

SCS Interim Standard for Forest Management Certification in Estonia under the Forest Stewardship Council®

A. INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Interim Standard used by SCS Global Services for conducting forest certification evaluations in Estonia. The scope of these standards includes both natural and plantation forests. Once there is an officially FSC accredited standard for use in Estonia, all further evaluations will be done against said standard. This standard complies with all applicable FSC® International policies, standards, and advice notes.

B. STANDARD USE

Conformance with locally adapted standards produced from this generic standard shall be determined by evaluating observed performance at the Forest Management Unit (FMU) level against each indicator of the standard, and in comparison with any performance threshold(s) specified for the indicator. The indicators here apply to all forests covered by the scope of the standard, including SLIMF's, unless otherwise specified. According to FSC-STD-01-003a, maximum 'small' forest SLIMF size per FMU is 500 ha in Estonia. For 'low intensity' SLIMF, FMUs may be classified as low intensity when they comply with at least one of the following two criteria:

- The harvesting rate is less than 20% of the mean annual growth in timber (Mean Annual Increment or MAI), AND the mean annual harvest is no more than 5000 m³; or
- The forest is managed exclusively for non-timber forest products.

In the process of adapting this standard for on the assessment of a particular forest operation, it may be restructured in order to improve its implementation on the ground or to ease stakeholder interpretation of the standard, but only if pre-approved by the SCS Director of Forest Certification. Restructuring or adapting this standard shall not affect the requirements for conformance and certification decision making. If a complaint or appeal is filed, the complete standard shall be considered definitive.

PRINCIPLE #1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND FSC PRINCIPLES

Forest management shall respect all applicable laws of the country in which they occur, and international treaties and agreements to which the country is a signatory, and comply with all FSC Principles and Criteria.

C1.1. Forest management shall respect all national and local laws and administrative requirements.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
1.1.1. Forest managers must comply with the binding Estonian law and regulatory requirements (see annex 1).			
1.1.2. Forest manager shall register all violations of forestry laws, regulations or administrative provisions. Reasons for the violation of law shall be established and the forest manager shall implement relevant preventive and corrective actions.			

C1.2. All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
1.2.1. The FME shall have evidence to prove that the taxes, honoraria, and other payments under the applicable regulatory or contractual provisions have been duly paid.			
1.2.2. The FME shall retain any and all documentation for all effected payments and make these available to the SCS auditing team.			
1.2.3. Non-SLIMF: in case of tax disputes or other discrepancies, forest manager shall maintain relevant full documentation including information on the			

settlement of the dispute.			
C1.3. In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
1.3.1. The FME shall be aware of any and all regulations applicable to forest management and included in any binding international agreements and covenants Estonia has signed and/or which are listed in Annex 2 of this document.			
1.3.2. No workers are under the age of 18 shall be employed for operations when it is likely to jeopardize health, and safety.			
1.3.3 Forest manager shall implement the requirements of applicable International conventions.			
C1.4. Conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria shall be evaluated for the purposes of certification, on a case-by-case basis, by the certifiers and by the involved or affected parties.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
1.4.1. The FME shall conduct an analysis to identify potential conflicts between applicable national/local laws, the FSC P&C, and international agreements and inform SCS auditors of any such conflicts.			
1.4.2. The FME shall consult with representatives of its certification body regarding interpretation of the FCP Interim Estonian Standard and the possible			

solutions to eliminate the non-compliances found in Clause 1.4.1.			
C1.5. Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.			
1.5.1. Upon detecting any illegal activity (such as illegal logging), the FME shall immediately inform competent state and/or local government bodies thereon and document the event.			
1.5.2. Poaching and theft of timber/forest should be restrained and decreased.			
1.5.3. Forest manager shall have a documented plan for risk assessment of delinquency and management of risks and relevant measures must have been implemented.			
C1.6. Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
1.6.1. In the management plan, or another appropriate document of broad public availability, there is an express statement of commitment to the FSC Principles and Criteria. When the FME uses contractors, it shall require its contractors to comply with the FSC P&C.			
1.6.2. The FME shall ensure that its employees and service providers have access to written or electronic copies of the FSC principles and criteria.			
1.6.3. The FME shall provide information on all of the forested areas over			

which it exercises a certain degree of responsibility for forest management in order to demonstrate compliance with FSC policies on the policy for association, partial certification and on the exclusion of areas from the scope of the certificate.			
1.6.4. In forest territories outside the scope of the certificate, the FME shall not perform any activities in deliberate violation of the FSC principles and criteria.			

PRINCIPLE #2: TENURE AND USE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.

C2.1 Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g. land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
2.1.1. The FME shall demonstrate that land tenure and rights to the forest resource are clear, legally secure and documented.			
2.1.2. In case joint ownership of forest lands all owners shall agree to meet the principles and criteria of the FSC.			
2.1.3 Borders of managed land units shall be marked in the nature or otherwise clearly delineated.			

C2.2. Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
2.2.1. Forest manager shall			

not restrict the execution of every man`s right.			
2.2.2. Forest manager shall respect the customary, legal or traditional rights of local communities to use the forest resources.			
2.2.3. For large FMEs: Areas associated with the rights identified in indicator 2.2.1 shall be included on maps of the FMU. Upon imposing restrictions the forest manager shall justify and describe those restrictions.			
2.2.4. Forest owner should ensure that local communities have a possibility to buy firewood for own consumption.			
2.2.5. Forest owner should inform neighbouring landowners about planned forest management			
C2.3. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
2.3.1. Conflicts over land tenure and use rights shall be resolved or discussed in a systematic and legal manner, with preference given to voluntary and conciliatory methods rather than the through the judiciary mechanisms (e.g., courts)..			
2.3.2 Forest manager shall not initiate forest management operations before conflicts have been resolved or every			

reasonable effort has been made to resolve these conflicts.			
2.3.3. All property rights and use disputes are documented.			

PRINCIPLE #3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS

The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.

3.1. Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
3.1.1 Criteria considered not applicable since Estonians are native people in their homeland.			

3.2. Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
3.2.1) Criteria considered not applicable since Estonians are native people in their homeland.			

3.3. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
3.3.1. Criteria considered not applicable since Estonians are native people in their homeland.			

3.4. Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
3.4.1. Criteria considered not applicable since Estonians are native people			

in their homeland.			
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PRINCIPLE #4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND WORKER'S RIGHTS

Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well being of forest workers and local communities.

C4.1. The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
4.1.1. Qualified people in local communities are given preferential opportunities in employment and contracting; the FME actively targets the local workforce			
4.1.2. Forest manager should prefer local workforce whenever possible.			
4.1.3. Employees shall not be discriminated in creating working conditions, advancement, dismissal and ensuring work-related social benefits.			
4.1.4. Wages and social guarantees of employees with labour contracts and contracts for services shall be fair and comparable with those in the same region. Forest manager shall pay employees for their work at the time and in the amount as prescribed.			

C4.2. Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
4.2.1. The FME shall envisage labour protection measures to ensure an appropriate working environment.			
4.2.2. Employees, including			

contractors, shall know and implement safe working practices.			
4.2.3. Appropriate health and safety equipment including helmet, high visibility clothes, safety boots and safety trousers shall be used in the field and first aid kit shall be available onsite for chain saw operators working in the forest.			
4.2.4. Equipment is periodically inspected and tested for safety performance in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines.			
4.2.5. Any person entering a logging site shall wear a helmet and high visibility clothes.			
4.2.6. Forest manager should conduct regular checks to ensure observation of all safety and security requirements.			
4.2.7. Warning signs shall be posted at access roads to sites with ongoing logging operation.			
4.2.8. Workers shall be instructed about procedures in case of emergency situation such as accident, fire or oil spill.			
4.2.9. FME shall maintain a register of accidents (including those among the contractors working on the FMU) and document steps taken to minimize risk of further accidents.			
4.2.10. The FME shall not use forest machinery without an operator cabin.			

4.2.11. Workers staying overnight in the forest management unit shall have appropriate facilities			
For Non-SLIMF FMUs only			
4.2.12 Staff should be offered vaccination against tick borne encephalitis.			
C4.3. The rights of workers to organize and voluntarily negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labour Organization (ILO).			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
4.3.1. Workers shall have the right to organize and negotiate with their employers as outlined in the Convention 87 of the ILO.			
4.3.2. The FME shall recognize the right of workers to bargain collectively with their employers, in compliance with ILO Convention 98.			
4.3.3. Forest manager shall carry out collective bargaining with trade unions in good faith and with best efforts to come to an agreement.			
C4.4. Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
4.4.1. Non-SLIMF: FME shall conduct a social impact assessment that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies affected groups; Includes consultation with affected groups (both men and women); Identifies main impacts of management activities on those groups in cooperation 	<i>Note: For an area to be considered of special value there should be broad support from stakeholder groups and/or evidence of its historical importance should be presented. Multiple independent sources should be considered.</i>		

<p>with them; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies any areas of special economic, ecological, cultural or spiritual value of affected groups not already covered in Principles 3 & 9. 			
<p>4.4.2. Non-SLIMF: The results of social impact assessment shall be incorporated into management decisions, including the provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to reduce or mitigate identified negative impacts in 4.4.1; Measures to consider areas of special economic, ecological, cultural or spiritual value in management activities not covered in Principles 3 & 9; and Regular contact with affected groups to monitor the effectiveness of implemented measures. 			
<p>4.4.3. Non-SLIMF: FME shall maintain a system to receive and document stakeholder concerns, as well as its response.</p>			
<p><i>For FMUs meeting SLIMF requirements, only the following indicator(s) of this criterion apply; the following indicator(s) are not to be used for assessing non-SLIMF operations:</i></p>			
<p>4.4.4. SLIMF: The FME shall maintain an up-to-date list of representatives of neighbouring properties or communities that could be</p>	<p>Verifiers: List of stakeholders</p>		

affected during and after the implementation of forest management activities.			
4.4.5. SLIMF: The FME shall maintain regular communication with neighbors and other stakeholders of local communities. As appropriate, the FME's policies and activities are sensitive to the interests and expectations of these interested parties.			
C4.5. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
4.5.1. FME shall make all reasonable efforts to avoid losses and damages affecting local peoples, and in resolving grievances related to legal rights, damage compensation and negative impacts.			
4.5.2. In the event of a grievance or dispute, FME shall implement documented dispute resolution procedures that require it to, at a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keep a record of all complaints made known to them relating to the FME's compliance with FSC requirements; • make these records available to SCS upon request; • conduct an investigation on any claims or disputes to identify the root cause; 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> take appropriate action with respect to such complaints and any deficiencies found in FME's forest management system that affect compliance with the requirements for FSC certification; and document the actions taken to resolve grievance or dispute 			
<p>4.5.3. Fair compensation or reasonable mitigation shall be provided to local people, communities or adjacent landowners for substantiated damage or loss of income caused by the FME.</p>			

PRINCIPLE #5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST

Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.

C5.1. Forest management should strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
<p>5.1.1. The FME has sufficient financial capital and human resources to implement the management plan, including the cost of meeting all social and environmental commitments, over the long term (at least one rotation in the case of plantations).</p>			
<p>5.1.2. The FME shall conduct a long-term financial projection (e.g., budget) that includes income and</p>			

environmental, social, and operational costs. The assumptions included in the budget or financial model must be duly substantiated.			
C5.2. Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
5.2.1. Management and marketing policies, as well as field-level decisions, systematically assure that commercial forest products are sold for their highest and best uses.	<p>Verifiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with FME log buyers and local stakeholders • List of FSC product classes • Investigation of technological capabilities of local mills 		
5.2.2. The FME strives to diversify the mix of commercial products recovered from the forest and marketed.	<p>Examples may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When financially and technically viable: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New products are explored and developed for common but lesser used species or harvesting residues; ○ FME commercializes non-timber forest products (NTFPs); or ○ The FME commercializes environmental services, such as the protection of watersheds that serve hydroelectric dams or forest carbon offset projects. 		
5.2.3. The FME has a demonstrated track record of favoring or encouraging local processing of wood and other forest products as far as it is in accordance with national legislation.			
C5.3. Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing			

operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
5.3.1. Minimum loss of valuable timber and damage to the trees retained in the felling area shall be ensured in forest management.			
5.3.2. Minimum loss of valuable timber and damage to the trees retained in the felling area shall be ensured in forest management.			
5.3.3 Forest manager shall minimize damaging of soil and other forest elements.			
C5.4 Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
5.4.1. The FME can demonstrate efforts taken to encourage local value-added processing			
5.4.2. Forest manager activities should be aiming at diversification of forest products and finding new markets and products.			
C5.5 Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
5.5.1. The FME shall identify the full range of forest services associated with the FMU including: municipal watersheds, commercial and recreational fisheries (or the supply of water to downstream fisheries), visual quality, contributions to regional biodiversity, recreation,			

tourism, and any other services.			
5.5.2. Forest management activities are designed and implemented, spatially and temporally, with due consideration to the impacts on the forest services identified in 5.5.1.			
5.5.3. The FME engages in regular dialogue with stakeholders and advocates of forest services that are subject to impact from forest operations.			
C5.6 The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels that can be permanently sustained.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
5.6.1. An annual allowable cut (AAC) of forest products, either by area or volume, shall be established by a combination of empirical data and published literature, based on conservative, well-documented growth and yield estimates to ensure that the rate of harvest does not exceed the calculated rates of long-term growth. Annual cutting volume has to be recorded in the forest management plan.			
5.6.2. For operations entailing regular annual harvesting, harvest level does not exceed the calculated annual allowable cut.			
5.6.3. Actual annual harvest shall be strictly documented, including site, species, quantities,			

period of felling and terms and monitoring documentation.			
5.6.4. Commercial use of non-timber forest products shall not exceed sustainable levels.			
5.6.5. Annual allowable cutting volume should not be exceeded, also, additional conditions imposed on felling shall be met, (felling area, time limit etc). In case of exceeding annual allowable felling volume justification shall be provided.			
5.6.6. Felling areas shall be separated, clearly marked or distinguishable in the nature and forest manager shall ensure that boundaries of felling areas shall be followed.			

PRINCIPLE #6: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.

C6.1. Assessments of environmental impacts shall be completed appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site disturbing operations.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.1.1. Non-SLIMF: During management planning forest manager shall assess environmental impacts of forest management activities on the site, including the adjacent landscape. Results shall be			

<p>taken into consideration in preparing and reviewing the management plan.</p>			
<p>6.1.2. Non-SLIMF: In case the planned activity of significant environmental impact, including felling, is carried out in the known site, habitat or in the immediate vicinity of the species of the protected categories I and II or of the list of extinct, critically endangered or endangered species of the Red List of Estonia, or is carried out in the protected natural object or the immediate vicinity of it, the forest manager shall include nature protection specialists of the relevant area in the assessment of environmental impact.</p>			
<p>6.1.3. Non-SLIMF: In territories where construction, reconstruction, or renovation of melioration systems is planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential risks to the preservation of the protected nature values and environmental quality as well as to natural regulated water courses shall be identified; • Based on the risk assessment results in cases, where it is necessary, actions to restore or compensate values of natural diversity shall be carried out; • The precautionary principle shall be observed and action 			

<p>shall be taken to minimise the negative impacts on the environment, including restoration and compensation measures if necessary.</p>			
<p>6.1.4 Non-SLIMF: Forest manager shall make a summary of the environmental impact analyses of road construction and reconstruction, construction of new drainage systems and reconstruction of current drainage systems and other activities of significant environmental impact available on the webpage of the forest manager or if it is not possible, on the web address www.fsc.ee. The summary must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location of activities; • Description of comparable alternatives; • Justification for the best alternative and description of measures mitigating the environmental impact. 			
<p>6.1.5 Non-SLIMF: Planned management activities are appropriately modified based upon the results of the environmental impact assessments.</p>			
<p><i>For FMU's meeting SLIMF requirements, only the following indicator(s) of this criterion apply; the indicator(s) are not to be used for assessing non-SLIMF operations:</i></p>			
<p>6.1.6 SLIMF: The FME</p>			

demonstrates knowledge of the possible negative impacts of its activities and implements measures to minimize them. Where required by national legislation, an official Environmental Impact Assessment report shall be carried out and properly integrated into projects, plans and programs.			
C6.2. Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting shall be controlled.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.2.1. Non-SLIMF: The FME shall have information on rare and endangered species and their habitats and shall be provided in the forest management plan.			
6.2.2. Non-SLIMF: Upon detection or possible detection of rare or endangered species and communities the forest manager shall notify corresponding authority thereof and provide evidence on the detected rare or endangered species, also, include them in forest management plan as quickly as possible. The forest manager shall avoid damaging of the rare or endangered species until proper protection measures will be taken.			
6.2.3. Conservation zones shall be marked on maps.			
6.2.4. Operations in conservation zones are conducted so that the			

conservation values are not harmed or endangered.			
6.2.5. All Forest Types: Felling operations shall not be conducted in the nesting places and during the nesting period of rare, endangered or threatened species.			
6.2.6. All Forest Types: The FME shall have adequate control over and minimize illegal, unauthorized and/or inappropriate activities, such as hunting, fishing, trapping, harvesting of NTFPs or the collecting of RTE species.			
<i>For FMU's meeting SLIMF requirements, only 6.2.5, 6.2.6, and the following indicator(s) of this criterion apply; the following indicator(s) are not to be used for assessing non-SLIMF operations:</i>			
6.2.7. SLIMF: Where information exists on rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats, the forest manager uses this information to map and protect them.			
C6.3. Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Forest regeneration and succession. b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity. c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem. 			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.3.1. During improvement felling none of the natural tree species should be fully removed from the stand.			
6.3.2. Tending of young stands and stands of average age shall aim at the development of viable mixed stands, where the share of			

<p>secondary tree species is recommended to be at least 20% (except for Ombrotrophic bog forest site type and Boreal heath forest site type).</p>			
<p>6.3.3. In the course of reforestation tree species suitable for relevant forest site types as well as reforestation methods suitable in terms of commercial benefit as well as preservation or restoration of biological diversity shall be used. In the course of reforestation tree species suitable for relevant forest site types as well as reforestation methods suitable in terms of commercial benefit as well as preservation or restoration of biological diversity shall be used.</p>			
<p>6.3.4. Reforestation shall be in conformity with the area of regeneration felling and the nature of felled stands.</p>			
<p>6.3.5. In every forest type group represented in a forest management unit (cadastral unit/group of cadastral units/forest management district) at least half of the area of the type group shall be covered with standing forest whereas forest type groups have been determined by dominant tree species and the site type.</p>			
<p>6.3.6. Wind breakage and wind fallen wood shall be removed only in case total amount of damaged trees is over 10 solid cubic metres</p>			

<p>per hectare, at least 10 solid cubic metres per hectare shall be preserved.</p>			
<p>6.3.7 In the course of forest management lying timber of different decomposition stages of a diameter of over 20 cm in the amount of at least 10 solid cubic meters per hectare shall be preserved.</p>			
<p>6.3.8 In the course of forest management standing dead wood of a diameter of at least 15 cm shall be preserved, except in case when they impose threat to the health of employees. In forests intensively used for recreation purposes standing dead wood of large diameter not imposing threat to the health people shall be preserved.</p>			
<p>6.3.9 It is provided that in the course of regeneration felling trees necessary for ensuring biodiversity like retention trees shall be preserved, at least 15 trees per hectare taking into consideration occupational safety. Trees shall be left in groups, if possible. Retention trees shall never be felled nor removed from the felling area.</p> <p>When selecting retention trees, trees meeting the following criteria should be preferred:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. trees having survived the previous cutting period; 2. elms, soft-leaved elms, lime-trees, oaks, ashes, maples, aspens, pines, 			

3. black alders; 4. trees with the largest diameter and old trees, trees with large canopy; 5. trees with holes and fire scars; 6. trees with bird nests.			
6.3.10 In the course of improvement cutting preservation of trees described in indicator 6.3.9 shall be favoured.			
6.3.11 Forest areas not affected by existing drainage ditches shall not be drained.			
6.3.12 Forwarding and harvesting by harvester shall not be done during wet spring and autumn season, in cases when soil damage cannot be prevented.			
C6.4 Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.4.1. Non-SLIMF: Forest manager shall identify representative sample from forest type groups using local/regional sources of information and data.			
6.4.2. From the total forest area 5% shall be devoted to preserve/protect biologically valuable stands.			
6.4.3. Non-SLIMF: Conservation areas and representative sample areas located inside the FMU shall comprise a minimum of 10% of the FMU.			
6.4.4. According to indicators 6.4.2 and 6.4.3 of the standard logging shall not be carried out in protected areas except in	Applicability: Not applicable to SLIMF.		

case it is permitted by written protection rules or protection management plan or written recommendation of a nature protection specialist.			
6.4.5 Reconstruction, maintenance and renovation of current drainage systems shall not be carried out in protection areas except for the purpose of preservation of protection value according to the protection management plan or if it is necessary to conduct water from the areas bordering the protection area.			
6.4.6 By at large boundary ditches of swamps under protection shall not be subject to reconstruction, maintenance or renovation except in case it is strictly necessary for the operation of the rest of the drainage system			
C6.5. Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and to protect water resources.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.5.1. Before commencing with logging the forest manager shall compile felling guidelines covering technical description of the felling (location and width of drag roads, location of intermediate stock, preservation of protection zones and location of roads). Guidelines shall describe areas subject to erosion, provide specific information about areas subject to protection and/or concern,			

viable natural regeneration to be preserved and other important aspects.			
6.5.2. The management plan, or another pertinent policy document, contains provisions for protecting water resources (e.g., stream courses and adjoining riparian areas, wetlands, seeps and springs) found within the defined forest area.			
6.5.3. Areas with extremely unstable slopes or at high risk of landslides are not logged.			
6.5.4. Measures shall be taken to minimize soil damage and erosion during harvesting operations			
6.5.5. In the limited management zone of the bank the felled area should not exceed 1ha.			
6.5.6 Road fill and waste generated in the course of preparing a felling area or other activities (stones, branches) shall not be placed in ditches or brooks.			
C6.6. Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimize health and environmental risks.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.6.1. All chemical pesticide use in nurseries, FMUs or processing facilities occurs within the context of an integrated pest management program; pesticides are only used			

<p>when non-chemical management has been proven ineffective or cost-prohibitive.</p>			
<p>6.6.2. If the FME uses chemical pesticides, the FME and its contractors shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a complete list of chemical pesticides used; • Maintain records of all pesticides used, including the name of the product, active ingredient(s), location and method of application, total quantity applied, and the dates of application; • Comply with all safety regulations during the transport, manipulation, application, and storage of chemical pesticides; • Where required by law, field personnel shall be properly licensed to apply chemical pesticides; • Use appropriate equipment and gear to assure safe application; • Provide adequate supervision and training to personnel and contractors related to the transport, storage, manipulation, and application of chemical pesticides. 			
<p>6.6.3. The FME shall not use highly hazardous chemical pesticides as defined by the FSC (FSC-POL-30-601), those prohibited in the country, pesticides classified as Type 1A or 1B by the World</p>	<p>Note: See FSC-GUI-30-001 for a list of FSC-prohibited chemicals.</p> <p>If FME is an applicant for certification and is in nonconformance to this indicator and wishes to file a</p>		

<p>Health Organization (WHO) or pesticides composed of hydrocarbons or chlorine. Exceptions are made when the FSC has permitted a formal derogation to the FME in the applicable territory. In such cases, the FME shall follow the terms of the approved derogation.</p>	<p>derogation request, rather than discontinue use of prohibited chemical, it may submit its derogation request to SCS prior to being awarded certification. If FSC IC denies the derogation request, the FME shall not use the prohibited chemical.</p>		
<p>C6.7. Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off site locations.</p>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
<p>6.7.1. Toxic chemicals and their containers are disposed of, off site, in an environmentally sound and legal manner.</p>			
<p>6.7.2. Forest manager shall take measures for checking and decreasing littering of the FMU, including littering by other users of FMU.</p>			
<p>6.7.3. Forest machinery shall be equipped with necessary devices for liquidation of oil pollution.</p>			
<p>6.7.4. In the refueling sites of chain saws absorption mats or special cans with leak-proof jets shall be used.</p>			
<p>6.7.5 Forest machinery shall not have fuel or oil leaks.</p>			
<p>6.7.6 Biodegradable oil should be used as chain oil for chain saws and in the hydraulic system of forest machinery.</p>			
<p>C6.8. Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.</p>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
<p>6.8.1. Biological control agents shall only be used in special cases, use of</p>			

biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and controlled.			
6.8.2 Genetically modified organisms shall not be used within the FMU.			
C6.9. The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.9.1. Exotic species (tree species as well as other flora and fauna) are introduced into the FMU only after active investigation demonstrates that they are not invasive.			
6.9.2. Exotic species use is governed by written guidelines for controlling off-site regeneration; active ongoing monitoring is mandatory.			
6.9.3. In areas where invasive exotic plants are problematic, forest owners or managers develop and implement appropriate control measures.			
C6.10. Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and b) does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; and c) will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit. 			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.10.1. FME shall not convert forests to plantations or non-forest land uses, except where the conversion meets the conditions of 6.10.2 – 6.10.4 below.			
6.10.2. If conversion occurs, the area affected			

shall not exceed 0.5% of the area of the FMU in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% of the area of the Management Unit.			
6.10.3. If conversion occurs, the forest manager shall demonstrate that any conversion produces clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.			
6.10.4. If the conversion occurs, it shall not occur on high conservation value forest areas.			

PRINCIPLE #7: MANAGEMENT PLAN

A management plan -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations -- shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long-term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.

7.1. The management plan and supporting documents shall provide:

- a) **Management objectives.**
- b) **Description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands.**
- c) **Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories.**
- d) **Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection.**
- e) **Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics.**
- f) **Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments.**
- g) **Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species.**
- h) **Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership.**
- i) **Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.**

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
7.1.1. Forest manager shall have a forest management plan meeting the requirements of current legal acts defining among other			

<p>things forest management objectives. The management objectives can be described in a separate document annexed to the current management plan.</p>			
<p>7.1.2. The management plan contains both long term goals and objectives as well as short and near term tactical direction.</p>			
<p>7.1.3. There are sufficient resources invested in plan development so as to produce a functional and effective management plan.</p>			
<p>7.1.4. Objects of cultural heritage found in forests and the measures for their preservation shall be described in the management plan or in the related documents.</p>			
<p>7.1.5. Management plan, or appendices or reference documents, shall include presentation of the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Management objectives; b) Description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use c) and ownership status, socioeconomic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands; d) Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of e) the forest in question and information gathered through resource 			

<p>inventories;</p> <p>f) Description and justification for use of different harvesting techniques and equipment;</p> <p>g) Description and justification of forest management prescriptions and their silvicultural</p> <p>h) and ecological rationale i.e. based on site specific forest data or published analysis of</p> <p>i) local forest ecology or silviculture;</p> <p>j) Rate of harvest of forest products (timber or non-timber, as applicable) and species</p> <p>k) selection including justification;</p> <p>l) Measures for identifying and protecting rare, threatened and endangered species and/or</p> <p>m) their habitat;</p> <p>n) Map(s) describing the forest resource including forest types, watercourses and drains,</p> <p>o) compartments/blocks, roads, log landings and processing sites, protected areas,</p> <p>p) unique biological or cultural resources, and other planned management activities;</p>			
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<p>q) Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments (see criterion 6.1); and</p> <p>r) Plans for monitoring of forest growth, regeneration and dynamics. A written management plan exists and is implemented.</p>			
<p>C7.2. The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.</p>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
7.2.1. The management plan is revised and updated at regular intervals (the revision period should not exceed ten years) the frequency is appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.			
7.2.2. Revision of the management plan changing silvicultural, environmental, social and economic circumstances shall be taken into account.			
7.2.3. Revision of the management plan shall be carried out according to current legal acts.			
<p>C7.3. Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.</p>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
7.3.1. Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, forest managers and workers (including subcontractors) shall have any required professional qualifications to ensure that they are able to carry out forest management work to			

implement the management plan.			
7.3.2. Forest manager shall have compiled and implemented a written training plan, including any roles and responsibilities assigned to forest managers and workers to implement the management plan.			
7.3.3 Forest manager shall train forest workers in the field of biological diversity.			
7.3.4 Small forest manager: forest manager shall employ only workers who have been instructed on correct and safe working methods to carry out felling works.			
7.3.5 Non-SLIMF: forest manager shall employ only workers who have been instructed on correct and safe working methods and have obtained relevant qualification certificate to carry out felling works. There is demonstrable compliance with and implementation of the management plan.			
C7.4. While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, including those listed in Criterion 7.1.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
7.4.1. While respecting landowner confidentiality, the FMP or a summary of the FMP that outlines the elements of the plan described in Criterion 7.1 is available to the public either at no charge or a nominal fee. If fees are charged, the amount is limited to the cost of preparing the summary (e.g. printing cost).			

7.4.2. The FME shall update the public summary of the FMP as necessary, or, at a minimum, during full revision of the FMP.			

PRINCIPLE #8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Monitoring shall be conducted -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management -- to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.

C8.1. The frequency and intensity of monitoring should be determined by the scale and intensity of forest management operations as well as the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures should be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
8.1.1. Consistent with the scale and intensity of operations, the forest manager shall implement consistent and replicable documented procedures for the elements mentioned in C8.2 and chain of custody (C8.3).			
8.1.2. Forest manager shall demonstrate that monitoring protocols have been implemented consistently over time.			

C8.2. Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators:

- a) Yield of all forest products harvested.
- b) Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest.
- c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna.
- d) Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations.
- e) Costs, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
8.2.1. SLIMF: forest manager shall carry out monitoring to ensure collection of necessary data and analysis of the data in terms of the following indicators:			

<p>a) sanitary status of forest, increment and reforestation; b) area of felling in type groups by tree species; c) volume of harvested timber; d) changes in age and distribution of tree species by type group; e) forest management restrictions; f) environmental changes having an impact on fauna and flora (eg wide distribution of exotic species, massive reproduction of forest pests, finding nesting sites of endangered bird species); g) environmental impacts of felling and other operations on the status of individual protected natural objects, key habitats, heritage culture and national heritage conservation objects; h) forest management costs, revenue and efficiency; i) share and dynamics of forests with high conservation value.</p>			
<p>8.2.2. Non-SLIMF: forest manager shall carry out monitoring to ensure collection of necessary data and analysis of the data in terms of the following indicators: a) sanitary status of forest, increment and reforestation; b) area of felling in type groups by tree species; c) volume of harvested timber; d) collection of non-timber forest products, including seeds, seedlings, games, ornamental branches and</p>			

<p>Christmas trees; e) changes in age and distribution of tree species by type group; f) social impacts (employment and wage conditions and their dynamics, development of recreational areas, claims of local people, hunting etc) of felling and other operations. g) environmental impacts of felling and other operations, incl performance of measures taken for the mitigation of environmental impact defined in the environmental impact analyses of forest management; h) forest management restrictions; i) environmental changes having an impact on fauna and flora (eg wide distribution of exotic species, massive reproduction of forest pests, finding nesting sites of endangered bird species); j) environmental impacts of felling and other operations on the status of individual protected natural objects, key habitats, heritage culture and national heritage conservation objects; k) activities for the use of forests for recreational purposes; l) forest management costs, revenue and efficiency; m) share and dynamics of forests with high conservation value.</p>			
<p>8.2.3. Written records are kept of the annual or periodic harvest levels by</p>			

species, at levels of specificity appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.			
C8.3. Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain of custody."			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
8.3.1. The FME shall have written documented procedures for the tracking of certified products per SCS COC indicators for FMEs.			
8.3.2. The FME shall implement consistently the COC procedures defined in indicator 8.3.1.			
C8.4. The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
8.4.1. Forest manager shall revise the forest management plan according to the monitoring results. Thereafter, the forest manager shall take into account the incompliance of the management plan documented in the course of monitoring and make changes in relevant management methods in forest management.			
8.4.2. FME demonstrate a commitment to adaptive management where information gathered during systematic monitoring is incorporated into revisions to the management plan as well as revisions to standard operating procedures, see Criterion 7.2.			
C8.5. While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)

8.5.1. While protecting FME confidentiality, either full monitoring results or an up-to-date summary of the most recent monitoring information is maintained, covering the Indicators listed in Criterion 8.2, and is available to the public, free or at a minimum price, upon request.			
8.5.2. The FME shall update the public summary of monitoring results as necessary, or, at a minimum, during full revision of the FMP.			

PRINCIPLE #9: MAINTENANCE OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS

Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes, which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.

C9.1. Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
9.1.1. Non-SLIMF: The FME shall conduct an evaluation to identify High Conservation Values (HCV) attributes present in the FMU. This evaluation, at a minimum, shall include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation of regional or national conservation databases and maps; • Consultation of the national HCVF toolkit, if it exists, or the first and third parts of the international toolkit for HCV presence (see <i>HCVF Toolkit</i> by WWF)¹; • Consideration of forest 	High Conservation Values include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) HCV 1. Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia), such as Natura 2000 sites; b) HCV2. Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape 		

¹ *HCVF Toolkit: Guidance for High Conservation Value Forests assessment*
[\(http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/conservation/forests/tools/hcvf_toolkit/\)](http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/conservation/forests/tools/hcvf_toolkit/)

<p>inventory data and observations from field workers, contractors or consultants of the FME;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with biologist and scientific experts, local communities, and other stakeholders; • Identification and documentation of possible threats to HCVs. 	<p>level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance, such as intact forest landscapes;</p> <p>c) HCV3. Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems, such as Natura 2000 sites and Woodland Key Habitats;</p> <p>d) HCV4. Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control), such as areas important for drinking water;</p> <p>e) HCV5. Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health);</p> <p>f) HCV6. Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities)</p>		
<p>9.1.2. The FME shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a written evaluation for HCVs that includes the elements of 			

<p>9.1.1 and proposals to protect these HCVs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a technical explanation for the HCVs identified and the recommendations presented for the protection of these attributes; and • Demonstrate that actions are being taken to protect and/or reduce threats to HCVs that stem from the FME’s management activities. 			
<p><i>For FMU’s meeting SLIMF requirements, only the following indicator(s) of this criterion apply; the indicator(s) are not to be used for assessing non-SLIMF operations:</i></p>			
<p>9.1.3. The FME shall consult environmental stakeholders, databases, government officials or researchers to identify HCVs. If there are HVCs present, the FME shall take all reasonable action to protect these values and/or reduce threats to them.</p>			
<p>9.1.4. The FME shall consult the national/ regional HCVF toolkit, if it exists, and/or other relevant regional information to identify potential HCVs. If there is no national/ regional toolkit, the FME should consult the first and third parts of the international toolkit for HCV presence (see footnote for</p>			

large FMEs at 9.1.1).			
C9.2. The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
9.2.1. Forest managers have documented evidence of having consulted stakeholders about HCVF conservation attributes and options for the maintenance thereof.			
9.2.2. Stakeholder consultation indicates that the forest management operation consistently protects areas of high conservation value.			
C9.3. The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
9.3.1. The conservation attributes of each identified HCV area found within the defined forest area are described in the management plan.			
9.3.2. The management plan and public summary thereof contain specific policies for maintenance and enhancement of the conservation attributes that define HCV areas; these protections are consistent with the precautionary approach.			
C9.4. Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
9.4.1. Appropriate to the scale of and intensity of	<i>Note: Certain HCVs may be highly sensitive to annual</i>		

<p>operations, annual monitoring is conducted that focuses on the effectiveness by which HCVF management and protection measures are maintaining and/or enhancing the pertinent conservation attributes.</p>	<p><i>monitoring conducted at the site-level. As such, different HCVs and their locations may be monitored in an annual monitoring programme, and informal, low impact or remote methods of monitoring can meet this requirement depending on the identified HCV attributes. For SLIMF, monitoring may be periodic depending on the risk to the HCV.</i></p>		
<p>9.4.2. The results of HCVF monitoring are used adaptively in modifying HCVF management and protection policies as well in revising the management plan.</p>			

<p>PRINCIPLE # 10: PLANTATIONS</p> <p>Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1 - 9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.</p>			
<p>C10.1. The management objectives of the plantation, including natural forest conservation and restoration objectives, shall be explicitly stated in the management plan, and clearly demonstrated in the implementation of the plan.</p>			
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>Verifiers, Examples, and Notes</p>	<p>Evaluation Team Notes</p>	<p>Conformance (C, NC or NA)</p>
<p>10.1.1. The management plan for plantations shall include silvicultural and socioeconomic objectives, as well as for conservation and restoration of natural forests.</p>			
<p>10.1.2. FME shall demonstrate evidence of implementation of the objectives identified in 10.1.1 and their associated policies in forest</p>			

management activities and/or administrative actions.			
C10.2. The design and layout of plantations should promote the protection, restoration and conservation of natural forests, and not increase pressures on natural forests. Wildlife corridors, streamside zones and a mosaic of stands of different ages and rotation periods shall be used in the layout of the plantation, consistent with the scale of the operation. The scale and layout of plantation blocks shall be consistent with the patterns of forest stands found within the natural landscape.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.2.1. For Non-SLIMF and 'low intensity' SLIMF: The scale and layout of existing and new plantation blocks are consistent with the patterns of forest stands within the natural landscape.	<i>Examples of patterns may include contours, soil types, water courses, slope, etc.</i>		
10.2.2. The FME shall design plantations to include stands with a diversity of age classes and rotation periods.			
10.2.3. The FME identifies and conserves all areas of natural vegetation within the FMU.			
10.2.4. The FME protects, maintains, and enhances natural vegetation and wildlife corridors in accordance to Criterion 6.3.			
10.2.5. Buffer zones of natural vegetation are maintained or established along watercourses in accordance to C6.5.			
C10.3. Diversity in the composition of plantations is preferred, so as to enhance economic, ecological and social stability. Such diversity may include the size and spatial distribution of management units within the landscape, number and genetic composition of species, age classes and structures.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.3.1. The FME shall employ a variety of species, provenances, and/or clones to achieve optimal economic, ecological and			

social stability.			
10.3.2. The FME shall introduce diversity to established and new plantations in accordance to indicators 10.2.2 and 10.3.1, and through practices such as: cut blocks of different size and shape, and maintenance of volunteer (naturally established) seedlings and other structural components within plantation stands.			
C10.4. The selection of species for planting shall be based on their overall suitability for the site and their appropriateness to the management objectives. In order to enhance the conservation of biological diversity, native species are preferred over exotic species in the establishment of plantations and the restoration of degraded ecosystems. Exotic species, which shall be used only when their performance is greater than that of native species, shall be carefully monitored to detect unusual mortality, disease, or insect outbreaks and adverse ecological impacts.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.4.1. Plantation species shall be selected based on suitability to site conditions (soils, topography and climate) and management objectives.			
10.4.2. Where exotic species have been selected, the FME shall explicitly justify this choice demonstrating that their performance is greater than that of native species.			
10.4.3. No species shall be planted on a large scale until local trials and/or experience have shown that they are ecologically well-adapted to the site and that invasive characteristics, if any, can be controlled.			
10.4.4. When exotic species are used the			

specific measures to prevent spontaneous regeneration outside plantation areas, unusual mortality, disease, insect outbreaks or other adverse environmental impacts shall be documented .			
C10.5. A proportion of the overall forest management area, appropriate to the scale of the plantation, shall be managed so as to restore the site to a natural forest cover.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.5.1. Consistent with C6.4, representative samples of existing natural ecosystems are being protected or restored in their natural state.			
C10.6. Measures shall be taken to maintain or improve soil structure, fertility, and biological activity. The techniques and rate of harvesting, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the choice of species shall not result in long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality, quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.6.1. Explicit measures shall be taken to maintain or enhance the soil in terms of structure, fertility and biological activity.			
10.6.2. The FME shall implement BMPs established in C6.5 to minimize impacts to soil and water resources.			
10.6.3. Where degradation and/or other negative impacts to soil and water resources have occurred on the FMU, the FME shall implement measures to mitigate such impacts.			
C10.7. Measures shall be taken to prevent and minimize outbreaks of pests, diseases, fire and invasive plant introductions. Integrated pest management shall form an essential part of the management plan, with primary reliance on prevention and biological control methods rather than chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Plantation management should make every effort to move away			

from chemical pesticides and fertilizers, including their use in nurseries. The use of chemicals is also covered in Criteria 6.6 and 6.7.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.7.1. If chemical pesticides and fertilizers are used or included as a management option in the management plan, an integrated pest management plan shall exist that identifies pests, determines acceptable injury or action thresholds, chemical use, if applicable, and alternative methods of addressing pests (see indicator 7.1.7).			
10.7.2. Measures shall be taken in the forest to prevent outbreaks of pests, disease, and invasive plant introductions.			
10.7.3. FME shall implement a strategy to minimize the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers over time and space.			
10.7.4. FME shall implement a program to prevent and control fire on plantations within the FMU.			
C10.8 Appropriate to the scale and diversity of the operation, monitoring of plantations shall include regular assessment of potential on-site and off-site ecological and social impacts, (e.g. natural regeneration, effects on water resources and soil fertility, and impacts on local welfare and social well-being), in addition to those elements addressed in Principles 8, 6 and 4. No species should be planted on a large scale until local trials and/or experience have shown that they are ecologically well-adapted to the site, are not invasive, and do not have significant negative ecological impacts on other ecosystems. Special attention will be paid to social issues of land acquisition for plantations, especially the protection of local rights of ownership, use or access.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.8.1. Monitoring of the impacts of plantations, both on and off-site, shall			

<p>be conducted in the same manner as the monitoring of natural forests, in accordance with Principles 4, 6, and 8.</p>			
<p>C10.9 Plantations established in areas converted from natural forests after November 1994 normally shall not qualify for certification. Certification may be allowed in circumstances where sufficient evidence is submitted to the certification body that the manager/owner is not responsible directly or indirectly of such conversion.</p>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
<p>10.9.1. Accurate data is compiled on the first year of establishment of all plantation areas, including on any conversions since 1994.</p>			
<p>10.9.2. Areas converted from natural forest to plantation since November 1994 are not certified, except where the FME provides clear and sufficient evidence that it was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion.</p>			

ANNEX 1 PERTINENT LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO PLANTATION FOREST MANAGEMENT IN ESTONIA

- Forest Act
- Forest management regulations
- Forest Inventory Guidelines
- Form and submission of felling declaration
- Maintenance felling and border clearing rules for unlawfully expropriated forest land
- Compensation of expenses caused by extraordinary transportation or vehicle to the owner of road; the rates of compensation fees and order for issuing special permits
- Prescriptions for transportation of oversized or heavy loads
- Statutes of State Forest Management Center
- Sales of assortments and standing stock in State forest
- Requirements for the test works and examination of forest taxators; the rules for evaluating the results of test works and exams and the working procedure of expert board
- Transportation rules for forest material; handover-reception form of forest material; template of the declaration to be presented to Tax and Customs department for sold or purchased forest material.
- Technical requirements for forest inventory tools.
- Origin regions of regeneration material allowed to be used for regenerating Estonian forests
- List of exotic species allowed to be grown in Estonian forest land
- Methods for roundwood measurement and volume calculations, requirements for measurement accuracy and documentation of measurement results
- Classification of key habitats and key habitat inventory form
- Designation of counties with high, medium and low risk of fires
- Assignment of optimal felling in state forest for the manager of state forest allowed to be felled by final felling in year 2009.
- Methodological guidelines for forest evaluation
- Hunting Act
- Heritage conservation act
- Land Improvement Act
- Road Act
- General part of the environmental code act
- Occupational Health and Safety Act
- Employment Contracts Act
- Law of Obligations Act
- Law of Property Act

- Income Tax Act
- Taxation Act
- Nature Conservation Act

ANNEX 2 LIST OF MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND ILO CONVENTIONS WHICH ARE IN FORCE IN ESTONIA

Fundamental

Convention	Date
C029 - Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)	07 Feb 1996
C087 - Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)	22 Mar 1994
C098 - Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)	22 Mar 1994
C100 - Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)	10 May 1996
C105 - Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)	07 Feb 1996
C111 - Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)	17 Aug 2005
C138 - Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)	15 Mar 2007
C182 - Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)	24 Sep 2001

Governance (Priority)

Convention	Date
C081 - Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81)	01 Feb 2005
C122 - Employment Policy Convention, 1964 (No. 122)	12 Mar 2003
C129 - Labour Inspection (Agriculture) Convention, 1969 (No. 129)	01 Feb 2005
C144 - Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144)	22 Mar 1994

Technical

Convention	Date
C002 - Unemployment Convention, 1919 (No. 2)	20 Dec 1922
C006 - Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 6)	20 Dec 1922
C008 - Unemployment Indemnity (Shipwreck) Convention, 1920 (No. 8)	03 Mar 1923
C009 - Placing of Seamen Convention, 1920 (No. 9)	03 Mar 1923
C011 - Right of Association (Agriculture) Convention, 1921 (No. 11)	08 Sep 1922
C012 - Workmen's Compensation (Agriculture) Convention, 1921 (No. 12)	08 Sep 1922
C013 - White Lead (Painting) Convention, 1921 (No. 13)	08 Sep 1922
C014 - Weekly Rest (Industry) Convention, 1921 (No. 14)	29 Nov 1923
C016 - Medical Examination of Young Persons (Sea) Convention, 1921 (No. 16)	08 Sep 1922
C019 - Equality of Treatment (Accident Compensation) Convention, 1925 (No. 19)	14 Apr 1930
C020 - Night Work (Bakeries) Convention, 1925 (No. 20)	23 Dec 1929
C022 - Seamen's Articles of Agreement Convention, 1926 (No. 22)	10 May 1929
C023 - Repatriation of Seamen Convention, 1926 (No. 23)	09 Jul 1928
C027 - Marking of Weight (Packages Transported by Vessels) Convention, 1929	18 Jan 1932

Convention	Date
(No. 27)	
C041 - Night Work (Women) Convention (Revised), 1934 (No. 41)	21 Dec 1935
C053 - Officers' Competency Certificates Convention, 1936 (No. 53)	20 Jun 1938
C108 - Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention, 1958 (No. 108)	11 Dec 1996
C135 - Workers' Representatives Convention, 1971 (No. 135)	07 Feb 1996
C147 - Merchant Shipping (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 147)	01 Dec 2004
C174 - Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention, 1993 (No. 174)	13 Sep 2000

Source: <http://www.ilo.org> (01.07.2014)

ANNEX 3 LIST OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

Protection of species in Estonia is mainly regulated by the Nature Protection Act (Riigiteataja 2004, 38, 258) and is available at the webpage of the State Gazette (www.riigiteataja.ee).

Protection status has been designated for 570 species of plants, fungi and animals in Estonia. Protected species are divided into three protection categories whereas category I refers to species which are the most threatened, categories II and III are designated accordingly to the status of endangerment to species threatened to lesser extent.

I and II category species are appointed by the Government of Estonia with their decrees, III category species are appointed by the decree by the Minister of the Environment. I category is consisted of species which are reduced in numbers, their habitats are damaged to critical extent, species facing great possibility of extinction or species which further existence in Estonian nature is unlikely in the face of persisting threat factors.

II category refers to species living in spatially very limited habitats and which populations are declining and habitats reducing. This category contains 262 species. III category consists of species which are at the moment relatively common but if the presence of threat factors is continuing their numbers could critically decline. This category contains 244 species.

More information about the species protection can be found at the webpage of the Ministry of Environment (www.envir.ee). All the lists of endangered species can be found on the official webpage of the State Gazette (www.riigiteataja.ee). The protection the I and II category species is regulated by the "list of I and II protection category species protection appointment (*in estonian*: I ja II kaitsekategooriana kaitse alla võetavate liikide loetelu; RT I 2004, 44, 313). The list of III category species is named „Protection of III protection category species” (*in estonian*: III kaitsekategooria liikide kaitsealla võtmine; RTL 2004, 69, 1134).

Estonian Red list of species gives an overview of the rarity of the species in Estonia and the threats leading to the decline and extinction of species. This document is aimed at scientists and nature conservationists.

ANNEX 4 GLOSSARY

Words in the P&C are used as defined in most standard English language dictionaries. The precise meaning and local interpretation of certain phrases (such as local communities) should be decided in the local context by forest managers and certifiers. In this document, the words below are understood as follows:

Biological diversity: The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

Biological diversity values: The intrinsic, ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components.

Biological control agents: Living organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other living organisms.

Chain of custody: The channel through which products are distributed from their origin in the forest to their end-use.

Chemicals: The range of fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides, and hormones which are used in forest management.

Customary rights: Rights which result from a long series of habitual or customary actions, constantly repeated, which have, by such repetition and by uninterrupted acquiescence, acquired the force of a law within a geographical or sociological unit.

Ecosystem: A community of all plants and animals and their physical environment, functioning together as an interdependent unit.

Endangered species: Any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Exotic species: An introduced species not native or endemic to the area in question.

Forest integrity: The composition, dynamics, functions and structural attributes of a natural forest.

Forest Management Enterprise (FME): The people or entities responsible for the operational management of the forest resource and of the enterprise, as well as the management system and structure, and the planning and field operations.

Forest Management Unit (FMU): The forested area that falls under the scope of an FSC forest management certificate.

Genetically modified organisms: Biological organisms which have been induced by various means to consist of genetic structural changes.

Indigenous lands and territories: The total environment of the lands, air, water, sea, sea-ice, flora and fauna, and other resources which indigenous peoples have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used.

Indigenous peoples: "The existing descendants of the peoples who inhabited the present territory of a country wholly or partially at the time when persons of a different culture or ethnic origin arrived there from other parts of the world, overcame them and, by conquest, settlement, or other means reduced them to a non-dominant or colonial situation; who today live more in conformity with their particular social, economic and cultural customs and traditions than with the institutions of the country of which they now form a part, under State structure which incorporates mainly the national, social and cultural characteristics of other segments of the population which are predominant." (Working definition adopted by the UN Working Group on Indigenous Peoples).

High Conservation Value Forests: High Conservation Value Forests are those that possess one or more of the following attributes:

a) forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant : concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance

b) forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems

c) forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control)

d) forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

Landscape: A geographical mosaic composed of interacting ecosystems resulting from the influence of geological, topographical, soil, climatic, biotic and human interactions in a given area.

Local laws: Includes all legal norms given by organisms of government whose jurisdiction is less than the national level, such as departmental, municipal and customary norms.

Long term: The time-scale of the forest owner or manager as manifested by the objectives of the management plan, the rate of harvesting, and the commitment to maintain permanent forest cover. The length of time involved will vary according to the context and ecological conditions, and will be a function of how long it takes a given ecosystem to recover its natural structure and composition following harvesting or disturbance, or to produce mature or primary conditions.

Native species: A species that occurs naturally in the region; endemic to the area.

Natural cycles: Nutrient and mineral cycling as a result of interactions between soils, water, plants, and animals in forest environments that affect the ecological productivity of a given site.

Natural Forest: Forest areas where many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems such as complexity, structure and diversity are present, as defined by FSC approved national and regional standards of forest management.

Non-timber forest products: All forest products except timber, including other materials obtained from trees such as resins and leaves, as well as any other plant and animal products. **Other forest types:** Forest areas that do not fit the criteria for plantation or natural forests and which are defined more specifically by FSC-approved national and regional standards of forest stewardship.

Plantation: Forest areas lacking most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems as defined by FSC-approved national and regional standards of forest stewardship, which result from the human activities of either planting, sowing or intensive silvicultural treatments.

Principle: An essential rule or element; in FSC's case, of forest stewardship.

Restoration: The act of modifying a habitat or ecosystem to introduce or reintroduce components and characteristics appropriate to the site both ecologically and historically.

Seral stage: a temporary community of vegetation, defined by the dominant species, which indicates the successional phase of the ecosystem

Short rotation coppice systems -- harvest systems, which are typically perpetuated long-term, and in which only a few characteristics of an indigenous ecosystem remain.

Silviculture: The art of producing and tending a forest by manipulating its establishment, composition and growth to best fulfill the objectives of the owner. This may, or may not, include timber production.

Succession: Progressive changes in species composition and forest community structure caused by natural processes (nonhuman) over time.

Tenure: Socially defined agreements held by individuals or groups, recognized by legal statutes or customary practice, regarding the "bundle of rights and duties" of ownership, holding, access and/or usage of a particular land unit or the associated resources there within (such as individual trees, plant species, water, minerals, etc).

Threatened species: Any species which is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Use rights: Rights for the use of forest resources that can be defined by local custom, mutual agreements, or prescribed by other entities holding access rights. These rights may restrict the use of particular resources to specific levels of consumption or particular harvesting techniques.