**Key areas of substantive difference in environmental standards (2016)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | US-FSC | FSC P&C | SFI | PEFC |
| **Forest conversion to non-forest** | Prohibited except limited areas where clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation benefits. | Prohibited except limited areas where clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation benefits. | No specific policy. | Prohibited except where small portion + long-term conservation, economic, and social benefits. |
| **Landscape-Scale Conservation Values** | Precautionary, active and adaptive management must record and maintain conservation values in consultation with stakeholders and experts. | Precautionary, active and adaptive management must record and maintain conservation values in consultation with stakeholders and scientists. | Identify or select sites for protection of ecologically, geologically, historically, or culturally important qualities. | Identify, protect, and/or conserve rare, sensitive, or representative ecosystems and globally, regionally, and nationally significant landscapes |
| **Species and Communities at Risk** | Survey and report or assume presence of vulnerable, imperiled, and critically imperiled. Maintain habitat & viable populations. | Protect rare and threatened species and their habitats, considering absolute range and requirements. | Program to protect threatened and endangered species and known sites. Protect viable occurrences of critically imperiled or imperiled species. | No exploitation of protected and endangered plant and animal species for commercial purposes, protected where necessary. |
| **Protected areas (non-special value forests)** | Conserve or restore representative area of natural ecosystems. Assess and maintain environmental values and necessary conservation measures. | Viable samples representative of existing ecosystems, types, successional phases, and/or communities are permanently protected, recorded with gap analysis and stakeholder collaboration. | No specific policy. | Identify and protect and/or conserve rare, sensitive, or representative ecosystems. Map and account for specific and recognized protective functions in management plan. |
| **Plantations** | No forest conversion after 1994. | No forest conversion after 1994 except where additional conservation gain. | No forest conversion except in justified circumstances where ecological impacts are not significant, native forest type is not rare. | No forest conversion after 2010 except with long-term environmental, social, and economic benefits.  Endorses ITTO guidelines in tropical plantations. |
| **GMOs (See Appendix)** | Prohibited. | Prohibited. | Prohibited. | Prohibited. |

Key areas of substantive difference in social standards (2016)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **FSC-US** | **FSC P&C** | | **SFI** | **PEFC** |
| **Community benefit** | Maintain long-term social and economic well-being. Strengthen and diversify local economy. Enhance value of forest services. | | Maintain long-term social and economic well-being. Strengthen and diversify local economy. Enhance value of forest services. | No specific policy. | Promote the long-term health and well-being of communities within or adjacent. |
| **Indigenous rights** | UNDRIP + recognize and uphold rights, customs, and culture.  No threat to rights or resources.  Free, prior, and informed consent on public and private lands.  Engage indigenous peoples and consult with affected groups.  Cooperate to identify and protect significant sites.  Compensate for indigenous knowledge and utilize as requested. | | UNDRIP + recognize and uphold customary rights, recognized and unrecognized tribes.  No adverse affects on tribal resources.  Free and informed written consent on public and private lands.  Identify and invite participation of leaders.  Written contract to protect and compensate for indigenous knowledge. | Written policy acknowledging a commitment to recognize and respect rights | UNDRIP + recognize and respect customary rights.  Free, prior, and informed consent on public and private lands.  Where rights are disputed, engage local peoples while respecting roles laid out in law.  Make best use of local knowledge. |
| **Public reporting and consultation** | Required on public and private lands. | | Proactively and transparently engage affected stakeholders. Engage interested stakeholders on request. | Required on public lands. | Provide for effective communication and consultation with local people and other stakeholders. |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Key** | Most Prescriptive requirements | Prescriptive requirements | Some requirements | No requirements |

\*Shading represent relative, not absolute, differences in positions on issues.