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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 2: Membership Criteria for IPs & LCs**

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| **Principle 1Respect 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 promote and respect rights of IP & LC communities at all levels, with their associates and within political spaces.
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| **Principle 2Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and 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 Complete | 1. Members promote the meaningful engagement and participation of women, youth, people with disabilities, and other marginalised groups in the FPIC process.
2. Members emphasise equity amongst IP & LC groups in participation, decision-making and sharing of benefits as well as responsibilities.
 | NO |  |  |

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| **Principle 3IP & 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. |  |  |
| Complete | 1. Members have a clear process for documenting consultations, decision making processes and other relevant engagement within IPs & LCs without regard to their political affiliation, condition or religion.
2. Members have a grievance mechanism to receive and redress grievances from IP and LC groups that are part of their organizations.
 | NO |  |  |

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| **Principle 4Fair 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 ensure fair and direct access to financing and shared benefits in line with gender justice and other customary or traditional norms observed by IPs & LCs.
 | NO |  |  |

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| **Principle 5Good Governance** |
| Threshold | **Criteria** | Please explain how you are fulfilling this Criteria.Please explain about the documents that you are including as evidence. |  |  |
| Initial Complete | 1. Members have the capacity to provide training and support to other smaller organisations and other IP & LC groups, when resources are available.
2. Members have internal governance structures to promote representation and active participation of the different IP and LC groups that are part of the organization.
3. Members have a clear process to manage conflicts and dialogue between different groups in the organization.

  | NO |  |  |

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| **Principle 6Positive impacts on livelihoods and biodiversity** |
| Threshold | **Criteria** |  |  |  |
| Initial  | 1. Members have a clear mission or vocation on conservation of forest livelihoods, biodiversity and ecosystem services in their country, region or territory.
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| **Principle 7High-quality practices** |
| Threshold | **Criteria** |  |  |  |
| Complete | 1. Members prefer to work with members of the PFP to operate high-quality projects and deliver positive impacts on biodiversity and society.
 | NO |  |  |

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| **Principle 8Spirit of Collaboration** |
| Threshold | **Criteria** |  |  |  |
| Initial Initial  | 1. Challenges and conflicts with and within IP & LC groups are constructively addressed and managed.
2. Communication lines promote dialogue, collaboration and coordination with external actors.
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