

Principle 4: Conservation and Biodiversity

Biological diversity is conserved or enhanced by protecting land with high biodiversity value or high carbon stock and avoiding negative impacts from biomass production and biofuel operations.

Responsible Operators: Feedstock Producer, Feedstock Processor, Biofuel Producer

- 4.1 A good practices environmental management plan (part of Principle 2) is implemented that includes practices that conserve or enhance biological diversity.
 - 4.1.1 Conservation values within areas of biomass/biofuel operation are identified through an environmental impact assessment, and the proper management of those areas is established.
 - 4.1.2 The responsible operator uses maps and databases and consults with national and regional experts to help identify conservation values.
 - 4.1.3 If the impact assessment identifies areas where biomass/biofuel production causes a significant negative impact on conservation values of local, regional, or global importance and ecosystem functions and services, the responsible operator demonstrates that practices are in place to mitigate negative impacts (e.g. creation of riparian buffer zones, maintenance of natural barriers or hedgerows, etc.).
 - 4.1.4 Fragmentation of habitats is minimized by the protection, restoration, or creation of ecological corridors and buffer zones.
- 4.2 **No areas defined as nationally or internationally as protected or classified as High Conservation Value (HCV) areas shall be used for biomass production after _____ unless legally authorized as part of a conservation management plan for the area.**
 - 4.2.1 **Biomass production in areas of high biodiversity is avoided.**
 - 4.2.2 **Biomass production on grassland with high biodiversity is avoided.**
- 4.3 **Areas identified to contain conservation values of global, regional, or local importance shall not be converted to biomass production after ____ unless all actions are undertaken according to an approved management plan to maintain or enhance the identified values.**

- 4.3.1 Natural forests should not be converted to plantations or simplified, intensively managed or cultivated systems or non-forest use unless all actions are undertaken according to an approved management plan that indicates no resultant unmitigated significant impact.**
- 4.4 The status of rare, threatened, and endangered species and their habitats are identified and their conservation taken into account in management plans and operations.
 - 4.4.1 The responsible operator demonstrates compliance with all national and local laws protecting the conservation of rare, threatened, or endangered species or habitats.
 - 4.4.2 The responsible operator demonstrates that the management plan considers rare and endangered species that may be outside of the geographic area of biomass/biofuel operations but have migration or travel routes that use the area of biomass/biofuel operations.
 - 4.4.3 The responsible operator demonstrates that measures are in place that prohibit hunting, fishing, trapping, ensnaring of rare and endangered species in areas of biomass/biofuel operations.
- 4.5 The use of exotic species are monitored and controlled. The risk of invasive species invading areas outside the operation site is minimized.**
 - 4.5.1 The responsible operator demonstrates that no species identified as noxious or highly invasive or which is included in lists maintained nationally, regionally, and by state agencies will be used at the biofuel operation sites (e.g. using the CALWEED database or Global Invasive Species database, etc.).**
 - 4.5.2 The responsible operator demonstrates that if species are found to be invasive, the management plan identifies measures to mitigate and control the invasion.**