

Summary of Feedback from Webinar Participants

Title: Launching PCI* Journey with FSC Members

*PCI – Principles, Criteria and Indicators from FSC’s Principles & Criteria and International Generic Indicators

Date: 6 December 2024

Thank you for sharing your perspectives during the webinar to kick off the conceptual phase of the revision of our core forest management requirements. Below is a summary of the key points raised by participants during the webinar, reflecting your valuable input. This input will complement the survey responses as well as feedback from our continued engagement efforts:

1. Revisiting and Adapting Principles and Criteria (P&C):

- The current P&C framework, established in 1994, may require a fundamental review to address today's challenges, including climate change, biodiversity, Indigenous rights, and restoration.
- Suggestions include a leaner set of core principles complemented by flexible, localized criteria.
- Attention should be paid to balancing the auditability of requirements with their marketability and practical benefits.

2. Outcome-Oriented Standards:

- A transition from practice-based to outcome-oriented standards is necessary but should be gradual to allow certificate holders (CHs) to adapt.
- Concerns were raised about the potential complexity and burden of outcome-based systems. Simplification and practical implementation guidance are critical.
- The importance of measuring meaningful impacts rather than creating excessive or redundant data was emphasized.

3. Simplification and Usability:

- Participants recommended structuring P&C using principles like EMS/ISO to improve operational flow and adaptability to new regulations.
- Simplifying requirements by focusing on proxies for key aspects (e.g., key species instead of entire ecosystems) was highlighted.

- Suggestions included integrating an effort/impact matrix to ensure requirements provide value and are feasible for CHs.

4. Engagement and Inclusivity:

- Stronger engagement with CHs, CBs, Indigenous peoples, and workers was advocated, emphasizing their practical experience and unique perspectives.
- Using citizen science and stakeholder input was proposed as a cost-effective means of fulfilling certain requirements.

5. Global Consistency with Local Flexibility:

- Core P&C should be globally applicable but allow for local adaptation to account for regional differences and specific needs.
- Terminology adjustments, such as replacing "non-forest vegetation types" with "wooded landscapes," were suggested for clarity.

6. Role of the IGI and Technical Oversight:

- The IGI's role needs clarification and possible revision, starting with a technical working group to align it with evolving P&C.
- Avoid overly prescriptive approaches that limit innovation by focusing on desired outcomes rather than specific methods.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Strong statistical support and professional expertise are needed for outcome orientation.
- Long-term data collection and analysis should guide sustainability outcomes.

We greatly value your input and will use it to guide the revision process. Please stay engaged as we move forward with these discussions.