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**Membership Principles and Criteria**

Principles of Peoples Forests Partnerhip membership were approved on June 14, 2022, and Criteria was approved on October 27 of 2022.

The Principles and Criteria focus on policies and practices of members that join PFP.

The Principles are the essential rules and foundation of Peoples Forests Partnership that every actor involved in the Partnership accept to follow voluntarily.

Criteria provide the means of judging whether or not a Principle has been fulfilled. Peoples Forests Partnership will have 2 kinds of Criteria:

1) Criteria for Membership

2) Criteria for Projects

There is no hierarchy between the principles or between Criteria. They share equal status, validity and authority, and apply jointly and severally

at the level of the institution for every member. In the following text we will explain the Criteria for membership.

**Understanding Criteria for membership**

The PFP Criteria have been drafted to apply to the following three Members Groups:

1. Private/Business Sector - Project Developers, Investors and Companies, including credit buyers and intermediaries.

2. Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs & LCs) - IPs & LC representative organisations, as well as Level 2 and Level 3 IP & LC organisations that play representative roles for indigenous groups and local communities at national or regional level.

3. Civil Society - NGOs, Inter Governmental Organisations (IGOs) and other civil society organisations.

Each PFP member commits to fulfilling the Criteria applicable to them. The Indicators under each Criterion define how the PFP will assess adherence to that Criterion. Some Criteria are specific to certain sub-groups of membership, whereas some other Criteria are universally applicable. The indicators have not been approved by the Executive Committee yet and it is supposed to divide into the following sub-groups:

A. Within Group 1 (Private/Business Sector), Indicators are divided into 3 sub-groups.

a. Indicators for Investors in carbon projects, and/or Buyers of credits from carbon projects

b. Indicators for Developers and operators of carbon projects and programs.

c. Indicators for intermediaries and brokers of carbon credits.

B. Within Group 2 (IPs & LCs), Indicators are divided into 2 groups, one for territorial organizations and the second group for second, third grade and other organizations of political representation.

3. Within Group 3 (Civil Society), Indicators apply uniformly to all Members.

Members shall provide evidence of Indicators that are applicable to them to obtain Membership and may need to provide indicators for more than one sub-group. E.g. if a company both develops and invests in carbon projects they would need to respond to both sets of sub-group indicators. The assessment shall be carried out by the PFP Secretariat.

The PFP aims to build a network of members who can connect with one another to build and operate projects to reduce carbon emissions.

Upon joining the PFP, all members commit to meeting the PFP Membership Criteria, and agree to ongoing monitoring of associated Indicators. At the time of joining, Members must comply with Initial Criteria as an initial threshold requirement. We understand that the Complete Criteria might not be fulfilled at the time of joining and are keen to give members the opportunity to work on their policies and operations for higher ambition. Therefore, the Complete Criteria will be reported after the first year of membership or the member can present a work plan that demonstrate the path to achieve the Criteria until the first assessment that will take place in the 2nd year after joining the PFP.

**Umbrals:**

**B-Initial:** Criteria to be fulfilled at the time of application and continuously thereafter. They will be assessed periodically from the start of membership.

**C-Complete:** Criteria to be fulfilled within the first year of the report or present a work plan. In any case members will be evaluated at two years of membership and continuously thereafter. They will be assessed periodically from the second year of membership.

Members’ fulfilment of all Criteria will be assessed in the second year of membership and every two years thereafter. Members can provide justification when an aspect of the Membership Criteria does not apply to them, and an exception may be granted by the Executive Committee.

The process of applying for, and, acquiring Membership for all groups can be found [here](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1maoKMI2cflhD6vD3RdfxDJpc--QUSksP/edit).

**Membership Criteria for NGO, Civil Society organizations and other organizations**

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| **Principle 1 Respect for the rights, lands and resources of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and Traditional Owners (IP & LCs)** | | |
| Threshold | **Criteria** | Please explain how you are fulfilling this Criteria.  Please explain about the documents that you are including as evidence. |
| Initial | 1. Institutional mission or mandate of the NGO or organization includes social development or advancement of Indigenous Peoples, local communities or marginalized groups in order to protect their natural resources. |  |

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| **Principle 2 Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and IP & LC terms and perspectives** | | |
| Threshold | **Criteria** |  |
| Initial | 1. NGOs and organizations have experience, interest or support in principle, the application and promotion of best practices for Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and managing engagement in projects. |  |
| Complete | 1. Members ensure the meaningful engagement and participation of women, youth, people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups in decision-making processes. | NO |

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| **Principle 3 IP & LC participation and grievance mechanism** | | |
| Threshold | **Criteria** |  |
| Complete | 1. Support in practice or theory best practices around IP & LC participation and access to grievance mechanisms. | NO |

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| **Principle 4 Fair and equitable revenue sharing** | | |
| Threshold | **Criteria** |  |
| Complete | 1. Promotion of the best practices around fair and equitable revenue sharing. | NO |

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| **Principle 5 Good governance** | | |
| Threshold | **Criteria** |  |
| Initial | 1. Members have a clear and explicit internal governance structure that is respectful of stakeholder rights, especially as related to IPs & LCs, and includes transparent reporting on finances and programmatic aspects, through annual report or other medium. |  |
| Initial | 1. Members are registered as a NGO, civil society organization, mixed organization (government and civil society) in its country and has a functional Board of Directors. In the case of de facto organizations,  organizations have a clear, equity and effective governance structure. |  |
| Initial | 1. Members do not directly receive funding from companies in oil, gas, mining, arms and other industries in a country where such industry is or has been involved in conflicts with local IP&LCs. |  |

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| **Principle 6 Positive impacts on livelihoods and biodiversity** | | |
| Threshold | **Criteria** |  |
| Complete | 1. Experienced delivering projects with IPs & LCs that mitigate and adapt to climate change and improve livelihoods, employment, food security, biodiversity, forest conservation, and socio-economic development. | NO |
| Complete | 1. NGO Members advocate for participation and inclusion in roles of decision-making for IP &LC | NO |

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| **Principle 7 High-quality practices** | | |
| Threshold | **Criteria** |  |
| Complete | 1. Member NGOs transparently report on their use of carbon credits, where applicable, specifying the host country of the forest carbon crediting activity, vintage, project or program, standard-setting body, and whether credits are associated with a corresponding adjustment. | NO |
| Complete | 1. Member NGOs aim to support high quality projects using credible standards and accreditation programs and applying science-based methods and tools to achieve the highest level of accuracy in estimating carbon credits. | NO |

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| **Principle 8**  **Spirit of collaboration** | | |
| Threshold | **Criteria** |  |
| Complete | 1. PFP Members constructively address challenges through open dialogue and information sharing, contributing to thought leadership and guidance with accurate and unbiased information to IPs & LCs about carbon projects. | NO |

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| **Principle 9  International and local obligations** | | |
| Threshold | **Criteria** |  |
| Complete | 1. NGO Members have mission statements or strategies that refer to ecological sustainability, rights based approach and respect of the UN and ILO agreements about the respect of the rights of indigenous peoples. | NO |