



E The FSC Principles and Criteria

Principle 1: Compliance with Laws

The *Organization** shall comply with all *applicable laws**, regulations and nationally- *ratified** international treaties, conventions and agreements.

- 1.1 The *Organization** shall be a legally defined entity with clear, documented and unchallenged legal *registration**, with written authorization from the legally competent* authority for specific activities.
- 1.2 The *Organization** shall demonstrate that the *legal status** of the *Management Unit**, including *tenure** and *use rights**, and its boundaries, are clearly defined.
- 1.3 The *Organization** shall have *legal** rights to operate in the *Management Unit**, which fit the *legal status** of The Organization and of the Management Unit, and shall comply with the associated legal obligations in applicable national and *local laws** and regulations and administrative requirements. The legal rights shall provide for harvest of products and/or supply of *ecosystem services** from within the Management Unit. The Organization shall pay the legally prescribed charges associated with such rights and obligations.
- 1.4 The *Organization** shall develop and implement measures, and/or shall engage with regulatory agencies, to systematically protect the *Management Unit** from unauthorized or illegal resource use, settlement and other illegal activities.
- 1.5 The *Organization** shall comply with the applicable *national laws**, *local laws**, *ratified** international conventions and *obligatory codes of practice**, relating to the transportation and trade of forest products within and from the *Management Unit**, and/or up to the point of first sale.
- 1.6 The *Organization** shall identify, prevent and resolve disputes over issues of statutory or *customary law**, which can be settled out of court in a timely manner, through *engagement** with affected *stakeholders**.
- 1.7 The *Organization** shall publicize a commitment not to offer or receive bribes in money or any other form of corruption, and shall comply with anti-corruption legislation where this exists. In the absence of anti-corruption legislation, The Organization shall implement other anti-corruption measures proportionate to the *scale** and *intensity** of management activities and the *risk** of corruption.
- 1.8 The *Organization** shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC *Principles** and *Criteria** in the *Management Unit**, and to related FSC Policies and Standards. A statement of this commitment shall be contained in a *publicly available** document made freely available.