



<b>Code</b>	INT-FSC-STD-POL-01-2013_01
<b>Requirement (s)</b>	<p>FSC-STD-POL-01-01-2013 Clause 1.1.1. FMU shall meet all national, state/provincial and local applicable laws.</p> <p>FSC-STD-POL-01-01-2013 Clause 9.1.2 FM shall determine the presence of HCVF according to available criterions, accepted by FSC Poland. See Annex III (criteria of determining HCVF forests presence)</p> <p>FSC-STD-POL-01-01-2013 Annex 3, HCVF6 “If there are forest areas appointed by local authorities as valuable for cultural identity of local communities, such areas shall be designated as HCVF 6.”</p> <p>FSC-STD-POL-01-01-2013 Annex 3, Part II HCV Forest Management, HCVF 6 “Forest management shall respect will and opinion of local communities. It shall not contradict possibilities of preserving other identified higher conservation values in the forest.”</p> <p>FSC-STD-POL-01-01-2013 Clause 9.3.3. Management measures in forests with HCV’s follow the principle to avoid any actions which can cause the loss of their conservation value.</p>
<b>Publication date</b>	16 November 2020
<b>Basis for the development of interpretation</b>	<p>FSC-PRO-01-001 V3-1 <i>The Development and Revision of FSC Normative Documents</i>, Section 18 stating that “Interpretations are developed for certification bodies in situations, where the standard is ambiguous and may be assessed differently by different auditors.”</p> <p>INT-PRO-01-001_01 <i>Which body is responsible to give formal and binding interpretations of National Forest Stewardship Standards?</i></p>
<p><b>Background:</b></p> <p>The local community of Giżycko in North-East Poland has presented a Municipal Forest in Gajewo (estimated size 320 ha) to the Giżycko Forest District to be designated and to be managed as HCVF 6, because of its critical importance to the community’s traditional cultural identity. The local community has expressed its will in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a petition signed by nearly 4000 people;</li> <li>• the resolutions of the local government authorities;</li> <li>• a declaration signed by the Head of the Giżycko commune, the Mayor of the Giżycko town, and the Head of the Giżycko powiat;</li> <li>• resolutions of social organizations supporting the petition, and in</li> <li>• articles in local newspapers and radio programs</li> </ul>	

**Do the requirements in FSC-STD-POL-01-01-2013 allow The Organization to neglect the above described request for designating that forest area in Giżycko commune as HCVF 6?**

No, neglecting the justified request is against FSC-STD-POL-01-01-2013 Annex 3, HCVF 6, which requires that *“If there are forest areas appointed by local authorities as valuable for cultural identity of local communities, such areas shall be designated as HCVF 6.”* Based on Best Available Information The Organization shall designate as HCVF 6 those parts of the Municipal Forest in Gajewo to which critical values to the local community’s traditional cultural identity have been demonstrated.

Recreational significance of the forests alone is not a sufficient basis for recognition of HCVF 6.

NOTE: According to FSC-STD-POL-01-01-2013, forest managers shall avoid any actions in HCVF 6 areas, which could cause the loss of the values critical to local community’s traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with Giżycko community). The designation of the HCVF 6 area does not necessarily mean the permanent exclusion of this area from forest management, but forest management shall be implemented in such a way that the high conservation values are maintained and/or enhanced. It is therefore important to engage the local community in planning the forest operations, especially logging, and organize meetings with local people on the scope of planned management actions in HCVF 6 areas.