



FSC® General Assembly 2017

Vancouver, Canada, 8–13 October

September 2017

Intact Forest Landscapes

Background

The General Assembly in Seville 2014 passed a Policy Motion (Motion 65) for the protection of Intact Forest Landscapes. It requested the FSC secretariat to direct standard developers to develop, modify, or strengthen indicators within National Standards and CB standards that aim to protect the vast majorities of IFLs. It also stated that "If by the end of 2016 a relevant standard has not been implemented, a default indicator will apply that mandates the full protection of a core area of each IFL within the management unit. For this purpose, the core area of the IFL will be defined as an area of forest comprising at least 80% of the intact forest landscape falling within the FMU"

An Advice Note regarding the cut-off date of the Motion 65 was drafted for the IFL countries in 2016 and submitted for Public Consultation. The feedback was analyzed and the Note was revised accordingly. The revised Advice Note was approved by the Steering Committee and it became effective on 1 Jan 2017.

The intact forest landscape discussion does not belong to FSC alone. It is inherently multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and multi-dimensional. Land use in IFLs is an issue that fundamentally concerns governments, Indigenous Peoples, certificate holders, tenure holders in other sectors, various stakeholder groups, and experts from other organizations.

The need to identify approaches to enhance protection of IFLs while considering their political, economic, cultural and environmental importance are among the topics that are currently being considered by members and stakeholders.

Current Status

The HCV Technical Working Group (HCV-TWG) has developed a set of International Generic Indicators to address the elements of Motion 65. The IGIs for IFLs were under a 60-day public consultation in June- July 2016 and the final draft was submitted for the approval process in April 2017. Policy and Standards Committee has assessed them and decided to recommend their approval. Working groups in Canada, Russia, Brazil and the Congo Basin are currently in the process of standard setting to reflect the IFL indicators. As of September 2017, the Board of Directors is assessing the IGIs for approval.



To enable the discussion among all interested stakeholders aiming to prepare for the wider debate at the General Assembly in Vancouver, FSC has facilitated three IFL Solutions Forums that have convened an important number of invited experts representing the environmental, social and economic perspectives, including scientists. The importance of this forum lies in its capacity to become a platform for hosted dialogue aiming to find solutions for this complex issue well beyond the General Assembly.

The IFL Solutions Forums have enabled the FSC working group to identify progress made on the IFL debate, to identify how to engage with governments and public authorities, share new developments in IFL discussions and develop on specific areas such as how FPIC can be reflected in the indicators and guidelines developed for IFLs in the future or prepare for further debates around Motion 65.

The fourth IFL Solutions Forum is to take place in Vancouver prior to the General Assembly in which participants will explore the IFL protection from a boreal perspective.

Timeline (Optional):

A fourth invitation-only IFL Solutions Forum will take place in Vancouver on 6-7 October, 2017. This meeting will:

- Identify progress made since the last forum in Gabon.
- Consider indicators for and elements of intact forest landscapes in boreal forests.
- Further explore indigenous issues, including relationship issues between the different stakeholders and the role of Free, Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) in the indicators and guidelines for IFLs.
- Identify how to engage with respect to the expectations and agreements between governments and forest owners, while respecting protection and management of IFLs.
- Discuss and explore new developments in IFL discussions, including maps and boundaries of concessions, on-the-ground information and discussions expected at the FSC General Assembly on IFLs.
- Identify further issues for intact forest landscapes discussions, receive further recommendations, and to update on developments, to incorporate Indigenous Peoples' perspectives in our planning.

GA 2017 Activities

A public GA side meeting will provide for an update and discussion on the areas of work on IFLs. This event will be held on Wednesday 10 October 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm.

Additional information

For news and updates please visit:

<https://ic.fsc.org/en/news-updates/id/1749>

<https://ic.fsc.org/en/news-updates/id/1643>

<https://ga2017.fsc.org/timetable/event/ifls/>

For information about the Advice Note along with questions and answers raised by stakeholders, please visit:

<https://ic.fsc.org/en/what-is-fsc-certification/consultations/current-processes/advice-note-on-the-development-of-indicators-for-the-protection-of-intact-forest-landscapes-and-indigenous-cultural-landscapes-in-brazil-canada-the-congo-basin-and-russia>