

HIFOR methodology – list of changes between v2.0 and v2.1

The following table summarizes the changes made from v2.0 to v2.1 of the HIFOR methodology. It excludes minor typological corrections. Bold items are the most significant.

Table 1 List of changes from v2.0 to v2.1 of the HIFOR methodology

Section/page v2.0	Section/page v2.1	Brief name	Change required
Throughout	Throughout	Sub-section and bullet numbers	Provide more numbering of sub-sections and of bulleted lists to make communication about specific parts of the document easier.
Throughout	Throughout	Revise Annex numbering	Renumber all annexes and renumber all references to annexes in the text.
Throughout	Throughout	Remove term 'monitoring report'	Replace imprecise term 'monitoring report' with 'Project Performance Report' (2 instances).
Throughout	Throughout	Replace term 'intact forests' with current preferred term	Replace 'intact forests' with 'high integrity forests' (one instance).
Throughout	Throughout	Remove term 'project developers'	Replace 'project developers' with 'Project proponent' 1 instance)
Throughout	Throughout	Present variable names more consistently	Minor edits to ensure that where a variable defined in Annex 10 is implied by the text, it is explicitly named.
Throughout	Throughout	Change project cycle from 10 years to 5	Make all changes necessary throughout the text to align with a fixed project cycle of five years rather than ten¹.
New section on Acronyms page	New section on Acronyms page	Required approach to calculating areas in GIS	Specify that the proponent must calculate areas using <u>either</u> a Geodesic (Ellipsoid-Based) approach <u>or</u> an appropriate Equal-Area projection, at their discretion.
Introduction	Introduction	Emphasize social benefits in opening paragraph	Added phrase about who the incentives that are mentioned will go to.
Introduction	Introduction	Mention the inclusion of a financial additionality requirement.	Added sentence mentioning this point.
Introduction	Introduction	New paragraph on social aspects	Insert a new paragraph highlighting the aim of HIFOR to promote high social standards, and listing several of the key elements
Sec2 pp3-4	Sec2 pp4-5	Numbering of applicability conditions	Break down list more clearly into individual requirements and provide explicit numbering for each one.

¹ Includes: Introduction – references to the ten year period revised; Sect 3.2, length of typical monitoring period revised ; Figs 3a&b revised ; earliest permitted Project Start Date now Jan 1 2017; Sect 3.2.3 six year limit changed to five years; sect 3.2.5 – changes to the flexibility permitted on length of Monitoring Period; Sect 6 – description of a HIFOR unit adjusted.

Sec2 item 2 p3	Sec2 item 2 p4	Minor clarification	Clarify that evidence of ownership/ management rights can be demonstrated with differing evidence for each MU in HAA.
Sec2 item 5 p4	Sec2 item 5 p4	Exclude large agri-developments; allow negligible overlaps with industrial activities	Add a bullet about large agricultural developments. Specify, in a footnote, that a small part of the HAA can be affected by the forbidden activities whilst still being treated as negligible (threshold - up to 500 ha, total of all non-permitted activities).
Sec2 after item 6	Sec2 item 7	Add new financial additionality requirement	Add requirement consistent with the test introduced for maintenance projects in the 2025 High Level Principles for the Biodiversity Credit Markets
Sec3.1.1 p5	Sec3.1.1 p6	HAA's cannot overlap	Add statement that the HAA shall not overlap with the HAA of another HIFOR project.
Sec 3.1.1 p5	Sec 3.1.1 p6	Ref to Annex on Grouped Projects	Refer to a new Annex with fuller guidance on Grouped Projects
Sec 3.1.1 p5	Sec 3.1.1 p6	Rules relating to changed boundaries of HAA	Specify that rules in the case of a change in the HAA are set out in the Guide and Standard 'Project updates' section.
Sec3.1.2 p5	Sec3.1.2 p5	Merge requirements of HIFOR Buffer Zone and Geographic Scope	Merge requirements of HIFOR Buffer Zone and Geographic Scope into requirements for a single defined spatial area that serves the functions needed. This construct is called the 'HIFOR Extended Project Zone' (EPZ) to avoid confusion with legally designated buffer zones.
Sec 3.1.2 p5	Sec 3.1.2 p6	Refine the criteria for the EPZ	Specify that the EPZ needs to include areas with <i>significant</i> Project activities (allowing exclusion of areas with minor/occasional activities) and clarify that both past and planned activities are relevant.
Sec3.1.2 p5	Sec3.1.2 p7	Clarify that Geographic Scope (now Extended Project Zone) can vary over time.	Clarify that the Geographic Scope (now Extended Project Zone) can vary over time in response to changing project circumstances, as it is primarily a management tool/communication tool, not a rigid accounting area.
Sec3.1.3 p5	n/a	Remove concept of HIFOR Monitoring Area	Delete original Section 3.1.3 and remove concept of HIFOR Monitoring Area from methodology, as it now has no function.
Sec3.1.4 p6	n/a	Remove concept of Geographic Scope	Delete original Section 3.1.4 and remove concept of Geographic Scope from methodology, as its function has been subsumed into a broadened concept of the HIFOR Extended Project Zone.
Sec 4 p10	Sec 4 p10	Rules when FLII is updated	Guidance is given for what to do if the FLII dataset is subject to a technical revision
Sec4 p10	Sec4 pp10-11	FLII thresholds & reference years	Updated FLII threshold given for high integrity and reference years that can/must be used, done in line with the parameters of the revised FLII dataset (Q1 2026 version) in such a way as to remain aligned with the same global benchmarks, to the extent possible.

Sec 4 p10	Sec 4 p11	Adjust threshold for criterion 6	Threshold changed from 0.75% per year to 0.70% per year, benchmarked to the new release of the FLII dataset.
Sec 5 Project implementation strategies and activities	Sections 5 and 6	Restructure for greater clarity	Situation Analysis becomes Section 5; introduction plus remainder of previous Section 5 become a new section 6. In new Section 6 (retitled) add a 'governance' subsection and place the 'past activities' before the 'planned activities'
Sec 5 (introduction) p11	Sec 5 (Situation Analysis) p11	Reflect the changes from Sec 3.1.	Adjust introductory text to clarify what data are needed for both HAA and EPZ.
Sec 5 (introduction) p11	Sec 6 p12	Broaden update requirements at verification	Expand list to include updates to institutional framework and situation analysis
Sec 5 – Situation Analysis	Sec 5 (Situation Analysis) Part A p11	Require description of pre-existing governance	Require description of pre-existing governance
Sec5 Project Situation Analysis p11	Sec 5 (Situation Analysis) Part A p12	Clarify dates for which situation analysis is required	Add clarification that situation should be analyzed both for the Project Start Date and, if substantially different, also for the present day.
Sec5 Project Situation Analysis part A p11	Sec 5 (Situation Analysis) Part A p12	Clarify earliest date FLII is available for	Change 2017 to 2018.
Sec5 Project Situation Analysis part Aiii p11	Sec 5 (Situation Analysis) Part A p12	Require information on changes in integrity over time	Add a phrase that requires changes in integrity over time to be described.
Sec5 Project Situation Analysis part A p11	Sec 5 (Situation Analysis) Part A p12	Require information on biodiversity at the site	Add a point A(iv) requiring a description of the main features of biodiversity at the site
Sec5 Project Situation Analysis part B p11	Sec 5 (Situation Analysis) Part B p12	Describe social conditions throughout Geographical Scope [ie HAA+newly defined EPZ]	The analysis should provide information for the HAA and EPZ, not just the HAA.
Sec5 Project Situation Analysis part C p12	Sec 5 (Situation Analysis) Part D p12	Clarify requirements prior to Project Start Date	Technically the role of Proponent does not exist before the Project Start Date. Therefore, rephrase to emphasize relationships in that period between the land managers and other stakeholders present at that time.
Sec5 Project Situation Analysis part E p12	Sec5 Project Situation Analysis part F p12	Clarify that only conservation prior to Project Start Date is described here	Delete 'and present'.
Sec5 Project Situation Analysis part F p12	Sec5 Project Situation Analysis part G p12	Clarify that only development prior to Project Start Date is described here	Delete 'and present'.

Sec5 Project Situation Analysis part F	Sec5 Project Situation Analysis part G p12	Clarify description of development activities	Clarify difference between development activities linked and not linked to conservation activities
Sec 5 new governance subsection	Sec 6.1 p13	Add requirement to describe governance framework	Specify what elements of the governance framework must be described; state that inter alia it shall include significant, ongoing roles for IPs and LCs in governance and implementation, with consideration of overlapping rights and marginalized groups. Include a requirement for capacity building where necessary to ensure participation.
Sec5 Project Intervention Strategy, partBiii p12-13	Sec 6.3 part 2iii p15	Intended social benefits can vary over time	Clarify that the social benefits that are intended to be used to meet this requirement can differ from one Monitoring Period to the next, as social needs and opportunities evolve.
Sec5 Project Intervention Strategy partBiii and Biv p12-13	Sec 6.3 part 2iii p15	Integrate benefit distribution item into broader account of project benefits	Combine items iii and iv of part B into one item, since they often overlap.
Sec5 Project Intervention Strategy part Bv p13	n/a	Remove bullet regarding avoidance of environmental impacts	This is fully covered by part 3 of the safeguards.
Sec5 Project Intervention Strategy partBvii p13	Sec 6.3 part 2v p15	Clarify monitoring requirements	Add phrase that IP&LCs must be involved appropriately.
Sec5 Project Intervention Strategy part C p13	n/a	Remove element on institutional structure	Remove item C.
Sec5 Project Intervention Strategy part D	Sec 6.3 part 3 p15	Include CoI requirement	Add a requirement to address conflicts of interest
Sec5 Project Intervention Strategy new part	Sec 6.3 part 4 p15	Include requirement about technical capacity	Add a requirement to demonstrate a plan for adequate technical capacity.
Sec5 Past Interventions	Sec 6.2	Move this section prior to the Project Implementation Strategy section	Move the whole section forward en bloc, and make clarifying edits to the opening and closing paragraphs to improve understanding of when this section is needed and the level of detail it needs to contain.
Sec5 Past Interventions Part Bi	Sec 6.2 part 4i p14	Conflict resolution	Move down to part D
Sec 5 Past interventions part Biv	n/a	Move requirement into safeguard annex	Delete item Biv on negative impacts completely, add to annex
Sec 5 Past interventions part C	n/a	Remove element relating to institutional framework	Institutional framework covered now by Section 6.1. Retain element relating to mobilization of budget.

Sec 5 Past interventions end of section	Sec 6.2 p14	Avoid duplicating PPR	Clarify that summary description of past interventions does not need to repeat the task of the Project Performance Report
Section 6 – introductory part p15	Sec 7 intro p15	Update the state FLII threshold for high integrity forest and change to a 5 year period	Now ≥ 9.8 , as set out in Section 4. Now 5 years not 10 years.
Section 6 – introductory part p15	Sec 7 intro p16	Add paragraph to clarify process	Paragraph sets out how both PDD and PPR are required to present both expected future results, and results achieved at past Monitoring Events not yet subject to a PPR. Following subsections are divided by sub-headers to clarify distinction between Achieved and Expected results.
Section 6 – introductory part p15	Sec 7.1 p16	Create a new subsection so that important existing requirements are not overlooked	Elevate the final paragraph of the introduction to the section (relating to the need to demonstrate the feasibility of meeting applicability conditions and ecological integrity criteria in future time periods) as a new numbered subsection.
Section 6.1 p16	Sec 7.2 p16	Adjust earliest reference date for FLII	Adjust from 2017 to 2018
Section 6.1 p16	Sec 7.2 p16	Clarify calculation of expected future HIFOR units	Clearer description of process and assumptions is given.
Section 6.1 p16 and Annex 7 p40	Sec 7.2 p17	Define one more required variable	Provide information in the Annex on an additional required variable and ensure it is referred to in Section 6.1 - 'Projected Annual Decline in High Integrity Forest PADHIF _{tx+1} ' – the projected analogue to variable MADHIF _{tx-1tx}
Section 6.2	Sec 7.2 part B & C p17	Clarify use of data from Hubau et al. to project removals	The key table in Hubau et al is specified, and a footnote is provided that specifies how the data in that table can be used to produce an acceptable estimate.
Section 7 p18	Sec 8 p19	Highlight involvement of IP&LCs in monitoring	Add phrase to require this
Section 7 p18	Sec 8 p19	Flag guidance relating to material changes in a Project between Monitoring Events	Add cross references to Sect 4.4.1 of the Guide and Standard, and new Annex 9 of the Methodology.
References		Add one new reference	
Before Annex 1	Annex 1	Add new Document History annex	Create a new 'Document History' annex – renumber other annexes accordingly.
Annex 1 Safeguard 1.1	Annex 2 Safeguard 1.1	Alignment with laws	Alignment with international instruments clarified and new examples added; interaction between national and international laws clarified.

Annex 1 After Safeguard 1.1	Annex 2 Safeguard 1.2	Add new item on assessment of all risks	Important framing principle, made explicit.
Annex 1 Safeguard 1.2	Annex 2 Safeguard 1.3	Refer to normative guidance on grievance mechanisms	Require adherence to example standards ‘or equivalent’; specifically mention ‘false, misleading and fraudulent claims or withholding of information’
Annex 1 Safeguard 2.1	Annex 2 Safeguard 2.1	Rephrase	Refocus on International Bill of Human Rights and clarify wording
Annex 1 Safeguard 2.2	Annex 2 Safeguards 2.2 & 2.3	Divide and clarify	First part (on process) clarified. Second part (on access to information) divided out as a separate safeguard.
Annex 1 Safeguard 2.3	Annex 2 Safeguards 2,4, 2.5, 2.6	Divide and clarify	-First part (FPIC) expanded to specify the need to begin consultations early, and for them to continue throughout the life of the project. -Second part (supporting rights to land and resources) separated as another safeguard and clarified. -Third part (on FPIC for units generated from past activity) separated as another safeguard.
Annex 1 Safeguard 2.5	Annex 2 Safeguard 2.8	Expand scope	Expanded wording includes other marginalized groups.
Annex 1 Safeguard 2.7	Annex 2 Safeguard 2.10	Expand scope	Expanded to cover data sovereignty and highlighting both tangible and intangible heritage.
Annex 1 after Safeguard 2.7	Annex 2 Safeguard 2.11	Add new safeguard on data sovereignty	Detailed requirements on data sovereignty, including FPIC requirement and link to national data laws.
Annex 1 Safeguard 3.2	Annex 2 Safeguard 3.2	Broaden the safeguard on ecosystem damage	Expand to include natural forest as well as natural non-forest.
Annex 1 after Safeguard 3.12	Annex 2 Safeguard 3.13	Security of biodiversity data	Add safeguard on secure management of sensitive biodiversity data.
Annex 2 Carbon methods	Annex 3	Clarify spatial resolution requirement	Replace ambiguous ‘better’ with ‘higher’ wherever the choice occurs; also remove reference to equal area projection (now covered before Section 1).
Annex 4 Social benefits	Annex 5	Determination by beneficiaries	Specify that benefits must be ones identified as valuable by the beneficiaries.
Annex 6	Annex 7	Consultation	Clarify requirement for adequate consultation on the PPR
Annex 6	Annex 7	Scope of updates	Highlight safeguards review as essential in update of project design
New annex after Annex 6	Annex 9	Clearer, tighter treatment of grouped projects	Add a fuller explanation of requirements for grouped projects. Tighten the existing (loose) requirement for proximity and/or similarity between multiple MUs in a project
New annex after Annex 6	Annex 9	Rules for monitoring of results in the case of a changed HAA	Add new text describing requirements for monitoring and accounting when the HAA is enlarged or reduced in the course of the Project.
Annex 7 Variables	Annex 10	Updates to selected variables	List 1 Updated: EHIF _{tx} ; ELIF _{tx} ; PANFE _{tx} ; PHIF _{tx} ; PLIF _{tx} Added: PADHIF _{tx+1} ; TEPZ _{tx} Removed: TG _{tx} ; TZ _{tx} List 2

			No substantive changes.
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