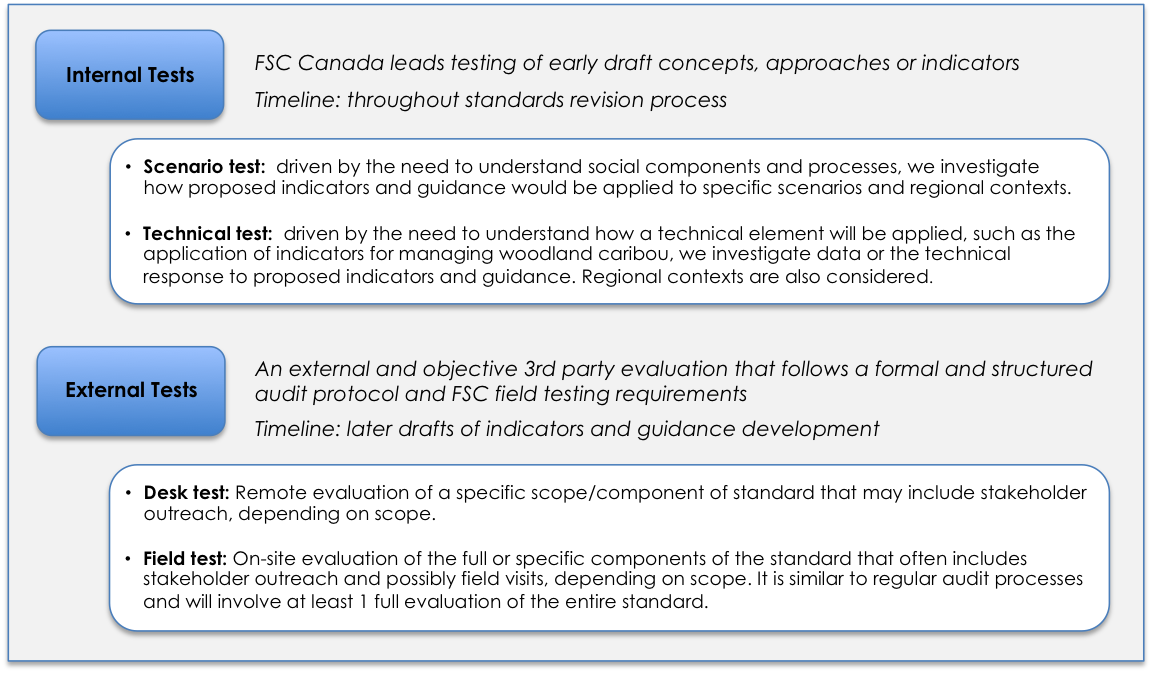
**Call for Participation by Certificate Holders Working in Canada’s Forests**

**INTRODUCTION**

The results of stakeholder feedback to Draft 1 of the FSC Canada National Standard highlighted several aspects of the standard requiring detailed analyses and consideration prior to the submission of Draft 2, notably the more complex requirements of Principles 3, 6, and 9.

To ensure that subsequent draft approaches and indicators are effective, impactful and feasible, FSC Canada is using various tools to test concepts and indicators, and to gather information. The two ways FSC Canada is conducting tests of the draft standard are:



This Call for Participation is the first of many tests which will be implemented between now and the release of the new standard, considered as an internal technical test.

**OBJECTIVES OF THIS TEST**

Some of the most challenging and important questions faced by FSC Canada, Aboriginal Peoples and its stakeholders in the development of the FSC National Standard relate to managing forest landscapes. These aspects deal with high profile values and have the potential to affect achievement of important social, ecological, and economic objectives. The three key landscape components of the new Standard are: Intact Forest Landscapes, Indigenous Cultural Landscapes, and woodland caribou.

## Intact Forest Landscapes

The mandate for strengthening the manner in which Intact Forest Landscapes are incorporated into FSC Standards comes from Policy Motion 65, which was passed at the 2014 FSC General Assembly. The Policy Motion draws attention to the limited success previous FSC Standards have had in fostering meaningful conservation of Intact Forest Landscapes. The Policy Motion also lays out a number of challenging directions to be implemented throughout the Standards, including promoting alternative models for forest management and conservation, implementing protection measures, and incorporating Free, Prior and Informed Consent into forest management. Efforts to bring Intact Forest Landscapes more explicitly into the Canadian Standard began in 2014 and the process has involved stakeholder consultation, release of a discussion paper and working with an expert subcommittee. Basic issues such as clarifying the concept of Intact Forest Landscape ‘core’ have been addressed, and more complex topics related to development of management strategies (such as various forms of protection and the notion of restoration) are being addressed and refined in a number of initial indicators.

## Indigenous Cultural Landscapes

There is a broad understanding that the Canadian Standard must be attuned to Aboriginal perspectives on landscape management and the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent. One mechanism that the Standard will use to address this is through incorporation of Aboriginal-defined landscape level planning and management concepts, collectively described by FSC as Indigenous Cultural Landscapes (ICLs). While provisionally, this concept is intended to work alongside the IFL requirements as a complimentary and distinct approach to landscape management, more work is needed to understand the interrelationship, challenges and opportunities for applying the respective approaches.

To date FSC Canada has developed a draft definition of an ICL and presented it, along with intent of the concept, to the IFL/ICL subcommittee who are developing guidance and indicators for intact forest indicators, and members in attendance at the 2015 AGM. A discussion paper related to IFLs and ICLs was released for public comment in January 2016, but again the ICL concept was only described and no technical guidance was provided. At this stage, FSC is focused on developing an operational definition of ICL.

## Woodland Caribou

Woodland caribou are an iconic species in Canada whose habitat requirements are challenging to meet in landscapes managed as part of commercial forestry operations. The importance of specifically incorporating the habitat requirements of woodland caribou into the Standard has been recognized for several years, and the development of mechanisms to do this, including a caribou-specific indicator, have been an integral part of developing our new National Standard.

In this Call for Participation, Certificate Holders are being asked to contribute analysis of the circumstances in your tenure to the body of knowledge being assembled regarding the manner in which these landscape components of the Standard may affect its practicality and achievement of key objectives.

**There are three opportunities for participation in this technical test. The opportunities include:**

1. **Intact Forest Landscapes: Analyze the IFLs in your tenure –** *What do these look like, how are they currently managed? (Page 3-6)*
2. **Indigenous Cultural Landscapes: Map and describe the involvement of Aboriginal Peoples in the management and use of large landscapes** *– What does an ICL look like in your tenure and how might they be identified and considered within existing FSC requirements? What are some of the challenges and opportunities for contribution to the spirit and intent of the Standard? (Page 7-9)*
3. **Caribou Indicator: Test the impact of the Caribou Indicator on wood supply in your tenure** – *Through modeling indicators, what are the implications for ACC? (Page 10-15)*

Please participate in any of them that you can. Details regarding each opportunity are described below.

**While we encourage you to submit responses ASAP to allow us to better inform the revision of indicators, you have until August 9th, 2016. Please send comments to Vivian Peachey, Director of Standards at** [**v.peachey@ca.fsc.org**](mailto:v.peachey@ca.fsc.org)

### ANALYSES OF Intact Forest Landscapes

**Background**

To date there have been 4 meetings of the IFL/ICL subcommittee who are developing guidance and indicators for intact forest indicators. The general approach taken by the subcommittee is to follow the intent of the Policy Motion, while attempting to incorporate practical direction that recognizes Canada’s unique circumstances.

Key concepts and process elements essential to bringing IFLs into the Standard include:

1. Development of a rule-set to identify IFLs -Working with GIS staff of participating companies, FSC Canada has tested and refined a ‘rule-set’ that gives direction on how to identify IFLs and the amount of IFL core
2. Identification of IFLs - Guidance has been prepared on identification of IFLs that considers the landscape context in which the IFLs exist. This Guidance will ultimately be incorporated into the Standard as an Annex.
3. Drafting of Indicators - Indicators are being developed that will provide direction on the development and implementation of management strategies for IFLs.
4. Management of IFLs - While the Policy Motion focuses on protection of the ‘vast majority’ of IFL cores, the indicators under development recognize that protection of IFLs may take a number of forms and that restoration of forest landscapes may have a role to play in IFL Management.

While these steps provide a general background to integrating IFLs into the Standard, the purpose of this assessment is to understand the potential costs related to proposed approaches for managing IFLs. This information will be helpful in completing the indicators that deal with management, protection, and restoration.

Accompanying this file is the recently-completed (draft) rule-set of GIS directions on identification of IFLs[[1]](#footnote-1). You are welcome to use this rule-set, or the recently-available IFL data on the Global Forest Watch Canada web-site (<http://www.globalforestwatch.ca/> or other information that you have available on IFLs in your tenure.

**Assessment**

The following questions are intended to provide an overview of your Management Unit, the extent of IFLs in your Unit, and the potential impact of the IFLs in your Unit. Please review all the questions prior to beginning and contact us if you have any questions.

**Your Circumstances**

| **Question** | **Response** | **Explanatory Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. What is the area of your Management Unit (ha)? | Total:  Forested:  Productive Forest: |  |
| 1. What is the AAC as most recently calculated? | Year of Calculation:  AAC total:  AAC hardwoods:  AAC softwoods: |  |
| 1. What is the most recent actual harvest? | Year:  Total:  Hardwood:  Softwood: |  |
| 1. What is the 10-year average harvest? | Years:  Total:  Hardwood:  Softwood |  |

**Analysis**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Response** | **Explanatory Notes** |
| 1. What method did you use to identify IFLs?   Why did you use the method your employed? | Select one:  a) FSC GIS rules  b) Global Forest Watch Canada  c) Other (please provide details) |  |
| 1. What is the total area of Each IFL in your MU? | 1.  2.  3.  ...  (if you have more than three IFLs in your MU, just add additional lines for your responses here, and below) |  |
| 1. Does the IFL abut the MU boundary (yes/no)? | 1.  2.  3.  ... |  |
| 1. What is the area of each IFL that is in existing Protected Areas? (i.e. legislated parks, and reserves in which forestry is not permitted) | 1.  2.  3.  ... |  |
| **Please answer the following Questions for the portion of each IFL that is not within a protected area** | | |
| 1. What is the area within your MU? | 1.  2.  3.  ... |  |
| 1. What area is productive forest? | 1.  2.  3.  ... |  |
| 1. Why has the IFL area not been accessed/harvested? | 1.  2.  3.  ... |  |
| 1. Does the present Forest Management Plan include plans to access and /or conduct forest management operations in the IFL? | 1.  2.  3.  ... |  |
| 1. In general, is the IFL:   a) as productive,  b) more productive, or  c) less productive  than the remainder of your Management Unit? | 1.  2.  3.  ... |  |
| 1. Does it exist:   a) completely,  b) partly, or  c) not at all  within a designated caribou range? | 1.  2.  3.  ... |  |
| 1. If no harvesting were to be permitted in the IFL, how would it affect the AAC on your Management Unit?   **Note – prohibiting of harvest of the entire area of IFLs is not being considered for incorporation into the Standard, this question is just to help us develop a broad understanding.** | 1.  2.  3. |  |

**General**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Response** |
| 1. How did you estimate the AAC associated with the IFLs?   Please be specific (e.g.):   * What wood supply model did you use? Is it a spatial model? * Generally what constraints did you use? * Are the constraints that you used consistent with those used in your most recent estimate of AAC? |  |
| 1. Please provide an estimate of the effort required to identify IFLs in your Management unit and the effort required to complete this analysis. |  |
| 1. If you used the accompanying GIS rule-set to identify IFLs, were they clear? How could they be improved? |  |
| 1. What has been the involvement of Aboriginal People in the identification and analysis of gaps in representative areas and candidate protected areas (Indicator 6.4.3, National Boreal Standard)? |  |
| 1. How do you think the Standard should provide for protection of IFLs? |  |

***If you have questions or wish to discuss please contact Vivian Peachey, Director of Standards at 647-528-0140 or*** [***v.peachey@ca.fsc.org***](mailto:v.peachey@ca.fsc.org)

### ANALYSIS OF INDIGENOUS CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

### Background

As described above, work related to Indigenous Cultural Landscapes is currently underway, but is not at a stage for inclusion in the Standard.

Key to the testing process is the development of an operation definition of ICL. This definition ought to be based on the cultural and planning practices of the affected Indigenous communities. FSC Canada has developed the following guiding definition to assist in this process:

*Indigenous Cultural Landscapes (ICLs) are living landscapes to which Indigenous Peoples attribute social, cultural and economic value because of their enduring relationship with the land, water, fauna, flora and spirits and their present and future importance to their cultural identity. An ICL is characterized by features that have 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*

### Information Request

To assist in identifying existing ICL engagement and planning methodologies relevant to forest management and the implementation of the right to FPIC, FSC Canada requests that certificate holders work with existing information and within existing information sharing protocols to document, map and analyse landscape level functions and attributes of significance to affected Indigenous communities within, and if necessary adjacent to, your tenure.

1. Definition of ICL based on the cultural practices, legal and customary rights of use of affected Indigenous communities, and existing Land Use Planning documents
2. Identification (map) of ICLs within the context of the certificate holder’s tenure
3. Reporting of challenges and added value of including ICLs as a landscape level management unit.

The purpose of this assessment is to develop an understanding of the challenges and added value of including landscape level planning based on the rights and interests of Indigenous people in the FSC Standard. ***FSC Canada would also like to assess the interrelationship between IFLs and ICLs therefore it is important for the certificate holder to also complete the IFL portion of this assessment***

**Your Engagement Circumstances**

| **Question** | **Response** | **Explanatory Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. How many affected Indigenous communities are associated with your FMU? |  |  |
| 1. For each community (numbered 1 to x) please rate your level of engagement.   (1 = No engagement and 5 = Continuous  and on-going engagement) | 1.  2.  3.  … | Please provide further explanation for your engagement ratings here. |

**Analysis**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Response** | **Explanatory Notes** |
| 1. How are ICLs defined in the context of your FMU? |  |  |
| 1. Describe how you arrived at the ICL definition above. |  |  |
| 1. Provide a list of existing document types used to establish the ICL boundaries (e.g. LUP, Aboriginal Values Map, etc.) |  |  |
| 1. What is the total area of ICLs within your FMU? |  |  |
| 1. What is the total area of ICLs outside your FMU? |  |  |
| 1. What features (or attributes) are included in the ICL? |  |  |
| 1. What functions (e.g. water quality, access routes, etc.) are the ICLs supporting? |  |  |
| 1. What attributes were used to identify ICL boundaries (i.e. GIS model)? |  |  |
| 1. If ***Analysis of IFLs*** was completed:   How much of the IFLs within your FMU overlap with ICLs? |  |  |
| 1. How much of the caribou range within your FMU overlap with ICLs? |  |  |

**General**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Question** | **Response** | **Explanatory Notes** |
| 13.a How effective would ICLs be at addressing indicators under:   1. Principle 3 (e.g. 3.1 and 3.5) 2. Principle 6 (e.g. 6.1, 6.5, 6.6, 6.8) 3. Principle 9 (e.g. 9.1 and 9.4)   OR  13.b How effective would the following indicators be at identifying and managing ICLs:   1. Principle 3 (e.g. 3.1 and 3.5) 2. Principle 6 (e.g. 6.1, 6.5, 6.6, 6.8) 3. Principle 9 (e.g. 9.1 and 9.4) | a)  b)  c) |  |
| 1. What are the top 3 challenges/ constraints of defining an ICL? |  |  |
| 1. What are the top 3 challenges/ constraints of mapping an ICL? |  |  |
| 1. What value does an ICL add to the implementation of the FSC Standard? |  |  |
| 1. How much effort is required to define and map ICLs for each Indigenous community? |  |  |

***If you have questions or wish to discuss please contact Pam Perreault, Aboriginal Coordinator at 705-255-1560 or*** [***p.perreault@ca.fsc.org***](mailto:p.perreault@ca.fsc.org)

### ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF THE CARIBOU INDICATOR ON WOOD SUPPLY

In this exercise, we are asking interested companies to conduct analyses of the impact of the Caribou Indicator on wood supply in their tenure.

The relevant components of the Standard are supplied in accompanying files.

**Overview**

*The Caribou Indicator*

As Draft 2 of the Caribou Indicator explains, adherence with, or participation, in a federally-approved range management plan is expected to suffice to meet the indicator’s requirements, and so would likely bypass the need to address all other aspects of the indicator, explained in Table 6.4.3 of the Standard. However, for the sake of this exercise we would like to understand the implications of the components of the indicator addressed in Table 6.4.3, so even if you are anticipating that your forest will participate in the implementation of a range management plan, we would appreciate your investigation into the components of the indicator contained in Table 6.4.3.

The caribou indicator is based on the Federal Recovery Strategy[[2]](#footnote-2). Table 6.4.3 employs a risk-based approach that requires adherence to progressively more cautious management practices as the levels of disturbance with Caribou Ranges and Management Units increase. The state of the caribou population within the range is also a key driver. Forest management is not prohibited at any level of disturbance, however at higher levels of disturbance or when the caribou population is decreasing or unknown, the conditions that must be met in order to conduct forest management are stringent and include:

* forest management that results in net expansion of cumulative disturbances must not occur unless it is based on reasons that foster the long-term recovery of caribou habitat; and
* compliance with other indicators in the Standard that address forest type and age-class distribution, connectivity, forest patches, and access management.

The indicator is accompanied by a series of notes that explain particular elements of the indicator’s requirements.

**Assessment**

The following questions are divided into a number of sections that allow us to understand the circumstances relevant to your management unit, and the results of your analysis. Please review all the questions prior to beginning and contact us if you have any questions.

**Clarity**

| **Question** | **Response** | **Explanatory Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Are the requirements of the indicator clear? |  |  |
| 1. If the requirements are not clear, please identify those in need of more explanation. |  |  |

**Your Circumstances**

| **Question** | **Response** | **Explanatory Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. What is the area of your Management Unit (ha)? | Total:  Forested:  Productive Forest: |  |
| 1. What is the AAC as most recently calculated? | Year of Calculation:  AAC total:  AAC hardwoods:  AAC softwoods: |  |
| 1. What is the most recent actual harvest? | Year:  Total:  Hardwood:  Softwood: |  |
| 1. What is the 10-year average harvest? | Years:  Total:  Hardwood:  Softwood |  |
| 1. What is the extent of overlap of your Management Unit with each of the ranges? (i.e. how much area, and what proportion of your Management Unit is in each of the ranges?) |  |  |
| 1. What is the total cumulative disturbance[[3]](#footnote-3) in your management unit? |  |  |
| 1. What is the total cumulative disturbance in each of the portions of your Management Unit that overlaps with a caribou range? |  |  |
| 1. For each caribou range that your Management Unit overlaps, is the caribou population stable or increasing, decreasing, or unknown? |  |  |
| 1. Which numbered cells in Table 6.4.3 apply to each of the portions of your Management Unit that overlap with a caribou range? |  |  |

**Analysis** – Please answer the following questions for each portion of your Management Unit that overlaps with a different caribou range.

| **Question** | **Response** | **Explanatory Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Does the present management of your Unit meet the requirements of the indicator? |  |  |
| 1. If present management of your forest does not meet the requirements of the indicator, what changes do you think you would need to make to meet the requirements? |  |  |
| 1. Do you think management of your unit meets the requirements of Indicator 6.8.1 (forest types and age classes)?   If present management of your forest does not meet the requirements of Indicator 6.8.1, what changes do you think would need to be made to meet the requirements of the indicator? |  |  |
| 1. Do you think management of your unit meets the requirements of indicator 6.8.2 (forest patches)?   If present management of your forest does not meet the requirements of Indicator 6.8.2, what changes do you think would need to be made to meet the requirements of the indicator? |  |  |
| 1. Do you think management of your unit meets the requirements of indicator 6.8.3 (connectivity)?   If present management of your forest does not meet the requirements of Indicator 6.8.3, what changes do you think would need to be made to meet the requirements of the indicator? |  |  |
| 1. Do you think management of your unit meets the requirements of Indicator 6.8.4 (access management)?   If present management of your forest does not meet the requirements of Indicator 6.8.4, what changes do you think would need to be made to meet the requirements of the indicator? |  |  |

**Modelling and Wood Supply**

| **Question** | **Response** | **Explanatory Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. How did you estimate the wood supply costs of the indicator?   Please be specific (e.g.):   * What wood supply model did you use? Is it a spatial model? * Generally, what constraints other than those associated with this indicator did you use? * Are the constraints that you used (other than those associated with this indicator) consistent with those used in your most recent estimate of wood supply? * How did you deal with the distinct/separate requirements of the indicator?) |  |  |
| 1. For your Management Unit, what are the calculated annual wood supply costs (hardwoods/softwoods) of meeting the indicator’s requirements? |  |  |
| 1. Did you calculate the wood supply costs associated with the following requirements, and if so, what are they:    1. Indicator 6.8.1 (applies to cells 2,4,9, and 16 of Table 6.4.3)    2. Indicator 6.8.2 (applies to cells 2,4,9 and 16)    3. Indicator 6.8.3 (applies to cells 2,4,9, and 16)    4. Indicator 6.8.4 (applies to cells 2,4,9, and 16)    5. Limiting disturbance to less than 35% (applies to cells 5 and 6)    6. Constraining harvest so that there is no net expansion of cumulative disturbance (applies only to cells 10, 11, and 17) |  |  |
| 1. If the ***Analysis of IFL*** section has been completed:    1. Within your FMU, what is the overlap between the caribou range with identified IFLs? |  |  |

**Evaluation**

| **Question** | **Response** | **Explanatory Notes** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. What aspects of this indicator, if any, are most important to revise to address wood supply implications? |  |  |
| 1. What changes would you recommend to those aspects of this indicator that can address wood supply implications and still provide protection for caribou habitat? |  |  |
| 1. Are there any additional habitat measures that could be practically incorporated into the indicator? |  |  |
| 1. What has been the involvement of Aboriginal People in the management of woodland caribou within or adjacent to the Management Unit? |  |  |

***If you have questions or wish to discuss please contact Vivian Peachey, Director of Standards at 647-528-0140 or*** [***v.peachey@ca.fsc.org***](mailto:v.peachey@ca.fsc.org)

1. A separate exercise is being conducted to develop and refine the rule set, however if suggestions to improve their clarity are welcome. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Environment Canada. 2012. Recovery Strategy for the Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), Boreal population in Canada. *Species at Risk Act* Recovery Strategy Series. Environment Canada, Ottawa.Xi + 138 pp. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. For this exercise, cumulative disturbance is defined as total area of fire disturbance + area of human disturbance (including a 500m buffer) that is less than 40 years old. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)