

Appendix 1. Interview protocol.

Please, introduce yourself?

What is your position within the FSC process?

What were the main stages of the FSC negotiation process? How did the standard-setting process work? What were the steps?

How did the standard-setting process work? How were the members of the SDG and TG selected? What were the steps? [Key informants]

What issues received the most attention? Why?

Among stakeholders?

Among the SDG?

How were the IGIs communicated from FSC? [How did you first learn of them?]

What instructions were given about how to integrate the IGIs?

What was the role of FSC international in this process? How active a role did they play?

What was the stakeholder response to the indicators? [*At each distinct stage, i.e. all forums of negotiation and in the public review process*]

How did you approach working with the IGIs? [*We want to know what the response was at the national level as well as the technicalities of how they organized themselves.*]

What were the formal and informal forums used to gain input and reach decisions on the indicators? Sub-committees? Sponsored workshops? Field testing? Public review process? Who was involved? (including beyond the SDG and Technical groups) [*Trying to get at forums of negotiation beyond just formal FSC processes, mapping them out, timeline*]

How would you describe the balance of participation in the standards development processes? Who was most active? Who was missing? Were there groups who chose not to participate? Were there voices absent or insufficiently considered in the process?

What were the key issues that came up in relation to biodiversity?

How were the IGIs initially received?

How well were the IGIs adapted to [your country] context?

What were the formal and informal forums used to gain input and reach decisions on the indicators? Sub-committees? Sponsored workshops? Field testing? Who was involved? (including beyond the SDG and Technical groups) [*Trying to get at forums of negotiation beyond just formal FSC processes, mapping them out, timeline*]

Were there other, broader political, social and economic issues, including changes to legal requirements, changes in the markets, political developments, other certification systems that influenced the indicator development process for biodiversity?

Among external actors? [probe about who they are (including government, industry, civil society, indigenous) and interview them]

What was the response to the indicators? [*At each distinct stage, i.e. all forums of negotiation and in the public review process*]

How were different perspectives addressed?

Can you describe the [*power*] dynamics among the chambers in regards to biodiversity and the participants in the process generally? [Who had what position?]

Was consensus reached on the final indicators? [SDG, other interested parties]

How satisfied were you with the process?
[Likert scale 0-5. 0 not at all satisfied; 5 very satisfied]

How satisfied were you with the final indicators?

From your perspective, were there interested parties who were dissatisfied with the process and/or indicators?

What were the key differences between this standards development process and the previous process [*including composition and influence of stakeholders*]? [Or are there any differences that you think are significant between this standards development process and the previous process?]

What were the key differences between the treatment of biodiversity in this standard and the previous standard?

How would you describe the direction FSC is going? Would you like to see any changes?