



Principle 4: Community Relations

The Organization* shall contribute to maintaining or enhancing the social and economic wellbeing of **local communities***.

- 4.1 *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.
- 4.2 *The Organization** shall recognize and *uphold** the legal and *customary rights** of *local communities** to maintain control over management activities within or related to the *Management Unit** to the extent necessary to protect their rights, resources, lands and territories. Delegation by local communities of control over management activities to third parties requires *Free, Prior and Informed Consent**.
- 4.3 *The Organization** shall provide *reasonable** opportunities for employment, training and other services to *local communities**, contractors and suppliers proportionate to scale and intensity of its management activities.
- 4.4 *The Organization** shall implement additional activities, through *engagement** with *local communities**, that contribute to their social and economic development, proportionate to the scale, intensity and socio-economic impact of its management activities.
- 4.5 *The Organization**, through *engagement** with *local communities**, shall take action to identify, avoid and mitigate significant negative social, environmental and economic impacts of its management activities on affected communities. The action taken shall be proportionate to the *scale, intensity and risk** of those activities and negative impacts.
- 4.6 *The Organization**, through *engagement** with *local communities**, shall have mechanisms for resolving grievances and providing fair compensation to local communities and individuals with regard to the impacts of management activities of The Organization.
- 4.7 *The Organization**, through *engagement** with *local communities**, shall identify sites which are of special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance, and for which these local communities hold legal or *customary rights**. These sites shall be recognized by The Organization, and their management and/or protection shall be agreed through engagement with these local communities.
- 4.8 *The Organization** shall *uphold** the right of *local communities** to protect and utilize their traditional knowledge and shall compensate local communities for the utilization of such knowledge and their *intellectual property*. A binding agreement as per Criterion 3.3 shall be concluded between The Organization and the local communities for such utilization through *Free, Prior and Informed Consent** before utilization takes place, and shall be consistent with the protection of intellectual property rights.