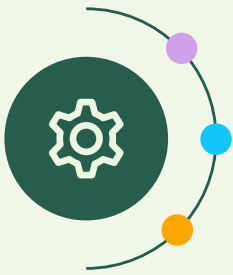


# QUICK GUIDE: DEVELOPING OR REVISING A RISK ASSESSMENT FOLLOWING FSC RISK ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

## DETERMINING THE SCOPE

The scope needs to be identified as specifically and unambiguously as possible.

*In the risk assessment, specify the:*



area covered by the assessment (e.g., a country, a region that is part of a country, or a region that covers more than one country),



indicators covered in the case of partial risk assessment



product/commodity scope under assessment

## GATHERING AND ASSESSING INFORMATION

Gather sufficient information to assess each indicator and to justify the risk designation reached.

*Develop the assessment based on the following:*

- public sources of information;
- consultations with experts and stakeholders.

## DETERMINATION OF GEOPOLITICAL SCALE AND SOURCE TYPES

*In the determination of geopolitical scale and source types, consider the following aspects:*

1. Geopolitical scale - determination based on geographical boundaries, such as administrative sub-divisions and/or biological and/or geographical subdivisions.
2. Source types - determination based on non-geographical characteristics, such as the type of forested area, tenure or ownership, scope of management, as well as scale, intensity, and risk of forest management operations

Clearly describe source types and ensure they are understandable and identifiable by risk assessment users. Provide shapefiles with the layer of polygons representing the homogenous risk areas at the geopolitical scale within the area of the assessment using GIS format.

## DESIGNATION OF RISKS

Based on the information gathered, include a risk designation per indicator.

*For each indicator under assessment, determine if the risk is:*

- Negligible risk: Temporary, unusual, limited in impact, controlled through the implementation of monitoring and enforcement measures carried out by efficient and effective government agencies.
- Non-negligible risk: Affects a wide area, causes significant damage, and/or continues over a long period of time; has a significant negative impact on society, the forest ecosystem and the people directly and indirectly affected by forest operations; indicate the absence or breakdown of enforcement of the legal system; are not corrected or adequately responded to upon being identified.
- Not applicable: when an indicator is not considered applicable in the risk assessment.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF MITIGATION MEASURES

Where ‘non-negligible risks’ are identified, identify, and establish mitigation measures to reduce the risk from ‘non-negligible’ to ‘negligible’.

## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

### INDICATOR SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

**High Conservation Value:** The scope of the assessment of HCVs includes assessing HCV presence and threats to HCVs caused by management activities, including harvesting or production that occurs outside the scope of a formal management process.

**HCVs include** ● Species diversity, ● Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics, ● Ecosystems and habitats, ● Critical ecosystem services, including the protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes, ● Community Needs, and ● Cultural values.

**Forest conversion and degradation:** When assessing risk thresholds for forest conversion and degradation, consider the following:

- Extent and impact of activities responsible for endangering forest cover.
- Spatial data meeting internationally recognized spatial standards.
- The use of spatial data for risk assessment should be supported by other data types whenever possible.
- Governance assessment in areas where conversion of natural forest is prohibited by law.

### INDICATORS FOR RISK ASSESSMENT

The FSC Risk Assessment Framework covers 64 indicators to assess risks including the following topics:

Land Use and Management	Taxes and Fees	Corruption and/or document and data falsification
Management activities and environmental protection	Health and safety	Human and labour rights
Third parties’ rights	Trade and transport	Due diligence/due care
Conversion and forest degradation	High Conservation Values (HCV)	Genetically modified organisms (GMO)

### SUPPORTING TECHNOLOGY

The Risk Hub will allow FSC Certificate Holders to capture risk assessments in which they identify applicable risks of origin for their forest products according to geographical location.



**REVIEW THE FSC RISK ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK IN FULL HERE.**

