



Forest Stewardship Council®
FSC® Canada

Interim Guidance for the Delineation* Intact Forest Landscapes (IFL)

May 25, 2017

Document status

This Interim Guidance for delineating Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs) aims to support company implementation of FSC's Advice Note of the implementation of Motion 65 (Appendix A). The Interim Guidance is provided prior to the approval of Canada's National Forest Stewardship Standard (NFSS) expected to be released in early 2018. Following the release of the NFSS, additional Phase II work in developing an integrated approach for intact forests and Indigenous Cultural landscapes will continue into 2018.

The Interim Guidance is based on 2 years of discussions and testing with companies in addition to input from technical experts. The FSC Canada Standard Development Group, the cross-chamber group responsible for recommending approval to the FSC Canada Board of Directors has reviewed and supports the Interim Guidance.

It is anticipated that refined versions of the guidance will be developed in the coming year. Revisions to the direction may address topics such as buffer widths and amount of non-forests eligible for inclusion, based on further investigation of scientifically-appropriate measures. The Guidance is compatible with FSC International direction for the identification of IFLs.

**'Delineation' as it is used in this document refers to the precise demarcation an IFL - in other words defining it with lines on a map. Several considerations need to be addressed in order for an IFL to be identified on a map; constraints regarding size, shape, proximity to anthropogenic disturbances etc. are dealt with in this document in order to provide clear instructions so that IFLs can be spatially demarked.*

Context

In recent years, Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs) have been the subject of considerable discussion in Canada and other countries that have large forested areas certified to FSC standards. FSC is developing measures to manage IFLs consistent with their designation as High Conservation Values and Policy Motion 65 (Appendix B) that was passed at the 2014 General Assembly. Incorporating IFLs into FSC's Canadian National Standard is challenging as it requires finding a balance between the ecological focus of the Policy Motion, the rights and interests of Indigenous People, the economic viability of the forest industry, and the concerns of interested and affected communities and stakeholders.

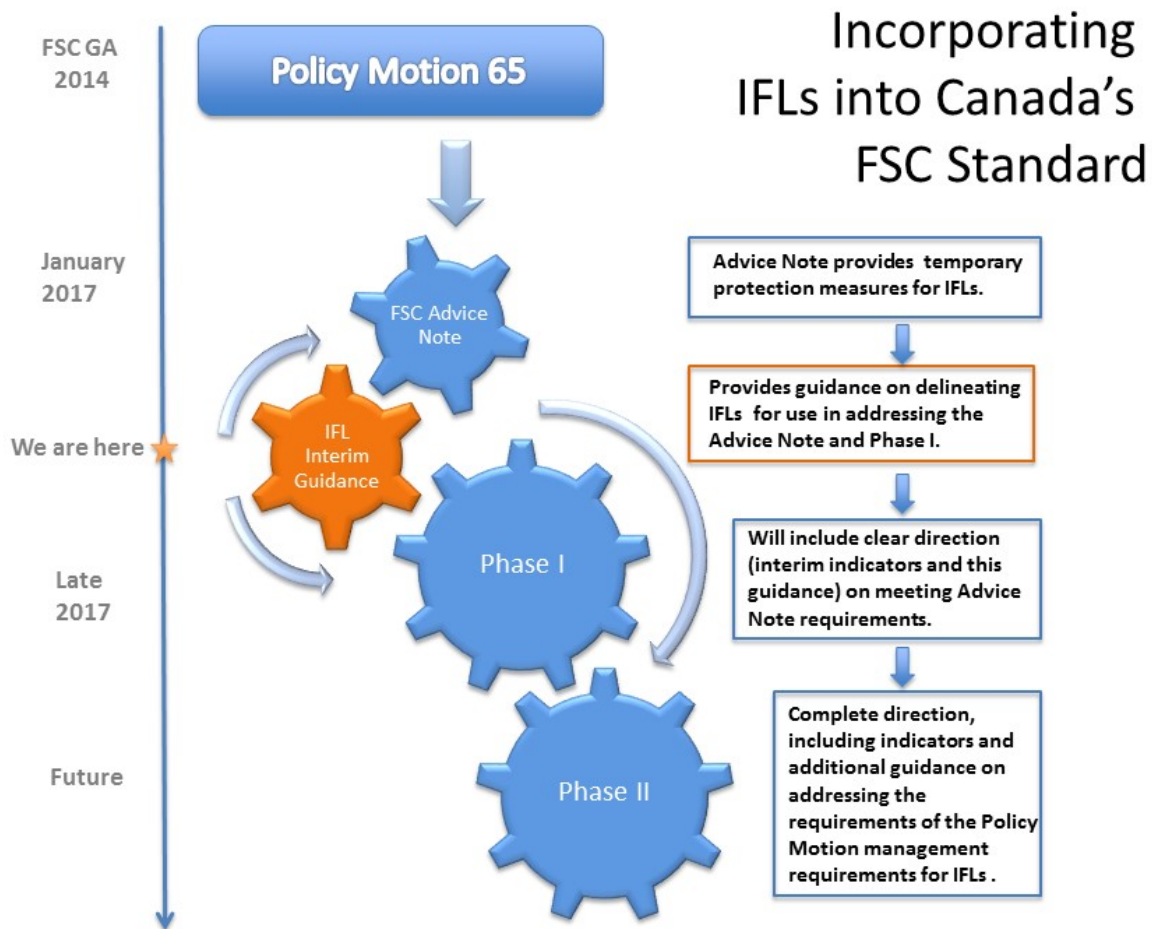
Because implementing Policy Motion 65 is taking longer than was originally prescribed, FSC's Policy and Standards Unit released an Advice Note in January 2017 that identified temporary protection measures to be in place until NFSS are developed in countries that have IFLs. The guidance on IFL delineation provided in this document is to be used in Canada to identify IFLs so that certificate holders can effectively implement the requirements of the Advice Note.

The approach for developing this interim guidance fits with FSC Canada's strategy of releasing requirements for an integrated approach for intact forests and Indigenous Cultural landscapes in 2 phases:

- Phase I: To be released in late 2017 is FSC Canada's Forest Management Standard that will include direction on implementing the temporary protection measures required by

the Advice Note, and will also include the IFL delineation guidance. This direction will be in place until further notice.

- Phase II: After the completion of Phase I, FSC Canada will continue to work with experts and stakeholders to develop comprehensive direction regarding IFLs that will be incorporated into the FSC Canada Forest Management Standard. The temporary protection measures will be replaced by comprehensive normative direction.



Guidance

To address the requirements of the Advice Note, FSC Canada advises Certificate Holders to use IFLs delineated by Global Forest Watch Canada or to implement the measures identified in Table 1.

Information on IFLs delineated by GFWC is available at <http://www.globalforestwatch.ca/>

FSC's Advice Note also allows the use of IFLs as delineated by Global Forest Watch International (GFWI) to address its requirements. Information on IFLs delineated by GFW is available at <http://www.globalforestwatch.org>

Table 1. Interim Guidance for Delineating IFLs.

Descriptor	Direction	Application Notes
Base Size and Contiguous Patches	The minimum size for IFLs is 50,000 ha.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All IFLs greater than 50,000 ha must be identified <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This includes IFLs wholly in the Management Unit (MU) and IFLs that cross MU boundaries. ○ For IFLs partially within the MU, the entire extent of the IFL (i.e. including portions outside of the MU) must be identified.
Minimum Width	The minimum width of an IFL is 10 km as measured by one 10 km diameter circle that is entirely within its boundaries.	The circle needs to fit in only one location within the prospective IFL. This will eliminate IFLs that are all narrow corridors and have no main body.
Bottlenecks	Corridors or appendages to the IFL must be at least 2 km wide.	Bottlenecks are constrictions of an intact area to a width of less than 2 km. The IFL should not include any portions that are less than this width.
Buffers around anthropogenic features	<p>Notable anthropogenic features (including most roads) are to be buffered by 1 km</p> <p>Cut-blocks are to be buffered by 500 m.</p>	<p>Notable anthropogenic features include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • roads \geq 5 m wide • utility corridors • buildings • highways • railways • pipelines • settlements <p>Where there are roads \geq 5 m wide within cutblocks, the extent of the buffer into to forest should be the farthest extent of either the road buffer or the cut-block buffer</p> <p>Buffers should not be applied around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • snowmobile or ATV trails • hiking trails • canoe routes or portages • roads $<$ 5 m wide
Non-forest terrestrial communities	<p>IFLs may contain up to 50% non-forest terrestrial and wetland areas as part of a broader ecosystem, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wetlands – bogs, fens, marshes; • grasslands, meadows, scrub; and • bare rock. 	Areas of non-forest vegetated communities are typically included in definitions of intact forest because they play a strong role in the function and character of the landscape. The amount of non-forest that may be included in IFLs is limited to 50% of the IFL area.

Open Water	Open water is to be included in the IFL up to 500 m off shore.	Expanses of open water should be included as part of an IFL providing that they do not extend more than 500 m off shore. These areas comprise both inclusions within a vegetated area and extensions beyond a vegetated area such as may occur at the shore of a large lake.
Natural Disturbances	Natural disturbance (fire, blow down, insect infestation) are not to be excluded from IFLs.	Areas that have experienced natural disturbance are to be included in IFLs provided that they are part of a land base that meets all the other requirements (i.e. buffers, minimum width, bottlenecks).
Protected Areas	Protected areas and FSC Candidate Protected Areas are not to be excluded from IFLs.	All considerations included in this document regarding the identification of IFLs should be applied to existing legally protected areas and candidate protected areas. Where these areas abut other portions of the MU, the total area to be considered for possible designation as IFLs includes the protected areas and candidate protected areas.

Appendix A. Motion 65 Advice Note

ADVICE-20-007-018 V1-0	Advice Note for the interpretation of the default clause of Motion 65
Normative reference	FSC-STD-20-007 V3-0 Forest Management Evaluations, Clause 8.4 FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship: Principle 9 FSC-STD-60-004 V1-1 Draft 1-0 International Generic Indicators FSC-STD-60-002 V1-0 Structure and Content of National Forest Stewardship Standards FSC-STD-60-006 V1-2 Process Requirements for the Development and Maintenance of National Forest Stewardship Standards FSC-PRO-60-006 V2-0 EN Development and Transfer of NFSS TO FSC P&C V5 Motion 65, General Assembly 2014 Motion 83, General Assembly 2014 BM 72.31 Board Decision on IFL cut-off date
Effective date	01 January 2017
Expiry date	This Advice Note will expire in each country once the National Forest Stewardship Standard or Interim National Standard becomes effective.
Scope	This Advice Note applies to all certificate holders and certification bodies operating in countries where Intact Forest Landscapes exist according to Global Forest Watch maps: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo DRC, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominican Rep, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Finland, French Guiana, Gabon, Georgia, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Laos, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua N Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Repl. Congo, Russia, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Sweden, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, United States, Venezuela and Vietnam.
Terms & definitions	<p>Intact Forest Landscape (IFL): 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 km² (50,000 ha) and a minimal width of 10 km (measured as the diameter of a circle that is entirely inscribed within the boundaries of the territory) (Source: Intact Forests / Global Forest Watch. Glossary definition as provided on Intact Forest website. 2006-2014).</p> <p><u>Data source:</u> Greenpeace, University of Maryland, World Resources Institute and Transparent World. "Intact Forest Landscapes. 2000/2013" Accessed through Global Forest Watch. www.globalforestwatch.org or a more recent IFL inventory using the same methodology, such as Global Forest Watch Canada.</p> <p>Indigenous Cultural Landscape (ICL): Indigenous Cultural Landscapes are living landscapes to which Indigenous Peoples attribute social, cultural, environmental and economic value because of their enduring relationship with the land, water, fauna, flora, and spirits and their present and future importance to cultural identity. An ICL is characterized by features that have</p>

	<p>been maintained through long term interactions based on land-care knowledge and adaptive livelihood practices. They are landscapes over which Indigenous Peoples exercise responsibility for stewardship (Drafted by PIPC for Canada, 2016).</p> <p>NOTE: FPIC can be manifested in different ways in national standards. ICL is a voluntary term. SDGs may choose not to use it.</p>
Background	<p>The FSC Board of Directors (BM 72.31, July 2016) has concluded that the Motion 65 default clause cannot be implemented as written in the motion, due to the significant undesired side effects in some of the most important countries for FSC. Therefore, the Board has mandated the Secretariat to revise the default clause as laid out in the 'proposal for the Motion 65 Default Clause' together with the involved Network Partners and the participants in the IFL Solutions Forum held in Bonn on July 6-8 2016.</p>
Intent	<p>The purpose of this Advice Note is to Advice certificate holders and certification bodies to minimize further destruction of IFLs before the full set of NFSS or INS indicators for Motion 65 become effective.</p>
Advice	<p>Advice to Certificate Holders and Certification Bodies in IFL countries</p> <p>1. Forest Management operations, including harvesting and road building may proceed in IFLs, if they:</p> <p>1.1. Do not impact more than 20% of Intact Forest Landscapes within the Management Unit (MU), and</p> <p>1.2. Do not reduce any IFLs below the 50,000 ha threshold in the landscape.</p> <p>NOTE: PSU is developing further instructions on road building in IFLs.</p> <p>1.3. Global Forest Watch IFL maps 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.</p> <p>1.4. Non-conformity with the above clauses 1.1. – 1.3. shall result in Corrective Action Requests.</p>

Appendix B: Motion 65

AMENDED: 11 September 2014			
Title: High Conservation Value 2 (HCV2) – Intact forest landscapes (IFL) protection		Policy Motion Number: 65	
Original language of the motion: English			
PROPOSED BY:			
Name:	Judy Rodrigues		
Organization:	Greenpeace International		
Chamber:	Environmental North		
1. SECONDED BY:		2. SECONDED BY:	
Name:	Roberto Waack	Name:	Jens Holm Kanstrup
Organization:	AMATA S/A	Organization:	Verdens Skove / Forests of the World
Chamber:	Economic South	Chamber:	Environmental North

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*