



FSC® General Assembly 2017

Vancouver, Canada, 8–13 October

Conversion, conservation and restoration (Statutory Motion 7, GA 2017)

‘Responding to Policy Motion 12 from GA 2014’

Motion 12 Working Group

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The 1994 Rule & Conversion in FSC

- Conversion of natural forest to plantations has been a controversial issue from the beginning of FSC. The 1994 rule was introduced in January 1999, backdating the requirements to November 1994.
- Current Criterion 6.10 limits conversion of natural forest to plantations to a very limited portion of the Management Unit. That limited conversion must be accompanied by clear, substantial, secure long-term conservation benefits in the Management Unit.
- ‘Anecdotal information from FSC regional and national offices suggests that there are potentially millions of hectares of plantations which could be certified if the 1994 barrier could be replaced by requirements for effective compensation by restoration and/or additional conservation’.

Motion Background

- Through Motion 12 at GA 2014, the FSC membership asked FSC to fast-track the implementation motion 18 from GA 2011, to create a chamber balanced process to consider challenges and opportunities related to restoration and conversion. Restoration and conversion are two enormous subjects with a great diversity of membership opinions.
- Motion 12 WG proposes a revision of Criterion 6.10 (FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2) in response to the three specific questions in Motion 12 at GA 2014.

Motion Mandate

<p>a) how to address the “ownership loophole” in #6.10?</p>	<p>Adoption of the definition of ‘responsibility’ as ‘accountability’ from the Policy for Association FSC-POL-01-004 V3-0 D4-1 effectively closes this supposed loophole.</p>
	<p>Regardless of ownership, The Organization in control of a Management Unit is still required to take reasonable measures to mitigate, control and prevent environmental degradation which is continuing in the Management Unit as a legacy of activities or neglect by a previous owner or responsible Organization.</p>
<p>b) what does an organization that has converted post 1994 need to do to be able to be certified?</p>	<p>A revised Criterion 6.10 on past, post-1994 conversion is proposed with 11 sub-Criteria and 13 associated International Generic Indicators, plus a decision-making sequence for locating compensatory restoration and/or additional conservation</p>
<p>c) how to deal with subsistence conversion by communities?</p>	<p>Restoration of the previous allowance for conversion in accordance with a community-endorsed land use plan. For communities which converted without such a plan, a plan for restoration must be prepared and implemented.</p>

Revised Criterion 6.10

The Organization is providing compensation for environmental and socio-economic values lost or damaged by conversion of natural forest to plantations after November 1994 if

- I. The area converted exceeded a very limited portion of the Management Unit, and/or the very limited converted area is not producing clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits, and/or the area contained HCVs or sites or resources necessary to maintain or enhance those HCVs, and/or
- II. The conversion was in areas of customary and titled resources of Indigenous and Traditional Peoples unless these peoples provided free and informed consent to such conversion (Criteria 3.2 and 4.2), and/or the conversion was for agricultural cropping at subsistence level in and for the community, and/or
- III. The Organization could not provide clear and sufficient evidence that it was not responsible directly or indirectly for the conversion. ‘responsible’ in the sense of ‘accountable’ in the FSC Policy for Association, FSC-POL-10-004 V3-0 D4-1, section H. Conversion of natural forest by third parties not authorised and accountable to The Organization is covered by Criteria 1.4 and 6.6.

→+ **C10.a-C10.k**

→+ **IGI’s C10.1-10.13**

→+ **Decision level for environmental compensation**

Challenges and Opportunities

Motion 12 WG is addressing the ‘challenges and opportunities’ through 11 Briefing Notes, of which the first 3 are available at this GA:

1. Recapitulation of concepts, definitions of words and phrases, and points where there is (or seems to be) substantial agreement already on compensation for past conversion.
2. Assessment of environmental values lost or damaged by conversion.
3. Assessment of socio-economic values lost or damaged by conversion.
4. Activities required to compensate by restoration of environmental values lost or damaged by conversion.
5. Activities required for additional conservation measures to compensate for environmental values lost or damaged by conversion.
6. Activities required to mitigate and compensate the socio-economic values lost or damaged by conversion.
7. Limits on conversion of community-managed forests.
8. Limits on future conversion of small and low-intensity managed forests (SLIMFs).
9. Limits for future conversion of industrial-scale Management Units.
10. Harmonization of conversion requirements across forest management, controlled wood, chain of custody and Policy for Association.
11. Outline of a comprehensive FSC policy on conversion.

Examples of Conversion and Compensation

- Environmental Compensation by conservation and, or restoration
- Social-Economic Compensation

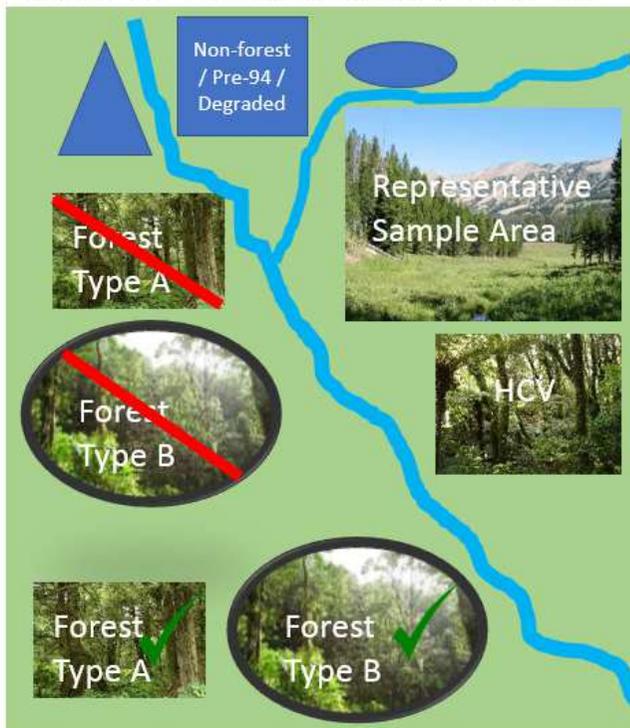


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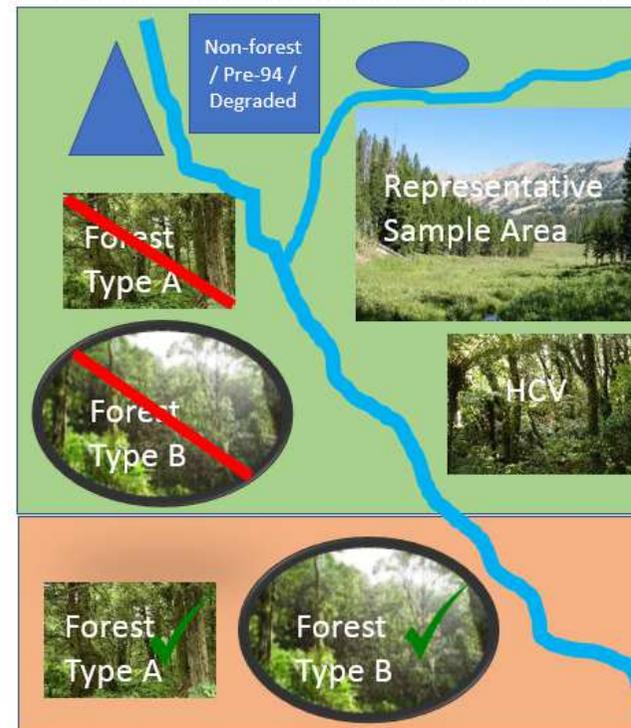
Compensation Plans – Environmental Assets

may be conservation and/or restoration

Within the Existing Boundary of the MU

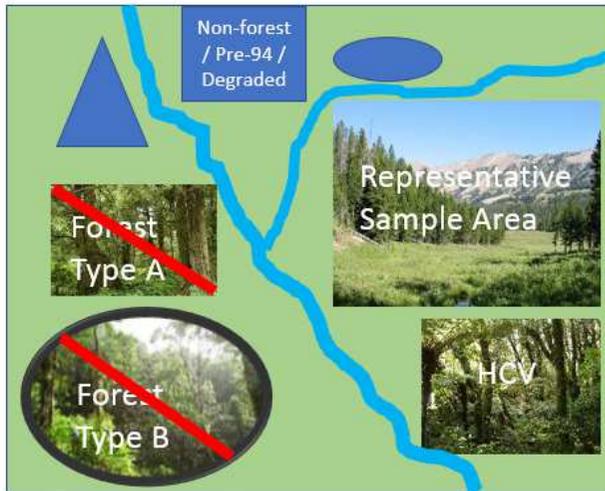


Adjacent to and incorporated into Existing MU

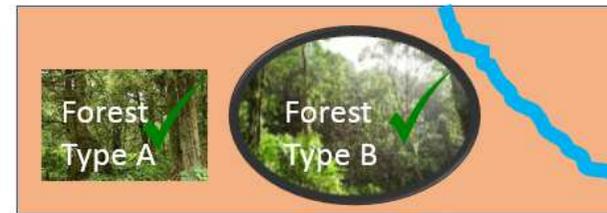


/ Converted
 ~ Buffer Zones
 ✓ Area Set Aside for Compensation
 Existing MU
 Additional

Compensation Plans - continued



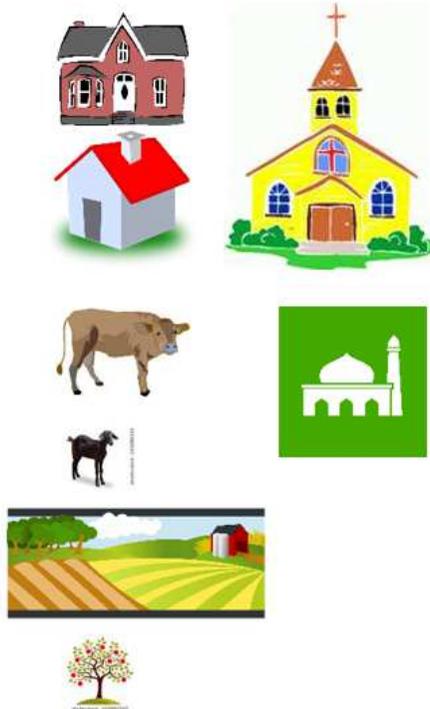
Where compensation is not possible within the MU, or adjacent, priority is same landscape, then outside landscape same ecosystem. Additional area is incorporated under FM certificate as an MU. Where not possible, under direct control of FMU



/ Converted
 ~ Buffer Zones
 ✓ Area Set Aside for Compensation
 Existing MU
 Additional

Compensation Plans Socio-Economic

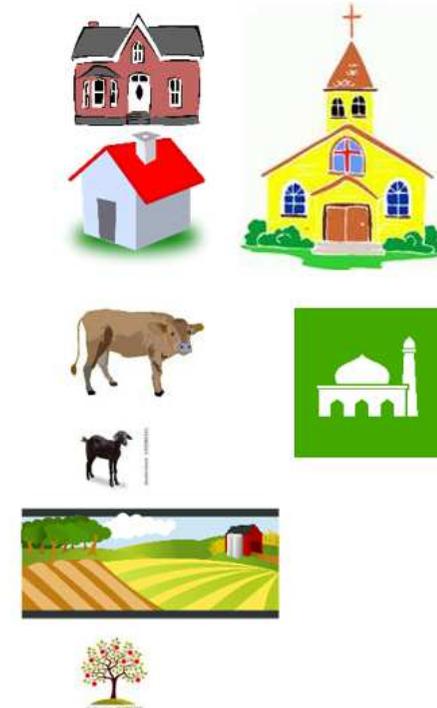
Lost during conversion



Based on Free Informed consent
with affected stakeholders

Where non-tangible assets are lost
replacement would be in agreement
with affected communities

Compensation Replacement (based on World Bank Standards)





Next Step

Talk to us & vote for the Motion 7 !

if we (FSC Members) want to see better responsible forest management, with properly managed compensation for lost and damage caused by conversion. This would allow the working group to continue working on harmonizing the FSC conversion policy.