



PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON FSC STANDARD FOR IRELAND 8TH NOVEMBER – 10TH DECEMBER 2021

Dear Stakeholder,

Soil Association has an agreement with FSC® to coordinate the adaptation of the FSC International Standard for local conditions in Ireland and we need your help!

The current FSC Standard used for forest management evaluations in Ireland was developed in 2012. Since then, the FSC Principles & Criteria have been revised, and so each country must now update their national Standards.

As there is currently no formally constituted, registered Irish FSC Standard Development Group, we will follow FSC Procedure 60-007 *Structure, Content & Development of Interim National Standards* (v1-2), which provides the full set of International Generic Indicators (IGIs) and Annexes as the starting point for local adaptation. The IGIs can either be adopted as they are, or adapted with local specifications and thresholds.

The period for submitting proposals for adaptations is open from:
Monday 8th November – Friday 10th December 2021.

We are asking for comments and adaptations on 3 levels:

- 1) Indicators** – the requirements for assessing whether a management unit complies with the requirements of an FSC Criterion (Source: FSC-STD-60-004). All IGIs may be adapted but the following Indicators **MUST** be adapted: 1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.4.1, 1.4.2, 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.6.1, 4.2.4, 4.5.1, 5.2.1, 5.2.3, 5.2.4, 5.3.1, 5.3.2, 6.1.1, 6.4.1, 6.4.3, 6.5.1, 6.5.5, 6.6.1, 6.6.2, 6.6.3, 6.6.4, 6.6.X, 7.1.2, 7.2.1, 7.6.1, 8.2.2, 10.1.1, 10.6.4, 10.8.2, 10.12.1.

Specific indicators for small forests are prefixed “SLIMF”.

Please review and revise each IGI in order to address terminology, scope or effectiveness in measuring conformance to an FSC Principle or Criterion in the Irish national context. This may take multiple forms:

- I) Revision of the wording of an IGI to include terminology appropriate in the national context, while maintaining the intended scope and outcome of the IGI.
- II) Adding locally relevant thresholds, other national/regional norms, or best practices to an IGI to improve intended outcomes and consistency in measuring conformance with a Criterion.

- III) Splitting an IGI to allow more effective and efficient measures of conformance to a Criterion without narrowing the intended outcome of the IGI.
- IV) Expanding or focusing the scope of an IGI, in order to better achieve intended outcomes and conformance to the Criterion based on national context. This option results in narrowing or expanding the intended outcome of the IGI.
- 2) **Verifiers** – a potential source of information or evidence that allows an auditor to evaluate conformity with an indicator (Source: FSC-STD-01-002). Verifiers from the 2012 Irish FSC Standard have been integrated a starting point for revision and amendment.
- 3) **Annexes** – compulsory frameworks to assist forest managers to meet the specific requirements of the standard (Source: FSC-STD-60-004). The following Annexes **MUST** be adapted:
- Annex A: List of all applicable laws, regulations & nationally-ratified international treaties, conventions & agreements; A 1st draft has been prepared by Coillte.
 - Annex B: Training requirements for workers;
 - Annex E: Elements of the Management Plan;
 - Annex G: Monitoring requirements;
 - Annex J: High Conservation Value Framework. A 1st draft has been prepared by FSC.

Further guidance and clear instructions are given throughout the Standard.

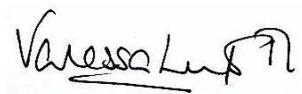
All adaptation proposals must be explained on the attached Stakeholder Response Form. Please note that unjustified proposals cannot be accepted.

The period for submitting proposals for adaptations is open from **Monday 8th November – Friday 10th December 2021**. The Standard is available [here](#) & supporting documents HCV Framework [here](#) and Annexes available [here](#). I invite you to submit your comments as early as possible so that I may advance as soon as possible with the work of integrating them into the Standard and responding to you with any queries I may have. Each comment will be responded to directly, explaining how it has been taken into account and seeking your approval prior to submitting to FSC International.

On **Thursday 11th November** we will hold a webinar to present the procedure and timeline for this process, and answer any questions you may have. Please register for the webinar [here](#).

We really value your opinion and look forward to reading your response, should this particular consultation be relevant to you.

Yours sincerely,



Vanessa Linforth

Timberwolf Consultants

on behalf of: Soil Association Certification Ltd., Forestry Team.

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