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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).

**GROUP 1: Criteria for Private/Business Sector**

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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. Members apply, where applicable, [Cancun Safeguards](https://redd.unfccc.int/fact-sheets/safeguards.html) and PFP Criteria for IP & LC rights and livelihoods. 2. Members are not involved in any instances that have directly harmed IPs & LCs, and that have directly caused deforestation or violated IP & LC’s rights.[[1]](#footnote-2) 3. Members respect IPs & LCs’ rights to sustainable use of natural resources and the maintenance of their cultural integrity. |  |  |  |
| Complete | 1. Members aim to support IPs & LC projects or programs that conserve forests, support customary land rights and ancestral relationships to their lands. | NO |  |  |

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| **Principle 2 Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and respecting IP & LC terms and perspectives** | | | | |
| Threshold | **Criteria** | Please explain how you are fulfilling this Criteria.  Please explain about the documents that you are including as evidence. |  |  |
| Initial | 1. Members adopt best practices for engaging with IPs & LCs and for obtaining FPIC.[[2]](#footnote-3) This includes consideration of IP & LC partners’ capacity to engage in a continuous consultation process and ensure they have adequate time to understand, raise awareness in their communities, address concerns, and make decisions. |  |  |  |
| Complete | 1. Members have a transparency policy, subject to confidentiality, and are willing to disclose information about their activities when requested by IPs & LCs. | NO |  |  |

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| **Principle 3 IP & LC participation and grievance mechanism** | | | | |
| Threshold | **Criteria** | Please explain how you are fulfilling this Criteria.  Please explain about the documents that you are including as evidence. |  |  |
| Initial | 1. Members adopt best-practices to ensure transparency, accountability, and participation of IPs & LCs in decision-making processes, including protocols for meetings, use of native language where possible, use of accessible formats and documentation of meetings and decision-making processes.[[3]](#footnote-4) |  |  |  |
| Complete | 1. Members maintain a system for receiving, investigating and redressing grievances from IPs & LCs, that can be tailored or adapted to local contexts and meets best practices. | NO |  |  |

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| **Principle 4 Fair and Equitable Revenue Sharing** | | | | |
| Threshold | **Criteria** | Please explain how you are fulfilling this Criteria.  Please explain about the documents that you are including as evidence. |  |  |
| Complete | 1. Members have clear processes to inform IPs & LCs about the cost of establishing and operating projects, and honest efforts are made to have a fair revenue sharing arrangement with IPs & LCs. 2. Members seek to provide avenues for financial capacity building, and fair revenue sharing that enables direct access to finance for IPs & LCs as needed. | NO |  |  |

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| **Principle 5 Good Governance** | | | | |
| Threshold | **Criteria** | Please explain how you are fulfilling this Criteria.  Please explain about the documents that you are including as evidence. |  |  |
| Initial | 1. Members avoid creating divisions and conflicts among IPs & LCs. Where any conflict or division may arise, members will respect internal IP & LC governance and dispute resolution procedures. |  |  |  |

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| **Principle 6 Positive impacts on livelihoods and biodiversity** | | | | |
| Threshold | **Criteria** | Please explain how you are fulfilling this Criteria.  Please explain about the documents that you are including as evidence. |  |  |
| Initial | 1. Members do not directly invest in oil, gas, mining, arms and other industries in a country where such industry is or has been involved in conflicts with local IP&LC. |  |  |  |
| Complete | 1. Members adopt a procedure to consider social and biodiversity impacts in project designs with appropriate safeguards to mitigate identified risks. 2. Members support projects that monitor positive social and biodiversity impacts, if their activities have an impact on biodiversity. | NO |  |  |

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| **Principle 7 High-quality practices** | | | | |
| Threshold | **Criteria** | Please explain how you are fulfilling this Criteria.  Please explain about the documents that you are including as evidence. |  |  |
| Initial | 1. Members have policies, strategies and mechanisms to prohibit and avoid forced labour, child labour, corruption, and money laundering. 2. Members develop projects using credible standards and accreditation programs which apply science-based methods and tools to achieve the highest level of accuracy in estimating carbon credits. |  |  |  |
| Complete | 1. Members purchase verified high-quality forest carbon credits and transparently report on their use of carbon credits, 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 |  |  |

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| **Principle 8 Spirit of Collaboration** | | | | |
| Threshold | **Criteria** | Please explain how you are fulfilling this Criteria.  Please explain about the documents that you are including as evidence. |  |  |
| Initial | 1. Members seek to ensure challenges and conflicts with IP & LCs are constructively addressed and managed. |  |  |  |

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| **Principle 9 International and Local Obligations** | | | | |
| Threshold | **Criteria** | Please explain how you are fulfilling this Criteria.  Please explain about the documents that you are including as evidence. |  |  |
| Initial | 1. Members adhere to international, national, regional, and local laws and treaties. Where such laws are unclear on IP & LC rights, members will support law and interpretations that best protect the rights and interest of IP&LC, where possible. |  |  |  |
| Complete | 1. Members have ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets and those members who would be required to set a FLAG target under SBTi, have their own strategy for net zero deforestation in place. 2. Members promote the purchase of IP & LC forest carbon credits that contribute to achieving the National Determined Contribution (NDC) of the host country. | NO |  |  |

1. Where a member has alleged conflict with, or complaints from any IPs & LCs, the PFP shall enquire the concerned IP & LC group to understand the nature of the issue. The PFP shall then provide the member the opportunity to explain the steps taken through the grievance redressal mechanism and through other measures to resolve the matter and re-establish a respectful relationship with the community. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Best Practices to be developed and provided by the PFP, drawing upon legal requirements nationally and best practice internationally. The CCB Standards address meaningful stakeholder engagement and FPIC through indicators G5.2, G5.3, G5.7 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Best Practices to be developed and provided by the PFP. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)