SQC STANDARDS 3.0 – PRODUCTION, HARVESTING OF CROPS AND BIODIVERSITY LAND ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

Scope and definitions 'Biomass' means the biodegradable fraction of products, wastes and residues from biological origin from agriculture, including vegetal and animal substances from forestry and related industries, including fisheries and aquaculture as well as the biodegradable fraction of waste including industrial and municipal waste of biological origin 'Agricultural biomass' means biomass produced from agriculture 'Bioliquids' means liquid fuels for transport produced from agriculture 'Biofuels' mean liquid fuel for transport produced from biomass. High biodiversity value High biodiversity land is defined as: land Primary forest and other wooded land, namely forest and other wooded land of native species, where there is no clearly visible indication of human activity and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed; Highly biodiverse forest and other wooded land which is species-rich and not degraded, or has been identified as being highly biodiverse by the relevant competent authority, unless evidence is produced that the production of the crops did not interfere with those nature protection purposes; Areas designated: by law or by the relevant competent authority for nature protection purposes or i. for the protection of rare, threatened or endangered eco-systems or species recognised by international agreements or included in lists drawn up by intergovernmental organisations or the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, subject to their recognition in accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 30(4) (unless evidence is provided that the production of that raw material did not interfere with those nature protection purposes) Highly biodiverse grassland spanning more than one hectare that is: natural, namely grassland that would remain grassland in the absence of human intervention and that maintains the natural species composition and ecological characteristics and processes: or ii. non-natural, namely grassland that would cease to be grassland in the absence of human intervention and that is species-rich and not degraded and has been identified as being highly biodiverse by the relevant competent authority, unless evidence is provided that the harvesting of the raw material is necessary to preserve its status as highly biodiverse grassland. Note: The following definitions shall be applied: 'Degraded' means characterised by long-term loss of biodiversity due to, for instance, overgrazing, mechanical damage to the vegetation, soil erosion or loss of soil quality. 'Species- rich' means it is: a habitat of significant importance to critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable species as classified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species or other lists with a similar purpose for species or habitats laid down in national legislation or recognised by a competent national authority in the country of origin of the raw material; or ii. a habitat of significant importance to endemic or restricted-range species; or iii. a habitat of significant importance to intra-species genetic diversity; or a habitat of significant importance to globally significant concentrations of migratory iv. species or congregatory species; or a regionally or nationally significant or highly threatened or unique ecosystem.

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High carbon stock land is defined as:

- Land that had one of the following statuses in January 2008 and no longer has that status:
 - i. Wetlands namely land that is covered with or saturated by water permanently for a significant part of the year.
 - ii. Continuously forested areas namely land spanning more than one hectare with trees higher than 5m and a canopy cover of more than 30%, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ.
 - iii. Land spanning more than one hectare with trees higher than 5m and canopy cover of between 10% and 30%, or trees able to reach those thresholds in situ, unless evidence is provided that the carbon stock of the area before and after conversion is such that, when the methodology laid down in Part C of Annex 5 of the Directive is applied, the conditions laid down in Article 29 (10) would be fulfilled.

These provisions shall not apply if, at the time the raw material was obtained, the land had the same status as it had in January 2008

Peatland:

 Biofuels, bioliquids and biomass fuels must not be made from raw material obtained from land that was peatland in January 2008, unless evidence is provided that the cultivation and harvesting of that raw material does not involve drainage of previously undrained soil.

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