IFL Global progress
AMENDED: 11 September 2014

Title: High Conservation Value 2 (HCV2) – Intact forest landscapes (IFL) protection

Original language of the motion: English

Policy Motion Number: 65

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Policy Motion (high-level action request):

To ensure the implementation of Principle 9 and the protection of Intact Forest Landscapes - the world’s remaining large undisturbed forest areas contained in HCV2 - across FSC certified operations, FSC will direct Standard Development Groups (SDGs) and Certification Bodies (CBs), where no SDG exists, to develop, modify, or strengthen (according to standards revision processes) indicators within National Standards and CB standards that aim to protect the vast majorities of IFLs. Taking into account scale, intensity and risk as well as respecting the activities, customary and legal rights of traditional forest communities, this process will:

1) Be based on best available, independent, peer-reviewed science and other information;
2) Take into consideration IFL degradation in FSC FMUs since 2000;
3) Respect Free Prior and Informed Consent of indigenous Peoples, traditional peoples and forest dependent communities in affected FMUs;
4) Within IFL cores ensure that Certificate Holders implement protection measures (for example, set-asides, legal protected areas, conservation reserves, deferrals, community reserves, indigenous protected areas etc.) ensuring management for intactness, in areas within their control;
5) Require a comparative assessment of the viability and effectiveness of alternative land use options, in maintaining and enhancing intactness of IFLs including in areas outside FSC FMUs (landscape level);
6) In limited circumstances, allow limited development of IFL cores if such operations produce clear, substantial, additional, long-term conservation and social benefits;
7) Where applicable, address the need to reduce timber harvesting rates to reflect any reduction in the timber volume due to removal of IFL areas from harvesting;
8) Prioritize development of low-impact/small scale forest management, non-timber forest products in unallocated IFL areas, and provide first access to local communities an taking into consideration section iii;
9) Promote alternative models for forest management/conservation (for example, ecosystem services etc.) within the IFLs,

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.
Addressing the Motion 65

Pending issues:

a) Six IFL related motions to GA 2017
b) BoD approval of the IGIs (?)
c) HCV Frameworks and IFL guidance
c) IFL indicators to NFSS & INS
M65 Advice Note for CBs and certificate holders for Motion 65 (Effective since 1.1.2017):

1. Forest Management operations, including harvesting and road building may proceed in IFLs, if they:

   1.1. Do not impact more than 20% of Intact Forest Landscapes within the Management Unit (MU), and

   1.2. Do not reduce any IFLs below the 50,000 ha threshold in the landscape.

   1.3. Global Forest Watch IFL maps [www.globalforestwatch.org](http://www.globalforestwatch.org), or a more recent IFL inventory using the same methodology, such as Global Forest Watch Canada, shall be used in all regions as a baseline.

   1.4. Non-conformity with the above clauses 1.1. – 1.3. shall result in Corrective Action Requests.

- Advice Note will expire once the National Forest Stewardship Standard becomes effective
Putting the Motion 65 into practice

Motion 65 with the 9 bullet points

International Generic Indicators with Instructions to Standard Developers

Advice Note for Motion 65
- 80% Protection
- Temporary

National Forest Stewardship Standard/Interim National Standard

National solution

Management Unit
International Generic Indicators (V1-1)

Some new elements:

(1) “Affected Rights Holder” concept:

- Persons and groups, including Indigenous Peoples, traditional peoples and local communities with legal or customary rights whose free, prior and informed consent is required to determine management decisions (C3.1; C3.4; C3.5; C4.1 and IGI 7.6.3; IGI 9.1.3; IGI 9.2.3).

(2) Identification of IFLs:

- Based on Global Forest Watch maps, or “other maps based on a more recent and accurate IFL inventory using a refined methodology” (Instructions for Standard Developers)
- IGI 9.1.2.... identification of IFLs “as of January 1, 2017”

(3) Management of IFLs:

- The portions of IFLs not designated as Core Areas shall be managed as HCV2 (Instructions for Standard Developers)
- IGI 9.2.7 Management strategies allow limited industrial activity within core areas only if all effects of industrial activity including fragmentation:
  1) Are restricted to a very limited portion of the core area;
  2) Do not reduce the core area below 50,000 ha, and
  3) Will produce clear, substantial, additional, long-term conservation and social benefits’’
International Generic Indicators (V1-1) – Instruction for setting threshold to ‘vast majority’

- May be below 80% based on national or eco-regional considerations (IGIs do not indicate lower limit)
- May be above 80% where IFLs are rare, or fragmented, or where large amounts of IFLs have been lost since 2000

The more scarce IFL
The quicker the degradation of IFL
The more damaging the human activities to the intactness of IFL
The greater the risk of damage to IFL
The greater the concentration of ecological values

Higher threshold

The more permanent the protection of IFL

Lower threshold

The nature and distribution of cultural values and legal and customary rights within and adjacent to Intact Forest Landscapes

The outcomes of culturally appropriate engagement with affected rights holders, affected and interested stakeholders

Threshold adjusted by FPIC process
Some potential solutions

a) Concept of “limited industrial activity” will enable carefully designed, low impact operations in the tropical rainforests

b) Concept of “affected rights holders” together with “Indigenous cultural landscapes” and the existing Caribou protection measures will contribute Canadian process

c) The Russian solution could be based on legally binding logging moratoria agreements between the lease holder and NGOs: IGIs do not introduce lower threshold to the concept of “vast majority”, which will enable the Russians to base their IFL protection to the long-term moratoria

d) Countries where IFLs are already protected or where they are located beyond commercially feasible access, the default indicator (80 % protection) or full protection could be introduced
How do the draft IGIs overlap with the IFL –related motions to GA 2017 ?

**GA2017/24: Compliance with the law outlined in Motions 7 and 65:**
- As the IGIs are designed to respond to the P&C, they will also comply with national regulations and FSC Principle 1
- Concession obligations / compliance with laws

**GA2017/32: Mapping Intact Forest Landscapes from a View Below the Canopy:**
- IGIs allow refined methodologies to be used for mapping the IFLs: National Standard Development may take this into consideration when drafting the indicators to the National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS)

**GA2017/34: Assessment of the economic viability of IFLs:**
- This can be done in connection for “Forest testing” of the NFSS, with the national indicators for IFLs

**GA2017/36: Clarification of the term “vast majority of IFLs” in Motion 65:**
- This is covered by the Instructions for Standard Developers (Annex H in FSC-STD-60-004 V1-1)

**GA2017/37 Landscape Approach to Protect Intact Forest Landscapes:**
- The Instructions for Standard Developers (Annex H in FSC-STD-60-004 V1-1) guides the SDGs to take national or eco-regional aspects into consideration when defining the ‘vast majority’
Thanks!