAS 2.3.2(c)]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Management planning documentation.

Indicator 6.6.7 Game rearing and release, shooting and fishing shall be carried out in accordance with the spirit of codes of practice produced by relevant organisations. [UKWAS 4.9.1]

Verifiers:

- Field observation
- Relevant permissions and leases
- Discussion with the owner/manager/responsible person demonstrates

awareness of the law and good practice

- Discussion with interested parties
- Permissions from statutory bodies where these are required
- Membership of sporting and conservation organisation.

*Guidance note on Indicator 6.6.7:*

Consider impacts on priority habitats and species and other native species.

Release and feeding areas should be located in areas where there will be low impact on ground flora.

Predator control should be carried out in line with best practice.

The use of lead shot over wetland is restricted by regulations.



*See also Indicators 10.2.3 and 10.2.4 regarding natural regeneration or use of local native seed on ancient woodland sites or in other semi-natural woodlands, and Criterion 10.5 regarding appropriate silvicultural systems in semi-natural woodlands.*

**Criterion 6.7** The Organization shall protect or restore natural water courses, water bodies, riparian zones and their connectivity. The Organization shall avoid negative impacts on water quality and quantity and mitigate and remedy those that occur.

Indicator 6.7.1 The planning of woodland operations shall include:

6.7.1.1 Obtaining any relevant permission and giving any formal notification required.

6.7.1.2 Assessing and taking into account on and off-site impacts.

6.7.1.3 Taking measures to protect water resources and soils, and prevent disturbance of and damage to priority species, habitats, ecosystems and landscape values, including adapting standard prescriptions where required. Any disturbance or damage which does occur shall be mitigated and/or repaired, and steps shall be taken to avoid recurrence.

6.7.1.4 Measures to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the value of identified services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries. [UKWAS 3.1.2]

Verifiers:

- Documented permissions

- Contracts
- Discussion with the owner/manager and workers
- Demonstration of awareness of impacts and measures taken
- Site-specific, documented assessment of impacts
- Operational site assessments.

*Guidance note on Indicator 6.7.1:*

Particular attention should be given to ensuring that:

- local people potentially affected are informed at the onset of operations
- workers are involved in the planning of operations at the implementation stage.

Checks should be made against relevant country level plans for priority habitats and species.

Indicator 6.7.2 The impacts of woodland plans shall be considered at a landscape level, taking due account of the interaction with adjoining land and other nearby habitats. [UKWAS 2.5.2]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation
- Maps
- Discussion with the owner/manager.

*Guidance note on Indicator 6.7.2:*

In particular, planning including layout and design of woodland should take into account the following factors and action should be taken if required:

- The character of other woodland in the area
- Needs or impacts of animals (both wild and domestic) which use both woodland and surrounding land
- Impacts on flora in the woodland and on surrounding land
- Scale and pattern of open land
- Habitats which are continuous from inside to outside the woodland (e.g. water courses)
- Buffering of water courses and water bodies, and connectivity of riparian habitats
- Woodland margins as transitional habitats
- Linking open space within the woodland with similar habitats outside

- The spread of invasive species into or out of the woodland
- Impacts on natural features (e.g. wetlands, rock exposures, drainage patterns)
- Catchment level impacts on water flows and flood risk
- Nature of historic landscapes and relationships between historic environment sites inside and outside the woodland
- Priority habitats and species.



*See also Indicator 10.10.1 regarding conformance to forestry best practice guidance.*

*Explanatory note: Operations must take account of best practice guidance, including the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) Guidelines on water. Forests and Water addresses issues including buffer areas, acidification, sediment delivery, nutrient enrichment, pesticides, water yield and low flows, peak flows and flooding, and shade and shelter.*

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

Indicator 6.8.1 New woodlands shall be located and designed in ways that will:

- 6.8.1.1 Deliver economic goods and/or ecosystem services,
- 6.8.1.2 Maintain or enhance the visual, cultural and ecological value and character of the wider landscape, and
- 6.8.1.3 Ensure the creation of a diverse woodland over time. [UKWAS 2.6.1]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation
- Field surveys
- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Maps
- Field observation.

*Guidance note on Indicator 6.8.1:*

Economic goods should be understood in the widest sense and may include:

- Timber
- Non-timber woodland products
- CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration
- Recreation
- Landscape renewal projects.

New woodlands should contribute to the conservation of neighbouring semi-natural woodland and other habitats.

Priority habitats and species should be protected and, where possible, enhanced.

Historic environment features should be identified and protected.

The general aim should be to create a woodland that is sufficiently diverse to ensure long-term forest resilience.

A diverse woodland may be achieved through one or more of the following:

- Use of a diversity of species, clones and provenances
- Planting mixed stands
- Variation in site types and growth rates
- Phased planting
- Retention of open ground
- Design and creation of wind firm edges.



Indicator 6.8.2 Even-aged woodlands shall be gradually restructured to achieve an appropriately diverse mosaic of species, sizes, ages, spatial scales, and regeneration cycles. This structural diversity shall be maintained or enhanced.

[UKWAS 2.7.1]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation
- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Maps
- Field observation.

*Guidance note on Indicator 6.8.2:*

Restructuring should be planned and implemented in conformance with good forest design practice.

A greater degree of uniformity may be appropriate in very small woodlands.

In larger even-aged plantations, the age structure may be improved through:

- Phased felling
- Prescribing restocking, which will provide options for further diversification and reduction in coupe size at the end of the next rotation
- Designing future coupes with windfirm edges.

Smaller coupe sizes should be favoured for economic, environmental and social reasons.

Site factors favouring larger coupe sizes might include:

- Windthrow risk
- Landscape scale
- Historical plantation design
- Historic environment features
- Wildlife habitats.



Indicator 6.8.3 Where appropriate, contact shall be made with the owners of adjoining woodlands to try to ensure that restructuring of one woodland complements and does not unreasonably compromise the management of adjoining ones. [UKWAS 2.3.2(a)]

Verifiers:

- Awareness of potential problems and verbal description of appropriate action
- Felling plan.

*See also Criterion 10.2 regarding species choice, and Criterion 10.5 regarding silvicultural systems.*

**Criterion 6.9** The Organization shall not convert natural forest to plantations, nor natural forests or plantations on sites directly converted from natural forest to non-



forest land use, except when the conversion:

- a) affects a very limited portion of the area of the Management Unit, and
- b) will produce clear, substantial, additional, secure long-term conservation benefits in the Management Unit, and
- c) does not damage or threaten High Conservation Values, nor any sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those High Conservation Values.

Indicator 6.9.1 Woodland identified in [Criterion 9.1] shall not be converted to plantation or non-forested land. [UKWAS 2.13.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- No evidence of conversion
- Field observation
- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Management planning documentation.

Indicator 6.9.2 Conversion to non-forested land shall take place only in certain limited circumstances as set out in [Indicator 6.9.3]. [UKWAS 2.13.2(a)]

Verifiers:

- Transition plan
- Management planning documentation for the converted area after felling
- Records of planning process and discussions
- Consultation with interested parties
- Monitoring records
- Environmental impact assessment process documentation.

Indicator 6.9.3 The new land use shall be more valuable than any type of practicably achievable woodland cover in terms of its biodiversity, landscape or historic environment benefits, and all of the following conditions shall be met:

- The woodland is not identified as of high conservation value in [Criterion 9.1], nor identified as contributing to the cultural and historical values in [Criterion 9.1].
- There is no evidence of unresolved substantial dispute.
- The conversion and subsequent site management protect and substantially enhance at least one of the following:
  - The status and condition of priority species and habitats
  - Important landscape features and character

- Important historic environment features and character
- Important carbon stores.
- The subsequent management of the converted area shall be integrated with the rest of the WMU. [UKWAS 2.13.2(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 6.9.2.

*Guidance note on Indicators 6.9.2 and 6.9.3:*

Conversion to non-forested land should be planned and implemented in accordance with the UKFS Guidelines on biodiversity, landscape and historic environment.

A transition plan should set out as a minimum the justification for conversion and a strategy for implementation, subsequent management and monitoring.

Under current regulations an environmental impact assessment may be required before such conversions are implemented.

Planning consent or an approved Environmental Statement can provide sufficient evidence that there is no unresolved substantial dispute.

Deforestation to facilitate infrastructure or built development which is not integral to the management of the rest of the woodland cannot meet this requirement.

*See also [Indicator 6.5.6] in relation to restoration of small-scale habitats within a woodland matrix.*

*Advice to owners/managers*

Only timber felled in accordance with this requirement can be certified.

Owners/managers are advised to seek guidance from their certification body or group scheme manager.



*Explanatory note: All ancient semi-natural woodlands and plantations on ancient woodland sites are considered to be of high conservation value, so shall not be converted. As such, there can be no conversion of the nearest equivalent to natural*





*forest in the UK, nor any conversion of plantations on sites directly converted from natural forest. It is because of this complete ban on conversion of these types of forest that indicators make no reference to a very limited portion of the area of the Management Unit as in the Criterion. Conversion is only possible in plantations established on previously open habitats, and even in these cases, which are not covered by this Criterion, restrictions are applied by Indicator 6.9.3.*

Indicator 6.9.4 Woodland areas shall be converted to areas used solely for Christmas tree production only where conversion is consistent with other requirements of this certification standard, including the need to leave open space, and in accordance with any approved management plan from the relevant forestry authority, or when clearance is required for non-forestry reasons such as a wayleave agreement. [UKWAS 2.13.3(a)]

Verifiers:

- Field observation
- Management records.

*Guidance note on Indicator 6.9.4:*

The requirement restricting conversion relates to use for growing Christmas trees of less than 4 metres in height.

**Criterion 6.10** Management Units containing plantations that were established on areas converted from natural forest after November 1994 shall not qualify for certification, except where:

- a) clear and sufficient evidence is provided that The Organization was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion, or
- b) the conversion affected a very limited portion of the area of the Management Unit and is producing clear, substantial, additional, secure long term conservation benefits in the Management Unit.

Indicator 6.10.1 Areas converted from ancient and other semi-natural woodlands after 1994 shall not normally qualify for certification. [UKWAS 2.13.1(b)]

Verifiers:

- No evidence of conversion
- Field observation
- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Management planning documentation.



*Guidance note on Indicator 6.10.1:*

Certification of converted ancient and other semi-natural woodlands may be allowed in circumstances where sufficient evidence is submitted to the certification body that the owner/manager is not responsible directly or indirectly for such conversion.

Woodland removal to facilitate infrastructure or built development which is not integral to the management of the rest of the woodland cannot meet this requirement.



**PRINCIPLE 7: MANAGEMENT PLANNING**

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

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

Indicator 7.1.1 The owner/manager shall have a long term policy and management objectives which are environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically viable. [UKWAS 2.1.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager and workers
- Management planning documentation
- Toolbox talks.

Indicator 7.1.2 The policy and objectives, or summaries thereof, shall be proactively communicated to workers consistent with their roles and responsibilities. [UKWAS 2.1.1(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 7.1.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 7.1.1 and 7.1.2:*

The long term policy should articulate the overall vision for woodland management. Management objectives should set out tangible, shorter term steps towards achieving that vision.

The owner/manager should be aware that long-term forest resilience will underpin environmental, social and economic objectives.

Economic viability need not be based on, or solely on, the sale of products from woodland. Income from other sources, such as membership subscriptions,



government funding or private investment, may be sufficient to achieve the policy and objectives of management.

The level of detail required in the policy and objectives should be proportionate to the scale and intensity of management. While a formal, written policy and detailed objectives may be appropriate for a large organisation, it may be appropriate for the owner of a small woodland managed at a low intensity to be able to communicate their vision and some simple objectives verbally.

Workers should be aware of the policy and objectives to the extent necessary for them to contribute to achieving the aims of management; they should understand how their actions might have positive or negative effects on meeting those aims.

Means of communicating the policy and objectives to workers should always be proportionate to the extent of their influence on the outcomes of management, and might range from detailed notes or staff meetings to a simple verbal briefing. Where contractors are used, the emphasis should be on ensuring that those responsible for supervising them are appropriately briefed and can instruct them accordingly.

Indicator 7.1.3 All areas in the WMU shall be covered by management planning documentation which shall be retained for at least ten years and shall incorporate:

7.1.3.1 A long-term policy for the woodland.

7.1.3.2 Prioritised objectives, with verifiable targets to measure progress. [UKWAS 2.2.1(part)]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation
- Appropriate maps and records.

**Criterion 7.2** The Organization shall have and implement a management plan for the Management Unit which is fully consistent with the policies and objectives as established according to Criterion 7.1. The management plan shall describe the natural resources that exist in the Management Unit and explain how the plan will meet the FSC certification requirements. The management plan shall cover forest management planning and social management planning proportionate to scale, intensity and risk of the planned activities.



Indicator 7.2.1 All areas in the WMU shall be covered by management planning documentation which shall be retained for at least ten years and shall incorporate:

7.2.1.1 A long-term policy for the woodland.

7.2.1.2 Assessment of relevant components of the woodland resource, including potential products and services which are consistent with the management objectives.

7.2.1.3 Assessment of environmental values, including those outside the WMU potentially affected by management, sufficient to determine appropriate conservation measures and to provide a baseline for detecting possible negative impacts.

7.2.1.4 Identification of special characteristics and sensitivities of the woodland and appropriate treatments.

7.2.1.5 Specific measures to maintain and where possible enhance those areas identified under [Criterion 9.1], considering areas where either the extent of these areas or their sensitivity to operations may be unknown.

7.2.1.6 Identification of community and social needs and sensitivities.

7.2.1.7 Prioritised objectives, with verifiable targets to measure progress.

7.2.1.8 Rationale for management prescriptions.

7.2.1.9 Outline planned felling and regeneration over the next 20 years.

7.2.1.10 Where applicable annual allowable harvest of non-timber woodland products (NTWPs).

7.2.1.11 Rationale for the operational techniques to be used.

7.2.1.12 Plans for implementation, first five years in detail.

7.2.1.13 Appropriate maps.

7.2.1.14 Plans to monitor at least those elements identified under [Criterion 8.1] against the objectives. [UKWAS 2.2.1]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation
- Appropriate maps and records.

*Guidance note on Indicator 7.2.1:*

The [Indicators listed in Annex E] provide additional guidance and information on how to meet this requirement.

There should be a link between features and sensitivities identified in [7.2.1.2, 7.2.1.3, 7.2.1.4, 7.2.1.5 and 7.2.1.6] and the setting of management objectives.

Equally, monitoring should be linked to potential positive and negative impacts of management on these features and sensitivities and to the delivery of management objectives.

The documentation and level of detail associated with the planning process should be appropriate to scale, intensity and risk.

The documentation might include:

- For low intensity managed woodlands: a brief statement of intent and an annotated map
- For other woodlands: a plan covering a 20-year period and incorporating an assessment at the landscape level
- For a WMU consisting of multiple areas: an overarching plan.

The management planning documentation should cover all elements of the requirement but may refer to other documents as appropriate; these may include:

- A fire plan
- A deer management plan
- An integrated pest management strategy
- A research policy
- Project plans
- Necessary permissions from applicable regulatory and licensing authorities.



*See Annex E.*

Indicator 7.2.2 The implementation of the work programme shall be in close agreement with the details included in the management planning documentation. Any deviation from prescription or planned rate of progress shall be justified, overall objectives shall still be achieved and the ecological integrity of the woodland maintained. [UKWAS 2.14.1]

Verifiers:

- Cross-correlation between the management planning documentation, annual work programmes and operations seen on the ground
- Owner's/manager's familiarity with the management planning documentation



<p>and woodland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation or owner's/manager's explanation of any deviation.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Guidance note on Indicator 7.2.2:</i></p> <p>Changes in planned timing of operations should be such that they do not jeopardise the ecological integrity of the woodland in the long term.</p> <p>Changes in planned timing may be justified on economic grounds if overall management practices continue to conform to the other requirements of this certification standard.</p> <p>Catastrophic events such as wind damage or pest and disease outbreaks may necessitate amendment of the work programme and management planning documentation.</p> <p><i>See also [Indicator 10.5.1] in relation to thinning, felling and regeneration plans.</i></p>
<p><b>Criterion 7.3</b> The management plan shall include verifiable targets by which progress towards each of the prescribed management objectives can be assessed.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.3.1 All areas in the WMU shall be covered by management planning documentation which shall be retained for at least ten years and shall incorporate:</p> <p>7.3.1.1 Prioritised objectives, with verifiable targets to measure progress. [UKWAS 2.2.1(part)]</p> <p>Verifiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation</li> <li>• Appropriate maps and records.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Criterion 7.4</b> The Organization shall update and revise periodically the management planning and procedural documentation to incorporate the results of monitoring and evaluation, stakeholder engagement or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.4.1 The management planning documentation shall be reviewed periodically (at least every ten years), taking into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring results,</li> <li>• Results of certification audits,</li> <li>• Results of stakeholder engagement,</li> <li>• New research and technical information, and</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changed environmental, social, or economic circumstances. [UKWAS 2.2.3]</li> </ul> <p>Verifiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Guidance note on Indicator 7.4.1:</i></p> <p>Examples of changed circumstances include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major windthrow</li> <li>• Pest or disease outbreaks</li> <li>• Changes in markets.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Criterion 7.5</b> The Organization shall make publicly available a summary of the management plan free of charge. Excluding confidential information, other relevant components of the management plan shall be made available to affected stakeholders on request, and at cost of reproduction and handling.</p>
<p>Indicator 7.5.1 While respecting the confidentiality of information, the owner/manager shall, upon request, make publicly available either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management planning documentation, or</li> <li>• A summary of the management planning documentation. [UKWAS 2.2.2]</li> </ul> <p>Verifiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of fulfilling requests for management planning documentation or summaries</li> <li>• A public contact point</li> <li>• Summary management planning documentation.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Guidance note on Indicator 7.5.1:</i></p> <p>This requirement deliberately gives the owner/manager discretion as to how they make management planning documentation available to allow for situations where they are happy to provide documentation in full and where producing a summary may be an unnecessary administrative burden. This may often be the case for owners/managers of smaller woodlands or woodlands managed at a low intensity. However, owners/managers of woodlands with lengthy, complex management planning documentation should note that a summary may be more useful for non-specialist stakeholders.</p> <p>Owners/managers may demonstrate that they are receptive for requests to make documentation available by providing details of a public contact point, for example in the form of a dedicated e-mail address.</p>





Examples of confidential information include data and content:

- Related to investment decisions
- About intellectual property rights
- Which is client confidential
- Which is, by law, confidential
- Whose dissemination could put at risk the protection of wildlife species and habitats
- About sites which are of special cultural and historical importance to local people, where they have requested confidentiality.

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

Indicator 7.6.1 The owner/manager shall consult appropriately with local people, relevant organisations and other interested parties, and provide opportunities for their engagement in planning and monitoring processes. [UKWAS 2.3.1(c)]

Verifiers:

- A list of interested parties
- Established means of pro-active communication
- A public contact point.

*See also the guidance note on Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 regarding appropriate consultation.*

**Go to Annex E.**



**PRINCIPLE 8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

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

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

Indicator 8.1.1 The owner/manager shall devise and implement a monitoring programme appropriate to the scale and intensity of management. [UKWAS 2.15.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- A monitoring programme as part of management planning documentation
- Evidence of a consistent approach to recording site visits
- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Monitoring records.

Indicator 8.1.2 The monitoring programme shall be:

- Part of the management planning documentation
- Consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change
- Kept in a form that ensures that results are of use over the long term. [UKWAS 2.15.1(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 8.1.1.

Indicator 8.1.3 The owner/manager shall where applicable monitor and record:

- The implementation of policies and objectives and the achievement of verifiable targets
- Implementation of woodland operations
- Harvesting yields
- Social impacts
- Environmental impacts
- Changes in environmental condition
- Usage of pesticides, biological control agents and fertilisers and any adverse impacts

- Environmentally appropriate disposal of waste materials. [UKWAS 2.15.1(c)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 8.1.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 8.1.1, 8.1.2 and 8.1.3:*

The primary purpose of monitoring is to help the owner/manager to implement and adapt the management of the WMU to meet the management objectives.

Monitoring should be linked to potential and actual positive and negative impacts of management on the condition of features and sensitivities of the WMU identified in [Indicator 7.2.1], and to the delivery of management objectives.

Monitoring may include:

- Supervision during woodland operations
- Regular management visits and systematic collection of information
- Longer-term studies on changes to the woodland ecosystem, particularly for special environmental features.

Examples of appropriate monitoring include:

- Implementation of woodland operations
  - Health and Safety
  - Compliance with Forest and Water Guidelines
  - Worksite supervision
- Harvesting yields
  - Information from sales invoices or weight tickets compared to predicted yields from production forecasts or timber inventories
- Social impacts
  - Condition and accessibility of public access facilities
  - Impacts of timber haulage
- Environmental impacts
  - Impacts of operations on priority habitats and species, landscape or water and soils
  - Impacts of non-native invasive species
  - Impacts of grazing and browsing
- Changes in environmental condition
  - Tree health



- Woodland composition and structure
- Areas and features of conservation value
- Ancient woodland features and remnants, including responses to management and any threats
- Condition of cultural heritage features.

When monitoring environmental impacts and changes in environmental condition, particular attention should be paid to the features of high conservation value identified in [Criterion 9.1].

Detail of information collected should be appropriate to the:

- Size of the enterprise
- Intensity of operations
- Objectives of management
- Sensitivity of the site.

The owner/manager may consider:

- Formal written records
- A less formal site diary
- Photographic records
- Verbally communicated records.

Note that there may be legal requirements for record keeping in some cases, for example pesticide usage.

Owners/managers should be aware of the potential usefulness of information gathered for other purposes, for example to fulfil statutory requirements, which may meet or supplement monitoring needs. It may also be possible to make use of freely available information from sources such as statutory bodies or local interest groups.

*See Annex G.*

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



Indicator 8.2.1 The owner/manager shall where applicable monitor and record:

- The implementation of policies and objectives and the achievement of verifiable targets
- Implementation of woodland operations
- Harvesting yields
- Social impacts
- Environmental impacts
- Changes in environmental condition
- Usage of pesticides, biological control agents and fertilisers and any adverse impacts
- Environmentally appropriate disposal of waste materials. [UKWAS 2.15.1(c)]

Verifiers:

- A monitoring programme as part of management planning documentation
- Evidence of a consistent approach to recording site visits
- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Monitoring records.

*See Annex G.*

*See also the guidance note on Indicators 8.1.1, 8.1.2 and 8.1.3.*

**Criterion 8.3** The Organization shall analyze the results of monitoring and evaluation and feed the outcomes of this analysis back into the planning process.

Indicator 8.3.1 The owner/manager shall take monitoring findings into account, particularly during revision of the management planning documentation, and if necessary shall revise management objectives, verifiable targets and/or management activities. [UKWAS 2.15.2]

Verifiers:

- Monitoring records
- Management planning documentation
- Discussion with the owner/manager.

*Guidance note on Indicator 8.3.1:*

Expert advice should be sought where necessary and taken into account.

*See also Indicator 7.4.1 regarding revision of management planning documentation.*



**Criterion 8.4** The Organization shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring free of charge, excluding confidential information.

Indicator 8.4.1 Monitoring findings, or summaries thereof, shall be made publicly available upon request. [UKWAS 2.15.3]

Verifiers:

- Written or verbal evidence of responses to requests.

*Guidance note on Indicator 8.4.1:*

The monitoring findings or summaries may exclude confidential information.

The means of sharing monitoring findings should be appropriate to the nature of the records and to the needs of the interested parties.

Owners/managers of smaller management units, relying more on informal monitoring methods and records, may find it more appropriate to communicate results verbally.

Owners/managers of larger management units, relying more on formal surveys and reports, may find it more appropriate to produce a written summary.

*See [the guidance note on Indicator 7.5.1] for examples of confidential information.*

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

Indicator 8.5.1 Harvesting and sales documentation shall enable all timber and non-timber woodland products (NTWPs) that are to be supplied as certified to be traced back to the woodland of origin. [UKWAS 3.2.2]

Verifiers:

- Harvesting output records
- Contract documents
- Sales documentation.

*Guidance note on Indicator 8.5.1:*

The purpose of this requirement is to ensure that certified products can be traced back to the point of sale from the woodland (in the case of timber, for example,



standing, at roadside or delivered). The responsibility of the owner/manager is limited to ensuring that certified products removed from the woodland can be traced forward along the supply chain from the first point of supply.

Where certified products from other sources are being stored in the same area, appropriate records should be maintained to demonstrate the source and quantity of produce obtained from other woodland areas.

*Advice to owners/managers*

[FSC requires] certificate holders to provide additional information on sales documentation relating to:

- chain-of-custody certification, and
- the use of certification scheme trademarks.

[FSC also requires] documentation to be retained for a specific time.

Owners/managers are advised to seek guidance from their certification body or group scheme manager.

*Explanatory note: See Indicators 8.5.2 and 8.5.3 regarding documentation.*

Indicator 8.5.2 Information about all products sold is compiled and documented, including:

- Common and scientific species name;
- Product name or description;
- Volume (or quantity) of product;
- Information to trace the material to the source of origin logging block;
- Logging date;
- If basic processing activities take place in the forest, the date and volume produced; and
- Whether or not the material was sold as FSC certified. [IGI]

Verifiers as for Indicator 8.5.1.

Indicator 8.5.3 Sales invoices or similar documentation are kept for a minimum of five years for all products sold with an FSC claim, which identify at a minimum, the following information:

- Name and address of purchaser;



- The date of sale;
- Common and scientific species name;
- Product description;
- The volume (or quantity) sold;
- Certificate code; and
- The FSC Claim “FSC 100%” identifying products sold as FSC certified. [IGI]

Verifiers as for Indicator 8.5.1.

**Go to Annex G.**





**PRINCIPLE 9: HIGH CONSERVATION VALUES**

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

*See the separate National High Conservation Value Framework for the United Kingdom.*

*Explanatory note: Use of the HCV Framework is not compulsory. However, it is intended to help users conform to the requirements of Principle 9 and contains useful guidance on sources of information and relevant stakeholders. As such, it is strongly recommended that Standard users make use of the Framework.*

*Explanatory note: HCV 2 is not considered to be present in the UK.*

**Criterion 9.1** The Organization, through engagement with affected stakeholders, interested stakeholders and other means and sources, shall assess and record the presence and status of the following High Conservation Values in the Management Unit, proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of impacts of management activities, and likelihood of the occurrence of the High Conservation Values:

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

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

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

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

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

**HCV 6** - Cultural values. Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural,



ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or Indigenous Peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or Indigenous Peoples.

Indicator 9.1.1 Areas and features of high conservation value having particular significance for biodiversity shall be identified by reference to statutory designations at national or regional level and/or through assessment on the ground. [UKWAS 4.1.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- All known areas and features mapped
- Field observation
- Approval of forest plan by the relevant forestry authority
- Workers are aware of such sites and of plans for their management
- For all potentially damaging operations, awareness is demonstrated of how areas will be protected and/or safeguarded
- Management plans for statutory conservation areas and monitoring of implementation of those plans
- Condition statements from statutory bodies
- Maps
- Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates how areas will be safeguarded and/or enhanced
- Planning documentation shows how areas will be safeguarded and/or enhanced
- Pro-active approach to the identification of areas and features of significance for biodiversity, appropriate to likely biodiversity value.

Indicator 9.1.2 There shall be ongoing communication and/or consultation with statutory bodies, local authorities, wildlife trusts and other relevant organisations. [UKWAS 4.1.1(c)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 9.1.1.

Guidance note on Indicators 9.1.1 and 9.1.2:

The system of designated sites in the UK forms a representative sample of existing ecosystems within the landscape.

These areas and features of high conservation value include:

- Special Areas of Conservation

- Special Protection Areas
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest or Areas of Special Scientific Interest
- Ramsar Sites
- National Nature Reserves

Identification and mapping of these features may be carried out on an ongoing basis, provided that it has been completed for an area prior to significant woodland management operations taking place.



*Explanatory note: Statutory designations are taken as surrogates for HCV 1 and HCV 3.*

Indicator 9.1.3 Ancient semi-natural woodland shall be identified by reference to published maps and/or by assessment on the ground. [UKWAS 4.2.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Field observation
- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Management planning documentation including relevant forestry authority management plan and restocking plans
- Ancient woodland inventories
- Other studies
- Monitoring records.

*Guidance note on Indicator 9.1.3:*

Ancient semi-natural woodlands are the key priority sites for woodland conservation in the UK.

Establishing the validity of the site's status should not solely rely on ancient woodland inventories. Assessment on the ground should take account of:

- Soils
- Vegetation
- Old trees
- Historical and archaeological features and landscape implications.



*Explanatory note: Ancient semi-natural woodlands are considered to be HCV 3.*

Indicator 9.1.4 The owner/manager shall maintain and enhance or restore features and areas of high conservation value within plantations on ancient woodland sites.

[UKWAS 4.3.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation
- Ancient woodland inventories
- Other studies
- Remnant threat analyses
- Field observation
- Discussion with the owner/manager.

Indicator 9.1.5 The owner/manager shall:

- Identify and evaluate remnant features,
- Identify and evaluate threats,
- Adopting a precautionary approach, prioritise actions based on the level of threat and the value of remnants, and
- Implement targeted actions. [UKWAS 4.3.1(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 9.1.4.

*Guidance note on Indicators 9.1.4 and 9.1.5:*

Establishing the validity of the site's status need not solely rely on ancient woodland inventories. In evaluating, prioritising and implementing actions owners/managers should take account of:

- Historical and archaeological features and landscape implications
- Remnant features
- The relationship with other biodiversity features and priorities and management objectives within the WMU and adjacent land use as a whole.



*Explanatory note: Plantations on ancient woodland sites are considered to be HCV 3.*

Indicator 9.1.6 Areas and features of critical importance for watershed management or erosion control shall be identified in consultation with relevant statutory bodies.

[UKWAS 4.5.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Records of consultation
- Management planning documentation
- Monitoring records
- Licences or consents.

*Guidance note on Indicator 9.1.6:*

Situations where forest management is critical for watershed management or erosion control are relatively rare, and are likely to be identified during consultation processes.

Further information is available in UKFS Guidelines on soils and water.



*Explanatory note: These areas and features are considered to be HCV 4.*

Indicator 9.1.7 Through engagement with the relevant statutory historic environment agencies, local people and other interested parties, and using other relevant sources of information, the owner/manager shall:

- Identify sites and features of special cultural and historical significance,
- Assess their condition, and
- Adopting a precautionary approach, devise and implement measures to maintain and/or enhance them. [UKWAS 4.8.1]

Verifiers:

- Any known features mapped and/or documented
- Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates rationale for management of relevant sites
- Records of consultation with statutory bodies, local authorities and interest groups to identify features
- Documented plans.

*Guidance note on Indicator 9.1.7:*

Examples of relevant sources of information include:

- Maps
- Databases

- Field observations.

Typical examples include:

- Prominent viewing points
- Landscape features
- Veteran and other notable trees
- Historical features and archaeological sites
- Woodlands which feature in literature or which are of artistic significance
- Historic landscapes and woodlands which are still managed under traditional systems.

Where relevant, a professional archaeological walkover survey may be required to inform decisions and provide baseline evidence.

Sites of potential historical importance discovered during the course of forest management should be reported to the relevant statutory historic environment agencies.

*See also [Indicators 4.1.1 to 4.1.3, 4.5.1 and 7.6.1] in relation to consultation.*



*Explanatory note: These sites and features are considered to be HCV 6.*

*See also Indicator 4.1.4 regarding the identification of permissive or traditional uses, including water supplies.*

*Explanatory note: Water supplies are considered to be the only instance of HCV 5 in the UK context.*

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

Indicator 9.2.1 Management strategies and actions shall be developed to maintain and, where possible, enhance the areas and features of high conservation value identified in the following sections:

- Statutory designated sites ([Indicator 9.1.1])



- Ancient semi-natural woodland ([Indicator 9.1.3])
- Plantations on ancient woodland sites ([Indicators 9.1.4 and 9.1.5])
- Areas and features of critical importance for watershed management or erosion control ([Indicator 9.1.6]). [UKWAS 2.11.2(a)]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation
- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Specialist surveys.

Indicator 9.2.2 Management strategies and actions shall be developed in consultation with statutory bodies, interested parties and experts. [UKWAS 2.11.2(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 9.2.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 9.2.1 and 9.2.2:*

Areas and features of high conservation value may not always be well mapped. The owner/manager should therefore consider the need for specialist surveys to confirm the presence of areas and features of high conservation value in order to apply the precautionary approach when developing management strategies and actions.

Indicator 9.2.3 Through engagement with the relevant statutory historic environment agencies, local people and other interested parties, and using other relevant sources of information, the owner/manager shall:

- Identify sites and features of special cultural and historical significance,
- Assess their condition, and
- Adopting a precautionary approach, devise and implement measures to maintain and/or enhance them. [UKWAS 4.8.1]

Verifiers:

- Any known features mapped and/or documented
- Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates rationale for management of relevant sites
- Records of consultation with statutory bodies, local authorities and interest groups to identify features
- Documented plans.

**Criterion 9.3** The Organization shall implement strategies and actions that maintain and/or enhance the identified High Conservation Values. These strategies and actions shall implement the precautionary approach and be proportionate to the

scale, intensity and risk of management activities.

Indicator 9.3.1 Adopting a precautionary approach, the [areas, species and features of high conservation value identified in Indicator 9.1.1] shall be maintained and, where possible, enhanced. [UKWAS 4.1.1(b)]

Verifiers:

- All known areas and features mapped
- Field observation
- Approval of forest plan by the relevant forestry authority
- Workers are aware of such sites and of plans for their management
- For all potentially damaging operations, awareness is demonstrated of how areas will be protected and/or safeguarded
- Management plans for statutory conservation areas and monitoring of implementation of those plans
- Condition statements from statutory bodies
- Maps
- Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates how areas will be safeguarded and/or enhanced
- Planning documentation shows how areas will be safeguarded and/or enhanced
- Pro-active approach to the identification of areas and features of significance for biodiversity, appropriate to likely biodiversity value.

Indicator 9.3.2 Statutory designated sites shall be managed in accordance with plans agreed with nature conservation agencies, and shall be marked on maps. [UKWAS 4.1.1(d)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 9.3.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 9.3.1 and 9.3.2:*

Where the boundaries of a designated site extend beyond the boundary of the WMU, it may not be possible for the owner/manager to significantly influence or change the overall condition of the site.



Indicator 9.3.3 Adopting a precautionary approach, the high conservation value of ancient semi-natural woodlands shall be maintained and, where possible, enhanced.



[UKWAS 4.2.1(b)]

Verifiers:

- Field observation
- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Management planning documentation including relevant forestry authority management plan and restocking plans
- Ancient woodland inventories
- Other studies
- Monitoring records.

Indicator 9.3.4 Adverse ecological impacts of pests, diseases and non-native species shall be identified and inform management. [UKWAS 4.2.1(c)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 9.3.3.

*Guidance note on Indicators 9.3.3 and 9.3.4:*

Use should be made of natural regeneration or planting stock from parental material growing in the local native seed zone where appropriate and possible. Following outbreaks of pests or diseases, the owner/manager may seek advice from relevant forestry authorities or statutory bodies.

Maintenance of biodiversity values often requires targeted interventions. Management should be in accordance with the relevant FC practice guides for semi-natural woodlands.

Potential adverse impacts may include:

- Browsing by rabbits, deer and other animals
- Grazing by livestock
- Colonisation by invasive non-native species
- Visitor pressure.



Indicator 9.3.5 The owner/manager shall maintain and enhance or restore features and areas of high conservation value within plantations on ancient woodland sites.

[UKWAS 4.3.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation



- Ancient woodland inventories
- Other studies
- Remnant threat analyses
- Field observation
- Discussion with the owner/manager.

Indicator 9.3.6 The owner/manager shall:

- Identify and evaluate remnant features,
- Identify and evaluate threats,
- Adopting a precautionary approach, prioritise actions based on the level of threat and the value of remnants, and
- Implement targeted actions. [UKWAS 4.3.1(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 9.3.5.

*Guidance note on Indicators 9.3.5 and 9.3.6:*

Active management is likely to be required to maintain the biodiversity, environmental and cultural values of these sites, including where continued growth of plantations for timber or woodfuel production is to be undertaken. Restocking and thinning should be carried out in such a way that remnant features are enhanced and buffered.

A precautionary approach is appropriate in most instances even if initially no remnant features may appear to be present. A gradual approach should be the default where remnants are threatened.

Threats may include shading, deer browsing, windthrow and ground damage from harvesting, and damage to veteran trees from woodland operations.

Where remnants are not threatened or where site characteristics allow a more rapid approach may be adopted. In some situations, such as inaccessible, unthinned stands or where there are heavy shade-casting species present, it may not be possible to apply a gradual approach, even though it would be the preferred option for threatened remnant features. In such circumstances, where possible, remnant features should be bolstered before operations.

Exploratory silvicultural interventions may help inform the choice of management

prescriptions. Where complete canopy removal has occurred it will be important to ensure a successor canopy is established as soon as possible to alleviate further threats. The context of the site within the WMU and wider landscape will also inform any prioritised restoration plans. All operations within PAWS need to take account of remnant features, including ground flora, and mitigate against damage to them.



Indicator 9.3.7 Where critically important areas or features are identified [in Indicator 9.1.6], their management shall be agreed with the relevant statutory bodies. [UKWAS 4.5.1(b)]

Verifiers:

- Records of consultation
- Management planning documentation
- Monitoring records
- Licences or consents.

*Guidance note on Indicator 9.3.7:*

Further information is available in UKFS Guidelines on soils and water.



Indicator 9.3.8 Through engagement with the relevant statutory historic environment agencies, local people and other interested parties, and using other relevant sources of information, the owner/manager shall:

- Identify sites and features of special cultural and historical significance,
- Assess their condition, and
- Adopting a precautionary approach, devise and implement measures to maintain and/or enhance them. [UKWAS 4.8.1]

Verifiers:

- Any known features mapped and/or documented
- Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates rationale for management of relevant sites
- Records of consultation with statutory bodies, local authorities and interest groups to identify features
- Documented plans.



Indicator 9.3.9 A precautionary approach shall be adopted in relation to water supplies. [UKWAS 5.1.1(b)]

Verifiers:

- Documentation or maps of all existing permissive and traditional uses of the woodland
- Discussion with interested parties.

Indicator 9.3.10 Operations shall cease or relocate immediately where:

- They damage sites or features of conservation value or of special cultural and historical significance identified in [Criterion 9.1]. Operations in the vicinity shall recommence only when action has been taken to repair damage and prevent any further damage, including establishing buffer areas where appropriate.
- They reveal previously unknown sites or features which may be of conservation value or of special cultural and historical significance. Operations in the vicinity shall recommence only when the sites or features have been investigated and appropriate management agreed, where relevant in discussion with statutory bodies and/or local people. [UKWAS 3.1.4]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Site diaries
- Field observation.

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

Indicator 9.4.1 Monitoring targets shall fully consider any special features of the WMU. [UKWAS 2.15.1(d)]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Monitoring records.



Indicator 9.4.2 The owner/manager shall consult appropriately with local people, relevant organisations and other interested parties, and provide opportunities for their engagement in planning and monitoring processes. [UKWAS 2.3.1(c)]

Verifiers:

- A list of interested parties
- Established means of pro-active communication
- A public contact point.

*See also the guidance note on Indicators 4.1.1, 4.1.2 and 4.1.3 regarding appropriate consultation.*

Indicator 9.4.3 The owner/manager shall take monitoring findings into account, particularly during revision of the management planning documentation, and if necessary shall revise management objectives, verifiable targets and/or management activities. [UKWAS 2.15.2]

Verifiers:

- Monitoring records
- Management planning documentation
- Discussion with the owner/manager.

*Guidance note on Indicator 9.4.3:*

Expert advice should be sought where necessary and taken into account.

*See also Indicator 7.4.1 regarding revision of management planning documentation.*



**PRINCIPLE 10: IMPLEMENTATION OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

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

**Criterion 10.1** After harvest or in accordance with the management plan, The Organization shall, by natural or artificial regeneration methods, regenerate vegetation cover in a timely fashion to pre-harvesting or more natural conditions.

Indicator 10.1.1 Regeneration (natural or planted) shall restore stand composition in a timely manner to pre-harvesting or more natural conditions. [UKWAS 2.8.1(b)]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation
- Field observation.

*Guidance note on Indicator 10.1.1:*

As a general principle, management should at least maintain and where possible enhance species diversity of the woodland.

Larger WMUs will generally present more opportunities for species diversification.

In semi-natural woodlands, regeneration should restore the pre-harvesting stand composition or should create a greater range of species and structural variation appropriate to the woodland type. In ancient semi-natural woodland, regeneration should be in accordance with [Indicators 9.3.3 and 9.3.4]. In other semi-natural woodland, regeneration should be in accordance with [Indicators 6.5.3, 6.5.4 and 6.5.5].

In plantations on ancient woodland sites, regeneration should be in accordance with [Indicators 9.3.5 and 9.3.6].

Owners/managers should also be aware of the guidelines on species proportions and open ground in the UK Forestry Standard.

**Criterion 10.2** The Organization shall use species for regeneration that are ecologically well adapted to the site and to the management objectives. The Organization shall use native species and local genotypes for regeneration, unless

there is clear and convincing justification for using others.

Indicator 10.2.1 The range of species selected for new woodlands, and natural or artificial regeneration of existing woodlands shall be suited to the site and shall take into consideration:

- Improvement of long-term forest resilience
- Management objectives
- Requirements for conservation and enhancement of biodiversity (see [Principles 6 and 9])
- Requirements for enhancement and restoration of habitats (see [Principles 6 and 9])
- Landscape character. [UKWAS 2.8.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates that consideration has been given to a range of species, including native species
- Evidence of Ecological Site Classification analysis
- Management planning documentation
- Field observation.

Indicator 10.2.2 Native species shall be preferred to non-native. If non-native species are used it shall be shown that they will clearly outperform native species in meeting the owner's objectives or in achieving long-term forest resilience.

[UKWAS 2.8.1(c)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.2.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 10.2.1 and 10.2.2:*

Results of research into site suitability of different species origins and provenances and their resilience to climate change should be used to assist species choice. Because of the uncertain effects of climate change, selecting a range of genotypes may be prudent.

Soil analyses and use of Forest Research's Ecological Site Classification (ESC) tool may be helpful when considering economic and ecological resilience to climate change. It may also be appropriate to consider specialist advice for semi-natural woodlands, especially ancient semi-natural woodlands.

*See also [Indicators 10.3.1 to 10.3.3] in relation to non-native species and [Indicators*

10.2.3 and 10.2.4] in relation to natural regeneration and planting stock in semi-natural woodland and plantations on ancient woodland sites.



Indicator 10.2.3 In woodlands identified in [Criterion 9.1], where appropriate and possible, owners/managers shall use natural regeneration or planting stock from parental material growing in the local native seed zone (native species). [UKWAS 4.7.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Seed and plant supply invoices and other relevant records
- Evidence of efforts to identify planting stock from source-identified stands in the local native seed zone.

Indicator 10.2.4 In ancient and other semi-natural woodland, where natural regeneration is insufficient, planting stock from 'source-identified' stands in the local native seed zone shall be used if it is available. If timber quality is an objective of the planting, the use of stock deriving from selected stands within the local native seed zone shall be considered appropriate. [UKWAS 4.7.1(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.2.3.

*Guidance note on Indicators 10.2.3 and 10.2.4:*

There should be clear justification where non-local sources are used. This may include reasons of tree vigour, timber quality, and long term forest resilience.

The identity code used for parental material includes an 'N' when it applies to native material from known indigenous sources.



**Criterion 10.3** The Organization shall only use alien species when knowledge and/or experience have shown that any invasive impacts can be controlled and effective mitigation measures are in place.

Indicator 10.3.1 Non-native tree species shall only be introduced to the WMU when evidence or experience shows that any invasive impacts can be controlled effectively. [UKWAS 2.9.1(a)]





Verifiers:

- Documented impact assessment of any introductions made after the first certification
- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Field observation.

Indicator 10.3.2 Other non-native plant and animal species shall only be introduced if they are non-invasive and bring environmental benefits. [UKWAS 2.9.1(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.3.1.

Indicator 10.3.3 All new introductions shall be carefully monitored, and effective mitigation measures shall be implemented to control negative impacts outside the area in which they are established. [UKWAS 2.9.1(c)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.3.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 10.3.1, 10.3.2 and 10.3.3:*

Introductions refer to species not currently present in WMU.

The requirement includes the re-introduction of once native animals not currently present within the United Kingdom.

Owners/managers should be aware that introduced species may exhibit differing degrees of invasiveness in different habitats or parts of the country.

Use of non-native biological control agents such as *Rhizophagus grandis* may be desirable to control non-native pests.

Game species may be introduced if managed in accordance with [Indicator 6.6.7].

Indicator 10.3.4 Management of invasive plants and of wild mammals shall be undertaken where relevant in co-operation with statutory bodies and where possible and practicable in co-ordination with neighbours (see also [Indicator 10.9.4] in relation to deer). [UKWAS 2.3.2(b)]

Verifiers:

- Membership of a wildlife management group
- Where there is a significant problem caused by wildlife, a documented plan (which may take the form of a contract or licence) for control.

*Guidance note on Indicator 10.3.4:*

If management cannot maintain populations of wild mammals at a level that ensures they are not causing ecological damage, then sensitive areas - including regeneration sites, coppice coupes and areas with vulnerable flora - should be protected from browsing and other damage.

An example of a wildlife management group might be a Grey Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*) control group, in which landowners and managers coordinated their control efforts in the context of a landscape-level plan.



*Explanatory note: It may not always be feasible to control invasive species that were not introduced by the Organization, for example if they are so widespread that they would require co-ordinated control across many ownerships or the costs would be extremely high, but working with statutory bodies and neighbours may help to mitigate impacts.*

**Criterion 10.4** The Organization shall not use genetically modified organisms in the Management Unit.

Indicator 10.4.1 Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) shall not be used. [UKWAS 1.3.1]

Verifiers:

- Plant supply records
- Discussion with the owner/manager.

*Guidance note on Indicator 10.4.1:*

GMOs are created through gene transfer under laboratory conditions and are not the product of tree breeding, vegetative propagation, cloning or tissue culture programmes.

**Criterion 10.5** The Organization shall use silvicultural practices that are ecologically appropriate for the vegetation, species, sites and management objectives.

Indicator 10.5.1 Appropriate silvicultural systems shall be adopted which are suited to species, sites, wind risk, tree health risks and management objectives and which stipulate soundly-based planting, establishment, thinning, felling and regeneration

plans. [UKWAS 2.10.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation
- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Field observation.

Indicator 10.5.2 Where species, sites, wind risk, tree health risk and management objectives allow, a range of silvicultural approaches, and in particular lower impact silvicultural systems, shall be adopted with the aim of diversifying ages, species and stand structures. [UKWAS 2.10.1(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.5.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 10.5.1 and 10.5.2:*

The choice of silvicultural system should take into account:

- Long-term forest resilience
- Silvicultural characteristics of the species
- Management objectives
- Site limitations including potential growth rates and wind firmness
- Intended stem size and quality
- Current and future markets for timber products
- Impacts on the landscape and wildlife
- Age-structure and felling plan of nearby woodlands
- Ecological processes and natural disturbance regime for that woodland type
- Historical management practices
- Views of local people.

Use of lower impact silvicultural systems may not be appropriate where there is evidence that clearfelling is necessary for the conservation of priority habitats or species.



Indicator 10.5.3 In semi-natural woodland lower impact silvicultural systems shall be adopted. All felling shall be in accordance with the specific guidance for that type of woodland in the relevant Forestry Commission Practice Guide. [UKWAS 2.10.2(a)]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation
- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Field observation.

Indicator 10.5.4 In semi-natural woodlands over 10 ha, no more than 10% shall be felled in any five-year period unless justified in terms of biodiversity enhancement or lower impact. [UKWAS 2.10.2(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.5.3.

*Guidance note on Indicators 10.5.3 and 10.5.4:*

For areas with priority habitats and species, consider consulting with relevant species and habitat experts in statutory nature conservation and countryside agencies or NGOs.

There may be practical or biodiversity enhancement reasons for clearfelling in some semi-natural woodlands, but owners/managers should be aware that best practice guidance for semi-natural woodlands managed as high forest generally advises small coupe fellings which, depending on the type of woodland, may be up to around 2 ha in size.



Indicator 10.5.5 Christmas trees shall be grown using traditional, non-intensive techniques. [UKWAS 2.13.3(b)]

Verifiers:

- Field observation
- Management records.

*Guidance note on Indicator 10.5.5:*

The chemicals regime for Christmas trees must meet all the requirements of [Criteria 10.6 and 10.7].

Examples of Christmas trees which may be covered by a certificate are:

- Trees (<4 m in height) grown on areas within the woodland matrix used solely for Christmas tree production
- Trees (<4 m in height) grown on areas used solely for Christmas tree

production which, although outwith the woodland, form part of the woodland management unit

- Thinnings from forest tree crops
- Tops from harvested forest tree crops
- Trees grown by interplanting of forest tree crops
- Mature trees (>4 m height)
- Trees which have regenerated onto, and have been harvested from, adjacent open land in the interest of maintaining its biodiversity or landscape value, and provided that the adjacent area is managed as part of the woodland management unit.

Christmas trees grown as a horticultural or nursery crop are outside the scope of this certification standard.

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

Indicator 10.6.1 The use of pesticides and fertilisers shall be avoided where practicable. [UKWAS 3.4.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Pesticide policy or position statement.

Indicator 10.6.2 The use of pesticides, biological control agents and fertilisers shall be minimised. [UKWAS 3.4.1(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.6.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 10.6.1 and 10.6.2:*



Indicator 10.6.3 Fertilisers (inorganic and organic) shall only be used where they are necessary to secure establishment or to correct subsequent nutrient deficiencies. [UKWAS 3.4.5(a)]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager and workers

- Field observation, particularly in respect to storage, application sites, protective clothing and warning signs
- Adequate written procedures, work instructions, and other documentation.

Indicator 10.6.4 Where fertilisers are to be used the owner/manager and workers shall be aware of and shall be implementing legal requirements and best practice guidance for their use in forestry. [UKWAS 3.4.5(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.6.3.

Indicator 10.6.5 No fertilisers shall be applied:

- in priority habitats
- around priority plant species, or
- around veteran trees. [UKWAS 3.4.5(c)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.6.3.

Indicator 10.6.6 In addition, bio-solids shall only be used following an assessment of environmental impacts in accordance with [Indicators 6.2.1, 6.3.1 and 6.7.2].

[UKWAS 3.4.5(d)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.6.3.

Indicator 10.6.7 The owner/manager shall keep a record of fertiliser usage, including types, rates, frequencies and sites of application. [UKWAS 3.4.5(e)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.6.3.

*Guidance note on Indicators 10.6.3, 10.6.4, 10.6.5, 10.6.6 and 10.6.7:*

Unnecessary use of fertilisers may be avoided through the appropriate choice of species.

Where appropriate, hand application should be preferred to aerial application particularly in sensitive catchments.



*See also Indicator 8.1.3 regarding monitoring of fertiliser usage and impacts.*

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

Indicator 10.7.1 The use of pesticides and fertilisers shall be avoided where practicable. [UKWAS 3.4.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Pesticide policy or position statement.

Indicator 10.7.2 The use of pesticides, biological control agents and fertilisers shall be minimised. [UKWAS 3.4.1(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.7.1.

Indicator 10.7.3 Damage to environmental values from pesticide and biological control agent use shall be avoided, mitigated and/or repaired, and steps shall be taken to avoid recurrence. [UKWAS 3.4.1(c)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.7.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 10.7.1, 10.7.2 and 10.7.3:*



*Explanatory note: Damage to human health is prevented by implementing legal requirements and guidance (Indicator 10.7.8) and other health and safety measures (Criterion 2.3).*

Indicator 10.7.4 The owner/manager shall prepare and implement an effective integrated pest management strategy that:

- Is appropriate to the scale of the woodland and the intensity of management
- Adopts management systems that shall promote the development and application of non-chemical methods of pest and crop management by placing primary reliance on prevention and, where this is not practicable, biological control methods
- Takes account of the importance of safeguarding the value of sites and features with special biodiversity attributes when considering methods of control, and
- Demonstrates knowledge of the latest published advice and its appropriate application. [UKWAS 3.4.2(a)]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Written policy and strategy or statement.



Indicator 10.7.5 The strategy shall specify aims for the minimisation or elimination of pesticide usage, taking into account considerations of cost (economic, social and environmental), and the cyclical nature of woodland management operations. [UKWAS 3.4.2(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.7.4.

Indicator 10.7.6 Where pesticides and biological control agents are to be used the strategy shall justify their use demonstrating that there is no practicable alternative, in terms of economic, social and environmental costs. [UKWAS 3.4.2(c)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.7.4.

Indicator 10.7.7 The strategy shall include a description of all known use over the previous five years, or the duration of the current woodland ownership if that is less than five years. [UKWAS 3.4.2(d)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.7.4.

*Guidance note on Indicators 10.7.4, 10.7.5, 10.7.6 and 10.7.7:*

Sites and features with special biodiversity attributes include:

- All ancient woodland sites
- Valuable or diverse wildlife communities
- Priority habitats and species, including breeding sites and feeding areas
- Water courses, ponds and lakes
- Wetland habitats
- Lowland heath
- Peatlands covered by the policies of relevant forestry authorities.
- Rides and open ground
- Woodland margins and hedges
- Veteran trees
- Decaying deadwood habitat
- Any other valuable habitats or features.

Identification and mapping of areas and features may be carried out on an ongoing basis, provided that it has been completed for an area prior to operations taking place.

*See also [Criteria 6.5, 6.6 and 9.1] in relation to conservation values.*





Indicator 10.7.8 Where pesticides and biological control agents are to be used:

10.7.8.1 The owner/manager and workers shall be aware of and implement legal requirements and non-legislative guidance for use of pesticides and biological control agents in forestry

10.7.8.2 The owner/manager shall keep records of pesticide usage and biological control agents as required by current legislation. [UKWAS 3.4.3]

Verifiers:

- COSHH assessments
- Risk assessments
- Record of reason for use and pesticide choice
- Personal protective equipment
- FEPA records
- Waste transfer notes
- Discussion with the owner/manager and workers
- Field observation, particularly in respect to storage, application sites, protective clothing, warning signs and availability of lockable boxes for transport of pesticides
- Operators are trained and competent, and hold pesticide operator certification
- Adequate written procedures, work instructions, and other documentation
- Availability of appropriate absorbent materials
- Emergency plan.

*Guidance note on Indicator 10.7.8:*

Collection of information on pesticide usage should enable trends to be observed and future action to be targeted accordingly, including any necessary revision of the strategy.

Usage should be recorded in such a way that comparisons can be made year on year and fed back into the integrated pest management strategy to demonstrate that pesticide usage is avoided and/or minimised. Therefore, additional to the legal recording requirements (which include product, application rates and area treated), owners and managers may find it useful to sub-divide usage according to operations.



Indicator 10.7.9 Pesticides and biological control agents shall only be used if:

- They are approved for forest use by the UK regulatory authorities,
- They are not banned by international agreement, and
- Their use is permitted by [FSC]. [UKWAS 3.4.4(a)]

Verifiers:

- Records of chemicals purchased and used
- Field observation
- Discussion with the owner/manager and workers.

Indicator 10.7.10 Pesticides categorised as Type 1A and 1B by the World Health Organization or any other pesticides whose use is restricted by [FSC] shall not be used unless:

- No effective and practicable alternatives are available,
- Their use is sanctioned using a mechanism endorsed by [FSC], and
- Any such mechanism provides for their use to be justified and on the condition that usage shall be discontinued once effective and practicable alternatives are available. [UKWAS 3.4.4(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.7.9.

*Guidance note on Indicators 10.7.9 and 10.7.10:*

*Advice to owners/managers*

Owners/managers are advised to seek guidance from their certification body or group scheme manager on any additional certification scheme requirements relating to the use of pesticides.

*See also Indicator 8.1.3 regarding monitoring of pesticide usage and impacts.*

**Criterion 10.8** The Organization shall minimize, monitor and strictly control the use of biological control agents in accordance with internationally accepted scientific protocols. When biological control agents are used, The Organization shall prevent, mitigate, and/or repair damage to environmental values.

Indicator 10.8.1 The use of pesticides, biological control agents and fertilisers shall be minimised. [UKWAS 3.4.1(b)]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Pesticide policy or position statement.

Indicator 10.8.2 Damage to environmental values from pesticide and biological control agent use shall be avoided, mitigated and/or repaired, and steps shall be taken to avoid recurrence. [UKWAS 3.4.1(c)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.8.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 10.8.1 and 10.8.2:*



Indicator 10.8.3 The owner/manager shall prepare and implement an effective integrated pest management strategy that:

- Is appropriate to the scale of the woodland and the intensity of management
- Adopts management systems that shall promote the development and application of non-chemical methods of pest and crop management by placing primary reliance on prevention and, where this is not practicable, biological control methods
- Takes account of the importance of safeguarding the value of sites and features with special biodiversity attributes when considering methods of control, and
- Demonstrates knowledge of the latest published advice and its appropriate application. [UKWAS 3.4.2(a)]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Written policy and strategy or statement.

Indicator 10.8.4 Where pesticides and biological control agents are to be used the strategy shall justify their use demonstrating that there is no practicable alternative, in terms of economic, social and environmental costs. [UKWAS 3.4.2(c)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.8.3.

Indicator 10.8.5 The strategy shall include a description of all known use over the previous five years, or the duration of the current woodland ownership if that is less than five years. [UKWAS 3.4.2(d)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.8.3.

*See also the guidance note on Indicators 10.7.4, 10.7.5, 10.7.6 and 10.7.7.*

Indicator 10.8.6 Where pesticides and biological control agents are to be used:

10.8.6.1 The owner/manager and workers shall be aware of and implement legal requirements and non-legislative guidance for use of pesticides and biological



control agents in forestry

10.8.6.2 The owner/manager shall keep records of pesticide usage and biological control agents as required by current legislation. [UKWAS 3.4.3]

Verifiers:

- COSHH assessments
- Risk assessments
- Record of reason for use and pesticide choice
- Personal protective equipment
- FEPA records
- Waste transfer notes
- Discussion with the owner/manager and workers
- Field observation, particularly in respect to storage, application sites, protective clothing, warning signs and availability of lockable boxes for transport of pesticides
- Operators are trained and competent, and hold pesticide operator certification
- Adequate written procedures, work instructions, and other documentation
- Availability of appropriate absorbent materials
- Emergency plan.

Indicator 10.8.7 Pesticides and biological control agents shall only be used if:

- They are approved for forest use by the UK regulatory authorities,
- They are not banned by international agreement, and
- Their use is permitted by [FSC]. [UKWAS 3.4.4(a)]

Verifiers:

- Records of chemicals purchased and used
- Field observation
- Discussion with the owner/manager and workers.

*See also Indicator 8.1.3 regarding monitoring of biological control agents.*

*Explanatory note: The unlicensed release into the wild of non-native species is prohibited under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.*

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

Indicator 10.9.1 The owner/manager shall assess the potential negative impacts of natural hazards on the WMU, including drought, floods, wind, fire, invasive plant and animal species, and other pests and diseases. [UKWAS 2.5.3(a)]

Verifiers:

- Management planning documentation
- Discussion with the owner/manager.

Indicator 10.9.2 Planting and restructuring plans shall be designed to mitigate the risk of damage from natural hazards. [UKWAS 2.5.3(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.9.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 10.9.1 and 10.9.2:*

Evaluation should consider:

- Robust planting design
- Long-term forest resilience
- Diversity of species, ages and distribution of open ground
- Flood hazard maps.



Indicator 10.9.3 There shall be an emergency response plan appropriate to the level of risk. [UKWAS 2.12.2]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager
- Emergency response plans
- In sites with high risk of fire, evidence of contact with the fire and rescue service and that their advice has been taken into consideration.

*Guidance note on Indicator 10.9.3:*

Incidents may include:

- Fire
- Extreme weather events
- Outbreaks of pests, diseases or invasive species
- Accidents
- Chemical spills and other pollution.

Where appropriate, plans may be as simple as a reference card, but as a minimum

should include:

- Responsibilities for action
- Contact details
- Emergency procedures.

Plans should take into account FISA best practice guidance and issues such as the remoteness of some WMUs, which may affect both communication and the ability of emergency services to reach sites in timely manner.

Indicator 10.9.4 Management of wild deer shall be based on a strategy that identifies the management objectives, and aims to regulate the impact of deer.

[UKWAS 2.12.1]

Verifiers:

- Awareness of potential problems
- Awareness of actual damage
- Description of appropriate action in the management planning documentation
- Membership of a deer management group
- Evidence of cull targets and achievements
- Where there is a significant problem caused by deer, a documented plan for control; this may take the form of a contract or licence.

*Guidance note on Indicator 10.9.4:*

For larger organisations and WMUs, the strategy should be in writing.

This requirement may involve the setting of cull targets and should involve the membership of a Deer Management Group where appropriate.



Indicator 10.9.5 Where appropriate, wildlife management and control shall be used in preference to fencing. [UKWAS 3.5.1]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager.

*Guidance note on Indicator 10.9.5:*

This requirement is especially important in areas where Capercaillie (*Tetrao*

*urogallus*) and Black Grouse (*Tetrao tetrix*) are present.



Indicator 10.9.6 Where fences are used, alignment shall be designed to minimise impacts on access (particularly public rights of way), landscape, wildlife and historic environment sites. [UKWAS 3.5.2]

Verifiers:

- Field visits to verify alignments chosen
- Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates an awareness of impacts of fence alignments and of the alternatives
- Documented policy or guidelines regarding any specific significant impacts
- Expert advice sought for significant one-off fencing operations.

*Guidance note on Indicator 10.9.6:*

Decisions to erect fences and their alignment should take account of:

- Landscape
- Public rights of way
- Existing users of the woodland
- Wildlife especially woodland grouse
- The historic environment
- The need for badger gates, tunnels and ladders.

Where fence crossings are provided they should be appropriate to the abilities of likely users.



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

Indicator 10.10.1 Woodland operations shall conform to forestry best practice guidance. [UKWAS 3.1.1]

Verifiers:

- Field observation

- Discussion with the owner/manager and workers
- Monitoring and internal audit records.

*Guidance note on Indicator 10.10.1:*



Indicator 10.10.2 The planning of woodland operations shall include:

10.10.2.1 Obtaining any relevant permission and giving any formal notification required.

10.10.2.2 Assessing and taking into account on and off-site impacts.

10.10.2.3 Taking measures to protect water resources and soils, and prevent disturbance of and damage to priority species, habitats, ecosystems and landscape values, including adapting standard prescriptions where required. Any disturbance or damage which does occur shall be mitigated and/or repaired, and steps shall be taken to avoid recurrence.

10.10.2.4 Measures to maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the value of identified services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries. [UKWAS 3.1.2]

Verifiers:

- Documented permissions
- Contracts
- Discussion with the owner/manager and workers
- Demonstration of awareness of impacts and measures taken
- Site-specific, documented assessment of impacts
- Operational site assessments.

Indicator 10.10.3 Operational plans shall be clearly communicated to all workers so that they understand and implement safety precautions, environmental protection plans, biosecurity protocols, emergency procedures, and prescriptions for the management of features of high conservation value. [UKWAS 3.1.3]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with workers
- Records of pre-commencement meetings
- Field observation
- Biosecurity policy
- Relevant plans and procedures.



*Guidance note on Indicator 10.10.3:*

Contracts can be in writing or workers may be given oral instructions where this is appropriate to the scale and sensitivity of the operation.

Indicator 10.10.4 All necessary consents shall be obtained for construction, extension and upgrades of:

- Forest roads
- Mineral extraction sites
- Other infrastructure. [UKWAS 3.3.1]

Verifiers:

- Records of consents
- Environmental assessment where required.

*Guidance note on Indicator 10.10.4:*

Consents may relate to planning, environmental impact assessment or construction regulations.

Indicator 10.10.5 Roads and timber extraction tracks, visitor access infrastructure and associated drainage shall be designed, created, used and maintained in a manner that minimises their environmental impact. [UKWAS 3.3.2]

Verifiers:

- Documented plans for the design and creation of permanent roads and tracks
- Control systems for the creation and use of temporary tracks and extraction routes
- Field observation
- Documented maintenance plans.

*Guidance note on Indicator 10.10.5:*

Where new roads are planned, a documented evaluation should be made to achieve a balance between timber extraction distances and road density, which takes into account the impact on the environment. Non-timber activities also need to be taken into account, e.g. access for sporting.

Particular attention should be paid to:

- Avoiding features of historic environment, biological, geological or cultural value
- Use of bridges, arches or culverts to cross water courses

- Barriers to fish movement caused by water crossing points
- Ensuring that verges and ditches are created and managed to promote their habitat value
- Materials used, especially rock type, are in keeping with the ecology of the woodland
- Avoiding erosion and adverse impacts on water systems and wildlife habitats
- Careful landscaping of roads, both internally and externally
- Use of brash mats.



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

Indicator 10.11.1 Timber and non-timber woodland products (NTWPs) shall be harvested efficiently and with minimum loss or damage to environmental values. [UKWAS 3.2.1(a)]

Verifiers:

- Field observation
- Discussion with the owner/manager.

Indicator 10.11.2 Timber harvesting shall particularly seek to avoid:

- Damage to soil and water courses during felling, extraction and burning
- Damage to standing trees, especially veteran trees, during felling, extraction and burning
- Degrade in felled timber. [UKWAS 3.2.1(b)]

Verifiers as for Indicator 10.11.1.

*Guidance note on Indicators 10.11.1 and 10.11.2:*

Thinning/cutting trees to waste may be appropriate in some circumstances.



Indicator 10.11.3 Whole tree harvesting or stump removal shall be practised only where there is demonstrable management benefit, and where a full consideration of impacts shows that there are not likely to be any significant negative effects.

[UKWAS 3.2.3]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates awareness that impacts have been considered
- Documented appraisal.

*Guidance note on Indicator 10.11.3:*

Significant negative impacts to consider include:

- Leaching
- Soil compaction
- Soil erosion
- Soil carbon loss
- Nutrient loss
- Damage to historical features and archaeological deposits.



Indicator 10.11.4 Lop and top shall be burnt only where there is demonstrable management benefit, and where a full consideration of impacts shows that there are not likely to be any significant negative effects. [UKWAS 3.2.4]

Verifiers:

- Discussion with the owner/manager demonstrates awareness that impacts have been considered
- Evidence of registration of exempt activity
- Documented appraisal.

*Guidance note on Indicator 10.11.4:*

If lop and top is burned:

- The location and density of fire sites should be carefully planned
- Some lop and top should be left unburned as habitat except where it will result in pest or disease problems
- The requirements of the relevant statutory environment protection agencies should be met.

The owner/manager should be aware that it may be necessary for burning on site to be registered as an exempt activity with the statutory environment protection

agencies.



**Criterion 10.12** The Organization shall dispose of waste materials in an environmentally appropriate manner.

Indicator 10.12.1 Waste disposal shall be in accordance with current waste management legislation and regulations. [UKWAS 3.6.1]

Verifiers:

- No evidence of significant impacts from waste disposal
- Documented policy or guidelines on waste disposal including segregation, storage, recycling, return to manufacturer.

*Guidance note on Indicator 10.12.1:*

Waste includes:

- Plastic waste including tree shelters and tree bags
- Surplus chemicals
- Chemical containers
- Fuels and lubricants.



Indicator 10.12.2 The owner/manager shall prepare and implement a prioritised plan to manage and progressively remove redundant materials. [UKWAS 3.6.2]

Verifiers:

- Field observation
- Removal plan
- Budget.

*Guidance note on Indicator 10.12.2:*

Prioritisation and timescales for removal should take into account social, environmental and economic impacts.

Examples of redundant materials include:

- Tree shelters
- Fencing
- Culvert pipes



- High seats.

*See the list of applicable legislation in Annex A, section 3.3.*

*See also Indicator 6.3.3 regarding accidental spillages, and Indicator 8.1.3 regarding monitoring environmentally appropriate disposal of waste materials.*



## 9. Annexes to a Forest Stewardship Standard

### Annex A: List of applicable laws, regulations and nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements

The following is the minimum list of applicable laws, regulations and nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions and agreements, in FSC-STD-60-004 (International Generic Indicators).

*Explanatory note: All UK legislation is freely available online at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>. Standard users should be aware that most legislation has been amended by subsequent legislation; amended versions of primary legislation are usually available, but amended versions of secondary legislation are not.*

1. Legal* rights to harvest	
<b>1.1 Land tenure* and management rights</b>	<p>Legislation covering land tenure* rights, including customary rights* as well as management rights, that includes the use of legal* methods to obtain tenure* rights and management rights. It also covers legal* business registration and tax registration, including relevant legally required licenses.</p> <p><b>Land Tenure</b></p> <p><u>UK</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law of Property Act 1925 (Section 193)</li> <li>• Settled Land Act 1925 (Sections 41, 48 and 66)</li> <li>• Land Charges Act 1972</li> <li>• Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996</li> <li>• Land Registration Act 2002</li> <li>• The Land Registration Rules 2003</li> </ul> <p><u>Scotland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Registration Act 1617 c.16</li> <li>• Public Records (Scotland) Act 1809</li> <li>• Act of Sederunt 10 July 1811</li> <li>• Titles to Land Consolidation (Scotland) Act 1868</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Registers (Scotland) Act 1868</li> <li>• Judgments Extension Act 1868</li> <li>• Conveyancing (Scotland) Act 1924</li> <li>• Public Registers and Records (Scotland) Act 1948</li> <li>• Land Registration (Scotland) Act 1979</li> <li>• Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982</li> <li>• Register of Sasines (Scotland) Act 1987</li> <li>• Scotland Act 1998 (section 38(1))</li> <li>• Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000</li> <li>• Title Conditions (Scotland) Act 2003</li> <li>• Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003</li> <li>• Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 (Part 3)</li> <li>• Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (Section 22)</li> <li>• Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010</li> <li>• Land Registration etc. (Scotland) Act 2012</li> </ul> <p><u>Northern Ireland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Registration Act (Northern Ireland) 1970</li> </ul> <p><b>Business Registration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Companies Act 2006</li> </ul> <p>Company registration matters are dealt with in law, by the Companies Act 2006.</p> <p>All limited companies in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland are registered at Companies House, an Executive Agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS).</p>
<p><b>1.2 Concession licenses</b></p>	<p>Legislation regulating procedures for issuing forest* concession licenses, including the use of legal* methods to obtain concession licenses. Bribery, corruption and nepotism are particularly well-known issues that are connected with concession licenses.</p>



	<p><i>Forest concessions do not currently exist in the UK and there is no relevant legislation.</i></p>
<p><b>1.3 Management and harvesting planning</b></p>	<p>Any national or sub-national legal* requirements for Management Planning, including conducting forest* inventories, having a forest* management plan* and related planning and monitoring, impact assessments, consultation with other entities, as well as approval of these by legally competent* authorities.</p> <p><b>Management Planning</b></p> <p><u>England, Scotland and Wales</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forestry Act 1967 (Part II)</li> </ul> <p><u>Northern Ireland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 (Part 3)</li> <li>• The Forestry (Felling of Trees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013</li> </ul> <p><b>Impact Assessments (including statutory consultation)</b></p> <p>The following regulations govern afforestation, deforestation, forest road works and forest quarry works. There are separate regulations relating to drainage.</p> <p><u>England and Wales</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999</li> </ul> <p><u>Northern Ireland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006</li> </ul> <p><u>Scotland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999</li> </ul>



<p><b>1.4 Harvesting permits</b></p>	<p>National or sub-national laws and regulations regulating procedures for issuing harvesting permits, licenses or other legal* documents required for specific harvesting operations. This includes the use of legal* methods to obtain the permits. Corruption is a well-known issue that is connected with the issuing of harvesting permits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulatory Reform (Forestry) Order 2006</li> <li>• Criminal Justice Act 1982</li> </ul> <p><b>Felling licences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forestry Act 1967 (Part II)</li> <li>• The Forestry (Felling of Trees) Regulations 1979</li> <li>• The Forestry (Exceptions from Restriction of Felling) Regulations 1979</li> <li>• The Forestry (Modification of Felling Restrictions) Regulations 1985</li> </ul> <p><u>Scotland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004</li> </ul> <p><u>Northern Ireland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forestry Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 (Part 3)</li> <li>• The Forestry (Felling of Trees) (Calculation of the Area of Land) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013</li> <li>• The Forestry (Felling of Trees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013</li> </ul> <p><b>Other controls on felling</b></p> <p>Felling without a licence may be required by statutory notices served under plant health legislation, principally The Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005 and The Plant Health Order (Northern Ireland) 2006.</p> <p>Restrictions on felling may be imposed in Sites of Special</p>
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	<p>Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which are notified under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 in England and Wales, or under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 in Scotland, or in Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) which are declared under the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002. In all cases these sites are subject to legal protections controlling the operations which can be carried out without the consent of the relevant statutory conservation body.</p> <p>There are also a number of other laws which give local authorities and other statutory bodies the right to control felling of trees, for example the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and The Planning (Trees) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015.</p> <p>Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are made by the Local Planning Authority, usually a local council or National Park, in order to protect specific trees and woodland from deliberate damage and destruction. No felling, topping, lopping or uprooting of trees can be carried out without the permission of the Local Planning Authority.</p> <p><b>Bribery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bribery Act 2010</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Taxes and fees</b></p>	
<p><b>2.1 Payment of royalties and harvesting fees</b></p>	<p>Legislation covering payment of all legally required forest* harvesting specific fees such as royalties, stumpage fees and other volume-based fees. This includes payments of the fees based on the correct classification of quantities, qualities and species. Incorrect classification of forest* products is a well-known issue that is often combined with bribery of officials in charge of controlling the classification.</p> <p><i>No payments of royalties or harvesting fees are applicable in the UK.</i></p>



<p><b>2.2 Value added taxes and other sales taxes</b></p>	<p>Legislation covering different types of sales taxes which apply to the material being sold, including the sale of material as growing forest* (standing stock sales).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Value Added Tax Act 1994 (only for VAT registered businesses)</li> </ul>
<p><b>2.3 Income and profit taxes</b></p>	<p>Legislation covering income and profit taxes related to profit derived from the sale of forest* products and harvesting activities. This category is also related to income from the sale of timber and does not include other taxes generally applicable for companies and is not related to salary payments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income Tax Act 2007</li> <li>• Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992</li> <li>• Inheritance Tax Act 1984</li> <li>• Corporation Tax Act 2010</li> </ul> <p><u>Northern Ireland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporation Tax (Northern Ireland) Act 2015</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Timber harvesting activities</b></p>	
<p><b>3.1 Timber harvesting regulations</b></p>	<p>Any legal* requirements for harvesting techniques and technology including selective cutting, shelter wood regenerations, clear felling, transport of timber from the felling site, seasonal limitations, etc. Typically this includes regulations on the size of felling areas, minimum age and/or diameter for felling activities, and elements that shall* be preserved during felling, etc. Establishment of skidding or hauling trails, road construction, drainage systems and bridges, etc., shall* also be considered as well as the planning and monitoring of harvesting activities. Any legally binding codes for harvesting practices shall* be considered.</p> <p><i>No legal controls on 'harvesting techniques and technology', apart from on machinery (health and safety), haulage (legal weight limits), and infrastructure development (see 1.3 regarding</i></p>



	<p><i>environmental impact assessment). There are no codes for harvesting practices that are legally binding, although felling licences would be conditional on conformance to UKFS.</i></p>
<p><b>3.2 Protected sites and species</b></p>	<p>International, national, and sub national treaties, laws, and regulations related to protected areas, allowable forest* uses and activities, and/or rare, threatened, or endangered species, including their habitats* and potential habitats*.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convention on Biological Diversity (ratified by the UK in 1994)</li> <li>• Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive)</li> <li>• Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conservation of wild birds (the Birds Directive)</li> </ul> <p><u>England, Scotland and Wales</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979</li> <li>• Protection of Badgers Act 1992</li> </ul> <p><u>England and Wales</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949</li> <li>• Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</li> <li>• The Hedgerows Regulations 1997</li> <li>• Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (the NERC act)</li> <li>• Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW) (Chapter II)</li> <li>• The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Habitats Regulations)</li> <li>• Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England &amp; Wales) Regulations 1999</li> </ul>



	<p><u>Northern Ireland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985</li> <li>• Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (Part IV)</li> <li>• Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 as amended under the Wildlife and Natural Environment (NI) Act 2011</li> <li>• Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (Habitats Directive)</li> <li>• Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995</li> </ul> <p><u>Scotland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011</li> <li>• Environmental Regulation (Enforcement Measures) (Scotland) Order 2015</li> <li>• Regulatory Reform (Scotland) Act 2014</li> <li>• Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004</li> <li>• Environmental Liability (Scotland) Regulations 2009</li> <li>• Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.3</b> <b>Environmental requirements</b></p>	<p>National and sub national laws and regulations related to the identification and/or protection* of environmental values* including but not limited to those relating to or affected by harvesting, acceptable levels for soil damage, establishment of buffer zones (e.g., along water courses, open areas and breeding sites), maintenance of retention trees on the felling site, seasonal limitations of harvesting time, environmental requirements for forest* machineries, use of pesticides* and other chemicals, biodiversity conservation*, air quality, protection* and restoration* of water quality, operation of recreational equipment, development of non-forestry infrastructure*, mineral exploration and extraction, etc.</p> <p><i>This is a wide ranging heading, to which a great deal of UK</i></p>



*legislation is potentially relevant. The list given here is not exhaustive, and addresses only the most important issues in the UK context, such as water and chemicals.*

- Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (the Water Framework Directive)
- Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)
- Part III of the Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA) 1985
- Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (COPR) 1997
- Code of practice for using plant protection products (Defra, 2006), the Code of practice for suppliers of pesticides to agriculture, horticulture and forestry (commonly referred to as the 'Yellow code') (MAFF, 1998), and the Agricultural Information Sheet AIS16 Guidance on storing pesticides for farmers and other professional users (HSE, 2003)
- Control of Pesticide Regulations 1997 (COPR)
- Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986
- The Plant Protection Products (Basic Conditions) Regulations 1997
- Dangerous Substances (Notification and Marking of Sites) Regulations 1990
- Electricity at Work Regulations 1989
- The Environmental Protection Act 1990
- The Environment Act 1995
- Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 2003
- Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981
- Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Highly Flammable Liquids and Liquefied Petroleum Gases Regulations 1972</li><li>• Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992</li><li>• Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2002</li><li>• Poisons Act 1972</li><li>• Poisons List Order 2002</li><li>• Poisons Rules 1982</li><li>• Special Waste Regulations 1996</li><li>• The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) 2002</li><li>• Agricultural or Forestry Tractors (Emission of Gaseous and Particulate Pollutants) Regulations 2002</li><li>• The Agricultural or Forestry Tractors (Emission of Gaseous and Particulate Pollutants) and Tractor etc (EC Type-Approval) (Amendment) Regulations 2015</li><li>• Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994</li><li>• Water Environment (Water Framework directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003</li><li>• Water Environment (Water Framework directive) (Northumbria River Basin district) Regulations 2003</li><li>• Water Environment (Water Framework directive) (Solway Tweed River Basin district) Regulations 2004</li><li>• The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</li></ul> <p><u>England and Wales</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Town and Country Planning Act 1990</li><li>• The Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2011</li><li>• The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010</li></ul> <p><u>England</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) Regulations 2015 (ED Regulations)</li></ul>
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	<p><u>Northern Ireland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002</li> <li>• The Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011</li> <li>• Water Environment (Water Framework directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003</li> <li>• Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999</li> <li>• Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997</li> </ul> <p><u>Scotland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997</li> <li>• Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003</li> <li>• Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005</li> <li>• Water Environment (Diffuse Pollution) (Scotland) Regulations 2008</li> <li>• The Waste (Scotland) Regulations 2012</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.4 Health and safety</b></p>	<p>Legally required personal protection* equipment for persons involved in harvesting activities, implementation of safe felling and transport practices, establishment of protection* zones around harvesting sites, safety requirements for machinery used, and legally required safety requirements in relation to chemical usage. The health and safety requirements that shall* be considered relevant to operations in the forest* (not office work, or other activities less related to actual forest* operations).</p> <p><i>There is a great deal of UK legislation related to health and safety. The list given here is not exhaustive, and addresses only the most relevant legislation; for a full list, refer to the Health and Safety Executive website</i></p> <p><i><a href="http://www.hse.gov.uk/legislation/index.htm">http://www.hse.gov.uk/legislation/index.htm</a></i></p>





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Part III of the Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA) 1985</li><li>• Control of Pesticides (Amendment) Regulations (COPR) 1997</li><li>• Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974</li><li>• The Control of Pesticide Regulations 1997 (COPR)</li><li>• The Plant Protection Products (Basic Conditions) Regulations 1997</li><li>• Dangerous Substances (Notification and Marking of Sites) Regulations 1990</li><li>• Electricity at Work Regulations 1989</li><li>• Environmental Protection (Duty of Care) Regulations 2003</li><li>• Health and Safety (First Aid) Regulations 1981</li><li>• Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals) Regulations 1996</li><li>• Highly Flammable Liquids and Liquefied Petroleum Gases Regulations 1972</li><li>• Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992</li><li>• Poisons Act 1972</li><li>• Poisons List Order 2002</li><li>• Poisons Rules 1982</li><li>• Special Waste Regulations 1996</li></ul> <p><u>England, Scotland and Wales</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998</li><li>• The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002</li></ul> <p><u>Northern Ireland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999</li><li>• Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations</li></ul>
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	(Northern Ireland) 2003
<b>3.5 Legal* employment</b>	<p>Legal* requirements for employment of personnel involved in harvesting activities including requirements for contracts and working permits, requirements for obligatory insurance, requirements for competence certificates and other training requirements, and payment of social and income taxes withheld by the employer. Also covered are the observance of minimum working age and minimum age for personnel involved in hazardous work, legislation against forced and compulsory labor, and discrimination and freedom of association.</p> <p><i>This is a wide ranging heading, to which a great deal of UK legislation is potentially relevant. The list given here is not exhaustive, and addresses only the most important issues in the UK context, such as equality and living wages.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment Act 2008 (and previous)</li> <li>• Employment Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (and previous)</li> <li>• Equality Act 2010</li> <li>• Equal Pay Act (Northern Ireland) 1970</li> <li>• Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976</li> <li>• National Minimum Wage Regulations 2015</li> <li>• National Minimum Wage (Amendment) Regulations 2016</li> <li>• Employer's Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969</li> <li>• Gangmasters (Licensing) Act 2004</li> <li>• Gangmasters Licensing (Exclusions) Regulations 2013</li> <li>• Gangmasters Licensing (Exclusions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014</li> <li>• Health and Safety at Work Act 1974</li> <li>• Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999</li> <li>• Occupiers' Liability acts 1957 and 1984</li> <li>• Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous</li> </ul>



	<p style="text-align: center;">Occurrences Regulations 1995</p> <p><b>Legislation implementing the ILO Core Labour Conventions</b>  <i>The list given here is not exhaustive, and addresses only the principal legislation; for a full list, refer to the ILO website (<a href="http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.countrySubjects?p_lang=en&amp;p_country=GBR">http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.countrySubjects?p_lang=en&amp;p_country=GBR</a>).</i></p> <p><u>Implementing 29 Forced Labour Convention, 1930 and 105 Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern Slavery Act 2015</li> <li>• Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015</li> <li>• Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015</li> </ul> <p><u>Implementing 87 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Conventions, 1948 and 98 Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trade Union Act 2016</li> <li>• Employment Relations Act 2004</li> </ul> <p><u>Implementing 100 Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 and 111 Discrimination (Occupation and Employment) Convention, 1958</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equality Act 2010</li> <li>• Equal Pay Act (Northern Ireland) 1970</li> <li>• Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1976</li> </ul> <p><u>Implementing 138 Minimum Age Convention, 1973 and 182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and Young Persons Act 1933</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Third parties' rights</b></p>	
<p><b>4.1 Customary rights*</b></p>	<p>Legislation covering customary rights* relevant to forest* harvesting activities, including requirements covering the sharing</p>



	<p>of benefits and indigenous rights.</p> <p><i>Not applicable. Relevant rights are covered by statutory law, rather than customary law.</i></p>
<b>4.2 Free Prior and Informed Consent*</b>	<p>Legislation covering “free prior and informed consent” in connection with the transfer of forest* management rights and customary rights* to The Organization* in charge of the harvesting operation.</p> <p><i>No specific legislation.</i></p>
<b>4.3 Indigenous Peoples** rights</b>	<p>Legislation that regulates the rights of Indigenous Peoples* as far as it is related to forestry activities. Possible aspects to consider are land tenure*, and rights to use certain forest* related resources and practice traditional activities, which may involve forest* lands.</p> <p><i>Not applicable in the UK.</i></p>
<p><b>5. Trade and transport</b></p> <p><b>NOTE: This section covers requirements for forest* management operations as well as processing and trade.</b></p>	
<b>5.1 Classification of species, quantities, qualities</b>	<p>Legislation regulating how harvested material is classified in terms of species, volumes and qualities in connection with trade and transport. Incorrect classification of harvested material is a well-known method to reduce or avoid payment of legally prescribed taxes and fees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Timber Regulation (EUTR – Regulation (EU) No 995/2010)</li> <li>• The Timber and Timber Products (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2013</li> </ul>
<b>5.2 Trade and transport</b>	<p>All required trading and transport permits shall* exist as well as legally required transport documents which accompany the transport of wood from forest* operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant Health Act 1967(1)</li> <li>• Forestry Act 1967 (Part II) as amended by the Trees Act 1970 and the Forestry Acts 1979 and 1986</li> <li>• The Watermark Disease Local Authorities Order 1974</li> <li>• The Dutch Elm Disease (Local Authorities) Order 1984</li> <li>• The Plant Health (Forestry) (<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>) (Great Britain) Order 2004</li> <li>• The Plant Health (Forestry) (Wood Packaging Material Marking) Order 2006</li> <li>• Council Directive 2000/29/EC</li> </ul> <p><u>England and Scotland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plant Health (Fees) (Forestry) Regulations 2015</li> <li>• The Plant Health (Fees) (Forestry) (Amendment) Regulations 2014</li> <li>• The Plant Health (Forestry) (Amendment) Order 2014</li> </ul> <p><u>England</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plant Health (Forestry) (Miscellaneous Revocations) Order 2015</li> </ul> <p><u>Wales</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plant Health (Forestry) (Amendment) Order 2015</li> </ul> <p><u>Scotland</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plant Health (Forestry) (<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> Management Zone) Order 2014</li> </ul> <p><i>There are biosecurity guidance notes but no regulation.</i></p>
<p><b>5.3 Offshore trading and transfer pricing</b></p>	<p>Legislation regulating offshore trading. Offshore trading with related companies placed in tax havens, combined with artificial transfer prices is a well-known way to avoid payment of legally prescribed taxes and fees to the country of harvest and is considered to be an important source of funds that can be used</p>



	<p>for payment of bribery to the forest* operations and personnel involved in the harvesting operation. Many countries have established legislation covering transfer pricing and offshore trading. It should* be noted that only transfer pricing and offshore trading, as far as it is legally prohibited in the country, can be included here.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finance Act 2015</li> <li>• Taxation (International and Other Provisions) Act 2010 (TIOPA 2010) (Part 4)</li> </ul>
<p><b>5.4 Custom regulations</b></p>	<p>Custom legislation covering areas such as export/import licenses and product classification (codes, quantities, qualities and species).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Timber Regulation (EUTR – Regulation (EU) No 995/2010)</li> <li>• ISPM (International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures) 15 Phytosanitary Regulations</li> </ul>
<p><b>5.5 CITES</b></p>	<p>CITES permits (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, also known as the Washington Convention).</p> <p><i>UK animal species listed in the CITES appendices are protected under domestic legislation and are unlikely to be traded. UK plants that might be traded and require a CITES permit are monkey puzzle (Araucaria araucana) and snowdrops (Galanthus spp.).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) Regulations 1997</li> <li>• The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) (Amendment) Regulations 2005</li> <li>• The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Enforcement) (Amendment) Regulations 2007</li> <li>• The Control of Trade in Endangered Species</li> </ul>



	<p>(Enforcement) (Amendment) Regulations 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Control of Trade in Endangered Species (Fees) Regulations 2009</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Due diligence / due care</b></p>	
<p><b>6.1 Due diligence / due care procedures</b></p>	<p>Legislation requiring due diligence/due care procedures, including, e.g., due diligence/due care systems, declaration obligations, and/or the keeping of trade related documents, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU Timber Regulation)</li> <li>• The Timber and Timber Products (Placing on the Market) Regulations 2013</li> </ul> <p><b>Penalties</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criminal Justice Act 1982</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Ecosystem Services</b></p>	
	<p>Legislation covering ecosystem services* rights, including customary rights* as well as management rights that include the use of legal* methods to make claims and obtain benefits and management rights related to ecosystem services*. National and subnational laws and regulations related to the identification, protection and payment for ecosystem services*. Also includes legal* business registration and tax registration, including relevant legal* required licenses for the exploitation, payment, and claims related to ecosystem services* (including tourism).</p> <p><i>This Standard does not address certification of ecosystem services.</i></p>



## Annex B: Training requirements for workers

See Indicator 2.5.1.

See also relevant requirements of the Standard in Criteria and Indicators 1.3.3, 1.3.4, 1.5.1, 2.1.1, 2.2.1, 2.3.3, 2.5.1, 4.1.4, 4.5.2, 6.2.1, 6.3.1, 6.3.3, 6.4, 6.5, 9.1, 9.3.10, 10.7.8 and 10.10.1.

*Explanatory note: Indicator 2.5.1 requires that all workers shall have appropriate qualifications, training and/or experience to carry out their roles in conformance to the requirements of this standard, unless working under proper supervision if they are currently undergoing training. Potentially relevant requirements of the Standard are summarised below, with numbers in square brackets relating to the Criteria and Indicators listed above. The actual relevance of requirements should be judged on a case by case basis, taking into account the scale, intensity and risk of management activities and the roles and responsibilities of individual workers. However, Standard users should be aware of statutory requirements and industry best practice for training, particularly in the context of health and safety.*

*Workers\* shall\**, where relevant, be able to:

- 1) Implement *forest\** activities to comply with applicable *legal\** requirements [Indicators 1.3.3 and 1.5.1] and to conform to best practice [Indicators 1.3.4 and 10.10.1];
- 2) Understand their rights and responsibilities under employment [Indicator 2.1.1] and health and safety legislation [Indicator 2.3.1];
- 3) Recognize and report on instances of harassment and discrimination [Indicator 2.2.1];
- 4) Carry out their responsibilities for particularly dangerous jobs or jobs entailing a special responsibility [Indicators 2.3.1 and 2.5.1];
- 5) Identify where local people have *legal\** and *customary rights\** related to management activities [Indicator 4.1.4];





6) Carry out social, economic and *environmental impact assessments*\* and develop appropriate mitigation measures [Indicators 4.5.2, 6.2.1 and 6.3.1];

7) Implement procedures for cleaning up spills of *waste materials*\* [Indicator 6.3.3];

8) Identify sites and features of conservation value or of special cultural and historical significance, and implement the necessary measures to protect them before the start of forest management activities to avoid negative impacts [Criteria 6.4, 6.5 and 9.1, and Indicator 9.3.10]; and

9) Handle, apply and store *pesticides*\* [Indicator 10.7.8].



**Annex C (Optional annex): Additional Requirements for Ecosystem Services**

*Not used in this Standard.*



**Annex D (Optional annex): Conservation Area Network Conceptual Diagram**

*Not used in this Standard.*



## Annex E: Elements of the Management Plan

See Indicator 7.2.1 and its Sub-indicators.

See also planning requirements in Indicators 5.1.1, 5.2.1, 5.3.1, 5.5.1, 6.1.1, 6.3.1, 6.3.3, 6.4.1, 6.5.1, 6.6.3, 6.6.4, 6.6.5, 6.7.1, 6.7.2, 7.1.1, 7.1.3, 7.3.1, 8.1.1, 8.1.2, 8.1.3, 8.2.1, 9.2.1, 9.2.2, 9.2.3, 9.4.1, 10.5.1, 10.7.4, 10.8.3, 10.9.2, 10.9.3, 10.9.4, 10.10.2 and 10.12.2.

*Explanatory note: Elements of the management plan may be summarised as follows, with numbers in square brackets relating to the Indicators and Sub-indicators listed above. Some may not be applicable in certain circumstances, e.g. annual allowable harvest of non-timber woodland products or a deer management strategy. Depending on the scale, intensity and risk of management activities, not all of these elements will be addressed through formal written documents.*

- A long-term policy for the woodland. [7.2.1.1, 7.1.1, 7.1.3]
  - Economic planning. [5.5.1]
- Assessment of relevant components of the woodland resource, including potential products and services which are consistent with the management objectives. [7.2.1.2, 5.1.1]
- Assessment of environmental values, including those outside the WMU potentially affected by management, sufficient to determine appropriate conservation measures and to provide a baseline for detecting possible negative impacts. [7.2.1.3, 6.1.1]
  - Plans to maintain and/or enhance long-term soil and hydrological functions. [5.2.1]
  - Environmental impact assessments. [6.3.1]
  - Plans to protect priority species and habitats. [6.4.1]
  - Conservation area network planning. [6.5.1]
  - Veteran tree habitat planning. [6.6.3]
  - Deadwood habitat planning. [6.6.4, 6.6.5]
  - Landscape-level consideration of impacts. [6.7.2]
  - Deer management strategy. [10.9.4]
- Identification of special characteristics and sensitivities of the woodland and appropriate treatments. [7.2.1.4]



- Assessment of externalities. [5.3.1]
- Environmental impact assessments. [6.3.1]
- Specific measures to maintain and where possible enhance those areas identified under [Criterion 9.1], considering areas where either the extent of these areas or their sensitivity to operations may be unknown. [7.2.1.5]
  - Conservation area network planning. [6.5.1]
  - High conservation value planning. [9.2.1, 9.2.2, 9.2.3]
- Identification of community and social needs and sensitivities. [7.2.1.6]
- Prioritised objectives, with verifiable targets to measure progress. [7.2.1.7, 7.1.1, 7.1.3, 7.3.1]
- Rationale for management prescriptions. [7.2.1.8]
  - Environmental impact assessments. [6.3.1]
  - Planting, establishment, thinning, felling and regeneration plans. [10.5.1]
  - Integrated Pest Management strategy. [10.7.4, 10.8.3]
  - Plan to manage and remove redundant materials. [10.12.2]
- Outline planned felling and regeneration over the next 20 years. [7.2.1.9]
  - Planting, establishment, thinning, felling and regeneration plans. [10.5.1]
  - Planting and restructuring plans. [10.9.2]
- Where applicable annual allowable harvest of non-timber woodland products (NTWPs). [7.2.1.10]
- Rationale for the operational techniques to be used. [7.2.1.11]
  - Environmental impact assessments. [6.3.1]
  - Operational planning. [6.7.1, 10.10.2]
  - Planting, establishment, thinning, felling and regeneration plans. [10.5.1]
  - Integrated Pest Management strategy. [10.7.4, 10.8.3]
- Plans for implementation, first five years in detail. [7.2.1.12]
  - Pollution response plans. [6.3.3]
  - Operational planning. [6.7.1, 10.10.2]
  - Emergency response plan. [10.9.3]
- Appropriate maps. [7.2.1.13]
- Plans to monitor at least those elements identified under [Criterion 8.1] against the objectives. [7.2.1.14, 8.1.1, 8.1.2, 8.1.3, 8.2.1, 9.4.1]



**Annex F (Optional annex): Conceptual Framework for Planning and Monitoring**

*Not used in this Standard.*



## Annex G: Monitoring Requirements

See Indicators 8.1.1, 8.1.2, 8.1.3, 8.2.1 and 9.4.1 and associated guidance notes.

*Explanatory note: Examples of appropriate monitoring may be summarised as follows. Some may not be applicable in certain circumstances, e.g. impacts of pesticides if none are used. Depending on the scale, intensity and risk of management activities, monitoring may be more or less formal; see guidance note on Indicators 8.1.1, 8.1.2 and 8.1.3.*

- The achievement of objectives and verifiable targets
- Implementation of woodland operations
  - Health and Safety
  - Compliance with Forest and Water Guidelines
  - Worksite supervision
- Harvesting yields
  - Information from sales invoices or weight tickets compared to predicted yields from production forecasts or timber inventories
- Social impacts
  - Condition and accessibility of public access facilities
  - Impacts of timber haulage
- Environmental impacts
  - Impacts of operations on priority habitats and species, landscape or water and soils
  - Impacts of non-native invasive species
  - Impacts of grazing and browsing
- Changes in environmental condition
  - Tree health
  - Woodland composition and structure
  - Areas and features of conservation value
  - Ancient woodland features and remnants, including responses to management and any threats
  - Condition of cultural heritage features.
- Usage of pesticides, biological control agents and fertilisers and any adverse impacts



- Environmentally appropriate disposal of waste materials
- Any special features of the WMU.





**Annex H: Strategies for maintaining High Conservation Values**

*See the separate National High Conservation Value Framework for the United Kingdom.*



**Annex I: HCV Framework**

*See the separate National High Conservation Value Framework for the United Kingdom.*

*Explanatory note: Use of the HCV Framework is not compulsory. However, it is intended to help users conform to the requirements of Principle 9 and contains useful guidance on sources of information and relevant stakeholders. As such, it is strongly recommended that Standard users make use of the Framework.*



## Annex J: List of rare and threatened species in the country or region

References are made within the Standard to 'priority species', defined in the glossary as 'Protected, rare and endangered species which are:

- identified by statutory nature conservation and countryside agencies under Section 41 (England) and Section 42 (Wales) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, Section 2(4) of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, and Section 3(1) of the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011,
- protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981,
- protected under European law (European Protected Species), and/or
- categorised as Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List.'

Lists of species identified by statutory nature conservation and countryside agencies may be found online:

- For England, at <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140711133551/http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/habsandspeciesimportance.aspx>
- For Northern Ireland, at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-priority-species>
- For Scotland, at <http://www.biodiversityscotland.gov.uk/advice-and-resources/scottish-biodiversity-list/>
- For Wales, at <http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Section-42-Lists>

Lists of species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 may be found in the Schedules to the Act, as amended, available online:

- For Great Britain, at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents>.

Lists of species protected under European law may be found in the Schedules to the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 and the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995, as amended, available online:

- For Great Britain, at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1994/2716/contents/made>



- For Northern Ireland, at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/1995/380/contents/made>

Lists of species categorised as Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List are available online at <http://www.iucnredlist.org/search>.



**Annex K: Members of the Standard Development Group**

*Explanatory note: This Annex is for information only.*

<b>FSC chamber/status</b>	<b>UKWAS constituency</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Representative(s)</b>
Economic chamber	Woodland owners	Country Land and Business Association	Mike Seville
	Forestry practitioners	Confederation of Forest Industries	Andrew Heald
			Ewan McIntosh
		Institute of Chartered Foresters	Simon Hart
			Robert Smith
			Stuart Wilkie
	Country forestry authorities and forestry enterprises	Forestry Commission/Forest Enterprise England	Dominic Robinson
			Jonathan Spencer
		Forestry Commission/Forest Enterprise Scotland	Chris Nixon
			Helen Sellars
		Natural Resources Wales/Welsh Government	Rachel Chamberlain
			Bill MacDonald
		Northern Ireland Forest Service	Ian Irwin
	Stuart Morwood		
	Wood processing industries	UK Forest Products Association	David Sulman
Wood Panel Industries Federation		Alastair Kerr	
Environmental chamber	Environmental organisations	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Siân Williams
		Woodland Trust	Gordon Pfetscher
		WWF UK	Beatrix Richards



<b>FSC chamber/status</b>	<b>UKWAS constituency</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Representative(s)</b>
Social chamber	Countryside, environment and heritage agencies	Natural England	Rob Green
	Environmental organisations	National Trust	Ray Hawes
	Forest user organisations	British Association for Shooting and Conservation	Paul Williamson
Technical experts	Standard setting bodies	Forestry Commission	Richard Howe
		FSC UK	Rosie Teasdale
		PEFC UK	Alun Watkins



## **Annex L: Members of the Consultative Forum**

*Explanatory note: This Annex is for information only. Membership of the forum has been updated to include a number of interested individuals. Where relevant, members were asked to circulate consultations to their staff/members/readers etc.*

### **1. Economic Stakeholders**

#### **1.1 Owners/managers of large and medium sized forests**

Egger Forestry Ltd  
Edwin Thompson LLP  
Fountains Forestry  
RTS Ltd  
Scottish Woodlands Ltd  
Tillhill Forestry Ltd  
UK Forest Certification Group  
The Verderers Ltd  
Country Land & Business Association Ltd  
Scottish Land & Estates Ltd  
Forestry Commission GB  
Forestry Commission England  
Forestry Commission Scotland  
Natural Resources Wales/Welsh Government  
Northern Ireland Forest Service

#### **1.2 Owners/managers of small forests**

Small Woods Association  
Ralph Assheton  
David Williams

#### **1.3 Owners/managers of operations of low intensity of timber harvesting**

Continuous Cover Forestry Group

#### **1.4 Forest contractors**

Kingan Forestry Ltd



### **1.5 Timber producers associations**

UK Forest Products Association

Wood Panel Industries Federation

### **1.6 Primary processors of timber within all districts**

James Jones & Sons Ltd

## **2. Social**

### **2.1 Forest Workers**

Forest Industry Safety Accord

### **2.2 Indigenous Peoples**

Within the international context of FSC, indigenous peoples, as defined, are not considered to be present in the UK.

### **2.3 Local communities**

Small Woods Association

### **2.4 Forest recreation**

British Association for Shooting and Conservation

National Trust

## **3 Environmental**

*Explanatory note: This section is not subdivided into 'Biological diversity', 'Water', 'Soils', and 'Ecosystems and landscapes' as per FSC-STD-60-006 (V1-2) EN Process requirements for the development and maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards because consultees have broad remits.*

Natural England

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Scottish Environment Protection Agency

Woodland Trust





WWF UK

#### **4 Others**

Certification Body: Control Union

Certification Body: Rainforest Alliance

Certification Body: SGS Qualifor

Certification Body: Soil Association

Confederation of Forest Industries

Institute of Chartered Foresters

Royal Forestry Society of England, Wales and Northern Ireland

Royal Scottish Forestry Society

Tree Council: Ann Edwards

Forestry Journal

Timber Trade Journal

Forest News Watch

Confederation of European Forest Owners

Finnish Forest Association

Roger Cooper

Robert Smith

Gillian Clark

Doug Sommerville

Johann Tasker

Peter Grimshaw



## 10. FSC Glossary of Terms

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.

*Explanatory note: This glossary includes terms defined in the UK Woodland Assurance Standard fourth edition; for these terms, the source is given as UKWAS. Some of the terms defined are not in common use outside the UK, e.g. veteran tree. Some definitions specify how FSC definitions should be applied in the UK context, e.g. the UK definition of 'Priority species' includes 'Rare species' and 'Threatened species' as defined by FSC. Others are crucial to the application of certain Indicators, e.g. the UK definition of 'Publicly available'. Indented definitions are interpretations of FSC definitions in the UK national context. In rare instances, UK definitions differ from those of FSC to reflect how certain terms are understood in the UK cultural context; see, for example, the definition of 'High conservation value'.*

**Access (for public):** Refers to woodland and its associated land open to the public for recreational or educational use (sometimes subject to charges). (Source: UKWAS)

**Accreditation service:** An authoritative body which evaluates and recognises the competence of bodies to certify that woodland management conforms to the specific requirements of the UK Woodland Assurance Standard. Accreditation Services International (ASI) and the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) both provide an accreditation service in the UK. Those bodies which are accredited are referred to as certification bodies. (Source: UKWAS)

**Adaptive management:** A systematic process of continually improving management



policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of existing measures (Source: Based on World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website).

**Affected stakeholder:** Any person, group of persons or entity that is or is likely to be subject to the effects of the activities of a Management Unit. Examples include, but are not restricted to (for example in the case of downstream landowners), persons, groups of persons or entities located in the neighborhood of the Management Unit. The following are examples of affected stakeholders:

- Local communities
- Indigenous Peoples
- Workers
- Forest dwellers
- Neighbors
- Downstream landowners
- Local processors
- Local businesses
- Tenure and use rights holders, including landowners
- Organizations authorized or known to act on behalf of affected stakeholders, for example social and environmental NGOs, labor unions, etc.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

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

**Ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW):** *See Woodland.*

**Ancient woodland:** *See Woodland.*

**Ancient woodland site:** *See Woodland.*

**Applicable law:** Means applicable to *The Organization\** as a *legal\** person or business enterprise in or for the benefit of the Management Unit and those laws which affect the implementation of the FSC Principles and Criteria. This includes any combination of statutory law (Parliamentary-approved) and case law (court interpretations), subsidiary regulations, associated administrative procedures, and the national constitution (if present) which invariably takes *legal\** precedence over all other *legal\** instruments



(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Appropriate Assessment:** Appropriate Assessment (AA) is the process and documentation associated with the statutory requirement under the EU Habitats and Species Directive. (Source: UKWAS)

**Aquifer:** A formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that contains sufficient saturated permeable material to yield significant quantities of water to wells and springs for that unit to have economic value as a source of water in that region. (Source: Gratzfeld, J. 2003. Extractive Industries in Arid and Semi-Arid Zones. World Conservation Union (IUCN)).

**Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI):** A designated site providing statutory protection for the best examples of the flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features of Northern Ireland. ASSIs also underpin other national and international nature conservation designations. (Source: UKWAS)

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

**Binding Agreement:** A deal or pact, written or not, which is compulsory to its signatories and enforceable by law. Parties involved in the agreement do so freely and accept it voluntarily.

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

**Biodiversity:** The variety of ecosystems and living organisms (species), including genetic variation within species. (Source: UKWAS)

**Biological control agents:** Organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other organisms (Source: Based on FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0 and World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website).

**Biological control agent:** A living organism used to eliminate or regulate the population of another living organism. Their use can play an important role in an integrated pest management strategy. (Source: UKWAS)

**Brash mats:** Cut branches spread along the route where forest machinery will be



driving to reduce soil damage. (Source: UKWAS)

**Broadleaves:** Broadleaved trees are characterised by their broad leaves and most are deciduous. They produce 'hardwood' timber. (Source: UKWAS)

*Also see Conifers.*

**Buffer:** An area of non-invasive trees or other land use of sufficient width to protect semi-natural woodland from significant invasion by seed from a nearby non-native source. (Source: UKWAS)

**Certification body:** A body which is accredited by an accreditation service to certify (by giving written assurance) that woodland management conforms to the specific requirements of the UK Woodland Assurance Standard. Also sometimes referred to as a conformity assessment body. (Source: UKWAS)

**Certification scheme:** A scheme that establishes a set of standards and processes that govern a system to verify that its standards (e.g. for sustainable forest management and chain-of-custody) are met and thereby provide assurance to customers and stakeholders. (Source: UKWAS)

**Chain-of-custody certification:** Chain-of-custody certification is a traceability system that ensures that certified products come from a well-managed source. The chain starts at the forest and is maintained through every link of the chain through to the end user. (Source: UKWAS)

**Clearfelling:** Cutting down of an area of woodland (if it is within a larger area of woodland it is typically a felling greater than 0.25 ha). Sometimes a scatter or small clumps of trees may be left standing within the felled area. (Source: UKWAS)

**Compliance:** In the context of this certification standard, the term 'compliance' refers to meeting legal requirements. (Source: UKWAS)

**Confidential information:** Private facts, data and content that, if made publicly available, might put at risk *The Organization\**, its business interests or its relationships with stakeholders, clients and competitors.

**Conflicts between the Principles and Criteria and laws:** Situations where it is not possible to comply with the Principles and Criteria and a law at the same time (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Conformance:** In the context of this certification standard, the term 'conformance' refers to meeting the requirements of the certification standard. (Source: UKWAS)

**Conifers:** Coniferous trees are characterised by their needle or scale-like leaves and most are evergreen. They produce 'softwood' timber. (Source: UKWAS)

*Also see Broadleaves.*



**Connectivity:** A measure of how connected or spatially continuous a corridor, network, or matrix is. The fewer gaps, the higher the connectivity. Related to the structural connectivity concept; functional or behavioral connectivity refers to how connected an area is for a process, such as an animal moving through different types of landscape elements. Aquatic connectivity deals with the accessibility and transport of materials and organisms, through groundwater and surface water, between different patches of aquatic ecosystems of all kinds. (Source: Based on R.T.T. Forman. 1995. Land Mosaics. The Ecology of Landscapes and Regions. Cambridge University Press, 632pp).

**Conservation/Protection:** These words are used interchangeably when referring to management activities designed to maintain the identified environmental or cultural values in existence long-term. Management activities may range from zero or minimal interventions to a specified range of appropriate interventions and activities designed to maintain, or compatible with maintaining, these identified values (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Conservation Areas Network:** Those portions of the Management Unit\* for which conservation is the primary and, in some circumstances, exclusive objective; such areas include *representative sample areas\**, *conservation zones\**, *protection areas\**, *connectivity\** areas and *High Conservation Value Areas\**.

**Conservation zones and protection areas:** Defined areas that are designated and managed primarily to safeguard species, habitats, ecosystems, natural features or other site-specific values because of their natural environmental or cultural values, or for purposes of monitoring, evaluation or research, not necessarily excluding other management activities. For the purposes of the Principles and Criteria, these terms are used interchangeably, without implying that one always has a higher degree of conservation or protection than the other. The term 'protected area' is not used for these areas, because this term implies *legal\** or official status, covered by national regulations in many countries. In the context of the Principles and Criteria, management of these areas should involve active conservation, not passive protection' (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Coppice:** Management based on regeneration by re-growth from cut stumps (coppice stools). The same stool is used through several cycles of cutting and re-growth. (Source: UKWAS)

*Also see Short rotation coppice.*

**Coppice with standards:** Coppice with a scatter of trees of seedling or coppice origin,



grown on a long rotation to produce larger sized timber and to regenerate new seedlings to replace worn out stools. (Source: UKWAS)

**COSHH:** Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations. (Source: UKWAS)

**Coupe:** An area of woodland that has been or is planned for clearfelling. (Source: UKWAS)

**Critical:** The concept of criticality or fundamentality in Principal 9 and HCVs relates to irreplaceability and to cases where loss or major damage to this HCV would cause serious prejudice or suffering to affected stakeholders. An ecosystem service is considered to be critical (HCV 4) 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 the functioning of significant infrastructure (roads, dams, buildings etc.). The notion of criticality here refers to the importance and risk for natural resources and environmental and socio-economic values (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Criterion** (pl. Criteria): A means of judging whether or not a Principle (of forest stewardship) has been fulfilled (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0).

**Cultural features:** Historic environment sites, historic buildings and heritage landscapes including ancient woodlands. (Source: UKWAS)

**Culturally appropriate** [mechanisms]: Means/approaches for outreach to target groups that are in harmony with the customs, values, sensitivities, and ways of life of the target audience.

**Customary law:** Interrelated sets of customary rights may be recognized as customary law. In some jurisdictions, customary law is equivalent to statutory law, within its defined area of competence and may replace the statutory law for defined ethnic or other social groups. In some jurisdictions customary law complements statutory law and is applied in specified circumstances (Source: Based on N.L. Peluso and P. Vandergeest. 2001. Genealogies of the political forest and customary rights in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, *Journal of Asian Studies* 60(3):761–812).

**Customary rights:** Rights which result from a long series of habitual or customary actions, constantly repeated, which have, by such repetition and by uninterrupted acquiescence, acquired the force of a law within a geographical or sociological unit (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0).

**Deadwood:** All types of wood that are dead including whole or wind-snapped standing trees, fallen branch wood and stumps, decaying wood habitats on living trees such as rot holes, dead limbs, decay columns in trunks and limbs, and wood below the ground





as roots or stumps. (Source: UKWAS)

**Diffuse pollution:** Diffuse pollution comes from non-point source, widespread activities in the forest environment. Of particular relevance to woodland operations are oil spills and leaks, cutting-chain lubricants, siltation of water-courses, pesticide or fertilizer runoff and smoke. (Source: UKWAS)

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

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

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

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

This list should be adapted or expanded by Standard Developers.

**Drainage:** An operation to remove excess water from an area in a controlled way. In woodlands, drains are usually open, unlined channels. (Source: UKWAS)

**Ecological integrity:** The health and vitality of the woodland's physical and biological components. (Source: UKWAS)

**Economic viability:** The capability of developing and surviving as a relatively independent social, economic or political unit. Economic viability may require but is not synonymous with profitability (Source: Based on the definition provided on the website of the European Environment Agency).

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





**Ecosystem:** A community of plants and animals (including humans) interacting with each other and the forces of nature. (Source: UKWAS)

**Ecosystem function:** An intrinsic ecosystem characteristic related to the set of conditions and processes whereby an ecosystem maintains its integrity (such as primary productivity, food chain, biogeochemical cycles). Ecosystem functions include such processes as decomposition, production, nutrient cycling, and fluxes of nutrients and energy. For FSC purposes, this definition includes ecological and evolutionary processes such as gene flow and disturbance regimes, regeneration cycles and ecological seral development (succession) stages. (Source: Based on R. Hassan, R. Scholes and N. Ash. 2005. *Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis*. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Series. Island Press, Washington DC; and R.F. Noss. 1990. *Indicators for monitoring biodiversity: a hierarchical approach*. *Conservation Biology* 4(4):355–364).

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

- provisioning services such as food, forest products and water;
- regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, air quality, climate and disease;
- supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and
- cultural services and cultural values such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other non-material benefits.

(Source: Based on R. Hassan, R. Scholes and N. Ash. 2005. *Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis*. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Series. Island Press, Washington DC).

**Engaging / engagement:** The process by which The Organization communicates, consults and/or provides for the participation of interested and/or affected stakeholders ensuring that their concerns, desires, expectations, needs, rights and opportunities are considered in the establishment, implementation and updating of the *management plan*\* (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Environmental appraisal:** Generic term for the process of assessing the impact of plans or operations on the environment. (Source: UKWAS)

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



organization of the United Nations (FAO). Rome,-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Environmental impact assessment:** Environmental impact assessment (EIA) is the process and documentation associated with the statutory requirement under the EU Environmental Assessment Directive. (Source: UKWAS)

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

- ecosystem functions (including carbon sequestration and storage);
- biological diversity;
- water resources;
- soils;
- atmosphere;
- landscape values (including cultural and spiritual values).

The actual worth attributed to these elements depends on human and societal perceptions (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Externalities:** The positive and negative impacts of activities on stakeholders that are not directly involved in those activities, or on a natural resource or the environment, which do not usually enter standard cost accounting systems, such that the market prices of the products of those activities do not reflect the full costs or benefits (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Fair compensation:** Remuneration that is proportionate to the magnitude and type of services rendered by another party or of the harm that is attributable to the first party.

**Felling licence:** Licence issued by the relevant forestry authority to permit trees to be felled. With certain exceptions it is illegal to fell trees without prior approval. (Source: UKWAS)

**FEPA:** Food and Environment Protection Act 1985. (Source: UKWAS)

**Fertilizer:** Mineral or organic substances, most commonly N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O, which are applied to soil for the purpose of enhancing plant growth.

**FISA:** Forest Industry Safety Accord. (Source: UKWAS)

**Focal species:** Species whose requirements for persistence define the attributes that must be present if that landscape is to meet the requirements of the species that occur there (Source: Lambeck, R., J. 1997. Focal Species: A multi-species Umbrella for Nature Conservation. Conservation Biology vol 11 (4): 849-856.).

**Forest:** A tract of land dominated by trees (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0. Derived from FSC Guidelines for Certification Bodies, Scope of Forest Certification, Section 2.1 first published in 1998, and revised as FSC-GUI-20-200 in 2005, and revised again in



2010 as FSC-DIR-20-007 FSC Directive on Forest Management Evaluations, ADVICE-20-007-01).

**Forest:** Synonymous to woodland. (Source: UKWAS)

*See Woodland.*

**Forest management unit (FMU):** Synonymous to woodland management unit. (Source: UKWAS)

*See Woodland management unit (WMU).*

**Forest resilience:** The ability of a forest system to recover from short-term disturbances or to adapt to long-term changes, such as climate change, pests or diseases, while retaining or recovering the same basic structure and ways of functioning. Resilience should be considered in both ecological and economic terms. (Source: UKWAS)

**Forestry:** The science and art of managing woodlands. (Source: UKWAS)

**Forestry authority(ies):** The competent body with responsibility for the regulation of forestry in each country of the United Kingdom: Forestry Commission England, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development/Northern Ireland Forest Service, Forestry Commission Scotland and Welsh Government/Natural Resources Wales or their successor bodies. (Source: UKWAS)

**Forestry leaseholder:** The holder of a forest lease that grants control over the management of forestry operations. (Source: UKWAS)

**Formal and informal workers organization:** association or union of *workers\**, whether recognized by law or by *The Organization\** or neither, which have the aim of promoting *workers\** rights and to represent *workers\** in dealings with *The Organization\** particularly regarding working conditions and compensation.

**Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC):** A *legal\** condition whereby a person or community can be said to have given consent to an action prior to its commencement, based upon a clear appreciation and understanding of the facts, implications and future consequences of that action, and the possession of all relevant facts at the time when consent is given. Free, prior and informed consent includes the right to grant, modify, withhold or withdraw approval (Source: Based on the Preliminary working paper on the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples (...) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/2004/4 8 July 2004) of the 22nd Session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 19–23 July 2004).

**Game:** Animals, either wild or reared, managed for hunting or shot for food. (Source:



UKWAS)

**Gender equality:** Gender equality or gender equity means that women and men have equal conditions for realizing their full human rights and for contributing to, and benefiting from, economic, social, cultural and political development (Source: Adapted from FAO, IFAD and ILO workshop on 'Gaps, trends and current research in gender dimensions of agricultural and rural employment: differentiated pathways out of poverty', Rome, 31 March to 2 April 2009.).

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

**Genotype:** The genetic constitution of an organism (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Genotype:** The genetic constitution of an organism, as contrasted with its expressed characteristics which are known as the phenotype. (Source: UKWAS)

**Glade:** Small area of open ground which forms an integral part of the woodland. (Source: UKWAS)

**Grassland:** Land covered with herbaceous plants with less than 10% tree and shrub cover (Source: UNEP, cited in FAO. 2002. Second Expert Meeting on Harmonizing Forest-Related Definitions for use by various stakeholders).

**Group selection:** A method of managing irregular stands in which regeneration is achieved by felling trees in small groups. (Source: UKWAS)

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

**Habitat features:** *Forest\** stand attributes and structures, including but not limited to:

- Old commercial and non-commercial trees whose age noticeably exceeds the average age of the main canopy;
- Trees with special ecological value;
- Vertical and horizontal complexity;
- Standing dead trees;
- Dead fallen wood;
- Forest openings attributable to natural disturbances;
- Nesting sites;
- Small wetlands, bogs, fens;
- Ponds;
- Areas for procreation;



- Areas for feeding and shelter, including seasonal cycles of breeding;
- Areas for migration;
- Areas for hibernation.

**High Conservation Value (HCV):** Any of the following values:

- HCV1: Species Diversity. Concentrations of *biological diversity\** including endemic species, and rare, *threatened or endangered\** species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.
- HCV 2: Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics. Intact Forest Landscapes, large landscape-level *ecosystems\** and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- HCV 3: Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, *habitats\** or *refugia\**.
- HCV 4: Critical ecosystem services. Basic *ecosystem services\** in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.
- HCV 5: Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or *Indigenous Peoples\** (for example for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water), identified through engagement with these communities or *Indigenous Peoples\**.
- HCV 6: Cultural values. Sites, resources, habitats and *landscapes\** of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or *Indigenous Peoples\**, identified through engagement with these local communities or *Indigenous Peoples\**.

(Source: based on FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**High conservation value:** Areas and features of ecological and biodiversity interest identified in [Indicators 9.1.1 to 9.1.6]. (Source: UKWAS)

*Explanatory note: Although the community needs and cultural values covered by HCV 5 and HCV 6 are afforded the same level of treatment as other High Conservation Values in this Standard, the term 'high conservation value' is used in indicators to refer only to HCVs 1, 3 and 4, in keeping with widely understood usage of the term 'conservation'. (HCV 2 is not considered to be present in the UK.)*



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

**High grading:** High grading is a tree removal practice in which only the best quality, most valuable timber trees are removed, often without regenerating new tree seedlings or removing the remaining poor quality and suppressed understory trees and, in doing so, degrading the ecological health and commercial value of the forest. High grading stands as a counterpoint to sustainable resource management (Source: based on Glossary of Forest Management Terms. North Carolina Division of Forest Resources. March 2009).

**Historic environment:** Several thousand years of human activity has contributed to the landscape of the UK that we experience today. The surviving elements of the past take many forms, including ancient woods and forests, veteran trees, earthworks, ruined structures and features buried below ground. Together these elements provide a rich source of information about past societies and how they used and managed the land including their woods and forests. (Source: UKWAS)

**Horticultural:** In relation to [Indicator 10.5.5 guidance note] on Christmas trees: intensive production on a small or large scale in a setting that cannot reasonably be considered to be a forest or woodland. (Source: UKWAS)

**Indicator:** A quantitative or qualitative variable which can be measured or described, and which provides a means of judging whether a *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 *Management Unit*\* and are the primary basis of forest evaluation (Source: FSC-STD-01-002 V1-0 FSC Glossary of Terms (2009)).

**Indigenous Peoples:** People and groups of people that can be identified or characterized as follows:

- The key characteristic or Criterion is self-identification as Indigenous Peoples at the individual level and acceptance by the community as their member;
- Historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies;
- Strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources;
- Distinct social, economic or political systems;
- Distinct language, culture and beliefs;
- Form non-dominant groups of society;
- Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and



systems as distinctive peoples and communities.

(Source: Adapted from United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous, Factsheet 'Who are Indigenous Peoples' October 2007; United Nations Development Group, 'Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues' United Nations 2009, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 13 September 2007).

**Infrastructure:** In the context of forest management, roads, bridges, culverts, log landings, quarries, impoundments, buildings and other structures required in the course of implementing the *management plan*\*.

**Intact Forest Landscape:** a territory within today's global extent of forest cover which contains forest and non-forest ecosystems minimally influenced by human economic activity, with an area of at least 500 km<sup>2</sup> (50,000 ha) and a minimal width of 10 km (measured as the diameter of a circle that is entirely inscribed within the boundaries of the territory) (Source: Intact Forests / Global Forest Watch. Glossary definition as provided on Intact Forest website. 2006-2014).

**Intellectual property:** Practices as well as knowledge, innovations and other creations of the mind (Source: Based on the Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 8(j); and World Intellectual Property Organization. What is Intellectual Property? WIPO Publication No. 450(E)).

**Intensity:** A measure of the force, severity or strength of a management activity or other occurrence affecting the nature of the activity's impacts (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Interested parties:** People directly affected by or who have a significant interest in the woodland being managed. (Source: UKWAS)

*Explanatory note: The UKWAS term 'interested parties' is intended as an overarching term, encompassing the FSC terms 'affected stakeholder' and 'interested stakeholder'.*

**Interested stakeholder:** Any person, group of persons, or entity that has shown an interest, or is known to have an interest, in the activities of a Management Unit. The following are examples of interested stakeholders.

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





- Experts on particular issues, for example High Conservation Values.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0)

**International agreement:** An agreement under international law entered into by sovereign states and international organizations which may also be known as a treaty, protocol, covenant, convention, exchange of letters, etc. It provides a means for willing parties to assume obligations among themselves, and a party that fails to live up to their obligations can be held liable under international law. The Foreign & Commonwealth Office's 'UK Treaties Online' database on [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk) lists those involving the UK. (Source: UKWAS)

**Internationally accepted scientific protocol:** A predefined science-based procedure which is either published by an international scientific network or union, or referenced frequently in the international scientific literature (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Invasive species:** Species that are rapidly expanding outside of their native range. Invasive species can alter ecological relationships among native species and can affect ecosystem function and human health (Source: Based on World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website).

**Invasive (species):** Introduced non-native species which spread readily and dominate native species. (Source: UKWAS)

**IUCN Red List:** The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is widely recognised as the most comprehensive, objective global approach for evaluating the conservation status of plant and animal species. It provides a global context for the establishment of conservation priorities at the local level. (Source: UKWAS)

**Lands and territories:** For the purposes of the Principles and Criteria these are lands or territories that Indigenous Peoples or local communities have traditionally owned, or customarily used or occupied, and where access to natural resources is vital to the sustainability of their cultures and livelihoods (Source: Based on World Bank safeguard OP 4.10 Indigenous Peoples, section 16 (a). July 2005.).

**Landscape:** A geographical mosaic composed of interacting ecosystems resulting from the influence of geological, topographical, soil, climatic, biotic and human interactions in a given area (Source: Based on World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions as provided on IUCN website).

**Landscape level:** The level of the landscape unit. (Source: UKWAS)

**Landscape unit:** An area of broadly homogeneous landscape character. (Source: UKWAS)

**Landscape values:** Landscape values can be visualized as layers of human





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

**Large enterprise:** An organisation with at least 250 employees. (Source: UKWAS)

**Legal:** In accordance with primary legislation (national or local laws) or secondary legislation (subsidiary regulations, decrees, orders, etc.). 'Legal' also includes rule-based decisions made by legally competent agencies where such decisions flow directly and logically from the laws and regulations. Decisions made by legally competent agencies may not be legal if they do not flow directly and logically from the laws and regulations and if they are not rule-based but use administrative discretion (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Legally competent:** Mandated in law to perform a certain function (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Legal registration:** National or local *legal*\* license or set of permissions to operate as an enterprise, with rights to buy and sell products and/or services commercially. The license or permissions can apply to an individual, a privately-owned enterprise or a publicly-owned corporate entity. The rights to buy and sell products and/or services do not carry the obligation to do so, so *legal*\* registration applies also to Organizations operating a Management Unit without sales of products or services; for example, for unpriced recreation or for conservation of biodiversity or habitat (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Legal status:** The way in which the Management Unit is classified according to law. In terms of tenure, it means the category of tenure, such as communal land or leasehold or freehold or State land or government land, etc. If the Management Unit is being converted from one category to another (for example, from State land to communal indigenous land) the status includes the current position in the transition process. In terms of administration, legal status could mean that the land is owned by the nation as a whole, is administered on behalf of the nation by a government department, and is leased by a government Ministry to a private sector operator through a concession (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Living wage:** The remuneration received for a standard work week by a worker in a particular place sufficient to afford a decent standard of living for the worker and her or



his family. Elements of a decent standard of living include food, water, housing, education, health care, transport, clothing, and other essential needs including provision for unexpected events (Source: A Shared Approach to a Living Wage. ISEAL Living Wage Group. November 2013).

**Local Authority:** See *Statutory body*.

**Local communities:** Communities of any size that are in or adjacent to the Management Unit, and also those that are close enough to have a significant impact on the economy or the environmental values of the Management Unit or to have their economies, rights or environments significantly affected by the management activities or the biophysical aspects of the Management Unit (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Local laws:** The whole suite of primary and secondary laws (acts, ordinances, statutes, decrees) which is limited in application to a particular geographic district within a national territory, as well as secondary regulations, and tertiary administrative procedures (rules / requirements) that derive their authority directly and explicitly from these primary and secondary laws. Laws derive authority ultimately from the Westphalian concept of sovereignty of the Nation State (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Local people:** Anyone living or working in the vicinity who has an interest in the woodland. It is intentional that this term is not more closely defined, and the wider public is not excluded. It is particularly difficult to be precise about how local people are to be contacted or consulted. In some situations, it would be appropriate for this simply to mean those living beside the woodland (e.g. concerning noise disturbance). In other cases, (such as using local services) a much wider geographical area will be appropriate. If there is difficulty in identifying local contacts, then the elected representatives should be the first choice. (Source: UKWAS)

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

**Long-term retention:** Individual, stable stands and clumps of trees retained for environmental benefit significantly beyond the age or size generally adopted by the woodland enterprise. (Source: UKWAS)



**Lop and top:** Woody debris from cutting operations, sometimes converted into chippings. (Source: UKWAS)

**Lower impact silvicultural systems (LISS):** Silvicultural systems including group selection, shelterwood or under-planting, small coupe felling, coppice or coppice with standards, minimum intervention and single tree selection systems which are suitable for windfirm conifer woodlands and most broadleaved woodlands. (Source: UKWAS)

**Low intensity managed woodland:** Woodland management units are classed as being managed in a low intensity manner when:

a) the rate of timber harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI) within the total production woodland area of the unit

AND

either

b) the annual harvest from the total production woodland area is less than 5,000 cubic metres

or

c) the average annual timber harvest from the total production woodland is less than 5,000 m<sup>3</sup>/year during the period of validity of the certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits.

(Source: UKWAS)

*Explanatory note: Where Woodland Management Unit-specific estimates of mean annual increment are unavailable or impracticable, regional estimates of growth rates for specific woodland types may be used.*

**Management objective:** Specific management goals, practices, outcomes, and approaches established to achieve the requirements of this standard.

**Management plan:** The collection of documents, reports, records and maps that describe, justify and regulate the activities carried out by any manager, staff or organization within or in relation to the Management Unit, including statements of objectives and policies (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Management planning documentation:** *See Management plan.*

**Management plan monitoring:** Follow up and oversight procedures for the purpose of evaluating the achievement of the *management objectives\**. The results of the monitoring activities are utilized in the implementation of *adaptive management\**.

**Management Unit:** A spatial area or areas submitted for FSC certification with clearly defined boundaries managed to a set of explicit long term management objectives which are expressed in a *management plan\**. This area or areas include(s):



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

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Managerial control:** Responsibility of the kind defined for corporate directors of commercial enterprises in national commercial law, and treated by FSC as applicable also to public sector organizations (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Minimum intervention:** Management with no systematic felling or planting of trees. Operations normally permitted are fencing, control of exotic plant species and vertebrate pests, maintenance of paths and rides and safety work. (Source: UKWAS)

**National laws:** The whole suite of primary and secondary laws (acts, ordinances, statutes, decrees), which is applicable to a national territory, as well as secondary regulations, and tertiary administrative procedures (rules / requirements) that derive their authority directly and explicitly from these primary and secondary laws (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**National Nature Reserve (NNR):** A designated site containing examples of some of the most important natural and semi-natural terrestrial and coastal ecosystems, managed to conserve their habitats or to provide special opportunities for scientific study of the habitats, communities and species represented within them. In addition, they may be managed to provide public recreation that is compatible with their natural heritage interests. (Source: UKWAS)

**Native species:** Species, subspecies, or lower taxon, occurring within its natural range (past or present) and dispersal potential (that is, within the range it occupies naturally or could occupy without direct or indirect introduction or care by humans) (Source: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Invasive Alien Species Programme. Glossary of Terms as provided on CBD website).

**Native (species):** A species that has arrived and inhabited an area naturally, without deliberate assistance by man, or would occur had it not been removed through past management. For trees and shrubs in the UK this is usually taken to mean those species present after post-glacial recolonisation and before historic times. Some species are only native in particular regions. Differences in



characteristics and adaptation to conditions occur more locally hence the term 'locally native'. (Source: UKWAS)

**Natural conditions/native ecosystem:** For the purposes of the Principles and Criteria and any applications of restoration techniques, terms such as 'more natural conditions', 'native ecosystem' provide for managing sites to favor or restore native species and associations of native species that are typical of the locality, and for managing these associations and other environmental values so that they form ecosystems typical of the locality. Further guidelines may be provided in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Natural conditions:** Native species, associations of native species and other environmental values that are typical of the locality. (Source: UKWAS)

**Natural forest:** A forest area with many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems, such as complexity, structure and biological diversity, including soil characteristics, flora and fauna, in which all or almost all the trees are native species, not classified as plantations.

'Natural forest' includes the following categories:

- Forest affected by harvesting or other disturbances, in which trees are being or have been regenerated by a combination of natural and artificial regeneration with species typical of natural forests in that site, and where many of the above-ground and below-ground characteristics of the natural forest are still present. In boreal and north temperate forests which are naturally composed of only one or few tree species, a combination of natural and artificial regeneration to regenerate forest of the same native species, with most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems of that site, is not by itself considered as conversion to plantations;
- Natural forests which are maintained by traditional silvicultural practices including natural or assisted natural regeneration;
- Well-developed secondary or colonizing forest of native species which has regenerated in non-forest areas;
- The definition of 'natural forest' may include areas described as wooded ecosystems, woodland and savannah.

The description of natural forests and their principal characteristics and key elements may be further defined in FSC Forest Stewardship Standards, with appropriate descriptions or examples.



'Natural forest' does not include land which is not dominated by trees, was previously not forest, and which does not yet contain many of the characteristics and elements of native ecosystems. Young regeneration may be considered as natural forest after some years of ecological progression. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may indicate when such areas may be excised from the Management Unit, should be restored towards more natural conditions, or may be converted to other land uses.

FSC has not developed quantitative thresholds between different categories of forests in terms of area, density, height, etc. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may provide such thresholds and other guidelines, with appropriate descriptions or examples. Pending such guidance, areas dominated by trees, mainly of native species, may be considered as natural forest.

Thresholds and guidelines may cover areas such as:

- Other vegetation types and non-forest communities and ecosystems included in the Management Unit, including grassland, bushland, wetlands, and open woodlands;
- Very young pioneer or colonizing regeneration in a primary succession on new open sites or abandoned farmland, which does not yet contain many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems. This may be considered as natural forest through ecological progression after the passage of years;
- Young natural regeneration growing in natural forest areas may be considered as natural forest, even after logging, clear-felling or other disturbances, since many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems remain, above-ground and below-ground;
- Areas where deforestation and forest degradation have been so severe that they are no longer 'dominated by trees' may be considered as non-forest, when they have very few of the principal above-ground and below-ground characteristics and key elements of natural forests. Such extreme degradation is typically the result of combinations of repeated and excessively heavy logging, grazing, farming, fuelwood collection, hunting, fire, erosion, mining, settlements, infrastructure, etc. FSC Forest Stewardship Standards may help to decide when such areas should be excised from the Management Unit, should be restored towards more natural conditions, or may be converted to other land uses.

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).



Also see *Woodland*.

**Natural Hazards:** disturbances that can present risks to social and *environmental values\** in the *Management Unit\** but that may also comprise important ecosystem functions; examples include drought, flood, fire, landslide, storm, avalanche, etc.

**Natural reserve:** Natural reserves are predominantly wooded usually mature and intended to reach biological maturity. They are permanently identified and in locations which are of particularly high wildlife interest or potential. They are managed by minimum intervention unless alternative interventions have higher conservation or biodiversity value. (Source: UKWAS)

**Non-timber forest products (NTFP):** All products other than timber derived from the Management Unit (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Non-timber woodland products (NTWP):** Non-timber woodland products include foliage, moss, fungi, berries, seed, venison and other animal products.

Also known as non-timber forest products (NTFP). (Source: UKWAS)

**Objective:** The basic purpose laid down by *The Organization\** for the forest enterprise, including the decision of policy and the choice of means for attaining the purpose (Source: Based on F.C. Osmaston. 1968. *The Management of Forests*. Hafner, New York; and D.R. Johnston, A.J. Grayson and R.T. Bradley. 1967. *Forest Planning*. Faber & Faber, London).

**Obligatory code of practice:** A manual or handbook or other source of technical instruction which The Organization must implement by law (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

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

**Occupational disease:** Any disease contracted as a result of an exposure to risk factors arising from work activity (Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). Bureau of Library and Information Services. ILO Thesaurus as provided on ILO website).

**Occupational injuries:** Any personal injury, disease or death resulting from an occupational accident (Source: International Labour Organization (ILO). Bureau of Library and Information Services. ILO Thesaurus as provided on ILO website).

**Open space:** In a woodland this includes streams, ponds and well laid-out roads and rides. (Source: UKWAS)





**Organism:** Any biological entity capable of replication or of transferring genetic material (Source: Council Directive 90/220/EEC).

**The Organization:** The person or entity holding or applying for certification and therefore responsible for demonstrating compliance with the requirements upon which FSC certification is based (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Origin (of seed):** The original natural genetic source of those trees which are native to the site. (Source: UKWAS)

**Owner/manager:** The person or entity holding or applying for certification and therefore responsible for demonstrating conformance to this standard. This may be a forestry leaseholder. (Source: UKWAS)

*Explanatory note: The UKWAS term 'owner/manager' is synonymous with the FSC term 'the Organization'.*

**PAWS:** Plantation on ancient woodland site. (Source: UKWAS)

*See Woodland.*

**Peatland:** Is constituted by flooded and soggy areas, with large accumulations of organic material, covered by a layer of poor vegetation associated with a certain degree of acidity, and which presents a characteristic amber color (Source: Aguilar, L. 2001. About Fishermen, Fisherwomen, Oceans and tides. IUCN. San Jose (Costa Rica)).

**Permissive (access/use):** Use is by permission whether written or implied, rather than by right. (Source: UKWAS)

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

**Pesticides:** Any substance, preparation or organism prepared or used, among other uses, to protect plants or wood or other plant products from harmful organisms, to regulate the growth of plants, to give protection against harmful creatures or to render such creatures harmless. (Source: UKWAS)

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





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

(Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0)

*Also see Woodland.*

**Plantation on ancient woodland site (PAWS):** *See Woodland.*

**Precautionary approach:** An approach requiring that when the available information indicates that management activities pose a threat of severe or irreversible damage to the environment or a threat to human welfare, *The Organization\** will take explicit and effective measures to prevent the damage and avoid the risks to welfare, even when the scientific information is incomplete or inconclusive, and when the vulnerability and sensitivity of environmental values are uncertain (Source: Based on Principle 15 of Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 1992, and Wingspread Statement on the Precautionary Principle of the Wingspread Conference, 23–25 January 1998).

**Precautionary approach:** Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental damage. (Based on Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development)  
(Source: UKWAS)

**Pre-harvest [condition]:** The diversity, composition, and structure of the *forest\** or plantation prior to felling timber and appurtenant activities such as road building.

**Principle:** An essential rule or element; in FSC's case, of forest stewardship (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V4-0).

**Priority habitats:** Habitats identified by statutory nature conservation and countryside agencies under Section 41 (England) and Section 42 (Wales) of the Natural



Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, Section 2(4) of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, and Section 3(1) of the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. (Source: UKWAS)

*Also see Statutory body.*

**Priority species:** Protected, rare and endangered species which are:

- identified by statutory nature conservation and countryside agencies under Section 41 (England) and Section 42 (Wales) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, Section 2(4) of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, and Section 3(1) of the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011,
- protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981,
- protected under European law (European Protected Species), and/or
- categorised as Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered in the IUCN Red List.

(Source: UKWAS)

*Also see Statutory body and IUCN Red List.*

**Protection:** See definition of Conservation.

**Protection Area:** See definition of Conservation Zone.

**Provenance:** Location of trees from which seed or cuttings are collected. Designation of Regions of Provenance under the Forest Reproductive Materials regulations is used to help nurseries and growers select suitable material. The term is often confused with 'origin' which is the original natural genetic source. (Source: UKWAS)

**Publicly available:** In a manner accessible to or observable by people generally (Source: Collins English Dictionary, 2003 Edition).

**Publicly available:** Accessible to local people or other interested parties. For example, placing material on a website or on signage, providing electronic or hard copies of documents, or making documents available for inspection at a local office. In most cases, a charge may not be made for making material publicly available. However, where a summary of material has been made publicly available free of charge, a charge to cover costs of reproduction and handling may be made if any additional material is requested. (Source: UKWAS)

*Explanatory note: The UKWAS definition of the term 'publicly available' expands the FSC definition to include requirements of Criteria 1.8, 7.5 and 8.4.*

**Public Rights of Way:** Public Rights of Way are statutory rights of way in England and Wales and are recorded on Definitive Maps held by local authorities showing whether



the right of way is by foot, horse or vehicle.

In Northern Ireland, records of public rights of way are held by district councils. (Source: UKWAS)

**Ramsar sites:** Wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention. (Source: UKWAS)

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

**Ratified:** The process by which an international law, convention or agreement (including multilateral environmental agreement) is legally approved by a national legislature or equivalent *legal*\* mechanism, such that the international law, convention or agreement becomes automatically part of national law or sets in motion the development of national law to give the same *legal*\* effect (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Reasonable:** Judged to be fair or appropriate to the circumstances or purposes, based on general experience (Source: Shorter Oxford English Dictionary).

**Recreation:** Activity or experience of the visitor's own choice within a woodland setting. (Facilities may sometimes be provided and charges levied for their use.) (Source: UKWAS)

*Also see Access.*

**Reduced impact harvesting:** Harvesting (or logging) using techniques to reduce the impact on the residual stand (Source: Based on Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests, IUCN 2006).

**Refugia:** An isolated area where extensive changes, typically due to changing climate or by disturbances such as those caused by humans, have not occurred and where plants and animals typical of a region may survive (Source: Glen Canyon Dam, Adaptive Management Program Glossary as provided on website of Glen Canyon Dam website).

**Regeneration:** Renewal of woodland through sowing, planting, or natural regeneration. (Source: UKWAS)



**Relict:** A remnant of a formally widespread species or habitat that persists in an isolated area from a previous land-use or vegetation cover. (Source: UKWAS)

**Remnant:** The baseline of surviving ancient woodland features found in PAWS, for which there is physical or documentary evidence.

These include:

- Woodland specialist flora. These are species with a strong affinity for ancient woodland but may vary in relation to geographic region
- Trees originating from the pre-plantation stand. They can be maidens, standards, coppice stools or pollards and may include ancient or veteran trees
- Deadwood originating from the pre-plantation stand, coarse woody debris and associated decomposer communities
- Undisturbed woodland soil profile.

These features provide the continuity of habitat with the pre-plantation phase. (Source: UKWAS)

**Representative Sample Areas:** Portions of the *Management Unit*\* delineated for the purpose of conserving or restoring viable examples of an ecosystem that would naturally occur in that geographical region.

**Resilience:** The ability of a system to maintain key functions and processes in the face of stresses or pressures by either resisting or adapting to change. Resilience can be applied to both ecological systems and social systems (Source: IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA). 2008. Establishing Marine Protected Area Networks – Making it Happen. Washington D.C.: IUCN-WCPA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and The Nature Conservancy.).

**Restocking:** Replacing felled areas by sowing seed, planting or natural regeneration. (Source: UKWAS)

**Restore / Restoration:** These words are used in different senses according to the context and in everyday speech. In some cases 'restore' means to repair the damage done to environmental values that resulted from management activities or other causes. In other cases 'restore' means the formation of more natural conditions in sites which have been heavily degraded or converted to other land uses. In the Principles and Criteria, the word 'restore' is not used to imply the recreation of any particular previous, pre-historic, pre-industrial or other pre-existing ecosystem (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

*The Organization*\* is not necessarily obliged to restore those environmental values that have been affected by factors beyond the control of The Organization, for example by



natural disasters, by climate change, or by the legally authorized activities of third parties, such as public infrastructure, mining, hunting or settlement. FSC-POL-20-003 The Excision of Areas from the Scope of Certification describes the processes by which such areas may be excised from the area certified, when appropriate.

The Organization is also not obliged to restore environmental values that may have existed at some time in the historic or pre-historic past, or that have been negatively affected by previous owners or organizations. However, The Organization is expected to take reasonable measures to mitigate, control and prevent environmental degradation which is continuing in the Management Unit as a result of such previous impacts.

**Retentions:** Trees retained, usually for environmental benefit, significantly beyond the age or size generally adopted by the owner for felling. (Source: UKWAS)

**Ride:** Permanent unsurfaced access route through woodland. (Source: UKWAS)

**Riparian zone:** Interface between land and a water body, and the vegetation associated with it.

**Risk:** The probability of an unacceptable negative impact arising from any activity in the Management Unit combined with its seriousness in terms of consequences (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Scale:** A measure of the extent to which a management activity or event affects an environmental value or a management unit, in time or space. An activity with a small or low spatial scale affects only a small proportion of the forest each year, an activity with a small or low temporal scale occurs only at long intervals (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Scale, intensity and risk:** See individual definitions of the terms 'scale', 'intensity', and 'risk'.

**Semi-natural woodland:** *See Woodland.*

**Shelterwood:** The shelterwood system involves the felling of a proportion of the mature trees within an area whilst leaving some trees as a seed source and shelter for natural regeneration. The seed trees are subsequently removed. Note that the term 'seed tree system' is often used to describe 'shelterwoods' with densities of <50 retained mature trees per hectare. (Source: UKWAS)

**Short rotation coppice (SRC):** Short rotation coppice (usually willow or poplar) typically grown as an energy crop and harvested every 3 years. (Source: UKWAS)

*Also see Coppice.*

**Short rotation forestry (SRF):** Short rotation forestry crops are typically harvested at



between 8 and 20 years. (Source: UKWAS)

**Significant:** For the purposes of Principle 9, HCVs 1, 2 and 6 there are three main forms of recognizing significance.

- A designation, classification or recognized conservation status, assigned by an international agency such as IUCN or Birdlife International;
- A designation by national or regional authorities, or by a responsible national conservation organization, on the basis of its concentration of biodiversity;
- A voluntary recognition by the manager, owner or Organization, on the basis of available information, or of the known or suspected presence of a significant biodiversity concentration, even when not officially designated by other agencies.

Any one of these forms will justify designation as HCVs 1, 2 and 6. Many regions of the world have received recognition for their biodiversity importance, measured in many different ways. Existing maps and classifications of priority areas for biodiversity conservation play an essential role in identifying the potential presence of HCVs 1, 2 and 6 (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Silviculture:** The art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health and quality of forests and woodlands to meet the targeted diverse needs and values of landowners and society on a sustainable basis (Source: Nieuwenhuis, M. 2000. Terminology of Forest Management. IUFRO World Series Vol. 9. IUFRO 4.04.07 SilvaPlan and SilvaVoc).

**Silviculture (silvicultural):** The techniques of tending and regenerating woodlands, and harvesting their physical products. (Source: UKWAS)

**Single tree selection:** A method of managing irregular stands in which individual trees of any size are removed more or less uniformly throughout the stand. (Source: UKWAS)

**Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI):** A designated site providing statutory protection for the best examples of the flora, fauna, or geological or physiographical features of England, Scotland and Wales. SSSIs also underpin other national and international nature conservation designations. (Source: UKWAS)

**Small coupe felling:** A small scale clearfelling system. The system is imprecisely defined but coupes are typically between 0.5 ha and 2.0 ha in extent, with the larger coupes elongated in shape so the edge effect is still high. (Source: UKWAS)

**Snag:** A standing dead tree that has lost its top. (Source: UKWAS)



**Special Area of Conservation (SAC):** Area designated under the EU Habitats Directive. (Source: UKWAS)

**Special Protection Area (SPA):** Area designated under the EU Birds Directive. (Source: UKWAS)

**Spirit, conformance to:** Conformance to the spirit means that the owner/manager is aiming to achieve the principles set out in the certification standard. (Source: UKWAS)

**Stakeholder:** See definitions for 'affected stakeholder' and 'interested stakeholder'.

**Statutory body(ies):** There are four categories:

- The statutory nature conservation and countryside agencies: Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural Resources Wales and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency or their successor bodies
- The statutory environment protection agencies: Environment Agency (in England), Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Natural Resources Wales and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency or their successor bodies
- The statutory historic environment agencies: Historic England, Historic Scotland, Cadw (in Wales) and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency or their successor bodies
- Local authorities responsible for a wide range of functions including highways and planning.

(Source: UKWAS)

**Statutory law or statute law:** The body of law contained in Acts of Parliament (national legislature) (Source: Oxford Dictionary of Law).

**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.) (Source: World Conservation Union (IUCN). Glossary definitions provided on IUCN website).

**Thinning:** Tree removal, which results in a temporary reduction in basal area, made after canopy closure to promote growth and greater value in the remaining trees. (Source: UKWAS)

**Threat:** An indication or warning of impending or likely damage or negative impacts (Source: Based on Oxford English Dictionary).

**Threatened species:** Species that meet the IUCN (2001) criteria for Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR), and are facing a high, very high or





extremely high risk of extinction in the wild. These categories may be re-interpreted for FSC purposes according to official national classifications (which have *legal*\* significance) and to local conditions and population densities (which should affect decisions about appropriate conservation measures) (Source: Based on IUCN. (2001). IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.).

**Timber harvesting level:** The actual harvest quantity executed on *the Management Unit*\*, tracked by either volume (e.g. cubic meters or board feet) or area (e.g. hectares or acres) metrics for the purpose of comparison with calculated (maximum) allowable harvest levels.

**Timely manner:** As promptly as circumstances reasonably allow; not intentionally postponed by *The Organization*\*; in compliance with applicable laws, contracts, licenses or invoices.

**Timely manner:** As promptly as circumstances reasonably allow; not intentionally postponed by the owner/manager. (Source: UKWAS)

**Trademarks:** 'UKWAS' and 'United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard' are registered trademarks. (Source: UKWAS)

**Traditional:** In relation to [Indicator 10.5.5] on Christmas trees: production on a small scale in a setting that can reasonably be considered to be a woodland. (Source: UKWAS)

**Traditional Knowledge:** Information, know-how, skills and practices that are developed, sustained and passed on from generation to generation within a community, often forming part of its cultural or spiritual identity (Source: based on the definition by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Glossary definition as provided under Policy / Traditional Knowledge on the WIPO website).

**Traditional peoples:** Traditional peoples are social groups or peoples who do not self-identify as indigenous and who affirm rights to their lands, forests and other resources based on long established custom or traditional occupation and use (Source: Forest Peoples Programme (Marcus Colchester, 7 October 2009)).

**Traditional rights:** Rights which result from a long series of habitual or customary actions, which have, by uninterrupted acquiescence, acquired the force of a law within a geographical or sociological unit. (Source: UKWAS)

**Under-planting:** The planting of young trees under the canopy of an existing stand – often combined with a shelterwood or group selection system. (Source: UKWAS)

**United Kingdom:** References to the 'United Kingdom' or 'UK' refer to the 'United





Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland' which comprises England, Scotland and Wales (collectively referred to as 'Great Britain') and Northern Ireland. (Source: UKWAS)

**Uphold:** To acknowledge, respect, sustain and support (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Use rights:** Rights for the use of resources of the Management Unit that can be defined by local custom, mutual agreements, or prescribed by other entities holding access rights. These rights may restrict the use of particular resources to specific levels of consumption or particular harvesting techniques (Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-0).

**Value(s):** The weights given to economic, biodiversity, recreational, environmental, social and cultural impacts when considering management options. (Source: UKWAS)

**Verifiable targets:** Specific goals, such as desired future forest conditions, established to measure progress towards the achievement of each of the *management objectives*\*. These goals are expressed as clear outcomes, such that their attainment can be verified and it is possible to determine whether they have been accomplished or not.

**Very Limited portion:** The area affected *shall*\* not exceed 0.5% of the area of the *Management Unit*\* in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% of the area of the *Management Unit*\* (Source: based on FSC-STD-01-002 V1-0 FSC Glossary of Terms (2009)).

**Veteran tree:** A tree that is of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of its age, size or condition, including the presence of deadwood micro-habitats. (Source: UKWAS)

**Waste materials:** unusable or unwanted substances or by-products, such as:

- Hazardous waste, including chemical waste and batteries;
- Containers;
- Motor and other fuels and oils;
- Rubbish including metals, plastics and paper; and
- Abandoned buildings, machinery and equipment.

**Water bodies** (including water courses): Seasonal, temporary, and permanent brooks, creeks, streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. Water bodies include riparian or wetland systems, lakes, swamps, bogs and springs.

**Water course:** Streams and rivers. References to forestry practice on adjacent land should be taken as applying also to adjacent water e.g. ponds and lakes. (Source: UKWAS)

**Water scarcity:** A water supply that limits food production, human health, and



economic development. Severe scarcity is taken to be equivalent to 1,000 cubic meters per year per person or greater than 40% use relative to supply (Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-Being: Policy Responses. Findings of the Responses Working Group. Washington DC: Island Press, Pages 599-605).

**Water stress:** Occurs when the demand for water exceeds the available amount during a certain period or when poor quality restricts its use. Water stress causes deterioration of freshwater resources in terms of quantity (aquifer over-exploitation, dry rivers, etc.) and quality (eutrophication, organic matter pollution, saline intrusion, etc.) (Source: UNEP, 2003, cited in Gold Standard Foundation. 2014. Water Benefits Standard).

**Wetlands:** Transitional areas between terrestrial and aquatic systems in which the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water (Source: Cowardin, L.M., Carter, V., Golet, F.C., Laroe, E.T. 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States. DC US Department: Washington).

Under the Ramsar Convention, wetlands can include tidal mudflats, natural ponds, marshes, potholes, wet meadows, bogs, peatlands, freshwater swamps, mangroves, lakes, rivers and even some coral reefs (Source: IUCN, No Date, IUCN Definitions – English).

**Whole tree harvesting:** The removal from the harvesting site of every part of the tree above ground or above and below ground. (Source: UKWAS)

**Windthrow:** Uprooting of trees by the wind. (Source: UKWAS)

**Windthrow risk:** A technical assessment of risk based on local climate, topography, site conditions and tree height. (Source: UKWAS)

**Woodland:** Predominantly tree covered land whether in large tracts (generally called forests) or smaller units (known by a variety of terms such as woodlands, woods, copses and shelterbelts).

Those woodlands which are comprised mainly of locally native trees and shrubs, and have some structural characteristics of natural woodland are referred to as **semi-natural woodland**.

Those woodlands which are derived principally from the human activity of planting, sowing or intensive silvicultural treatment but lack most of the principal characteristics and key elements of semi-natural woodland are generally referred to as **plantations** or **woodlands of planted origin**. They often include a proportion of naturally



regenerated trees and are often managed to become more like natural woodlands over time.

Woodland is referred to as **ancient woodland** when it has been in continuous existence since before AD 1600 in England, Wales and Northern Ireland or since before AD 1750 in Scotland.

The term **ancient semi-natural woodland (ASNW)** is used to describe those semi-natural stands on ancient woodland sites. The precise definition varies according to the local circumstances in each country within the United Kingdom and guidance should be sought from the relevant forestry authority.

The term **ancient woodland site** refers to the site of an ancient woodland irrespective of its current tree cover. Where the native tree cover has been felled and replaced by planting of tree species not native to the site it is referred to as a **plantation on ancient woodland site (PAWS)**. (Source: UKWAS)

*Also see Natural forest and Plantation.*

*Explanatory note: There is not considered to be any truly natural forest in the UK. Ancient semi-natural woodland or other long-established semi-natural woodland is the nearest equivalent.*

**Woodland management plan:** *See Management plan.*

**Woodland management unit (WMU):** The woodland management unit (WMU) is the area to which the management planning documentation relates. A WMU is a clearly defined woodland area, or areas, with mapped boundaries, managed to a set of explicit long term objectives. (Source: UKWAS)

*Also see Management Unit.*

**Wood pasture:** Areas of historical, cultural and ecological interest, where grazing is managed in combination with a proportion of open tree canopy cover. (Source: UKWAS)

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

**Workers:** All employed persons including public employees as well as self-employed persons and volunteers. This includes part-time and seasonal employees, of all ranks and categories, including labourers, administrators, supervisors, executives, contractor employees, self-employed contractors and



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sub-contractors and other licensed operators. (Source: UKWAS)