

INT-FSC-STD-LVA-01-2023_02

Normative reference FSC-STD-LVA-01-2023 The FSC Interim Forest Stewardship Standard for Latvia

Criterion 4.1, Annex H Glossary of terms Definition for Local communities, and customary rights applicability.

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1. **According to Criterion 4.1 of the <u>FSC-STD-LVA-01-2023 The FSC Interim Forest Stewardship Standard for Latvia</u>: The Organization shall identify the local communities that exist within the Management Unit and those that are affected by management activities. The Organization shall then, through engagement with these local communities, identify their rights of tenure, their rights of access to and use of forest resources and ecosystem services, their customary rights and legal rights and obligations, that apply within the Management Unit.**
 - a) No, customary rights are not applicable in Latvia, as the legal customary norms were replaced by civil rights in the Civil Code of the Republic of Latvia in 1937. The Latvian Civil Code, along with several amendments, was reinstated in 1992 after the declaration of independence from the Soviet Union.
 - b) Yes. The Organization shall conform with the Annex H, Glossary of terms <u>FSC-STD-LVA-01-2023 The FSC Interim Forest Stewardship Standard for Latvia</u>, which provides the national interpretation of local communities: “local municipalities and associations/foundations/congregations formed by local people that exist in the Management Unit and that may be affected by management activities.”
- a) Are the customary rights applicable in Latvia?
 - b) Can The Organization follow the nationally recognized concept of local communities?