

RULES ON STANDARD SETTING PROCESS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF MALAYSIAN CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION (FOREST PLANTATIONS)

1. AIM

This document provides the Rules to be followed by the Technical Working Group (TWG) in the standard setting process to develop the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification (Forest Plantations) or in short *MC&I*(Forest Plantations).

2. BACKGROUND

The Rules as contained in this document had been adopted by the TWG as the Rules to develop the *MC&I*(Forest Plantations). These Rules on standard setting process are based on the **Rules on Standard Setting Process for Development of Timber Certification Standards** under the MTCC timber certification scheme.

3. RULES ON THE STANDARD SETTING PROCESS

The following Rules shall apply in the standard setting process in the development of the *MC&I*(Forest Plantations).

3.1 Creation of Forum

- 3.1.1 A Forum shall be created, in the form of an appropriate committee or working group, to develop the standard. All relevant interested parties or stakeholder groups shall be invited to participate in this process.
- 3.1.2 The members of the Forum shall be representatives of the materially and directly interested parties or stakeholder groups related to the different aspects of forest management.
- 3.1.3 In the case of the development of *MC&I*(Forest Plantations), the interested parties or stakeholder groups should represent the different aspects of sustainable forest management at national or sub-national level.
- 3.1.4 Participation in the Forum shall be organized according to its respective consensus-building procedures which should provide for balanced representation of the interested parties or stakeholder groups.
- 3.1.5 The Forum may establish a smaller group, comprising such members as the Forum deems fit, to develop the standard.

3.2 Process

- 3.2.1 The Forum shall adopt these Rules for its deliberations in the development of the standard. Copies of these Rules shall be made available to the interested parties or stakeholder groups in a reasonable and timely manner upon request.
- 3.2.2 The Forum shall appoint its own chairperson from among its members.
- 3.2.3 The participation of the interested parties or stakeholder groups in the Forum, and their views, shall be documented and considered in an open and transparent way.
- 3.2.4 Decisions made during the standard-setting process shall be based on consensus among the members of the Forum. In this context, consensus is a process that seeks to take into account the views of all parties concerned to reconcile any conflicting arguments, and is characterised by the absence of a serious or sustained opposition by any member of the Forum.
- 3.2.5 In the event that the Forum is unable to reach a consensus, the decision shall be made with two-thirds majority in favour with no dissenting votes. If there is a dissenting vote, then the party concerned must state the reason for disagreeing with the decision, and make the necessary proposal/formulation to achieve consensus.
- 3.2.6 In the event that a complaint is received from any member of the Forum regarding any substantive and procedural matter related to the standard setting process, the complaint shall be considered and decided by the MTCC Board of Trustees. For this purpose, the MTCC Board may delegate this responsibility to a committee consisting of such members of their body as they think fit.

3.3 Transparency

The start of the standard setting process shall be communicated to the public through various means such as the mass media, direct communication to the interested parties or stakeholder groups and the MTCC website. Such communication should include information on the development process, the members of the Forum and their contact details.

3.4 Consultation

- 3.4.1 The final draft standard, which is to be the subject of a national-level consultation, shall be made available in a reasonable and timely manner, to all interested parties or stakeholder groups.
- 3.4.2 The minimum time allocated for such consultation shall be 60 days.
- 3.4.3 The Forum is required to give general information on the changes made as a result of the national consultation process. This information shall be given in the MTCC

website as well as through direct communication to the interested parties or stakeholder groups.

The final version of the standard shall be published or put on the MTCC website promptly, so as to make it available to any interested party or stakeholder group.

4. PILOT TESTING

The final draft standard shall be pilot-tested and the results of the pilot testing shall be available. Appropriate action shall be taken to incorporate the improvements and recommendations into the standard.

5. REVIEW OF STANDARD

The certification standard and implementation arrangements shall be periodically reviewed in the light of new scientific knowledge and practical experience in order to ensure continuous improvement. The *MC&I*(Forest Plantations) shall be reviewed at least every five years. The MTCC shall be the organization which is responsible for initiating the revision work.

NSC Secretariat
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