

# FCP Interim Standard for Forest Management Certification in Latvia under the Forest Stewardship Council

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## A. INTRODUCTION

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This document contains the Interim Standard used by Scientific Certification Systems for conducting forest certification evaluations in Latvia. The scope of these standards includes both natural and plantation forests. Once there is an officially FSC accredited standard for use in Latvia, 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

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Conformance with 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 SLIMFs, unless otherwise specified.

In the process of adapting this standard for 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 Management 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 Latvian law and regulatory requirements.			
1.1.2. The FME and its employees shall, in view of their job obligations, respect the regulatory requirements effective in the Republic of Latvia and maintain these requirements towards sub-contractors and contractors.			
1.1.3. The frequency and nature of regulatory violations shall <i>not</i> be indicative of widespread and systemic non-compliance; when violations occur, the FME acts promptly to correct and remediate the circumstances associated with the violation. Forest manager has existing LR regulatory requirements on forest management topics.			
1.1.4. Existing regulatory requirements on forest management are fully controlled.			

**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. Extended delays of payments shall not be admitted.			
1.2.2. The FME shall retain any and all documentation for all effected payments and make these available to the SCS auditing team.			
<b>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.</b>			
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 Latvia has signed and/or which are listed in Annex 2 of this document.			
1.3.2. The FME shall have access to the binding international agreements Latvia has signed, and they shall be respected in forest management.	<i>Verifiers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The FME shall have a list of the binding international agreements summarising the requirements to be respected by the FME;</i></li> <li><i>The said list shall be publicly available.</i></li> </ul>		
<b>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.</b>			
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 have consulted with representatives of certification bodies regarding interpretation of the Latvian FSC Standard and the possible solutions to eliminate the non-compliances found in Clause 1.4.1.			
<b>C1.5. Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.</b>			
1.5.1. Upon detecting any illegal activity (such as illegal logging), the FME shall immediately inform all competent state and/or local government bodies thereon and document the event.			
1.5.2. The FME shall allocate human and financial resources for surveillance over prohibited activities to detect and limit them and to notify them to the respective authorities when necessary.			
1.5.3. The boundaries of the forest units with management activities shall be clearly maintained, for example by a cut line, clear natural features, and/or by clear signage.			
<b>C1.6. Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
1.6.1. In the management	<i>Verifiers:</i>		

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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Contracts contain clear and appropriate language that requires contractors to comply with the FSC P&amp;C</i></li> </ul>		
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 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Legal use rights may be associated with:</i> - <i>Authenticated copies of</i></li> </ul>		

forest resource are clear, legally secure and documented.	<p><i>land titles of the FMU(s)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• - <i>Fee-simple ownership</i></li> <li>- <i>Long-term or renewable lease rights</i></li> <li>- <i>Long-term or renewable exclusive management agreements</i></li> <li>- <i>Other mechanisms allocating long-term or renewable management rights and responsibilities to the forest manager</i></li> </ul>		
2.1.2. In the case of usufruct agreements, the FME shall demonstrate documented evidence of its legal rights to the FMU and at least 10 years for forest management and use of forest resources for the FMU under evaluation for certification.			
2.1.3 If the forest area has a number of forest managers, all the economic activity must be carried out with the voluntary consent of all managers.			
2.1.4 Forest manager has established documented procedure on mapping and identification of forest areas on site/in field.	<p><i>Verifiers:</i>  <i>Plan of land borders; forest property is marked with border marks in field/on site.</i></p>		
<b>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.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
2.2.1. The FME shall take into consideration the local society and/or other interested parties having lawful or conventional rights or rights of use with regard to the forest territory to be managed, if the parties provide such	<p><i>Examples of legal or customary tenure or use-rights may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>Public rights of way</i></li> <li>-<i>Established easements</i></li> <li>-<i>Collection of non-timber forest products</i></li> <li>-<i>Hiking, fishing, hunting, or other recreation</i></li> </ul>		

information to FME, and to identify the type of any such rights in the management plan. In view of the extent and intensity of the economic activities, the areas subject to any such rights shall be marked on the maps of the territories to be managed.	-Firewood collection -Visitation of culturally significant sites, such as religious shrines		
2.2.2. If the local society has partially or fully transferred its lawful or conventional rights or the rights of use, this shall be documented in the form of agreements and/or interviews with representatives of the local society, and it shall be proved that this has been done with free and informed consent.			
2.2.3. The forest manager has set only reasonable limits to free access to the forest and other forest resources in the way that is in accordance with current laws and regulations.			
2.2.4. The FME has provided and ensured publically available information when imposing reasonable restrictions on the free area in the forest.	<i>Examples of ways the public can be informed include:</i> -Information signs -Articles -Publications		
<b>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.</b>			
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	<i>Verifiers:</i> • Documents pertaining to previous or existing disputes about property		

manner, with preference given to voluntary and conciliatory methods rather than the through the judiciary mechanisms (e.g., courts).	<p><i>titles or rights of use shall be available to SCS auditors.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>There are documented agreements and/or mechanisms with property titles or rights of use for solving related disputes.</i></li> </ul>		
2.3.2 All property rights and use disputes are documented.			
2.3.3. Dispute resolution is used in LR statutory procedures.			

### 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. Performance Indicators: Criteria considered not applicable since Latvians 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 Latvians 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 Latvians are native people			



in their homeland.			
<b>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.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
3.4.1. Criteria considered not applicable since Latvians are native people in their homeland.			

<b>PRINCIPLE #4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND WORKER'S RIGHTS</b>			
Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well being of forest workers and local communities.			
<b>C4.1. The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.</b>			
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.	<p><i>Applicability note: Everything related to employment of local community should apply at the national level, since in Latvia no special local communities can be distinguished due to the relatively small size of its territory.</i></p> <p><i>Piezīme attiecībā uz piemērojamību: Viss, kas saistīts ar nodarbinātību vietējā sabiedrībā, būtu jāpiemēro valsts līmenī, jo Latvijā nav īpašu vietējo sabiedrību ko atšķirt, tās nelielās teritorijas dēļ.</i></p>		
4.1.2. The FME contributes to or directly develops training programs designed to enhance the capabilities and qualifications of local workers.			
4.1.3. The FME shall evaluate the proposals of local governments for cooperation with the			

population with regard to employment, training, and other services.			
4.1.4. In consideration of the costs and the quality, the FME shall give priority to local sellers of equipment and providers of various services.	<i>Examples may include: - Use of services of local banks, insurance companies, etc.</i>		
4.1.5. The time of employment and the wage system for the employees shall be established according to the normative acts and the collective agreement (if any).			
<b>C4.2. Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.</b>			
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. The statutory documents for labour protection and according to the work to be performed shall be developed.			
4.2.3. Appropriate safety equipment shall be available to all employees, and the employees shall have appropriate qualification acknowledged by a certifying document.			
4.2.4. Equipment is periodically inspected and tested for safety performance in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines.			
4.2.5. In view of the job to be performed, the employees involved in forest management shall be			

aware of the labour protection requirements.			
4.2.6. The FME shall maintain the labour protection documentation in accordance with the provisions established in the normative acts.			
4.2.7. The FME's policies and labour practices shall guarantee the equal treatment of all employees (without discrimination based on race, gender, religion or caste) in relation to recruitment, promotion, dismissal, remuneration and benefits.			
4.2.8. The restrictions established in the national legislation shall be observed when employing children and adolescents.			
4.2.9. Logging and forestry jobs that might endanger health and safety should not involve workers under the age of 18.			
4.2.10. Doing work related to forest exploitation and forest management without means of individual protection shall be prohibited in cases where their use is required under the provisions of the normative acts on labour protection.			
<b>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).</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
4.3.1. The FME shall recognize workers for their policies and actions, the right of free organization in any lawful and legitimate			

form, as required by International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 87 and 98.			
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. The FME shall have documented procedures to a) investigate objectively and honestly the issues and discrepancies raised by workers and / or their organizations and b) conflict resolution.			
4.3.4 Forest managers provide job security to employees when writing employment contract and terms of employment.			
4.3.5 Forest managers strive for compliance with employment contracts.			
<b>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.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
4.4.1. The FME shall conduct a social impact evaluation related to forest management activities.			
4.4.2. Following the procedures adjusted to the extent and scale of forest management activities, the FME shall inform about the access to the information about the planned forest management activities.			
4.4.3. The FME shall prove that the information obtained as result of the evaluation of the social			

impacts and/or consultations with the interested parties has been evaluated or included in the planning and performance of the forest management activities.			
4.4.4. Objects identified as having a cultural, historical and/or archaeological value shall be protected in nature.	Verifiers: List of stakeholders		
4.4.5. As far as possible, the FME shall consider reasonable interests of the local population when working near inhabited areas.	Verifiers: Interviews with neighbours and other stakeholders.		
4.4.6 The FME shall ensure public availability of the management plan (refer to FSC criterion 7.4.).			
For FMUs 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:			
4.4.7 The FME shall maintain an up-to-date list of representatives of neighboring properties or communities that could be affected during and after the implementation of forest management activities.			
4.4.8 The FME maintains 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.			

<b>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.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
4.5.1. The FME shall be aware of and respect lawful property title and right of use with regard to forest management on land property.			
4.5.2. Forest managers endeavor, through actions and policies, to avoid adverse impacts of its actions to the property, resources and/or livelihoods of local peoples.			
4.5.3. Reimbursement or compensation of loss shall be subject to an agreement between the parties or, in case of disputes, in accordance with the provisions of the normative acts of the Republic of Latvia.			

<b>PRINCIPLE #5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST</b>			
<b>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.</b>			
<b>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.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
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).			
5.1.2. The FME shall conduct a long-term financial projection (e.g., budget) that includes income and environmental, social, and operational costs. The assumptions included in the budget or financial model must be duly substantiated.			
5.1.3. Commercial (income generating) activities are financially viable, given market conditions and costs. Activities conducted at a financial loss can be justified as a long term investment in the ecological productivity of the forest.	<i>Verifiers: Records that show the costs of management activities conducted, as well as the income received.</i>		
<b>C5.2. Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.</b>			
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 being sold for their highest and best uses.	<i>Examples may include: -New products are explored and developed for common but less used species; -Access to new markets is explored and developed</i>		
5.2.2. The FME strives to diversify the mix of commercial products recovered from the forest and marketed.	<i>Examples may include: -When financially and technically viable, the FME commercializes non-timber forest products (NTFPs). -When financially and technically viable, the FME commercializes environmental services, such as the protection of watersheds that serve hydroelectric dams or</i>		

	<i>forest carbon offsets projects.</i>		
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.			
<b>C5.3. Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.</b>			
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.	<i>Examples may include: -Directional felling techniques are used to minimize unintentional tree damage.</i>		
5.3.2. Preparation and delivery of timber shall be performed in a manner to ensure minimum damage or deterioration of the quality of timber and to retain its market value.			
5.3.3. Log landings are kept to a minimum practicable number and size and are located so as to minimize adverse environmental impacts.			
5.3.4. Where on-site processing takes place, the footprint of the milling facility is kept to the smallest practicable size; the processing facilities are located in the most environmentally benign locales as well as in locations where losses to productive forest area are minimized.	Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The FME locates charcoal kilns or portable sawmills only after evaluating the environmental impacts to the selected sites (see Criterion 6.1).</li> </ul>		
5.3.5 By maximum limits on forest exploitation remains, FME shall develop guidelines for	<i>Verifiers: Written guidelines for retention of biomass (dried stand, tops, and deadfall) in</i>		



working in felling areas, marking the ecological value of the biomass retained in the felling area; FME shall have written guidelines on retention of deadfall and dried stand in felling areas.	<i>felling areas and minimal soil damages in logging process.</i>		
<b>C5.4 Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
5.4.1. The FME can demonstrate its efforts to diversify the mix of commercial products recovered from the forest and marketed.			
5.4.2. The FME can demonstrate efforts taken to encourage local value-added processing.			
5.4.3 Where market opportunities exist and where such use does not compromise the ecological health of the forest, the marketing of non-timber forest products is undertaken by forest managers.	<i>Examples may include: -Compatible uses such as recreation, ecotourism, hunting, fishing, Christmas tree cutting, etc.</i>		
<b>C5.5 Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
5.5.1. The management plan addresses 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			

and tourism as identified by the FME.			
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 demonstrates an awareness of and sensitivity to non-timber forest services, many of which may not generate income.			
5.5.4 The FME engages in regular dialogue with stakeholders and advocates of forest services that are subject to impact from forest operations.			
<b>C5.6 The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels that can be permanently sustained.</b>			
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.	<p>The annual allowable cut for each planning unit shall be based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Documented growth rates for particular sites, and/or acreage of forest types, age-classes and species distributions;</li> <li>- Mortality and decay and other factors that affect net growth;</li> <li>- Areas reserved from harvest or subject to harvest restrictions to meet other management goals;</li> <li>- Silvicultural practices that will be employed on the FMU;</li> <li>- Management objectives and desired future</li> </ul>		

	conditions.		
5.6.2. For operations entailing regular annual harvesting, the ten year rolling average harvest level does not exceed the calculated annual allowable cut.			
5.6.3. Harvest levels shall be set such that inventories of desired tree species of a certain age increase over time, unless it is established (in the management plan) that current inventories (measured in average standing volume per hectare) exceed optimal levels.			
5.6.4. For smaller operations that do not harvest annually, the frequency and intensity of harvest entries is set such that inventory levels are allowed to recover—and increase, as appropriate—in between harvests.	Verifiers: Comparison of records of harvested volume by species (or species groups) with the MAI established for the species (or species groups).		
5.6.5. When yielding non-timber products for commercial purposes, the management plan shall include the best available data to calculate the mean increase and yield ratio; yielding of non-timber forest products is also described in criterion 5.6.2.			
5.6.6. For timber investment <sup>1</sup> management programs: If growth projections are used to			

<sup>1</sup> A timber investment organization is a forest management project established in a natural or plantation forest (e.g., a TIMO or REIT), where the FME uses funds from various investors to achieve management objectives, usually in exchange for returns on investment within a specified timeframe

<p>make claims on the rate of financial return, the FME shall include a visible declaration on all material that carries the FSC or certification body trademarks regarding the responsibility of financial claims (e.g., “the FSC and SCS are not responsible for, and do not endorse, any financial or profit claims made by the timber investment organization.”) (See FSC-TMK-50-201, V1.0, section 16).</p>			
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**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)
<p>6.1.1. Project (site)-level environmental impact assessments, scaled to the size and complexity of operations, are systematically completed prior to commencement of site disturbing activities</p>			
<p>6.1.2. In territories where construction, reconstruction, or renovation of melioration systems is planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The potential risks to the preservation of the protected nature values and environmental quality as well as to</li> </ul>			

<p>natural regulated water courses shall be identified;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>The precautionary principle shall be observed and action shall be taken to minimise the negative impacts on the environment, including restoration and compensation measures if necessary.</li> </ul>			
<p>6.1.3. 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>Guidance: This applies to both small and low intensity SLIMFs.</p>		
<p>6.1.4. The FME demonstrates knowledge of the possible negative impacts of its activities and implement measures to minimize them.</p>			
<p><b>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.</b></p>			
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>Verifiers, Examples, and Notes</p>	<p>Evaluation Team Notes</p>	<p>Conformance (C, NC or NA)</p>
<p>6.2.1. The FME shall make use of the best available</p>			

information and survey the fields prior to the economic activity to identify possible presence of specifically protectable species (see Appendix 3) and their habitats (e.g., areas of nesting).			
6.2.2. The FME shall establish, appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operation, conservation zones and/or other adequate protection measures for RTE species and their habitats. These conservation zones and other protection measures shall be described in the management plan.			
6.2.3. The FME shall demarcate RTE conservation zones on maps, and when appropriate and it does not interfere with conservation objectives, in the field. These zones shall be respected in forest management activities.			
6.2.4. The FME shall not harvest species that are included in Appendix I of CITES <b>(also applicable to SLIMF)</b> .			
6.2.5. 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 <b>(also applicable to SLIMF)</b> .	<p><i>Examples may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Fences are installed to control grazing when appropriate;</li> <li>-Established hunting or gathering seasons are respected in order to allow for reproduction.</li> </ul>		
6.2.6. Forest managers shall ensure protection of birds and mammals (including game) populations at	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fences are installed to control grazing when appropriate.</li> </ul>		

<p>managed forest areas which include:</p> <p>A) following restrictions of commercial activities in buffer zones around micro-reserves of black stork, black bran, red bran osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>, sea eagle, serpent-eagle, eagle medium, rock eagle, Lesser Spotted Eagle, a large falcon, eagle owl, Goosander (<i>Mergus merganser</i>), forest dove and green crows (<i>Coracias garrulous</i>):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All types of cutting are banned from the 1<sup>st</sup> of March till 31<sup>st</sup> of July;</li> <li>• Mechanized soil preparation is banned from 1<sup>st</sup> of March till 30<sup>th</sup> of June.</li> </ul> <p>B) The following restriction of commercial activities in a buffer zone around micro-reserves of Capercaillie's (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>) ruts:</p> <p>From 1<sup>st</sup> of March to 31<sup>st</sup> of July, forest management activities are forbidden other than reforestation by hand labor and fire fighting.</p> <p>C) In buffer zones around micro-reserves of white-tailed eagle and golden eagle, all cuttings, wood extraction and mechanized soil scarification are banned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established hunting or gathering seasons are respected in order to allow for reproduction.</li> </ul>		
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from 1 <sup>st</sup> February to 30rd October.			
6.2.7. To minimize the negative impacts of economic activity on nesting of birds in the forest, the intensity of forest exploitation shall be reduced between 1 April and 31 May in forests with a high density and variety of species of naturally nesting birds and from April 1 to June 30 thinning is not permitted in up to the 10-year-old pine and deciduous trees and 20-year-old spruce coppice, with the exception of a mean height of coniferous trees up to 0.7 m, and deciduous trees-up to 1 meter.			
6.2.8. Perennial, beaver-made ponds, flooded areas on naturally unregulated water courses, wetlands with dried trees and/or vegetation typical to excessively wet areas should at least partially be left untouched.			
For FMUs meeting SLIMF requirements, only 6.2.4, 6.2.5, and the following indicator(s) of this criterion apply; the following indicator(s) are not to be used for assessing non-SLIMF operations:			
6.2.9 Where information exists on RTE species and their habitats, the FME uses this information to map and protect these resources.			
6.2.10 The use of fire is controlled within the FMU and the FME helps in its			



prevention and control in contiguous areas.			
<b>C6.3. Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:</b> <b>a) Forest regeneration and succession.</b> <b>b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity.</b> <b>c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.3.1. Known ecological functions and values are described in the management plan and updated periodically as additional information/knowledge is acquired; the FME takes affirmative steps to eliminate gaps in information and knowledge about ecological functions within the FMU.			
6.3.2. In view of the scale of economic activities, forest shall be managed so that all characteristic stages of succession are retained in the ecologically valuable territories.			
6.3.3. For forests larger than 10,000 ha, the management plan incorporates principles of landscape and ecosystem-based planning; the plan contains goals pertaining to biological diversity for the range of spatial scales from genetic diversity to landscape diversity.			
6.3.4. Harvesting prescriptions maintain, enhance or restore natural forest composition; management is aimed at maintaining native biodiversity.			
6.3.5. Harvesting is			

<p>designed and laid out, over time and space, with consideration of the types, sizes and frequency of natural disturbances as well as connectivity of wildlife habitats.</p>			
<p>6.3.6. Regeneration after final harvests are timely and successful; young stands, either planted or naturally established, are well-stocked with desired species, vigorous and on the trajectory to healthy merchantable stands.</p>			
<p>6.3.7 For forests larger than 10,000 ha, the forest manager has developed and introduced forest management planning landscape ecological planning principles, with special attention to the proportion of old growth.</p>			
<p>6.3.8 Structures characterizing natural forests shall be retained in cutting areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In area of final felling on average 10 live trees per ha retained.</li> <li>• in areas of forest management in mature and overmature stands not less than 5 m<sup>3</sup> of dead-wood shall be retained, preferably large dimensions (&gt;30cm in diameter).</li> <li>• These trees are maintained, regardless of their position in the subsequent rotation periods.</li> <li>• Where possible, these trees are to remain in</li> </ul>			

groups.			
<p>6.3.9 Retained trees shall meet at least one of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees from the previous stand rotation period ;</li> <li>• Oaks, linden, pine, ash, elm, elm, maple, hornbeam;</li> <li>• The oldest and largest dimension of trees with broad, well-developed crown;</li> <li>• Trees with hollows;</li> <li>• Trees with burning scars;</li> <li>• Trees with large (D&gt; 50 cm) nests and rows of trees around them shall be retained in cutting areas</li> </ul>			
<p>6.3.10 In zones of transition from forest to an open ecosystem (meadows, grassland, ploughland) in the part of the forest stand whose width is equal to half of the average height of the superior stand: a) runts of D&gt;25 cm and certain undergrowth species shall be retained to an extent which does not interfere with forest management; b) primarily concentrates the trees to be retained.</p>			
<p>6.3.11 Forest management along rivers and lakes take into account the terrain - plains border the coast slopes, forest tree species composition of the border, shore slope, as well as differences from the surrounding forest due to massif.</p>			
<p>6.3.12 The Forest Manager shall not perform clear-</p>			

<p>cutting (shall retain density of growing trees on the first level of the forest stand not less than 0.4) in protection zones (contact (transition) zone) around swamps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For 10 to 100 hectare swamps — a zone of 20 meters;</li> <li>• For swamps larger than 100 hectares — a zone of 50 meters in types of forest-growing conditions on dry, drained, wet mineral soils and drained swamp soils, and a zone of at least 100 meters in types of forest-growing conditions on wet swamp soils.</li> </ul>			
<p>6.3.13 As regards terrain drop sites featuring distinctly elevated humidity, undergrowth, fallen deadwood, dry wood and regrowth should be maintained in micro-lowlands, and tellers (retained trees) should be concentrated around such spots within limits.</p>			
<p>6.3.14 The following requirements to wet forest management should be observed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In wet spruce forests (swamp forest, mixed forest on wet peat soil, wet deciduous forest, wet spruce forest and reeds) - undergrowth maintenance and at least partial regeneration beneath</li> </ul>			

<p>parent trees canopy shall be encouraged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In wet deciduous forests (swamp forest, mixed forest on wet peat soil, wet deciduous forest, and reeds where alder predominates), the number of tellers should be at least 30 with respect to 1 hectare and the formed teller groups.</li> <li>• Accordingly, in wet spruce and deciduous forests (swamp forest, mixed forest on wet peat soil, wet deciduous forest, wet spruce forest and reeds with spruce or alder predominating), the growing tree species regeneration shall be encouraged.</li> </ul>			
<p>6.3.15 The following shall not be subject to forestry activities unless it brings about some real danger of diseases and pest proliferation within the surrounding growing stock and/or any threats to labour safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Separate spots of windfall and wind broken trees where large-size trees grew;</li> <li>- Within fire-damaged stand older than 30 years, in groups or dispersed at random – survivor trees, as well as trees that perished in groups;</li> <li>- Wild apple trees and juniper.</li> </ul>			
<p>6.3.16 Within stands predominantly consisting of</p>			

oaks, linden, maples, hornbeams, elms, and flatterling elms, - regeneration of these forest tree species shall be provided at least to the extent equal to the proportion of particular species as recorded before the main cutting			
<b>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.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
<p>6.4.1. If the managed area does not contain the stands complying with the requirements of Indicators 6.4.1 or if such stands cover less than 10% of the managed forest territory, the areas shall be designated covering at least 10% of the total forest territory which could potentially develop into valuable territories regarding biodiversity. The following shall be identified and protected in the managed area (protection may include management activities ensuring ecological functionality of the specific site):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Forests in specially protected nature areas: Nature reserves, Nature parks, Protected Landscape Areas in controlled regime zone, nature reserve and nature park zones.</li> <li>2. Sites of a specially protected species, including microreserves and specially protected forest districts;</li> </ol>	<p>Note: RSE = representative sample ecosystem.</p> <p>Verifiers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FMP</li> <li>• Protected area maps</li> <li>• Maps of FMU</li> <li>• HCV assessment results</li> </ul>		

<p>3. Specially protected habitats, including microreserves and specially protected forest districts;</p> <p>4. Structural elements of the forest stand that are significant for biological diversity (according to the Nature Protection Regulations in Forest Management” definitions):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forests on mire and lake islands;</li> <li>• Forest patches;</li> <li>• Forest of flood-lands</li> <li>• Forest of restricted geological and geomorphological areas and 10m buffer around them;</li> <li>• Alluvial and ravine forests and 10m buffer around them;</li> <li>• Micro-lowlands;</li> <li>• Forest edges</li> <li>• Biologically valuable forest stands/specially protected forest districts;</li> <li>• Forests where dominant tree species are broad-leaved deciduous trees (according to the Cabinet Regulation Tree Felling in Forest);</li> <li>• Pine stands on dry mineral soil in restricted management zone along the Baltic Sea and the Riga Bay;</li> <li>• Urban forests</li> </ul>			
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<p>5. Forests in protection zones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The coastal protection zone along the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga;</li> <li>• Protection zones around water courses and water bodies;</li> <li>• Protection zones around mires.</li> </ul>			
<p>For FMUs meeting requirements, only the following indicator(s) apply; the indicator(s) are not to be used for assessing non-SLIMF operations.</p>			
<p>6.4.2. Representative samples of ecosystems are identified, recorded on maps, and excluded from the harvesting area. If existing representative samples of ecosystems are already adequately protected on other private or public properties within the region then no additional samples need to be identified and protected.</p>			
<p><b>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.</b></p>			
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>Verifiers, Examples, and Notes</p>	<p>Evaluation Team Notes</p>	<p>Conformance (C, NC or NA)</p>
<p>6.5.1. Management plan or other relevant documents include clear-cut printed guidelines with respect to the way of protection of aquatic resources located on the managed territory (e.g., streams, coastal waters, wetlands, rills and springs), and provide for reduce a possibility of soil erosion as a</p>			



result of management activities.			
6.5.2. Prior to conducting site disturbing activities, the FME shall have maps identifying areas of the transportation network utilized for the activity, including, as necessary primary and secondary roads, skid trails, landings, large drainage structures, watercourse crossings, buffer zones, and conservation areas.			
6.5.3. The FME and its contractors use the maps in the planning and implementation of management activities and demonstrate a working knowledge of the protection guidelines from 6.5.1 and, in fact, systematically implement them in day-to-day operations.			
6.5.4. The FME shall have written guidelines for the construction, maintenance, and closure of roads within the FMU and shall strictly follow these guidelines.	<i>Examples may include: -On permanent roads, surfaces are well drained, culverts are large enough to accommodate peak flow, and water bars are appropriately installed.</i>		
6.5.5. The FME does not log areas with extremely unstable slopes or at high risk of landslides and avoids inappropriate site disturbing activities in these areas.			
6.5.6 Land reclamation system reconstruction or renovation shall be planned and performed only depending on results of the environmental impact assessment in such areas:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natura 2000 areas and</li> </ul>			

<p>other specially protected natural territories (except Northern Biosphere Preserve the landscape protection zone, the drainage system construction, reconstruction or renovation of the specially protected natural areas conservation plan or individual management rules);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Micro-reserves, buffer zones of micro-reserves, except in accordance with industry expertise that is inconsistent with the micro-reserve or buffer purposes;</li> <li>• Previously unregulated natural watercourses, except in cases where drainage systems, construction, reconstruction or renovation relate to the restoration of the natural river flow or hydrological regime in basin of respective river; particularly vulnerable habitats, sensitive species wells and biologically valuable grasslands.</li> </ul>			
<p>6.5.7 Forest management in sites with wet soils needs to be carried out in such a way (considering time and methods) to inflict minimum damages to forest floor.</p>			
<p>6.5.8 Fertilizers shall not be used in forest management with the exception of wood ash.</p>			

6.5.9 Road construction or reconstruction is planned in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment.			
<b>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.</b>			
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 when non-chemical management has been proven ineffective or cost-prohibitive.	Verifiers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Silvicultural prescriptions are selected and designed to minimize the dependence on chemical pesticides.</li> <li>• The FMU can demonstrate evidence of reduction or elimination of the use of chemical pesticides over time.</li> </ul>		
6.6.2. If the FME uses chemical pesticides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The FME shall have a complete list of chemical pesticides used and the pesticides shall be certified for the use in country;</li> <li>• Pesticides classified as high risk according to FSC shall not be used in forest management;</li> <li>• The FME shall 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;</li> </ul>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The FME shall comply with all safety regulations during the transport, manipulation, application, and storage of chemical pesticides;</li> <li>• Where required by law, field personnel shall be properly licensed to apply chemical pesticides;</li> <li>• FME personnel and contractors shall use appropriate equipment and gear to assure safe application;</li> </ul> <p>The FME shall provide adequate supervision and training to personnel and contractors related to the transport, storage, manipulation, and application of chemical pesticides.</p>			
<b>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.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.7.1. Toxic chemicals and their containers are disposed of, off site, in an environmentally sound and legal manner.			
6.7.2. The FME shall have contingency plans and procedures for prevention and cleanup following spills or other accidents involving chemical pesticides, oils, fuels, and other chemicals.			
6.7.3. Appropriate kit for absorption of oil product spills shall be available in places, where refilling and service of forest management instruments and machines are carried out to prevent soil and water contamination.			

<b>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.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.8.1. There shall be no use (defined as commercial use as well as for research purposes) of genetically modified organisms within the FMU.	<b>Note: Non-conformance to this Indicator constitutes a <i>Major Failure</i> and precludes award of certification until appropriately corrected.</b>		
6.8.2 All use of biological control agents takes place within the context of an integrated pest management program that will document, minimize, monitor, and strictly control their application.			
6.8.3. Use of biological control agents takes place only where demonstrably necessary and only under strict protocols in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.			
<b>C6.9. The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</b>			
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 defined forest area 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.	<i>Verifier: Control and monitoring of exotic species is included in the management plan (C7.1) and monitoring program (C8.1).</i>		
6.9.3. In areas where invasive exotic plants are problematic, the FME develops and implements			

appropriate control measures.			
<b>C6.10. Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and</li> <li>b) does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; and</li> <li>c) will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.</li> </ul>			
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. Appropriate to the scale, intensity, and complexity of operations, there shall be a written management plan for the defined forest area that addresses the subjects and plan components enumerated in this criterion, above, as well as provisions for protection against forest fires, forest pests and diseases, illegal settlement and harvesting, hunting and fishing policies, safeguarding archaeological sites, and others.			
7.1.2. The management plan shall include long-term goals and objectives, as well as actions scheduled to achieve the objectives within the management plan period.			
7.1.3. There are sufficient resources invested in plan development so as to produce a functional and effective management plan.			
7.1.4. Major non-compliances with management plan shall be documented and explained.			
For FMUs meeting SLIMF			

<p>requirements, only the following indicator(s) of this criterion apply; the indicator(s) are not to be used for assessing non-SLIMF operations:</p>			
<p>7.1.5. A written management plan exists and is implemented. The management plan includes at least the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The objectives of management;</li> <li>b) A description of the forest;</li> <li>c) How the objectives will be met, harvesting methods and silviculture (clear cuts, selective cuts, thinnings) to ensure sustainability;</li> <li>d) Sustainable harvest limits (which must be consistent with FSC criteria 5.6);</li> <li>e) Plans for monitoring forest growth;</li> <li>f) Environmental/ social impacts of the plan;</li> <li>g) Conservation of rare species and any high conservation values;</li> <li>h) Maps of the forest, showing protected areas, planned management and land ownership;</li> <li>i) Pest and weed control planned;</li> <li>j) Duration of the plan.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>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.</b></p>			
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>Verifiers, Examples, and Notes</p>	<p>Evaluation Team Notes</p>	<p>Conformance (C, NC or NA)</p>
<p>7.2.1. The management plan is revised and updated at regular intervals, the frequency of which is appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations but</p>			



not longer than 5 years.			
7.2.2. The FME shall incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific or technical information (e.g., silvicultural, environmental, social, and economic conditions) in the revision or adjustment of the management plan, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.			
7.2.3 Over time, the management plan is kept current and relevant; as such, the plan is able to provide ongoing guidance to the management of the defined forest area.			
For FMUs 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:			
7.2.4 The management plan is revised and updated at regular intervals, the frequency of which is appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.			
<b>C7.3. Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
7.3.1. According to the scale and intensity of economic activities, some data are available showing that all employees operating in the forest (including subcontractors) are appropriately trained to perform their direct work duties when implementing the management plan.			

7.3.2. There is demonstrable compliance with and implementation of the management plan.			
7.3.3. Forest workers are supervised by qualified managers who provide guidance in the implementation of the management plan.			
For FMUs meeting SLIMF requirements, only the following indicator(s) apply:			
7.3.4 Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, forest workers (including subcontractors) are duly trained, according to a documented protocol or agreement, as to their role in implementing the management plan.			
<b>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.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
7.4.1. Interested stakeholders are readily able to obtain a public summary of the management plan, which provides information on the primary elements of the plan, including those enumerated in criterion 7.1. For example, the public summary is available on the website of the forest management entity.			
7.4.2. The public summary is appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.			
7.4.3 The public summary is appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.			

**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. Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, there are consistent and replicable procedures for the periodic monitoring of forest conditions, management activities, management plan compliance and chain-of-custody.			
8.1.2. The frequency and intensity of monitoring shall be based on the scale and intensity of the operation, as well as the fragility of the resources to be managed.			
8.1.3 Forest managers have a demonstrated track record of implementing monitoring protocols which are consistent and replicable over time.			
For FMUs meeting SLIMF requirements, only the following indicator(s) apply:			
8.1.4 Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, periodic monitoring of forest conditions, management activities, management plan compliance and chain-of-custody is conducted, and done so according to written protocols.			

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

<p>a) Yield of all forest products harvested.</p> <p>b) Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest.</p> <p>c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna.</p> <p>d) Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations.</p> <p>e) Costs, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.</p>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
<p>8.2.1. FME provides monitoring or uses reliable information at least on the indices defined in FSC criterion 8.2.:</p> <p>a) At least once a year, FME shall summarize and update the information on forest product yields and income from them.</p> <p>b) At least once a year, FME shall collect information on forest growth, regeneration, and forest health condition.</p> <p>c) FME shall support scientific research and shall use scientific information received from scientific and research institutions, highlighting changes in flora and fauna and the environmental impact rendered by timber works.</p> <p>d) FME shall take into account, and, where necessary, shall monitor the social impact of forest management.</p> <p>e) At least once a year, FME shall summarize and update information on forest management and cost effectiveness.</p>			
<p>8.2.2. Forest Manager possesses information on the annual or periodic volume of acquisition of commercial timber resource according to the scale and intensity of economic activities.</p>	<p><i>Examples may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Records of timber harvest volume by species</li> </ul>		
For FMUs 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:			
8.2.3. Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, forest managers periodically gather information on components a) – e) enumerated in this criterion, above.			
8.2.4. Information necessary to judge progress towards management objectives is collected and recorded. In all cases this will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amount of all commercial forest products harvested, by species;</li> <li>• Effects of operations as identified under Criteria 6.1;</li> <li>• Changes in features identified under Criteria 6.2;</li> <li>• Annual monitoring of high conservation values identified under Criteria 9.1;</li> <li>• Invasive exotic species.</li> </ul>	<i>Examples may include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Records of timber harvest volume by species</li> <li>- Records of NTFPs by volume</li> </ul>		
<b>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."</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
8.3.1. The FME shall have documented procedures for the tracking of certified products per SCS' COC indicators for FMEs.			
8.3.2. The FME shall consistently implement the COC procedures defined in indicator 8.3.1.			
<b>C8.4. The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the</b>			

<b>management plan.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
8.4.1. FME testifies its commitment to using flexible management practice implying the information collected in process of systematic monitoring being included into the revised plan of management and into the appendices enclosed to that plan, standard operation procedures, or into other planning documents (see criteria 7.2).			
8.4.2. FME testifies its commitment to using flexible management practice implying the information collected in process of systematic monitoring being included into the revised plan of management and into the appendices enclosed to that plan, standard operation procedures, or into other planning documents (see criteria 7.2).			
For FMUs meeting SLIMF requirements, only the following indicator(s) apply. These indicators cannot be used to evaluate non-SLIMF operations:			
8.4.3 The FME shall 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 its annexes, standard operating procedures or other planning documents (see Criterion 7.2).			

<b>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.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
8.5.1. The FME shall make available a public summary of the results of periodic monitoring that addresses the indicators listed in 8.2.1.			
8.5.2. The FME shall propose and respect an adequate and economically realistic time period for the periodic update of the public summary of monitoring, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.			
8.5.3 For timber investment programs, the FME shall make public, at least to its investors and/or shareholders, the results and analysis of the forest inventory program.			
For FMUs 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:			
8.5.4 Upon request, the FME shall make available the results of monitoring (see 8.2.4) pertinent to stakeholders who could be affected directly or indirectly by forest management activities (e.g., (neighboring properties, affected communities).			
8.5.5. The FME shall propose and respect an adequate and economically realistic time period for the periodic update of the public summary of monitoring,			

appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.			
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**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)
<p>9.1.1 The FME shall conduct an evaluation to identify High Conservation Values (HCV) attributes present in the FMU. This evaluation, at a minimum, shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation of regional or national conservation databases and maps;</li> <li>• consult with the State-developed guide to high-value forests, if any, or obtain information from the international guides to high-value forest (see High Conservation Value Forest assessment manual issued by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF);<sup>2</sup>;</li> <li>• Consideration of forest inventory data and observations from field workers, contractors or consultants of the FME;</li> <li>• Interviews with scientific experts, local communities, and other stakeholders;</li> <li>• Identification and documentation of</li> </ul>	<p>The presence or absence of the six HCV types should be documented in the HCV assessment for both large and SLIMF FMEs.</p> <p>HCV 1. Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia).</p> <p>HCV 2. Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant 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.</p> <p>HCV 3. Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.</p> <p>HCV 4. Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection,</p>		

<sup>2</sup> 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>possible threats to HCVs.</p>	<p>erosion control) HCV 5. Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g., subsistence, health). HCV 6. 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. For non-SLIMF operations, the FME shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a written evaluation for HCVs that includes the elements of 9.1.1 and proposals to protect these HCVs;</li> <li>• Provide a technical explanation for the HCVs identified and the recommendations presented for the protection of these attributes; and</li> <li>• Demonstrate that actions are being taken to protect and/or reduce threats to HCVs that stem from the FME's management activities.</li> </ul>			
<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, government officials or researchers to</p>			

identify HCVs and/or HCVFs. If there are HVCs or HCVFs present, the FME shall take all reasonable action to protect these values and/or reduce threats to them.			
9.1.4. The FME shall consult the national HCVF toolkit, if it exists, or other relevant regional information to identify potential HCVs. In the absence of sufficient national or regional guidance, the first and third parts of the international toolkit for HCV presence should be consulted (see footnote below).			
<b>C9.2. The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
9.2.1. The results of stakeholder consultation related to HCVs shall specify clearly the conservation values that were identified, as well as the proposed strategies for their maintenance, enhancement or reduction of threats. Non-SLIMF FMEs shall document this consultation.			
9.2.2. The FME shall maintain a list of all of pertinent stakeholders that the certifier can interview related to HCVFs.			
9.2.3. The results of stakeholder consultation shall indicate that the FME consistently considers and protects areas of HCV.			
<b>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</b>			

<b>management plan summary.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
9.3.1. In the plan of management and in the publicly available summary, FME describes high conservation values identified on the managed forest territory; moreover, FM describes steps taken to retain and/or multiply these values.			
9.3.2. The FME shall propose and respect an adequate and economically realistic time period for the periodic update of the public summary of areas of HCV, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.			
9.3.3. The FME shall provide evidence in the field that it takes measures to protect HCVs, consistent with a precautionary principle.			
<b>C9.4. Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
9.4.1. Measurable effectiveness indicators are developed and presented in the HCVF section of the management plan.			
9.4.2. Appropriate to the scale of and intensity of 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 according to the indicators developed in 9.4.1.			
9.4.3. The results of HCVF monitoring are used adaptively in modifying HCVF management and protection policies, as well in revising the management plan.			

**PRINCIPLE # 10: PLANTATIONS**

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.

**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.**

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.1.1. The management plan for plantations shall include silvicultural and socioeconomic objectives, as well as for conservation and restoration of natural forests.			
10.1.2. The FME shall demonstrate evidence of implementation of the objectives identified in 10.1.1 and their associated policies in forest 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. The spatial pattern			

of planted stands within the plantation forest operation mimics natural patterns found within the landscape.			
10.2.2. Streamside buffer zones are established, within which natural vegetative cover is maintained or established. Width of buffer zones meets or exceeds regional norms.			
10.2.3. Soil preparation is not carried out closer than 25m to water edge and at least a 30% mixture of broadleaved trees is ensured in 25m zone from forest edge in case of establishment of coniferous tree plantation.			
10.2.4. Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, natural vegetative corridors are maintained and, if necessary, established for wildlife movement.			
10.2.5 The plantation design includes stands with a diversity of age classes and rotation periods.			
<b>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.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.3.1. A variety of species or provenances are employed in the planting program.			
10.3.2. The management regime introduces diversity through practices such as: variable rotations, cut blocks of different size and			

shape, maintenance of volunteer (naturally established) seedlings within planted stands.			
10.3.3 Plantations with overall area 10 ha and more and with not included forest areas, brushwood or areas for natural restoration at least 5% of the whole plantation territory, proportion of one specie shall not exceed 95%.			
10.3.4 Plantations with overall area above 10 ha shall be evaluated in terms of impact on landscape visual qualities.			
10.3.5 The management plan shall include objectives, keynotes, and guidelines with respect to biodiversity.			
<b>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.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.4.1. Exotic tree species are planted only after an assessment of native species is conducted, in which it is demonstrated that native species cannot achieve comparable performance levels.			
10.4.2. Periodic monitoring is conducted of the adaptability of exotic stands, as indicated by measured levels of mortality, disease and insect outbreaks.			

10.4.3. Selection of plantation species and provenances is based on documented trials that demonstrate their suitability to the plantation sites and management objectives.			
10.4.4 Information about the source of seed or planting stock is presented in the management plan or another suitable document.			
<b>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.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.5.1 Representative samples of existing natural ecosystems are protected or restored in their natural state, in accordance with Criterion 6.4.			
<b>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.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.6.1. For FMUs larger than 1000 ha, plantation forest managers engage in field research to assess trends in soil productivity at least once per rotation; soil types found within the plantation forest area are mapped and considered during field operations.			
10.6.2. Prescriptions for the establishment, tending and final harvest of planted stands are designed with consideration to soil health and productivity.			
10.6.3. Site disturbing activities do not adversely			

impact aquatic and riparian resources including water quality and do not significantly alter the hydrologic characteristics of the site; planted stand establishment is limited to flat or gently sloping terrain.			
10.6.4 All stream courses within the operating area are identified and mapped.			
10.6.5 The management plan contains policies and guidelines for soil maintenance and water quality protection.			
<b>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.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.7.1. Plantation forest standard operating procedures include monitoring for pest and pathogen activity known to be present in Latvia.			
10.7.2. The management plan contains policies and guidelines for integrated pest management that are demonstrably followed in the field.			
10.7.3. The FME, through its policies and actions, demonstrates a commitment to progressively lessen the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers.			
10.7.4. Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, is the FME has			



a written fire prevention and suppression plan.			
<b>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.</b>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.8.1. Monitoring incorporates ecological and social impacts of plantation forest activities, see Criterion 4.4 and 8.2.			
10.8.2 Monitoring focuses on both on-site and off-site impacts such as landscape level effects generated by the species that are being planted.			
10.8.3 Species are selected for planting only after local trials and other empirical evidence demonstrates their suitability to the site.			
10.8.4 Acquisition of land for establishment of plantation forests does not adversely impact, without due compensation, local ownership rights or access/use patterns.			
For FMUs meeting SLIMF requirements, only the following indicator(s) apply:			
10.8.5 Monitoring incorporates ecological and social impacts of plantation forest activities, see Criterion 4.4 and 8.2.			
<b>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.</b>			

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.9.1. Records are of sufficient detail to enable the SCS auditor(s) to determine if conversion of natural forests to plantations has occurred since November, 1994.			
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.			

## ANNEX 1. Pertinent Laws and Regulations to Plantation Forest Management in Latvia

The table below lists acts and other regulations that are most relevant in forestry context.

Law name	Enforce from
Aizsargjoslu likums (The Law on the Protection Belts)	05.02.1997.
AP deklarācija "Par LR pievienošanas starptautisko tiesību dokumentiem cilvēktiesību jautājumos" (Declaration of the Supreme Soviet On Accession of the Republic of Latvia to the International Law on Human Rights)	04.05.1990.
Augu aizsardzības likums (Plant Protection Law)	17.12.1998.
Civillikums (The Civil Law of Latvia)	28.01.1937.
Civilprocesa likums (Civil Procedure Code)	14.10.1998.
Darba likums (Labour Law)	20.06. 2001.
Darba aizsardzības likums (Law On Work Safety)	06.06.2001.
Likums "Par arodbiedribam" (Law on Trade Unions)	13.12.1990.
Likums "Par akciju sabiedribam" (Law on Joint Stock Companies)	18.05.1993.
Likums "Par īpaši aizsargājamām dabas teritorijām" (The Law on Specially Protected Nature Areas)	02.03.1993.
Likums "Par ietekmes uz vidi novērtējumu" (Law on Environmental Impact Assessment)	14.10.1998.
Likums "Par obligāto sociālo apdrošināšanu pret nelaimes gadījumiem darbā un arodslimībām (Law on Compulsory Social Insurance in Respect of Accidents at Work and Occupational Diseases)	02.11.1995.
Likums "Par piesārņojumu" (The Law On Pollution)	15.03.2001.
Likums "Par Starptautiskās darba organizācijas konvencijām Nr. 81, 129, 144, 154, 158, 173" (Law on International Labour Organization Conventions No. 81, 129, 144, 154, 158, 173)	15.07.1994.
Likums "Par valsts un pašvaldību zemes īpašuma tiesībām un to nostiprināšanu zemesgrāmatā" (Law on the Land Ownership Right of the State and the Local Governments and their Securing in the Land Registry)	29.03.1995.
Likums "Par vides aizsardzību" (Law on Environmental Protection)	06.08.1991.
Likums "Par ugunsdrošību" (Law on Fire Safety)	24.03.1992.
Likums "Par uzņēmējdarbību" (Law on Entrepreneurship)	26.09.1990.
Likums "Par zemes dzīlēm" (Law on Subsoil)	02.05.1996.
Likums "Par 1992.g. 5. jūnija Riodežaneiro Konvenciju par bioloģisko daudzveidību" (The Law on Rio de Janeiro Convention of 05.06.1992 on Biological Diversity)	31.08.1995.
Komerclikums (The Commercial Law)	13.04.2000.
Krimināllikums (The Criminal Law)	17.06.1998.

Medību likums (The Hunting Law)	01.06.1995.
Meža likums (Law on Forests)	24.02.2000.
MK noteikumi Nr. 45 "Mikroliegumu izveidošanas, aizsardzības un apsaimniekošanas noteikumi (Cabinet Regulation No.45 "Regulations for Microreserve Establishment, Protection and Management")	30.01.2001.
MK noteikumi Nr. 50 "Obligātās sociālās apdrošināšanas pret nelaimes gadījumiem darbā un arodslimībām apdrošināšanas atlīdzības piešķiršanas un aprēķināšanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulations No. 50 "On Compulsory Social Insurance in Respect of Accidents at Work and Occupational Diseases and the Procedure for Estimating the Compensation and Granting it")	16.02.1999.
MK noteikumi Nr. 69 "Noteikumi par aizsargājamo ainavu apvidiem" (Cabinet Regulation No. 69 "Regulation on Protected Landscape Areas")	23.02.1999.
MK noteikumi Nr. 83 "Noteikumi par dabas parkiem" (Cabinet Regulation No. 83 "Regulation on Nature Parks")	09.03.1999.
MK noteikumi Nr. 90 "Mežaudzes novērtēšanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No. 90 "Procedure for Evaluation of Forest Stands")	27.02.2001.
MK noteikumi Nr. 94 "Meža zemes transformācijas kārtība (Cabinet Regulation No. 94 "Forest Land Transformation Procedure")	27.02.2001.
MK noteikumi Nr. 108 "Meža ieaudzēšanas un plantāciju mežu noteikumi (Cabinet Regulation No. 108 "Regulations on Afforestation and Plantation Forests")	06.03.2001.
MK noteikumi Nr. 109 "Noteikumi par profesionālās kvalifikācijas prasībām meža inventarizācijai un meža apsaimniekošanas plānošanai" (Cabinet Regulations No. 109 "On Vocational Competence Demands for Specialists in Forest Inventory and Management Planning")	06.03.2001.
MK noteikumi Nr. 110 "Zinātniskās izpētes mežu apsaimniekošanas kārtība (Cabinet Regulations No. 110 "Order for Managing Scientific Research Forests")	06.03.2001.
MK noteikumi Nr. 117 "Noteikumi par zaudējuma atlīdzību par īpaši aizsargājamo sugu indivīdu un biotopa iznīcināšanu vai bojāšanu" (Cabinet Regulation No. 117 "Regulation for the Compensation of Losses for Destroying or Damaging the Individuals of Protected Wildlife Species and the Habitats for the Same")	13.03.2001.
MK noteikumi Nr. 125 "Darba aizsardzības prasības darba vietās" (Cabinet Regulation No 125 "Requirements for Labour Protection in Workplaces")	19.03.2002.
MK noteikumi Nr. 131 "Noteikumi par aizsargājamiem dendroloģiskajiem stādījumiem (Cabinet Regulation No. 131 "Regulation on Protected Dendrological Plantations")	20.03.2001.
MK noteikumi Nr. 152 "Noteikumi par koku ciršanu meža zemēs" (Cabinet Regulation No. 152 "Regulation on Tree Felling in Forest Lands")	09.04.2002.

MK noteikumi Nr. 175 "Noteikumi par aizsargājamiem ģeoloģiskajiem un ģeomorfoloģiskajiem dabas pieminekļiem" (Cabinet Regulation No. 175 "Regulation on Protected Geological and Geomorphological Sites")	17.04.2001.
MK noteikumi Nr. 189 "Dabas aizsardzības noteikumi meža apsaimniekošanā" (Cabinet Regulation No. 189 "Nature Protection Regulations in Forest Management")	08.05.2001.
MK noteikumi Nr. 212 "Noteikumi par dabas liegumiem" (Cabinet Regulation No.212 "Regulation on Nature Reserves")	15.06.1999.
MK noteikumi Nr. 212 "Meža monitoringa veikšanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.212 "Order for Performing Forest Monitoring")	22.05.2001.
MK noteikumi Nr. 213 "Kārtība, kādā vērtējama ietekme uz vidi" (Cabinet Regulation No.213 "Procedures for Environmental Impact Assessment")	15.06.1999.
MK noteikumi Nr. 215 "Noteikumi par minimālo mēneša darba algu un minimālo stundas tarifa likmi" (Cabinet Regulation No. 215 "On Minimum Monthly Wages and Hourly Rate")	28.05.2002.
MK noteikumi Nr. 217 "Noteikumi par meža aizsardzības pasākumiem un ārkārtas situācijas izsludināšanu mežā" (Cabinet Regulation No. 217 "Regulations for Taking Forest Protection Measures and Declaring Emergency Situations")	29.05.2001.
MK noteikumi Nr. 251 "Medību noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No. 251 "Hunting Regulations")	08.08.1995.
MK noteikumi Nr. 263 "Meža aizsargjoslu ap pilsētām noteikšanas metodika" (Cabinet Regulation No. 263 "Method of Establishing Forest Protection Belt around Urban Centres")	22.05.2001.
MK noteikumi Nr. 283 "Baltijas jūras un Rīgas jūras līča piekrastes aizsargjoslas noteikšanas metodika" (Cabinet Regulation No. 283 "Method of Determining the Protected Belts of the Baltic Sea and the Riga Gulf")	04.08.1998.
MK noteikumi Nr. 284 "Ūdenstilpju un ūdensteču aizsargjoslu noteikšanas metodika (Cabinet Regulation No. 284 "Method of Determining the Protected Belts of Waterbodies and Watercourses")	04.08.1998.
MK noteikumi Nr. 292 "Noteikumi par valsts zemes nomu" (Cabinet Regulation No. 292 "On Renting the State-owned Land")	03.19.1995.
MK noteikumi Nr. 345 "Kārtība, kādā zemes lietotājiem nosakāmi zaudējumu apmēri, kas saistīti ar īpaši aizsargājamo sugu un migrējošo dzīvnieku nodarītajiem būtiskiem postījumiem" (Cabinet Regulation No.345 "On the Compensation for the Damage Done by Specially Protected and Migrating Animals")	31.07.2001.
MK noteikumi Nr. 354 "Īpaši aizsargājamo dabas teritoriju vispārējie aizsardzības un izmantošanas noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No. 354 "Regulations on the General Protection and Use of Specially Protected Nature Territories")	21.10.1997.

MK noteikumi Nr. 367 "Noteikumi par meža reproduktīvo materiālu (Cabinet Regulation No. 367 "Regulation on Forest Reproductive Material")	07.08.2001.
MK noteikumi Nr. 370 "Kārtība kādā aprēķināmi mežam nodarītie zaudējumi" (Cabinet Regulation No 370 "Order for Estimating the Damage Incurred to Forest")	24.10.2000.
MK noteikumi Nr. 396 "Noteikumi par īpaši aizsargājamo sugu un ierobežoti izmantojamo īpaši aizsargājamo sugu sarakstu" (Cabinet Regulation No. 396 "Regulation for the List of Specially Protected Species and the Species of Restricted Use")	14.11.2000.
MK noteikumi Nr. 398 "Meža atjaunošanas noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No. 398 "Forest Regeneration Regulations")	11.09.2001.
MK noteikumi Nr. 416 "Kārtība koku ciršanai ārpus meža zemes (Cabinet Regulation No. 416 "Procedures for Felling Trees Outside Forest Land")	28.11.2000.
MK noteikumi Nr. 421 "Par īpaši aizsargājamo biotopu veidu sarakstu" (Cabinet Regulation No. 421 "Regulations for the List of Specially Protected Habitats")	05.12.2000.
MK noteikumi Nr. 434 "Meža valsts reģistra informācijas aprites noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No. 434 "Regulations on Circulation of State Forest Register Information")	19.12.2000.
MK noteikumi Nr. 438 "Ugunsgrēku un to seku uzskaites noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No. 438 "On Recording the Cases of Fire and the Damage Inflicted")	24.11.1998.
Mk noteikumi Nr. 440 "Ugunsdrošības noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No. 440 "On Fire Safety")	30.12.1997.
Sugu un biotopu aizsardzības likums (The Law on Species and Habitat Protection)	16.03.2000.
Valsts meža dienesta likums (The State Forest Service Law)	25.11.1999.
Zemesgrāmatu likums (The Law of Land Registry)	22.12.1937.

## ANNEX 2. List of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and ILO Conventions

Name	Date of adoption
Convention for the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, Bern, 1979 (Bernes 1979. gada Konvencija par Eiropas dzīvās dabas un dzīvotņu aizsardzību)	17.12.1996.
Bonn Convention On Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Bonn, 1979 (Bonnas 1979. gada Konvencija par migrējošo savvaļas dzīvnieku sugu aizsardzību)	11.03.1999.
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Washington (CITES (Vašingtonas) 1973. gada Konvencija par starptautisko tirdzniecību ar apdraudētajām savvaļas dzīvnieku un augu sugām)	17.12.1996.
Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo, 1991) (Espo 1991. gada 25. februāra Konvencija par ietekmes uz vidi pārrobežu kontekstā)	01.07.1998.
Convention on the Protection of Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, Helsinki, 1974 and 1992 (Helsinki 1974.gada un 1992. gada Konvencijas par Baltijas jūras reģiona jūras vides aizsardzību)	03.03.1994.
Convention No. 87 "On the Freedom of Associations and the Right to Join into Organisations" (Konvencija "Par asociāciju brīvību un tiesību aizsardzību apvienojoties organizācijās", Nr. 87)	1948
Convention No. 151 "On Labour Relations" (Konvencija "Par darba attiecībām" Nr. 151)	1978.
Convention No. 158 "On Terminating Labour Relations at the Employer's Initiative" (Konvencija "Par darba attiecību pārtraukšanu pēc uzņēmēja iniciatīvas" Nr. 158)	02.06.1982. (25.08.1995.)
Convention No. 155 "On Labour Safety, Health Protection and Work Environment" (Konvencija "Par darba drošību un veselību un darba vidi" Nr. 155)	03.06.1981. (03.06.1981.)
Convention No. 81 "On Labour Inspection in the Industry and Trade" (Konvencija "Par darba inspekciju ražošanā un tirdzniecībā" Nr. 81)	11.07.1947. (25.08.1995.)
Convention No.148 "On Work Environment" (Konvencija "Par darba vidi" Nr. 148)	20.06.1977. (08.03.1994.)
Convention No. 154 "On Supporting Collective Negotiations" (Konvencija "Par kolektīvo pārrunu atbalstīšanu" Nr. 154)	03.06.1981. (25.08.1995.)
Convention no. 173 "On the Protection of Employee Claims in Case of the Employer's Insolvency" (Konvencija "Par strādājošo prasību aizsardzību uzņēmēja maksātnespējas gadījumā" Nr. 173)	03.06.1992. (23.06.1992.)
Convention No. 98 "On the Right to Join into Organizations and Make Joint Contracts" (Konvencija "Par tiesībām uz apvienotos organizācijās un kolektīvo līgumu slēgšanu" Nr. 98)	1949
Convention No. 144 "On Tripartite Consultations on Promoting the Use of International Labour Norms" (Konvencija "Par trīspusējām konsultācijām Starptautisko Darba Normu pielietošanas sekmēšanai" Nr. 144)	26.06.1976. (25.08.1995.)

Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, Paris, 1972 (Parīzes UNESCO 1972.g. 16. Novembra Konvencija par pasaules kultūras un dabas mantojuma aizsardzību)	17.02.1997.
2.2.1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsāres 1971. gada 2.februāra Konvencija par starptautiskas nozīmes mitrājiem, īpaši kāūdēnsputnu dzīves vidi)	29.03.1995.
Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro, 1992 (Riodežaneiro 1992. Gada 5. jūnija Konvencija par bioloģisko daudzveidību)	31.08.1995.
Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, Vienna, 1985 and the 1987 Montreal Protocol on the Substances Depleting the Ozone Layer (Vīnes 1985. gada Konvencija par ozona slāņa aizsardzību un tās 1987. gada Monreālas protokols par ozona slāni noārdošām vielām)	14.03.1995.
The United Nations framework convention on Climate Change, 1992 (ANO 1992. gada Vispārēja konvencija par klimata pārmaiņām)	23.02.1995



## ANNEX 3. List of Endangered Species

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For the database of endangered species in Latvia, please visit the CITES species database and the IUCN Redlist on the internet:

- <http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/species.html>
- <http://www.daba.gov.lv>
- MK noteikumi Nr. 421 "Par īpaši aizsargājamo biotopu veidu sarakstu" (Cabinet Regulation No. 421 "Regulations for the List of Specially Protected Habitats")
- MK noteikumi Nr. 45 "Mikroliegumu izveidošanas, aizsardzības un apsaimniekošanas noteikumi (Cabinet Regulation No.45 "Regulations for Microreserve Establishment, Protection and Management").

## ANNEX 4 Glossary

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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 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.

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

HCV1 Biologically valuable forest concentration areas – continuous areas of at least 100 ha (also as a part of large forest tracts) with at least 50% of the area consists of:

- An endangered, specially protected species habitats;
- Specially protected habitats;
- WKHs;
- Stands with large dimension (D>40cm) of dead wood in various stages of decomposition is more than 40 m<sup>3</sup>/ha;
- From a forest stands that has naturally developed for 20 or more years after a large-scale natural disturbance and still includes dead wood and scorched trees.

Within the biologically valuable forest concentration areas stands shall be assessed where the dominant species are above the age of: pine - 140 years, spruce - 120 years; birch - 100 years, ash - 100 years, alder - 80 years; aspen - 70 years. These stands shall be assessed if they comply with the criteria to be identified as biologically valuable forest stands.

HCV2 Forest areas covering more than 1000 ha where the total length of two or more natural watercourses exceeds 1 km per 100 ha of forest lands.

HCV3 Primary forests in meanders of rivers.

HCV4 Forest areas significant for providing basic environmental functions (e.g. in the coastal protection zone along the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga, in the protection belts along rivers and lakes, in protection zones around mires).

HCV5, HCV6 Forest areas which as a result of the consultation with local municipality have been recognized as important areas to the local community and included in planning documents.

**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.

**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.

Note: In the sense of the Latvian FSC Standard these are specially protected species. included in Annex 1 "Specially protected animal, flowering plant, spore plant, moss, lichen and mushroom species for which micro reserves should be established" and Part 1 of Annex 2 "Bird species for which reserves should be established at nesting or mating places" to Cabinet Regulation No 940 "Regulations on Establishment, Protection and Management of Micro-reserves" of 18 December 2012.

**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.