

# INTRODUCING THE FSC US FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD V2 → TECHNICAL DEEP DIVE WEBINAR

Amy Clark Eagle, Director of Science & Certification  
Carly Evans, Forest Management Specialist

*Forest Stewardship Council U.S. Webinar*  
*November 6, 2025*



# Join Us at Upcoming Events!!

## Southeast Stakeholder Events

Augusta, Georgia  
Dinner, stakeholder mtg & field tour

**November 11-13, 2025**

## SAF Community of Interest Webinar

Virtual  
FSC US FSS focus

**December 17, 2025**

## 2026 Stakeholder Events

Knoxville, TN / Madison, WI  
FSS workshop & stakeholder meeting

**March / April 2026**

## Stewardship in Action 2026

Seattle, Washington  
FSC US annual conference

**October 2026**

# AGENDA → TECHNICAL DEEP DIVE WEBINAR

	Topic	Time
1	Welcome & Background	10 min.
2	Transitioning to Version 2	20 min.
3	Significant Changes from Version 1	60 min.
4	Questions	30 min.

**Together we keep forests forever**



# The role of FSC Principles and Criteria and International Generic Indicators



# FSS Revision Process

## 2018-2023

- FSC US Board serving as national-level decision-makers (i.e., SDG)
- 2 Public Consultations / ~4000 Comments
- 3<sup>rd</sup> draft submitted for FSC International approval process in December 2023

## 2024

- FSC International review & further changes requested
- 4<sup>th</sup> Draft completed & submitted for October 2024 review by FSC International committee with approval-authority → Review Not Possible

## 2025

- 5<sup>th</sup> Draft received conditional approval from International committee in May
- **Confirmation of conditions closure and full approval received in July**





# TRANSITIONING TO VERSION 2

# Implementation Timeline

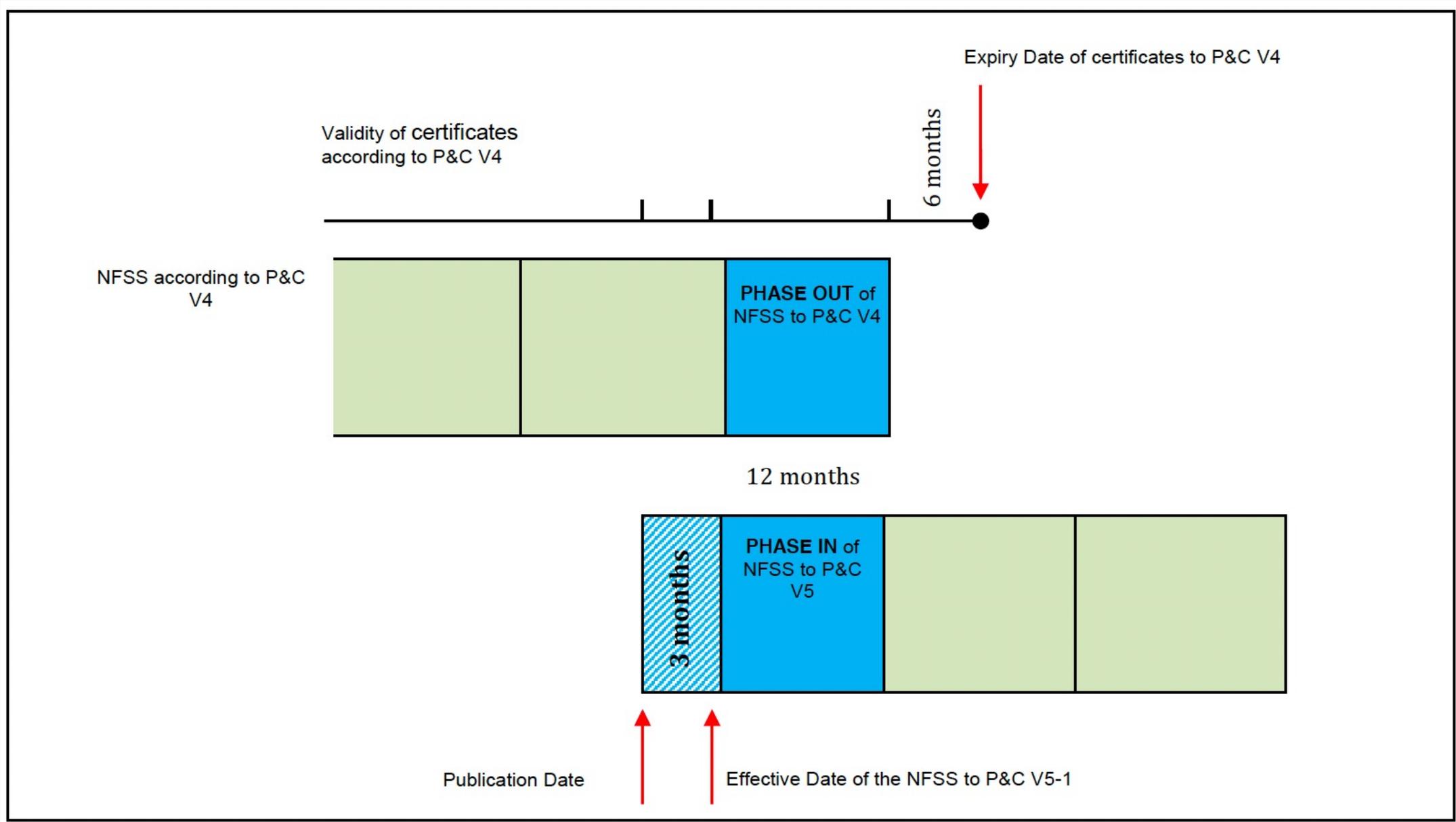
Milestones	Estimated Date(s)
Publication Date	January 1, 2026
Effective Date (beginning of transition period)	April 1, 2026
End of Transition Period	September 30, 2027 (18-month duration)



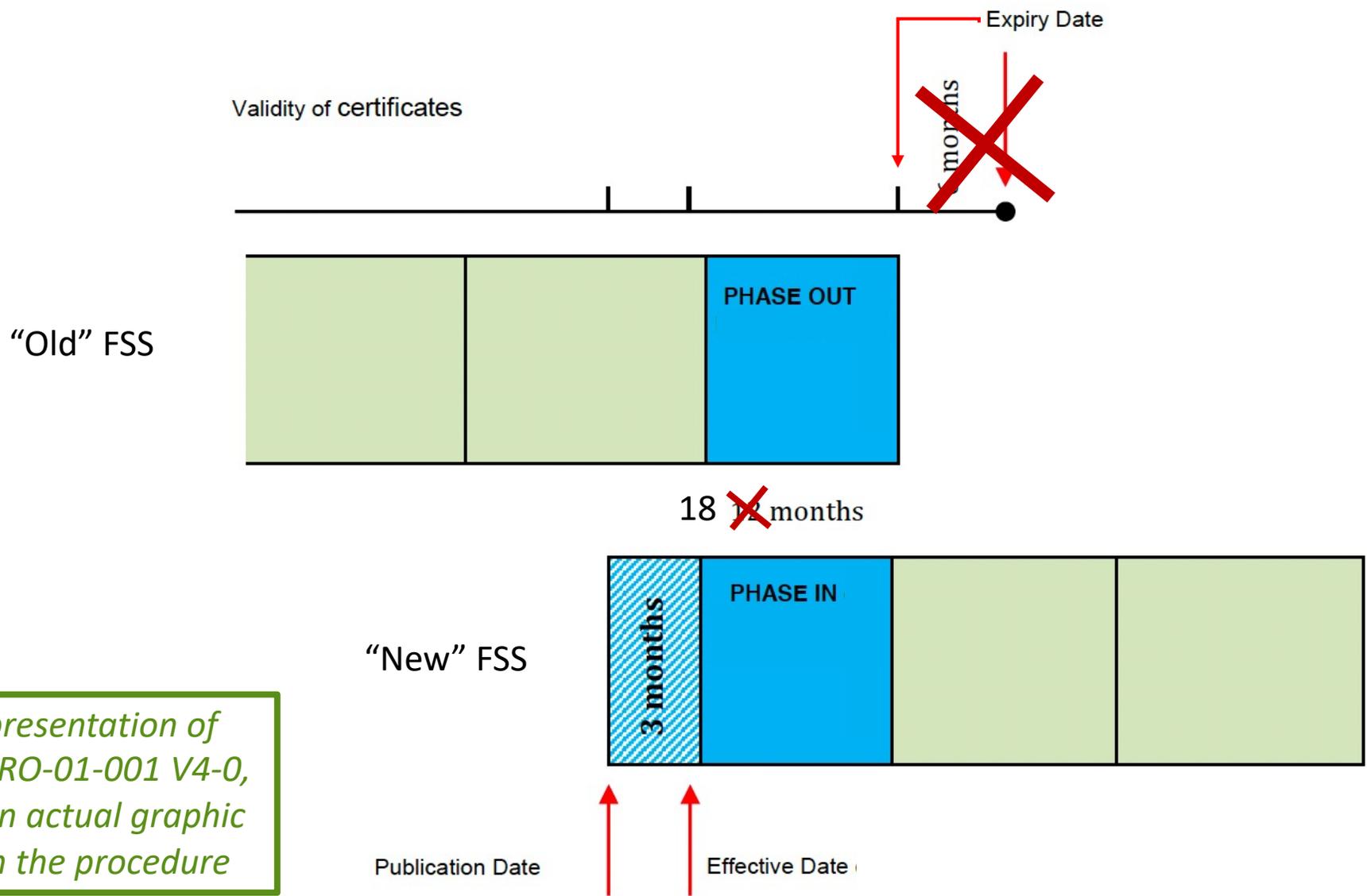
# What Happens During the Transition Period?

- Certificate holders continue their normal audit cycle & schedule
- Both standards are valid for audits
- Certificate holders must have their first V2 audit
- Certificate holders must conform with new/revised indicators
- Still being clarified:
  - Whether all new/revised indicators must be audited prior to the end of the transition period (previously low risk could be audited after transition and before end of 5-year cycle)
  - Whether major nonconformances assessed during the transition period must be closed prior to the end of the transition period

# “Old” Transfer Timeline (FSC-PRO-60-006)

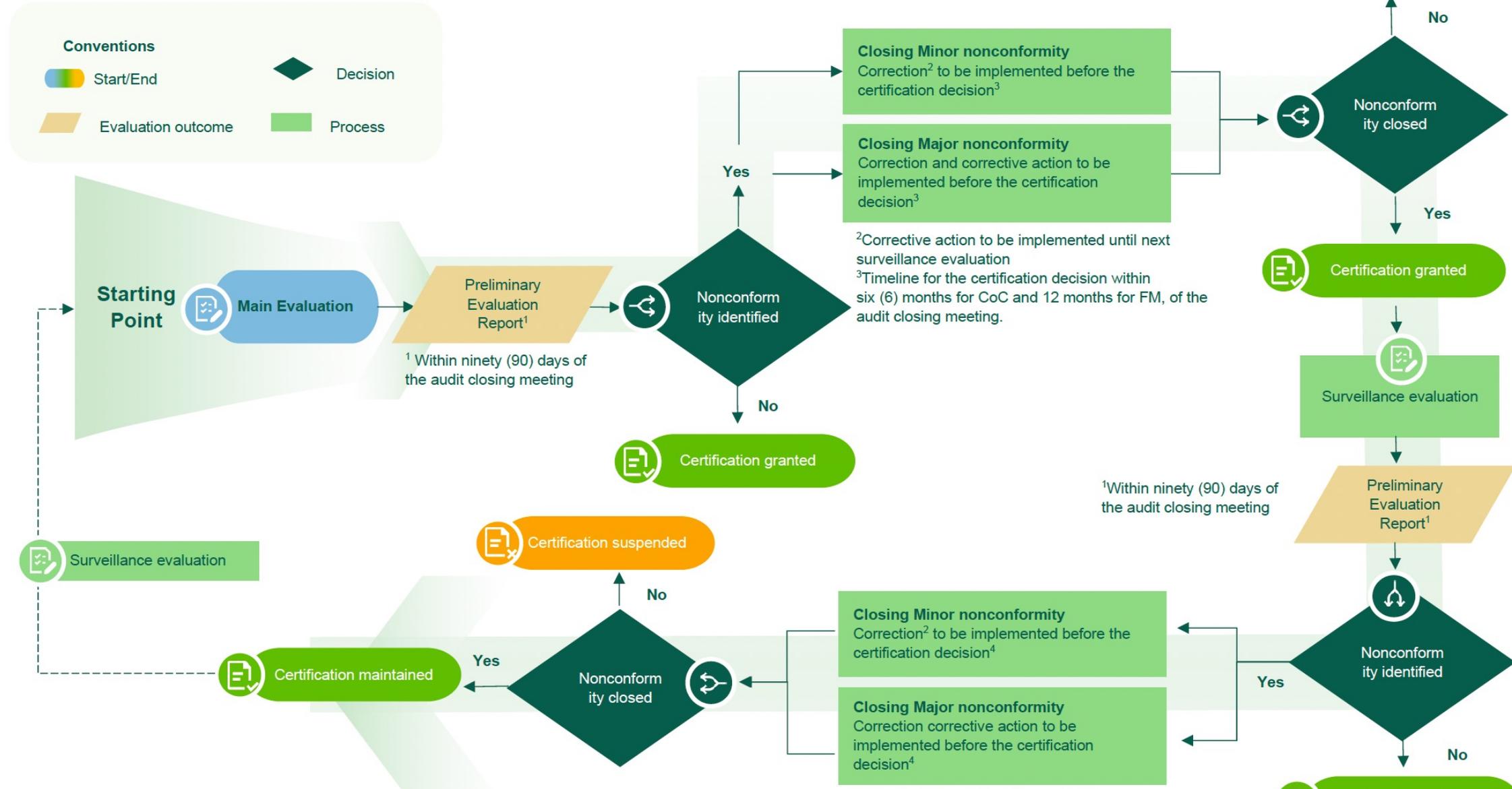


# “New” Transfer Timeline for Non-FSS Normative Documents



*Representation of FSC-PRO-01-001 V4-0, not an actual graphic from the procedure*

# Annex 5. Closure of nonconformities (informative)



**Correction:** immediate action to eliminate or correct a nonconformity.  
**Corrective action:** action to eliminate the cause of a nonconformity and to prevent recurrence.

# FSS Transition Resources – Currently Available

( <https://us.fsc.org/en-us/certification/forest-management-certification/revised-fsc-us-forest-stewardship-standard-v2-coming-soon> )

- Unofficial version of standard (Draft 6)
- High-level summary of significant differences
- Crosswalks of V1 & V2:
  - Main indicators
  - Indicators applicable to family forests/SLIMF
  - Indicators applicable to management units with plantations
  - Federal lands supplementary requirements
- Tracked changes Draft 3 to Draft 6

# High-level summary of significant differences (Excerpt)

Driver for Change	Alignment with FSC Principles & Criteria Version 5 or with the International Generic Indicators
	Combination of above and below
	Standard Development Group (i.e., FSC US Board of Directors) response to stakeholder input



	Version 1.0/1.1	Version 2.0
OVERALL STRUCTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All management units conform with Principle 1 through Principle 9</li> <li>Management units with FSC plantations also conform with Principle 10</li> <li>Community relations and workers' rights are combined in a single Principle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All management units conform with Principle 1 through Principle 10</li> <li>Management units with FSC plantations conform with alternate and additional indicators in Principles 6 &amp; 10</li> <li>Workers' rights and community relations are addressed in separate Principles</li> </ul>
DISPUTE RESOLUTION	<p>Certificate holders are expected to resolve disputes regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tenure claims &amp; use rights</li> <li>conflicts between workers &amp; management</li> <li>stakeholder grievances and/or provision of fair compensation</li> </ul>	<p>Certificate holders are expected to have a dispute resolution process developed through engagement with potential stakeholder users and attempt to resolve disputes out of court, regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>applicable laws</li> <li>grievances from employees and independent contractors</li> <li>violations of rights held by Native American Indigenous Peoples</li> <li>impacts of management activities on affected local communities and other affected stakeholders.</li> </ul>
WORKERS & CONTRACTORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worker-oriented indicators are limited in number, with some topics applicable only to employees, and others applicable to all workers.</li> <li>"Workers" is defined to include employees of contractors, overlapping or third-party licensees, as well as employees of the applicant firm and subcontractors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of worker-oriented indicators is greatly increased, and gender equity is explicitly addressed</li> <li>Indicators are applicable to all workers (i.e., employees and others) but the way that conformance is demonstrated may be different for different types of workers.</li> <li>"Workers" is defined to include all persons who are implementing management activities under the scope of the Standard, regardless of by whom they are employed.</li> </ul>

# Crosswalks of V1 & V2 (Example)

	A	B	C	D	E
5		2.1.2.All forms of forced or compulsory labor* shall be eliminated.	Minor Change		Implied in V1.1 (compliance with laws) but explicit in V2
6		2.1.3.There shall be no discrimination* in employment and occupation*.	Generally aligned	Indicator 4.1.d Hiring practices and conditions of employment are non-discriminatory and follow applicable federal, state and local regulations.	
7		<p>2.1.4.Workers** freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining* shall be respected.</p> <p>2.1.4.1Workers* are able to establish or join worker organizations* in accordance with applicable federal laws* and local laws*.</p> <p>2.1.4.2The rights* of workers* to engage in lawful activities related to forming, joining, or assisting a workers' organization*, or to refrain from doing the same are respected, and workers* are not discriminated against or punished for exercising these rights*.</p> <p>2.1.4.3Negotiations with lawfully established workers' organizations* and/or duly selected representatives are completed in good faith* and with the best efforts to reach collective bargaining* agreements.</p> <p>2.1.4.4Collective bargaining* agreements are implemented where they exist.</p>	Minor Change	Indicator 4.3.a Forest workers are free to associate with other workers for the purpose of advocating for their own employment interests.	Not every aspect explicit in V1 but most/all aspects are already covered by federal laws, so should not require significant added effort.
8		2.2.The Organization* shall promote gender equality* in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts, processes of engagement* and management activities.			
9		2.2.1.Gender equity* is promoted and gender discrimination* is prevented in employment practices, training opportunities, awarding of contracts and other legal agreements that result in implementation of management activities*, processes of engagement*, and implementation of management activities*.	Generally aligned	Indicator 4.1.d Hiring practices and conditions of employment are non-discriminatory and follow applicable federal, state and local regulations.	
10		2.2.2.Parental leave practices follow applicable federal laws* and local laws*. If federal law* or local law* does not apply, The Organization's* policy provides a minimum 6 weeks of leave for parents following the birth of a child.	Moderate Change		New to V2
11		2.2.3.Confidential and effective mechanisms exist for preventing, reporting and addressing cases of sexual harassment and discrimination*, workplace harassment or bullying and The Organization* follows all applicable federal laws* and local laws* regarding harassment and discrimination*.	Major Change		New to V2
12		2.2.4.For non-family forest* management units*, individuals of all genders (including gender identities*), with consideration of experience, performance, qualifications, skills, and responsibilities, are paid equally when they do the same work, using a direct and secure method of payment.	Minor Change	Indicator 4.1.d Hiring practices and conditions of employment are non-discriminatory and follow applicable federal, state and local regulations.	V2 includes some additional details

# FSS Transition Resources – By End of 2025

( <https://us.fsc.org/en-us/certification/forest-management-certification/revised-fsc-us-forest-stewardship-standard-v2-coming-soon> )

- Schedule of 2026 engagement events
  - Topic-specific webinars (Q1)
  - In-person workshops (Q1/Q2)
  - Virtual workshops (Q2)
  - Potential additional engagement events as needed & time allows
- Topic-specific “explainers” for high-interest issues
- Versions of standard customized for different users, different interests
  - Only family forest indicators, only plantation-applicable indicators, etc.
  - Key elements by Principle, key elements by Criterion
  - Indicators re-arranged
- Frequently asked questions

# FSS Transition Resources – Ongoing

- Calibration with Certification Bodies
- Outreach to certificate holders to request input on priorities for support
- Development of priority tools & resources, potentially including:
  - Identification of options/best practices for demonstrating P2 conformance
  - Outreach to tribes to help facilitate/streamline CH engagement processes
  - Additional guidance documents
  - Templates
  - Identification of sources for “best available information”
  - Audit training & preparation resources
  - Step-by-step instructions for pulling key data from public sources (e.g., NatureServe)

# SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

# Overall Structure

## Version 1.0/1.1

- All management units conform with **Principle 1 through Principle 9**
- Management units with FSC plantations also conform with Principle 10
- **Community relations and workers' rights are combined** in a single Principle
- **Low risk, alternate & inapplicable indicators** for family forests/SLIMF

## Version 2.0

- All management units conform with **Principle 1 through Principle 10**
- Management units with FSC plantations conform with alternate and additional indicators in Principles 6 & 10
- **Workers' rights and community relations are addressed in separate Principles**
- **Alternate & inapplicable indicators** for family forests / SLIMF

# 10 Principles for responsible forest stewardship



# Dispute Resolution – Criterion 1.6

## Version 1.0/1.1

Certificate holders **expected to resolve disputes** regarding:

- tenure claims & use rights
- conflicts between workers & management
- stakeholder grievances and/or provision of fair compensation

## Version 2.0

Certificate holders **expected to have a dispute resolution process** (developed through engagement) & attempt to resolve disputes out of court, regarding:

- applicable laws
- grievances from employees and independent contractors
- violations of rights held by Native American Indigenous Peoples
- impacts of mgmt activities on affected local communities & other affected stakeholders

# Dispute Resolution – C1.6 Guidance & Annex D



## Key Elements of a Dispute Resolution Framework:

- Work to prevent disputes, but if not possible to prevent, manage and resolve them and provide fair compensation in certain situations
- Must be accessible to the public
- Must be developed through engagement with potential users
- For “disputes of substantial magnitude,” value/right must be maintained/protected while dispute is being resolved
- Must be documented

# Dispute Resolution – C1.6 Guidance & Annex D



## Additional Guidance:

- CH responsibility ends when “good faith” is exhausted and/or CB confirms conformance
- Suggested considerations for putting sideboards on complaints as part of process development
- Determining when a “dispute of substantial magnitude” has occurred
- Dealing with Persistent and Vexatious Complaints
- How to determine when the process has ended (i.e., good faith exhausted or CB confirms conformance) and options for the complainant if the process ends

# Workers' Rights & Wellbeing – Principle 2

## Version 1.0/1.1

- Worker-oriented indicators **limited in number**, with **some topics applicable only to employees**, and others to all workers
- “Workers” defined to include employees of contractors, overlapping or third-party licensees, as well as employees of the applicant firm and subcontractors

## Version 2.0

- **Number of worker-oriented indicators is greatly increased**, including gender equity
- Indicators **applicable to all workers**, but the way conformance is demonstrated may be different for different types of workers
- “Workers” defined to include all persons who are implementing management activities under the scope of the Standard, regardless of by whom they are employed

# Workers' Rights & Wellbeing – Principle 2 Guidance

Potential options for “Means of Verification” provided:

- Explicit recognition that different types of verifiers will likely need to be used for different types workers
- Recognition that a suite of verifiers may be needed to demonstrate conformance
- Initial options provided that might be applicable for:
  - All workers
  - Contractors and/or employees of contractors
  - Employees of the Organization

**NOTE:** FSC US will be continuing to develop additional guidance and/or support tools in 2026

# Workers' Rights & Wellbeing – Principle 2 Guidance

For all *workers*\*:

- Field observations made by the *Certification Body*\*
- Interviews with *workers*\* (in-person or other forms) conducted by the *Certification Body*\*
- Consultation with *stakeholders*\* conducted by the *Certification Body*\* and/or *The Organization*\*
- Publicly available reporting data from governmental organizations, research institutes, or other sources that are verifiable (e.g., data which demonstrates a lack of a wage gap between genders or low levels of safety incidents within the vicinity of the *management unit*\*, or demonstrates an absence of violations of *applicable laws*\*)
- Records of *disputes*\* (per Criterion 1.6)
- Partnerships between *The Organization*\* and socially-focused non-governmental organizations or other organizations that support whistle-blowers
- Partnerships between *The Organization*\*, unions and/or regulatory bodies that result in progressive compliance (i.e., positive progress on labor *rights*\* and employment conditions over time)

For contractors and/or employees of contractors:

- Contracts or other legal agreements between *The Organization*\* and entities that have been verified by a non-FSC third-party certification scheme which addresses the applicable elements of the *Indicator(s)*\*
- Contracts or other legal agreements between *The Organization*\* and entities that will be *implementing management activities*\* that demonstrate a commitment to treat all *workers*\* in compliance with *applicable law*\*, in combination with an effective process to monitor and enforce contract compliance
- Contracts or other legal agreements between *The Organization*\* and other entities to implement *management activities*\* that address the elements of this Criterion, in combination with an effective process to monitor and enforce contract compliance

# Indigenous Peoples' Rights & Resources – Principle 3



## Version 1.0/1.1

- Mgmt. activities in tribal forests must be implemented by authorized tribal representatives, & not implemented without written consent from the tribe
- Expectation to **consult with IP that hold rights** within or binding agreements regarding the mgmt. unit, identify significant sites & avoid harming both
- Actions are taken to avoid adversely affecting tribal resources

## Version 2.0

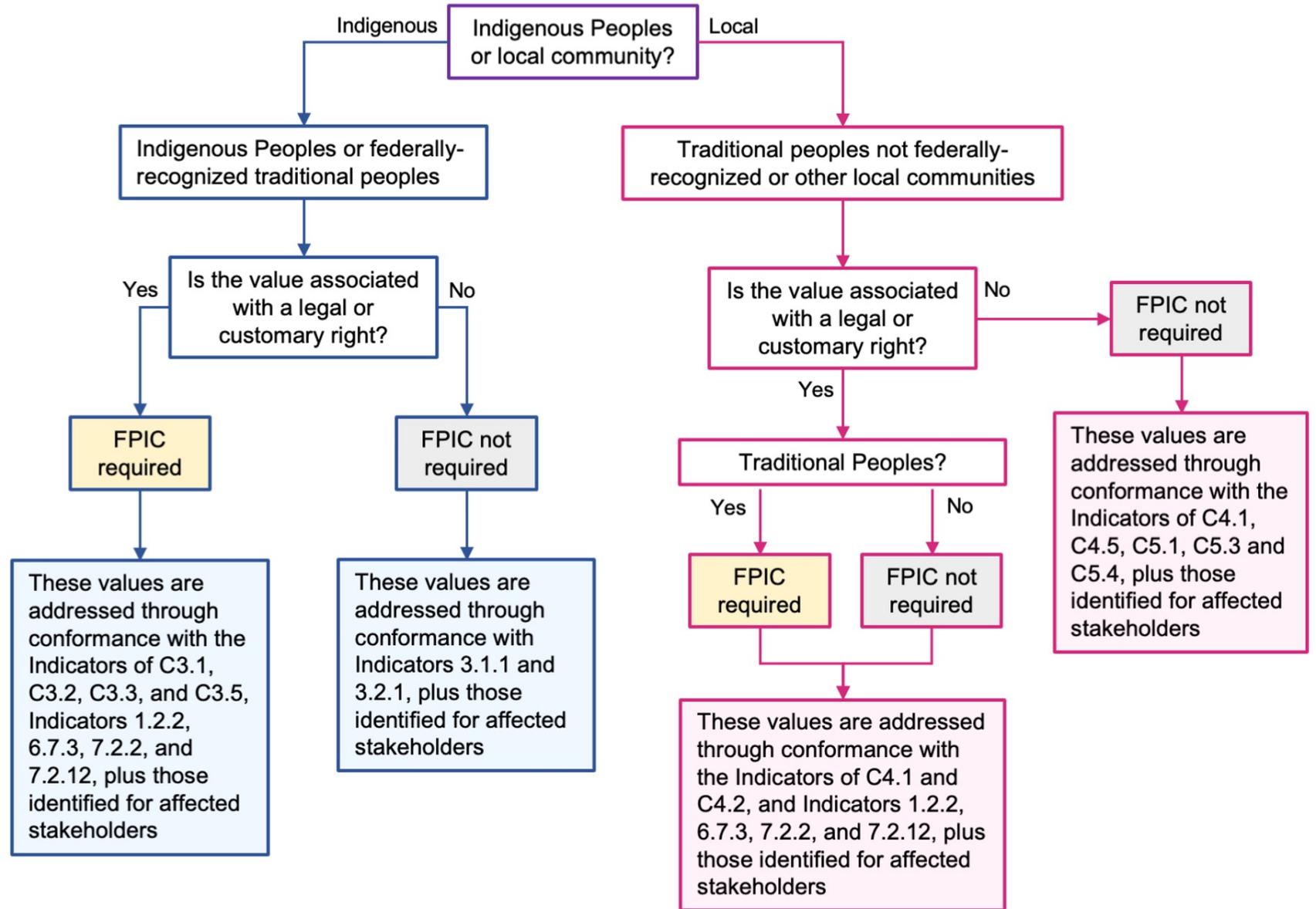
- Expectation to **identify & engage with IP that hold rights** within the mgmt. unit and/or **have resources** that may be affected by mgmt. activities.
- Consideration to include tribes that no longer live on their ancestral lands
- **Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) required** for legal or customary rights
- Protect significant sites and promote protection of important resources

# Indigenous Peoples' Rights & Resources – Annex F

- Guidance on culturally appropriate communication (for indigenous peoples, local communities & traditional peoples)
- Key steps for Free, Prior & Informed Consent (FPIC), with guidance at each step:
  1. Assess historical and/or current presence of IP/TP
  2. Identify representatives of IP/TP & decide whom to contact
  3. Determine if the IP/TP claim rights within or near the management unit
  4. Verify claims of rights
  5. Determine if the IP/TP wish to engage regarding proposed management activities
  6. Collaboratively move toward a decision regarding the management activities

# Indigenous Peoples' Rights & Resources – Annex F

## Addressing Values that May be Affected by Management Activities



# Conservation Areas Network – Indicator 6.5.7

## Version 1.0/1.1

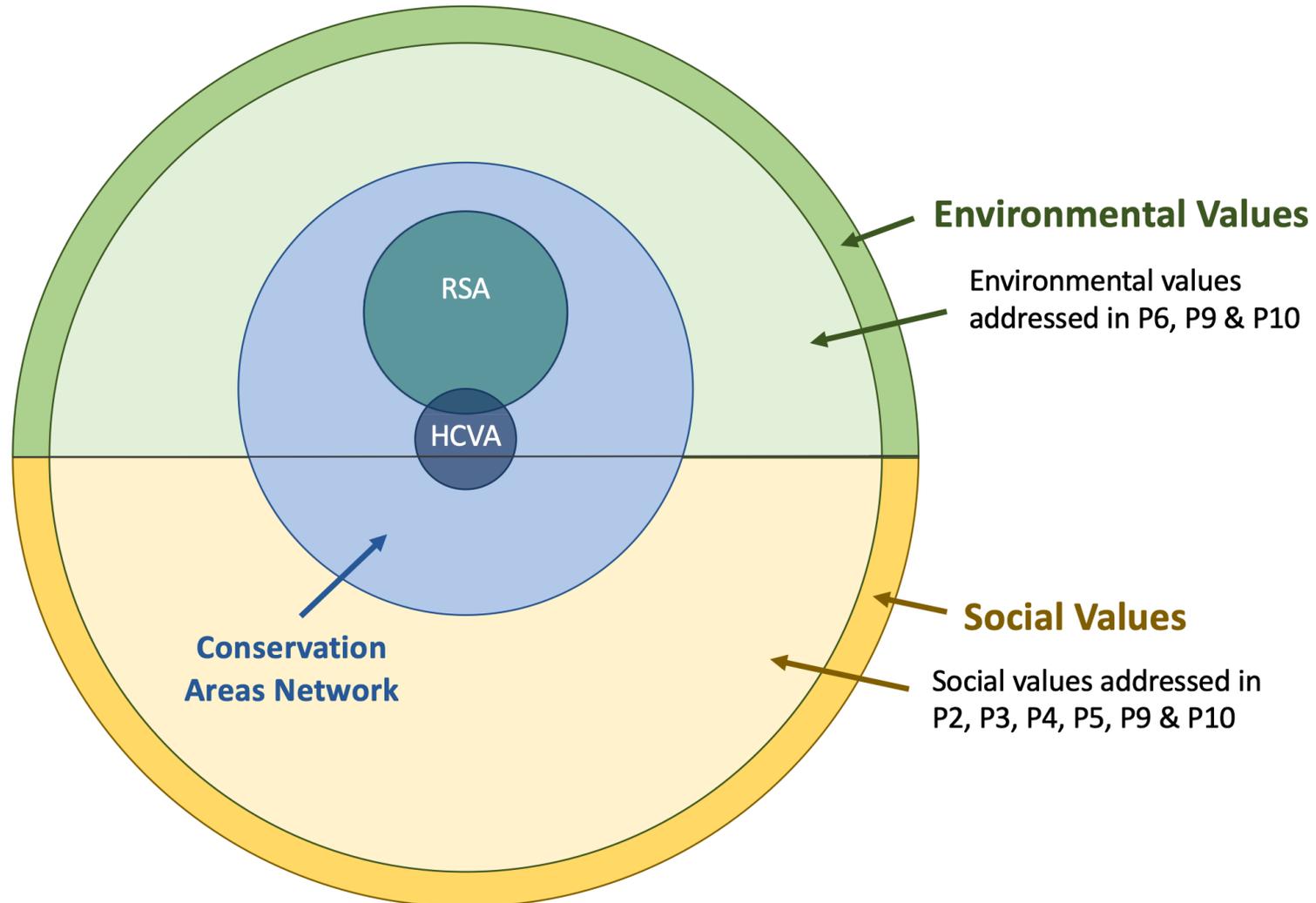
- **No explicit threshold** for designation of conservation areas, except for mgmt. units that include lands where natural ecosystems were previously converted to FSC plantations
- Conservation areas expected to be designated if needed for conservation of a specific value (e.g., species, sites, RSA, HCV)

## Version 2.0

- Expectation to **designate at least 10% of the management unit** as a conservation area
- If not achieved via existing requirements, additional areas need to be established
- For family forests within a certified group, this responsibility may be shared by other group members

# Conservation Areas Network – Annex H

## Environmental and Social Values that Occur within the Management Unit & Areas Designated to Conserve Them



# Conservation Areas Network – Annex H

Table 1. Summary of potential *Conservation Areas Network\** inclusions based on the FSC [US Forest Stewardship Standard \(V2-0\)](#). This list provides examples and is not exhaustive of potential applicable areas that can contribute to the *CAN\**.



<b>Conservation Areas Network* Inclusions</b>	<b>Criterion*/Indicator*</b>
Areas managed primarily to <i>conserve* rights*</i> held by others	C1.2

Areas managed primarily to <i>conserve* rights*</i> held by <i>Native American* Indigenous Peoples*</i>	C3.2
Areas managed primarily to <i>conserve*</i> sites of significance for <i>Native American* Indigenous Peoples*</i>	C3.5
Areas managed primarily to <i>conserve* rights*</i> held by <i>local communities*</i>	C4.2
Areas managed primarily to <i>conserve*</i> sites of significance for <i>local communities*</i>	C4.7
Areas managed primarily to avoid negative cultural impacts on <i>local communities*</i>	C4.5
Areas managed primarily to <i>conserve* ecosystem services*</i>	C5.1 & C6.3
Areas managed primarily to prevent negative impacts of <i>management activities*</i> on <i>environmental values*</i> and thereby <i>conserve*</i> those values	C6.3
Areas managed primarily to <i>protect* rare, threatened and endangered species*</i> and their <i>habitats*</i>	C6.4
Areas established as <i>Representative Sample Areas (RSAs)*</i> , including both <i>RSAs*</i> with <i>conservation*</i> and with <i>restoration*</i> objectives, and areas being managed to <i>restore* more natural conditions*</i>	C6.5
Areas managed primarily to <i>conserve* rare ecological communities*</i>	Indicator 6.6.2
Areas managed primarily to <i>protect*</i> natural watercourses, <i>water bodies*</i> and <i>riparian areas*</i>	C6.7
NOTE: Following FSC Interpretation INT-STD-60-004_01, riparian zones "created"	

# HCV Approach & Framework – Principle 9

## Version 1.0/1.1

- Expectation to **identify HCVF & ensure the maintenance or enhancement of the HCV attributes within them**
- No explicit requirement to periodically review/revise the HCVF assessment
- Regional **examples of HCVF** provided in an annex
- A **draft (never formally approved) HCV Framework** provides high-level considerations for identification of HCVF

## Version 2.0

- Expectation to **identify HCV and the HCVA on which each one relies & ensure the HCV are maintained or enhanced**
- Explicit requirement to review/update the HCV assessment (with the mgmt. plan)
- **Detailed HCV Framework** to support identification, management and monitoring of HCV - provides few examples but includes significant identification guidance
- Explicit recognition that other management activities may occur in HCVA provided they prevent damage and avoid risks to HCV

# HCV Approach & Framework – Annex K



1. Introduction
2. Confusing & Interrelated Concepts (e.g., FSC US regions vs. regionally significant)
3. Information & Data Sources
4. HCV Identification & Assessments
  - a. National HCV (i.e., an HCV no matter where it occurs)
  - b. HCVs in the National Risk Assessment
  - c. Additional considerations, including what might not be an HCV
  - d. Identification, assessment, management & monitoring guidance by HCV type
5. HCV Checklist for Family Forest Management Units

# Representative Sample Areas – Criterion 6.5

## Version 1.0/1.1

- **Document ecosystems** that would naturally exist within the management unit
- **Assess adequacy of representation and protection** in the landscape
- If RSA outside the management unit are not adequate for representation and protection, **identify RSA within the management unit**, if possible

## Version 2.0

- **Identify native ecosystems** that would typically occur within the management unit
- **Assess adequacy of their representation and protection** in the landscape
- If not adequately represented and protected, **designate viable or restorable examples within the mgmt. unit** as RSA
- If no RSA are designated, manage a portion of the mgmt. unit to promote more natural conditions (not applicable if ecosystems are adequately represented and protected in the landscape)

START

Identify native ecosystems for management unit

Are these ecosystems adequately represented & adequately protected in the landscape?

No

For each ecosystem not well represented/protected, are there existing or restorable examples in the management unit?

Yes

No

Yes

Conservation areas (RSA + others) in mgmt. unit exceed 10%

Identify other ecosystems within management unit for restoration activities

Designate these as RSA

Total areas identified are proportionate to landscape levels of representation/protection, mgmt unit size and mgmt intensity

Steps within blue box are not necessary if the identified ecosystems are adequately represented & protected in the landscape.

# Climate Change Considerations – P6, P7, P8 & P10

## Version 1.0/1.1

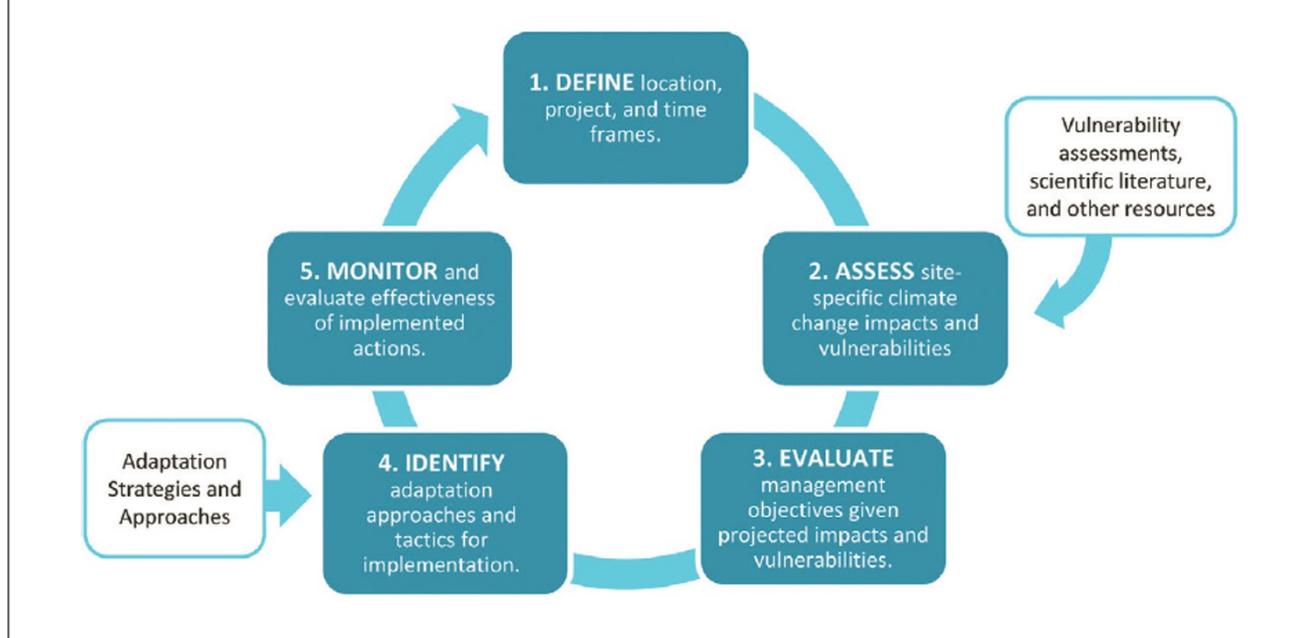
**Climate change only mentioned as an example** for when non-local sources of trees may be used for planting, and for two considerations within the supplementary requirements for US Forest Service lands

## Version 2.0

**Explicit climate change expectations** for certificate holders to:

- assess the potential future impacts on environmental values
- consider impacts on achievement of mgmt. objectives & desired future conditions
- provide information on any adaptation strategies being implemented
- monitor for changes in potential impacts & for effectiveness of adaptation strategies

# Climate Change Considerations – Annex L



**Figure 1.** Adaptation Workbook Process. Source: Forest Adaptation Resources: Climate Change Tools and Approaches for Land Managers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Swanston et al. Ch. 5, page 75, 2016).

Below, FSS *Indicators*\* are cross-walked to the steps in the Adaptation Workbook process.

**Table 1.** FSC US FSS and Adaptation Planning Steps Crosswalk

Step	FSC US FSS Indicators
<b>Step 1:</b> Define area of interest, goals, and objectives	Indicator 7.1.2
<b>Step 2:</b> Assess climate change impacts and vulnerabilities	Indicator 6.1.1 Indicator 7.2.4
<b>Step 2:</b> Evaluate <i>management objectives</i> * given impacts and vulnerabilities	Indicator 7.2.4
<b>Step 3:</b> Identify adaptation approaches and tactics for implementation	Indicator 7.2.4/FF Indicator 7.2.1 Indicator 10.2.2 Indicator 10.9.2
<b>Step 4:</b> Monitor and evaluate effectiveness	Indicator 8.1.2

# Mitigation & Repair of Environmental Damage – P6 & P10

## Version 1.0/1.1

- Multiple indicators with expectations to **avoid/minimize negative impacts of mgmt. activities** on environmental & social values
- Multiple indicators with expectation that certificate holders will maintain, enhance or restore specific environmental values
- Temporary stream and wetland crossings are expected to be restored to original hydrological conditions
- Chemical spills are expected to be remediated

## Version 2.0

- Expectations similar to V1.1 included, with addition of explicit expectation to **consider potential negative impacts outside of the management unit**
- Broadly, when negative impacts to environmental values occur as a result of mgmt. activities, expectation to **prevent further damage, & mitigate/repair impacts**
- Expectation to address impacts to water/riparian resources even if no direct control over activities or due to ineffective protection measures by previous owners

# Monitoring & Verifiable Targets – P7 & P8

## Version 1.0/1.1

- Certificate holders are expected to **develop and implement a monitoring protocol**
- Operational, environmental, social, and cultural **elements that are required to be monitored are specified in the standard**

## Version 2.0

Certificate holders are expected to:

- **Establish verifiable targets** for evaluating achievement of management objectives
- **Develop and implement a protocol** to monitor: policies, management objectives, achievement of verifiable targets, environmental & social impacts of mgmt., changes in environmental conditions

**Certificate holders identify specific elements to be monitored** with consideration of potential elements listed in an annex

# Certification of Lands Converted 1994-2020 – Criterion 6.10



## Version 1.0/1.1

Plantations on **lands converted after 1994** are **not certified** unless the certificate holder:

- was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion, AND
- develops and implements a plan to restore the plantation stands to conditions characteristic of natural forests & in conformance with Principles 1-9

## Version 2.0

Plantations on **lands converted 1994 to 2020** **may be certified**, if:

- a very limited portion of the mgmt. unit was affected & is providing conservation benefits, or
- the certificate holder has implemented restitution of social harms and remedy of environmental harms as required by the FSC Remedy Framework (whether or not involved in the conversion)

# Natural Hazards – Criterion 10.9 & P6

## Version 1.0/1.1

- **Monitor and record any disturbance events** resulting in significant, unanticipated removal or loss or increased vulnerability of forest resources
- Identify and **apply site-specific fuels management practices**

## Version 2.0

- **Consider the potential future impacts** of catastrophic natural disturbances on environmental values
- **Implement management activities** that: a) mitigate potential negative impacts of natural hazards; and b) increase the resilience of ecosystems to disturbances
- New Pacific Coast regional requirement (Indicator 6.6.5 Regional Supplement8) addresses **expectations for salvage harvests** following catastrophic natural disturbances

# Certification of Non-Timber Forest Products

## Version 1.0/1.1

- Certification of NTFP is not addressed within the scope of the standard. If certification of NTFP is desired, **conformance is required with both the national standard and a separate NTFP-specific standard** developed by a CB
- If NTFP are sold commercially (whether or not certified), **calculation of quantitative sustained yield harvest levels** is expected.

## Version 2.0

- An extensive list of NTFP are included within the scope of the FSS for certification
- **Conformance with separate standards is no longer necessary**
- If NTFP are sold commercially (whether or not certified), expectation to **abide by a sustained yield harvest level or by harvest guidelines** that maintain the NTFP species and other environmental values

## Forest products (according to FSC- STD-40-004a)

### Rough wood

#### NTFPs: (list of the NTFPs)

- N1 Barks (e.g., birch, yellow poplar)
- N6.2 Grasses, ferns, mosses and lichens (e.g., sphagnum moss, fiddleheads)
- N6.3 Whole trees or plants (e.g., mistletoe, ramps/wild leeks)
- N6.3.1 Christmas trees
- N7.3 Resin
- N8.2 Medicinal plants and products (e.g., yaupon holly, witch hazel)
- N9.1 Nuts (e.g., chestnut, walnut)
- N9.4 Mushrooms, truffles (e.g., morels, oyster mushrooms)

- N9.5 Fruits (e.g., juniper, salal)
- N10 Other NTFP, specifically:
  - Tree tops (e.g., spruce)
  - Branches/boughs (e.g., balsam, willow, holly, other ornamentals)
  - Flowers
  - Seeds
  - Roots
  - Leaves/Needles (e.g., pine straw, for tea)
  - Sap (e.g., for sap-based foods, for skin-care products)

The following forest products are only in-scope for this standard if they are produced from the *forest*\* through low intensity processing activities (otherwise, the forest product from which they are produced must first be FSC certified in conformance with this standard, and then the product that results from the higher intensity processing be FSC Chain of Custody certified in conformance with FSC-STD-40-004):

- N7.5 Essential oils
- N9.2 Tea
- N9.6 Sap-based foods (e.g., maple, hickory, birch)

# Indigenous Forest Management

## Version 1.0/1.1

- An emphasis on **scientific literature, research and experts**
- **Traditional knowledge/experience not recognized** as “best available information” nor as providing qualifications for experts
- Entirety of tribal forest could be a High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) and interpreted to **severely limit management activities within the HCVF**

## Version 2.0

- Consistent references to “**best available information,**” defined to include scientific literature, research & traditional knowledge
- **Traditional knowledge/experience explicitly recognized** in “expert” definition
- Indicators explicit that **management activities may occur within HCVA**, if they prevent damage and avoid risks to HCV
- Collection of rare species allowed by Indigenous Peoples for ceremonial purposes, when population risks are avoided and laws/regulations are followed

# Extensive New/Expanded Guidance



Section	# Pages
Preamble	21
Main Body	92 (>50% is guidance)
Glossary	30
Guidance Annexes	83
Federal Land Supplementary Requirements	9

A photograph of a forest floor covered in green moss and brown leaves. Several mushrooms with pale yellow stems and gills are growing from the moss. The background is a blurred forest with tall trees.

**QUESTIONS?**

# Join Us at Upcoming Events!!

## **Southeast Stakeholder Events**

Augusta, Georgia  
Stakeholder meeting & field tour

**November 12-13, 2025**

## **SAF Community of Interest Webinar**

Virtual  
FSC US FSS focus

**December 17, 2025**

## **2026 Stakeholder Events**

Knoxville, TN / Madison, WI  
FSS workshop & stakeholder meeting

**March / April 2026**

## **Stewardship in Action 2026**

Seattle, Washington  
FSC US annual conference

**October 2025**

# Thank you



Forest Stewardship Council®  
FSC® United States



1441 Woodmont Lane NW, Ste 539, Atlanta, GA

T +1 612.353.4511

[info@us.fsc.org](mailto:info@us.fsc.org)

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[us.fsc.org](http://us.fsc.org)