

Russian FSC National Initiative

RUSSIAN NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL STANDARD

HCVF definitions covered in the Standard

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Russian National Framework FSC Standard

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The development of this standard has required coordinated efforts of many people. The following persons played the key role in the development of the document:

Coordinating Board of the Russian National FSC Initiative:

V. A. Chuprov, Greenpeace Russia
M. L. Karpachevskiy, Charitable Foundation Biodiversity Conservation Center
A. V. Loginov
M. V. Malkevich
V. L. Polyakov / Ye. A. Merkulov, Central Committee of the Russian Forest Industries Trade Union
A. E. Ryzhkov, Specialized Research Center for FSC Voluntary Forest Certification at the Moscow State Forest University
V. V. Soldatov, Krasnoyarsk Regional Working Group
N. V. Strakhova, Pricebatch (Altay-UK) Ltd.
R. V. Sungurov, Northern Center for Forest Certification

Members of the Russian National FSC Initiative:

Yu. A. Pautov, Silver Taiga Foundation
N. E. Prokazin
V. V. Dmitriev, WWF Russia
V. V. Tolmachev, Pricebatch (Altay UK) Ltd.
A. A. Volkov, Promles
N. A. Zubov, Socio-Ecological Union of Krasnoyarsk Kray
V. E. Nikolaev, Moscow State Forest University
T. V. Pavlyuchenko, Arun Sym Community
S. V. Orlov, Ilim Pulp
M. S. Tsyachnyuk, Center for Independent Sociological Research

Participants of testing in Moscow Oblast (2001), Krasnoyarsk Kray (2002), and Primorskiy Kray (2002):

E. M. Belyakova, Greenpeace Russia
A. Yu. Grigoriev, International Social Ecological Union
G. –J. Droste, GFA-Terra Systems
V. A. Zhuravlev, Yeniseyskiy Leskhoz, Krasnoyarsk Kray
M. A. Katanaeva, Siberian State Technological University
A. A. Krylov, Klinskiy Leskhoz, Moscow Oblast
E. I. Orleneva, WWF Russia
K. A. Pakhorukova, International Social Ecological Union
E. A. Shevlyakov, Lesosibirsk Sawmill No. 1
V. F. Shcherbakov, Terneyles
T. Specht, GFA-Terra Systems
A. Yu. Yaroshenko, Greenpeace Russia

National Office of the Forest Stewardship Council:

A. V. Ptichnikov

As well as M. L. Kreindlin (Greenpeace Russia), T. O. Yanitskaya (WWF Russia), A. A. Kulyasova, I. P. Kulyasov, M. G. Kuchinskiy, M. A. Podvezennaya and K. Harris (Taiga Rescue Network)

1) **PRINCIPLE 3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS**

Criteria 3.3. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers	
Indicators	Means of verification
<p>3.3.1. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance for indigenous peoples have been identified in cooperation with them and recognized.</p> <p>Notes: See also <i>Annex E. High Conservation Value Forests</i>, section <i>Categories of HCVF</i> and Indicator 9.1.5</p>	<p>3.3.1.1. Lesokhozyaystvenny reglament (forest inventory materials) or proekt osvoeniya lesov (forest management plan).</p> <p>3.3.1.2. List of identified sites and objects, including maps.</p> <p>3.3.1.3. Interviews with those involved in the identification process.</p> <p>3.3.1.4. Interviews with local authorities.</p> <p>3.3.1.5. Interviews with regional and local indigenous organizations and local communities.</p> <p>3.3.1.6. Interviews with ethnologists and/or regional history experts</p>
<p>3.3.2. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance are mapped and marked on-site</p>	<p>3.3.2.1. Lesokhozyaystvenny reglament (forest inventory materials) or proekt osvoeniya lesov (forest management plan).</p> <p>3.3.2.2. List of identified sites, objects and ranges, including maps.</p> <p>3.3.2.3. Interviews with local authorities.</p> <p>3.3.2.4. Interviews with regional and local indigenous organizations and local communities.</p> <p>3.3.2.5. Field inspection</p>

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<p>3.3.3. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance, considering consultations with <i>indigenous peoples</i>, are protected and/or have special management restrictions</p>	<p>3.3.3.1. Lesokhozyaystvenny reglament (forest inventory materials) or proekt osvoeniya lesov (forest management plan). 3.3.3.2. List of identified sites and objects. 3.3.3.3. Documents regulating the use or protection of the site, including maps. 3.3.3.4. Interviews with enterprise staff. 3.3.3.5. Interviews with local authorities. 3.3.3.6. Interviews with regional and local indigenous organizations and local communities. 3.3.3.7. Field inspection</p>
<p>3.3.4. The enterprise staff are informed of the location of respective sites and management restrictions in them</p>	<p>3.3.4.1. Interviews with enterprise staff. 3.3.4.2. Field inspection</p>
<p>3.3.5. Management activities threatening such sites should be suspended until acceptable decisions are made, based on consultation with <i>authorized representatives of indigenous communities</i></p>	<p>3.3.5.1. Claims of indigenous peoples with regard to such sites and objects, cases when management activities have been suspended or relocated. 3.3.5.2. Maps. 3.3.5.3. Interviews with enterprise managers. 3.3.5.4. Interviews with local authorities. 3.3.5.5. Interviews with regional and local indigenous organizations and local communities. 3.3.5.6. Field inspection</p>

2) **PRINCIPLE 6: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

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Criteria 6.4. Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources	
Indicators	Means of verification
<p>6.4.1. The main gaps in the network of <i>protected sites (representative samples of existing ecosystems)</i> have been identified. Such a network should provide preservation of all biodiversity of local flora and fauna, landscapes, ecosystems and habitat types. The gap analysis should assess to what extent the existing <i>protected sites</i> network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • includes all types of ecosystems and landscapes occurring within the area (i.e. is representative); • provides protection of regionally and locally <i>rare and threatened types of ecosystems</i> and landscapes; and • provides species settling and migration (connectivity). <p>Notes: <i>Representative samples of existing ecosystems</i> may include existing and candidate protected areas, <i>protective forests</i>, relatively large <i>OZU</i>, including candidate areas for ecological networks, and voluntarily set aside forest areas (see further <i>Annex E. High Conservation Value Forests, section HCVF, Representative Samples of Existing Ecosystems and Ecological Networks</i>)</p>	<p>6.4.1.1. Forest inventory materials. 6.4.1.2. Analytic materials with maps. 6.4.1.3. Interviews with enterprise specialists</p>
<p>6.4.2. Additional representative samples of existing ecosystems are being identified based on the gap analysis of the protected sites network at a landscape level (district level forest management administration unit)</p>	<p>6.4.2.1. Results of the gap analysis of the protected sites network. 6.4.2.2. Records of operations. 6.4.2.3. Evidence of communication with stakeholders (non-governmental environmental organizations, forest surveyors, conservation biologists, indigenous peoples representatives)</p>
<p>6.4.3. Identified <i>representative samples of existing ecosystems</i> are described and marked in maps</p>	<p>6.4.3.1. Site descriptions. 6.4.3.2. Maps</p>
<p>6.4.4. Identified <i>representative samples of existing ecosystems</i> within the area of on-going forestry operations and road construction are marked on site with “Stop!” signs and restricting road signs</p>	<p>6.4.4.1. Maps. 6.4.4.2. Interviews with enterprise specialists. 6.4.4.3. Field inspection</p>
<p>6.4.5. Identified representative samples of existing ecosystems are protected by regimes tailored to their assets or such a regime is proposed</p>	<p>6.4.5.1. Site descriptions. 6.4.5.2. Evidence of communication with forest inventory enterprises and forest management administration. 6.4.5.3. Interviews with stakeholders</p>

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6.4.6. The management restrictions (regimes) in respective areas are being observed	6.4.6.1. Site descriptions. 6.4.6.2. Harvesting documents (forest declarations, harvesting permits or orders). 6.4.6.3. Interviews with stakeholders. 6.4.6.4. Field inspection
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3) **PRINCIPLE 9: MAINTENANCE OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS**

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

<i>Criteria 9.1. Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management</i>	
Indicators	Means of verification
9.1.1. It is determined whether the given forest area is a territory (ecoregion) characterized by significant biodiversity of global or national importance. Note: See further <i>Annex E. High Conservation Value Forests</i> , section <i>Categories of HCVF</i>	9.1.1.1. WWF Global 200 Ecoregions map, list of respective HCVF occurring in the area. 9.1.1.2. Forest inventory and other materials. 9.1.1.3. Interviews with those involved in identification process. 9.1.1.4. Interviews with stakeholders
9.1.2. It is determined whether the given forest area is part of a large forest landscape minimally disturbed by human agency (or contains such a landscape). Note: See further <i>Annex E. High Conservation Value Forests</i> , section <i>Categories of HCVF</i>	9.1.2.1. Atlases and/or maps of large forest landscape minimally disturbed by human agency (intact forest landscapes). 9.1.2.2. Forest inventory and other materials. 9.1.2.3. Results of surveys in consistence with 9.1.2.1. 9.1.2.4. Interviews with those involved in identification process. 9.1.2.5. Interviews with stakeholders
9.1.3. It is determined whether the given forest area contains <i>rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems</i> . Note: See further <i>Annex E. High Conservation Value Forests</i> , section <i>Categories of HCVF</i>	9.1.3.1. Atlases and/or maps of respective HCVF occurring in the area. 9.1.3.2. Forest inventory and other materials. 9.1.3.3. Interviews with those involved in identification process. 9.1.3.4. Interviews with stakeholders
9.1.4. It is determined whether the given forest area provides basic services of nature in critical situations. Note: See further <i>Annex E. High Conservation Value Forests</i> , section <i>Categories of HCVF</i>	9.1.4.1. A list and maps of respective HCVF occurring in the area. 9.1.4.2. Interviews with those involved in identification process. 9.1.4.3. Interviews with stakeholders
9.1.5. It is determined whether the given forest area is of special significance for <i>local communities</i> , including religious, cultural, ecological or economic significance (sites that <i>local communities</i> regard as more significant	9.1.5.1. A list and maps of respective HCVF occurring in the area. 9.1.5.2. Interviews with those involved in identification process. 9.1.5.3. Interviews with stakeholders

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when compared with surrounding forests).

Note: This should be done in part not covered by 3.3.1. See further *Annex E. High Conservation Value Forests*, section *Categories of HCVF*

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Criteria 9.2. The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof	
Indicators	Means of verification
9.2.1. The enterprise has conducted wide and open consultations with <i>stakeholders</i> to identify <i>HCVF</i> and determine measures for their protection and management	9.2.1.1. Evidence of consultations (minutes of meetings, correspondence and other written records). 9.2.1.2. Interviews with stakeholders
9.2.2. With involvement of <i>stakeholders</i> and on the basis of information in 9.2.1 criteria for identification and/or maps of <i>HCVF</i> and a set of measures for <i>HCVF</i> protection and management have been prepared	9.2.2.1. Documentation collected during stakeholder consultations. 9.2.2.2. Evidence of adoption of stakeholder proposals on protection of <i>HCVF</i> or rationale for rejection of such proposals. 9.2.2.3. Lesokhozyaystvennyy reglament (forest inventory materials) or proekt osvoyeniya (forest management plan), other materials. 9.2.2.4. List of criteria for identification and maps of <i>HCVF</i> , the set of measures on <i>HCVF</i> protection and management. 9.2.2.5. Interviews with stakeholders. 9.2.2.6. Field control
9.2.3. Identification parameters of <i>HCVF</i> as well as mapped <i>HCVF</i> are publicly available	9.2.3.1. Documentation on identification of <i>HCVF</i> , including maps. 9.2.3.2. Publicly available printed and web publications, other materials. 9.2.3.3. Interviews with stakeholders
Criteria 9.3. The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary	
Indicators	Means of verification
9.3.1. Requirements of Indicator 9.2.2 are reflected in the <i>forest management plan</i>	9.3.1.1. Documentation on mapping and assigning management regime to <i>HCVF</i> . 9.3.1.2. Lesokhozyaystvennyy reglament (forest inventory materials) or proekt osvoyeniya (forest management plan), other materials. 9.3.1.3. Interviews with enterprise specialists
9.3.2. For each site identified as an area (ecoregion) containing globally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values, a set of measures for biodiversity conservation has been developed. Note: See further <i>Annex E. High Conservation Value Forests</i> , section <i>Management of HCVF</i>	9.3.2.1. Maps of areas containing globally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values, other materials. 9.3.2.2. Set of measures for biodiversity conservation. 9.3.2.3. Lesokhozyaystvennyy reglament (forest inventory materials) or proekt osvoyeniya (forest management plan), other materials. 9.3.2.4. Scientific recommendations and assessments. 9.3.2.5. Interviews with stakeholders

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<p>9.3.3. The respective set of measures is being implemented.</p> <p>Note: See further <i>Annex E. High Conservation Value Forests</i>, section <i>Management of HCVF</i></p>	<p>9.3.3.1. Set of measures for biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>9.3.3.2. Lesokhozyaystvenny reglament (forest inventory materials) or proekt osvoyeniya (forest management plan, other materials).</p> <p>9.3.3.3. Written operation procedures.</p> <p>9.3.3.4. Harvesting documents (forest declarations, harvesting permits or orders), including maps.</p> <p>9.3.3.5. Plan of management activities.</p> <p>9.3.3.6. Interviews with stakeholders</p> <p>9.3.3.7. Field inspection</p>
<p>9.3.4. Large forest landscapes minimally disturbed by human agency are conserved.</p> <p>Note: See further <i>Annex E. High Conservation Value Forests</i>, section <i>Management of HCVF</i></p>	<p>9.3.4.1. Maps and atlases of large forest landscape minimally disturbed by human agency (intact forest landscapes).</p> <p>9.3.4.2. A list of measures to protect such forests.</p> <p>9.3.4.3. Lesokhozyaystvenny reglament (forest inventory materials) or proekt osvoyeniya (forest management plan, other materials).</p> <p>9.3.4.4. Plan of management activities.</p> <p>9.3.4.5. Interviews with stakeholders.</p> <p>9.3.4.6. Field inspection</p>
<p>9.3.5. In cases when a large forest landscape minimally disturbed by human agency cannot be completely conserved due to specific local social conditions, strict conservation zones completely excluded from road and forestry development activities shall be established at part of its area. Such zones should be surrounded with buffer zones where best available forestry technologies and practices with regard to conservation of biodiversity and forest ecosystem are implemented.</p> <p>Note: See further <i>Annex E. High Conservation Value Forests</i>, section <i>Management of HCVF</i></p>	<p>9.3.5.1. Maps and atlases of large forest landscape minimally disturbed by human agency (intact forest landscapes).</p> <p>9.3.5.2. Maps of approved strict conservation and buffer zones.</p> <p>9.3.5.3. A list of measures to protect such forests.</p> <p>9.3.5.4. Evidence of communication with stakeholders, including agreements, meeting minutes and letters.</p> <p>9.3.5.5. Lesokhozyaystvenny reglament (forest inventory materials) or proekt osvoyeniya (forest management plan, other materials).</p> <p>9.3.5.6. Plan of management activities.</p> <p>9.3.5.7. Interviews with stakeholders.</p> <p>9.3.5.8. Field inspection</p>
<p>9.3.6. Conservation and management regimes of strict conservation zones and buffer zones, respectively, are observed</p>	<p>9.3.6.1. Maps of approved strict conservation and buffer zones.</p> <p>9.3.6.2. A list of measures to protect such forests.</p> <p>9.3.6.3. Lesokhozyaystvenny reglament (forest inventory materials) or proekt osvoyeniya (forest management plan, other materials).</p> <p>9.3.6.4. Plans of management activities.</p> <p>9.3.6.5. Interviews with stakeholders.</p> <p>9.3.6.6. Field inspection</p>

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<p>9.3.7. <i>Rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems</i> are conserved through complete or partial restriction of forestry operations in them.</p> <p>Note: See <i>Annex E. High Conservation Value Forests</i>, section <i>Management of HCVF</i></p>	<p>9.3.7.1. Maps of rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems if available.</p> <p>9.3.7.2. A list of measures to protect such ecosystems, which includes activities that are prohibited.</p> <p>9.3.7.3. Lesokhozyaystvennyy reglament (forest inventory materials) or proekt osvoyeniya (forest management plan, other materials).</p> <p>9.3.7.4. Plan of management activities.</p> <p>9.3.7.5. Interviews with stakeholders.</p> <p>9.3.7.6. Field inspection</p>
<p>9.3.8. The enterprise has developed measures to provide maintenance or strengthening of characteristics of forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations.</p> <p>Note: See further <i>Annex E. High Conservation Value Forests</i>, section <i>Management of HCVF</i></p>	<p>9.3.8.1. Maps of forest areas that provides basic services of nature in critical situations if available.</p> <p>9.3.8.2. A list of measures to protect such areas.</p> <p>9.3.8.3. Lesokhozyaystvennyy reglament (forest inventory materials) or proekt osvoyeniya (forest management plan, other materials).</p> <p>9.3.8.4. Plan of management activities.</p> <p>9.3.8.5. Interviews with stakeholders</p>
<p>9.3.9. Respective measures are being implemented</p>	<p>9.3.9.1. Maps of forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations if available.</p> <p>9.3.9.2. A list of measures to protect such areas.</p> <p>9.3.9.3. Lesokhozyaystvennyy reglament (forest inventory materials) or proekt osvoyeniya (forest management plan, other materials).</p> <p>9.3.9.4. Plan of management activities.</p> <p>9.3.9.5. Interviews with stakeholders.</p> <p>9.3.9.6. Field inspection</p>
<p>9.3.10. The enterprise has developed measures to protect values of forest areas that are critical for <i>local communities</i>, including areas of special religious, cultural, ecological or economic significance.</p> <p>Note: This should be done in part not covered by indicators 3.3.2–3.3.4. See further <i>Annex E. High Conservation Value Forests</i>, section <i>Management of HCVF</i></p>	<p>9.3.10.1. Maps of forest areas that are critical to local communities, including areas of special religious, cultural, ecological or economic significance.</p> <p>9.3.10.2. A list of measures to protect such areas.</p> <p>9.3.10.3. Lesokhozyaystvennyy reglament (forest inventory materials) or proekt osvoyeniya (forest management plan, other materials).</p> <p>9.3.10.4. Plan of management activities.</p> <p>9.3.10.5. Interviews with local communities and/or indigenous peoples groups.</p> <p>9.3.10.6. Interviews with ethnologists and/or specialists on regional history</p>

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<p>9.3.11. Measures are being implemented.</p> <p>Note: This should be done in part not covered by Indicator 3.3.5</p>	<p>9.3.11.1. Maps of forest areas that are critical to local communities, including areas of special religious, cultural, ecological or economic significance.</p> <p>9.3.11.2. A list of measures to protect such areas.</p> <p>9.3.11.3. Lesokhozyaystvennyy reglament (forest inventory materials) or proekt osvoyeniya (forest management plan, other materials).</p> <p>9.3.11.4. Plan of management activities.</p> <p>9.3.11.5. Interviews with local communities and/or indigenous peoples groups.</p> <p>9.3.11.6. Field inspection</p>
<p>9.3.12. Conservation or management restrictions (regime) in protected nature areas are observed; candidate areas are excluded from road development and industrial use of natural resources.</p> <p>Note: See further <i>Annex D. Protected Nature Areas</i></p>	<p>9.3.12.1. Materials on existing protected nature areas and candidate areas, including maps.</p> <p>9.3.12.2. Lesokhozyaystvennyy reglament (forest inventory materials) or proekt osvoyeniya (forest management plan, other materials).</p> <p>9.3.12.3. Interviews with enterprise managers.</p> <p>9.3.12.4. Plan of management activities.</p> <p>9.3.12.5. Interviews with stakeholders.</p> <p>9.3.12.6. Field inspection</p>
<p>9.3.13. Plans of management activities aimed at <i>HCVF</i> conservation and management are included in the summary of the <i>forest management plan</i> (see Criterion 7.4) and are available to the public.</p> <p>Note: See further <i>Annex E. High Conservation Value Forests</i>, section <i>Monitoring of HCVF</i></p>	<p>9.3.13.1. Plan of management activities aimed at conservation and management of <i>HCVF</i>.</p> <p>9.3.13.2. Availability of the summary of forest management plan to public.</p> <p>9.3.13.3. Printed and web publications.</p> <p>9.3.13.4. Interviews with stakeholders</p>
<p>9.3.14. The summary of <i>forest management plan</i> (see also Criterion 7.4) contains information to what extent <i>HCVF</i> are protected in the network of <i>representative samples of existing ecosystems</i> (see Criterion 6.4, including those included in <i>protected areas</i>, <i>protective forests</i> and <i>OZU</i>)</p>	<p>9.3.14.1. Summary of forest management plan.</p> <p>9.3.14.2. Maps.</p> <p>9.3.14.3. Interviews with stakeholders</p>
<p>Criteria 9.4. Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes</p>	
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>Means of verification</p>
<p>9.4.1. The effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the characteristics of <i>HCVF</i> is determined on the basis of results of annual monitoring</p>	<p>9.4.1.1. Records of annual monitoring.</p> <p>9.4.1.2. Forest inventory materials, other materials.</p> <p>9.4.1.3. Field inspection</p>
<p>9.4.2. The enterprise on request gives away materials that are necessary for regular and independent monitoring of the condition of the <i>HCVF</i> (description of borders and/or</p>	<p>9.4.2.1. Evidence of correspondence and meetings with stakeholders on this issue.</p> <p>9.4.2.2. Interviews with enterprise managers.</p> <p>9.4.2.3. Interviews with stakeholders</p>

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<p>maps of lease, <i>HCVF</i>, <i>representative samples of existing ecosystems</i> etc.) to <i>stakeholders</i></p>	
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