

Intact Forest Landscapes in Perspective



10 Principles:

1. Compliance with Laws
2. Worker's Rights and Employment Conditions
- 3. Indigenous Peoples' Rights**
4. Community Relations
5. Benefits from the Forest
- 6. Environmental Values and Impacts**
7. Management Planning
8. Monitoring and Assessment
- 9. High Conservation Values**
10. Implementation of Management Activities

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

Policy Motion Number: 65

Original language of the motion: **English**

PROPOSED BY:

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Chamber:	Environmental North

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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*

What is an Intact Forest Landscape

“Official” Definition from FSC International:

A territory within today’s global extent of forest cover which contains forest and non-forest ecosystems minimally influenced by human economic activity, with an area of at least 500 sq. km (50,000 ha) and a minimal width of 10 km.

Three Key Components:

1. Size - They are big – 500 km²
2. Disturbance – ‘minimally’ influenced by human economic activity
3. Composition – Don’t need to be all forest

What makes IFLs so important?

IFLs are critical for the livelihoods and culture of forest dependent peoples

In addition, they:

- contain a disproportionately high amount of global forest carbon
- are large enough to sustain a complete set of biological diversity
 - are large enough to host top predators as well as other critical wildlife and species at risk; and
- provide crucial ecosystem services such as regulating water and nutrient cycles

Why are we concerned about IFLs

- 8% of IFLs were degraded between 2000 and 2013
- Only 13% of IFLs were protected in 2013



Key Features of the Policy Motion:

- **Protect “the vast majority” of IFLs**
- Respect FPIC of Indigenous Peoples, traditional peoples and forest dependent communities in affected FMUs
- Recognizes a variety of protection measures (“set-asides, legal protected areas, conservation reserves, deferrals, community reserves, Indigenous protected areas
- “In limited circumstances, allow limited development of IFL cores
- “Prioritize development of low-impact/small scale forest management, and provide first access to local communities “

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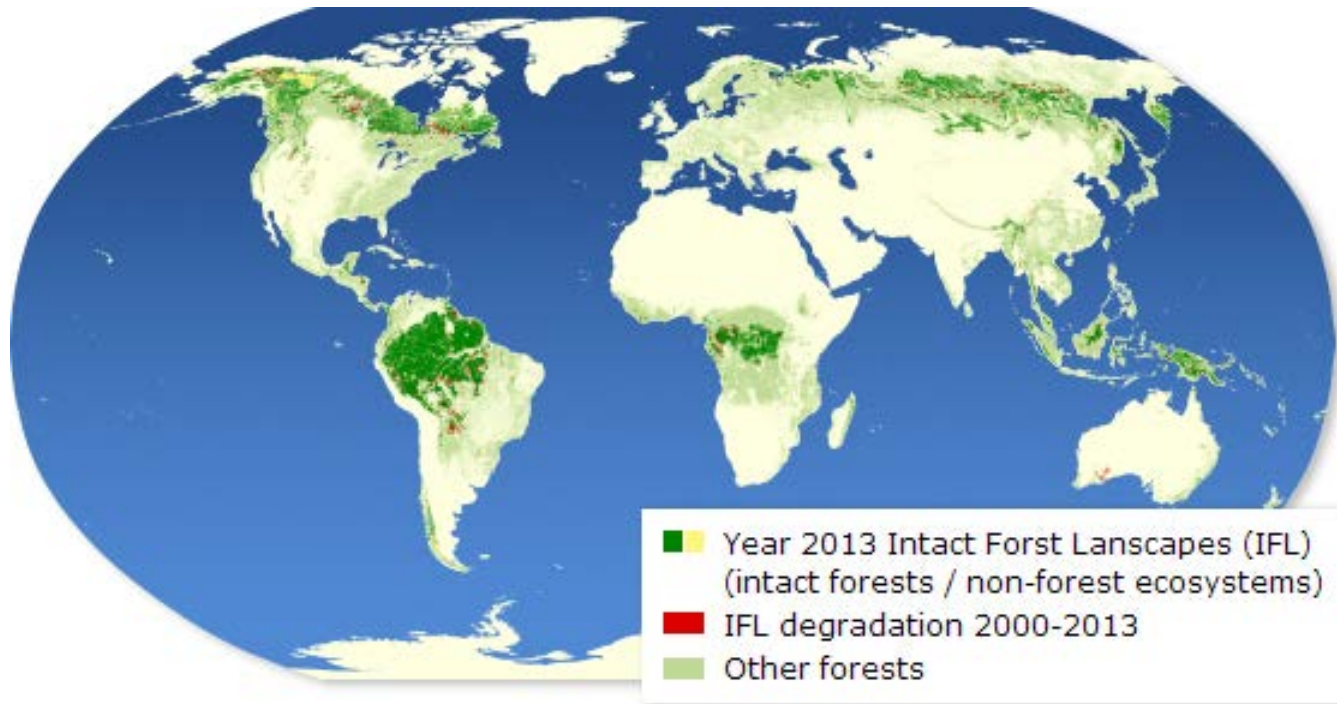
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Challenges in Implementation

- Reconciling ecological and Aboriginal perspectives
- Loss of wood supply
- Increase in complexity
- How to ensure IFLs will not be a disincentive for certification
- Timeframe for implementation
- Need for testing
- Varying expectations



- Intact forest landscapes occur in 60 countries - 65% of the world's total IFL area is concentrated in Canada, Russia, and Brazil

IFLs are present in following countries:

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Canada | 16. Suriname | 31. Panama | 46. Belize |
| 2. Russia | 17. Australia | 32. Mongolia | 47. Eq Guinea |
| 3. Brazil | 18. French Guiana | 33. Sweden | 48. Tanzania |
| 4. Congo DRC | 19. Ecuador | 34. Nicaragua | 49. Vietnam |
| 5. Peru | 20. Myanmar | 35. Finland | 50. Philippines |
| 6. United States | 21. Cameroon | 36. Georgia | 51. Ethiopia |
| 7. Indonesia | 22. China | 37. Centr Afr Rep | 52. Costa Rica |
| 8. Colombia | 23. Paraguay | 38. Laos | 53. Nigeria |
| 9. Venezuela | 24. New Zealand | 39. Solomon Is | 54. Angola |
| 10. Bolivia | 25. Argentina | 40. Honduras | 55. Brunei |
| 11. Papua NG | 26. India | 41. Bhutan | 56. Norway |
| 12. Guyana | 27. Malaysia | 42. Guatemala | 57. Japan |
| 13. Repl. Congo | 28. Thailand | 43. Liberia | 58. Cambodia |
| 14. Chile | 29. Madagascar | 44. Cote d'Ivoire | 59. Uganda |
| 15. Gabon | 30. Mexico | 45. Kazakhstan | 60. Dominican Rp |

International Technical Working Group

- Experts from:
 - Russia, United States, Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, Chile, Canada, Congo
- Developing International Generic Indicators and Guidance
- Draft 1 available for review any day now

International Generic Indicators

- Key topics:
 - Considers IFL abundance and security
 - Assess ICLs, based on consultation with Indigenous Peoples
 - flexible definition of vast majority depending on landscape context,
 - Give priority to Indigenous Peoples for alternative forest management projects
 - Consider habitat requirements of SAR
 - Development in cores, permitted only under specific circumstances
 - Connectivity between IFLs
 - Minimize roads....

FSC Canada Progress Towards Indicators

- IFL/ICL Subcommittee
 - Composite of experts from P6/9 and P3 Technical Expert Panels
 - Focussed on IFLs - ICL component is on hold
 - Still a work in progress
- Key Components:
 - In general taking advantage of 'flexibility' in the IGIs
 - Consideration of landscape context - abundance, security
 - Broad array of protection options
 - Restoration being considered

Upbeat Ending – Reasons for Optimism

- FSC's inherent recognition of balance
- Top minds
- Provision of space for identifying solutions
 - Phased approach
- Incentives for success
- Patience will bring success

Questions?