

Scientific Certification Systems

Forest Conservation Program- DRAFT Interim Standard for Latvia, version 1.1, August 2010.

FCP Final Interim Standard for Forest Management Certification in Latvia under the Forest Stewardship Council V1.1, August of 2010

A. INTRODUCTION

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

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.

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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.

Requirements equal.

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

Performance Indicators:

1.1.1) Forest managers must comply with the binding Latvian law, for example, LR 1.1.1. Forest managers must comply with existing LR regulatory requirements.

1.1.2) All staff, service providers and subcontractors, its employees, according to their job responsibilities must fulfill existing binding LR regulatory requirements.

1.1.3) The frequency and nature of regulatory violations shall *not* 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.
Note: Non-conformance to this Indicator constitutes a *Major Failure* and precludes award of certification until appropriately corrected.

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

Performance Indicators:

1.2.1) The FME shall demonstrate evidence that payments of taxes, royalties, and other charges are made in a timely manner. There is no evidence of chronic non-payment.

1.2.2) The FME shall maintain up-to-date records of all payments and make these available to the SCS auditing team.

1.3. In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.

Performance Indicators:

1.3.1) Forest managers meet international commitments to the Latvian forest management FSC national standard's current version of the second Annex, "International Agreements and Conventions Schedule"

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1.3.2) The FME's forest managers and field technicians shall have access to and understand the applicable international agreements and how these are respected in the forest management.

Verifiers:

- FME has a compendium of applicable international agreements that summarizes how the FME respects these.
- Said compendium is available in offices and field sites or camps.

1.4. 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.

Performance Indicators:

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 Forest manager has consulted with the certification bodies and / or the organization "Latvian Forest Certification Council" of possible solutions and Latvian FSC standard interpretation in order to prevent identified discrepancies from 1.4.1.

1.5. Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.

Performance Indicators:

1.5.1) The management plan contains express policies stating that the defined forest area shall be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement, harvesting or gathering of RTE species, and other unauthorized activities.

1.5.2) The FME dedicates sufficient resources (human and financial) to monitor for unauthorized activities in such a way that these are promptly detected and controlled and, if appropriate, reported to the relevant authorities.

1.5.3) The FME shall demarcate and clearly post the property boundaries of the Forest Management Unit (FMU) in the field.

1.6. Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.

Performance Indicators:

1.6.1) In the management plan, or another appropriate document of broad public availability, there is an express statement of commitment to the FSC Principles and Criteria. When the FME uses contractors, it shall require its contractors to comply with the FSC P&C.

Verifiers:

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- Contracts contain clear and appropriate language that requires contractors to comply with the FSC P&C
- 1.6.2) The FME shall provide access to written or electronic copies of the FSC Principles and Criteria to all management and field personnel; FME personnel demonstrate general knowledge of the P&C.
- 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) The FME shall not conduct activities that are deliberately in violation of the FSC P&C in forested areas outside the scope of the certificate.

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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.

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

Performance Indicators:

2.1.1) The FME shall demonstrate that land tenure and rights to the forest resource are clear, legally secure and documented.

Legal use rights may be associated with:

- *Authenticated copies of land titles of the FMU(s)*
- *fee-simple ownership*
- *long-term or renewable lease rights*
- *long-term or renewable exclusive management agreements*
- *other mechanisms allocating long-term or renewable management rights and responsibilities to the forest manager*

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 area is mapped in appropriate land border plans and identified on site/in field.

2.1.5) Forest manager has established documented procedure on mapping and identification of forest areas on site/in field.

2.1.6) Verification means: Plan of land borders; forest property is marked with border marks in field/on site.

2.2. 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.

Performance Indicators:

2.2.1) The FME shall identify the local communities, and/or other stakeholders with duly recognized legal or customary tenure or use rights within the FMU and describe the nature of these rights in the management plan. When appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, areas associated with these rights should also be included on maps of the FMU.

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Examples of legal or customary tenure or use-rights may include:

- public rights of way
- established easements
- collection of non-timber forest products
- hiking, fishing, hunting, or other recreation
- firewood collection
- visitation of culturally significant sites, such as religious shrines

- 2.2.2) When communities have delegated control of their legal rights or customary tenure or use in whole or in part, this must be confirmed by documented agreements and / or interviews with representatives of local communities.
- 2.2.3) Allocation of duly recognized legal or customary tenure or use rights by local communities to other parties shall be documented, with evidence of free and informed consent.
- 2.2.4) The forest manager has set only reasonable limits to free access to the forest and other forest resources according to current laws and regulations.
- 2.2.5) The forest manager has informed the public in the territory when imposing reasonable restrictions on the free area in the forest.

Examples of ways the public can be informed include:

- information signs
- articles
- publications

2.3. 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.

Performance Indicators:

- 2.3.1) Conflicts over land tenure and use rights shall be resolved or discussed in a systematic and legal manner, with preference given to voluntary and conciliatory methods rather than the through the judiciary mechanisms (e.g., courts).

Verifiers:

- Records or other relevant documents that detail past and current disputes over tenure claims and use rights are maintained and made available to SCS auditors.
- Agreements and / or mechanisms to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights are documented.

- 2.3.2) All property rights and use disputes are documented.

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2.3.3) Dispute resolution is used in LR statutory procedures

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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.

Performance Indicators:

3.1.1) 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.

Performance Indicators:

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.

Performance Indicators:

3.3.1) Criteria considered not applicable since Latvians are native people in their homeland.

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

Performance Indicators:

3.4.1) Criteria considered not applicable since Latvians are native people in their homeland.

PRINCIPLE #4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND WORKER'S RIGHTS

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

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

Performance Indicators:

4.1.1) Qualified people in local communities are given preferential opportunities in employment and contracting; the FME actively targets the local workforce

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Examples may include:

-employment and contractual opportunities offered locally before they are offered outside the region

- 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) There is active dialogue with representatives of workers and local communities about the identification of opportunities in employment, contracting, and training.
- 4.1.4) The FME gives preference to local vendors of equipment and miscellaneous services, subject to cost considerations

Examples may include:

*-timber being offered to local processors before being sold out of the region
-utilization of local banks, insurance companies, etc.*

- 4.1.5) Time of employment and price-wage systems for employees are organized according to laws, regulations, and collective bargaining and labour (if any).

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

Performance Indicators:

- 4.2.1) The FME demonstrates a priority towards worker safety; there is an active safety program, appropriate to the scale of operations
- 4.2.2) Written guidelines and policies, appropriate to the scale of operations, exist for workplace health and safety.
- 4.2.3) Appropriate safety equipment is made available to all workers; workers use safety equipment appropriately and demonstrate proper management and harvest techniques.
- 4.2.4) All equipment is periodically inspected and tested for safety performance.
- 4.2.5) Up-to-date information on pertinent health and safety laws and regulations is maintained by forest managers and appropriately disseminated to forest workers.
- 4.2.6) The FME maintains up-to-date safety records; such records indicate exemplary performance relative to industrial norms
- 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.

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- 4.2.8) The FME shall not allow the hiring or contracting of workers less than 15 years of age, except for training or educational purposes.
- 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) Logging and forestry workers are forbidden to work without personal protective equipment, and must abide by laws and regulations on work safety.

4.3. 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).

Performance Indicators:

- 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.

4.4. 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.

Performance Indicators:

- 4.4.1) The FME shall conduct a social impact evaluation related to forest management activities.
- 4.4.2) The FME shall document in writing the processes that it will use to interact and consult groups of interest, local communities, and neighbouring properties that could be affected during the planning and implementation of forest management activities.

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- 4.4.3) The FME shall demonstrate that the information derived from social impact evaluations and/or consultation processes with stakeholders has been considered and/or addressed in the planning and implementation of forest management activities.
- 4.4.4) The FME shall identify sites with cultural and archaeological value and protect its natural value.
- 4.4.5) The FME shall take into account the interests of the population when working in occupied territories.
Examples may include:
- Recognition of working time (do not disturb while night rest);
 - Precaution measures to warn on jobs processed;
 - Additional precautions while working nearby buildings and neighbouring properties;
 - Precaution measures to avoid roads damages.
- 4.4.6) The FME shall issue copies of AP synthesis (see FSV criteria 7.4) to municipalities and organizations who are interested in planning forest management.
- 4.4.7) The FME shall provide support for retaining of its employees.

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:

- 4.4.8) The FME shall maintain an up-to-date list of representatives of neighbouring properties or communities that could be affected during and after the implementation of forest management activities.
- 4.4.9) The FME maintains regular communication with neighbours 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.
- 4.5. 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.**

Performance Indicators:

- 4.5.1) Where they exist and can be established according to bonafide procedures, preferably within legal frameworks, forest managers recognize and respect legal or customary rights that are subject to influence from management activities on the defined forest area

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- 4.5.2) Forest managers endeavour, through actions and policies, to avoid adverse impacts to the property, resources and/or livelihoods of local peoples

- 4.5.3) Adequate procedures are employed for resolving grievances and providing fair compensation where forest operations lead to loss or damage to property, resources, livelihoods and/or legal or customary use rights of local peoples. These procedures should be agreed upon with the parties involved.

PRINCIPLE #5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST

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

5.1. 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.

Performance Indicators:

5.1.1) The FME has sufficient financial capital and human resources to implement the management plan, over the long run (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) The FME shall make adequate investments of capital, machinery and human resources so as to maintain or restore the productive capacity, ecological integrity and socio-economic profile of the FMU.

5.1.4) Commercial (income generating) activities are financially viable, given short and medium-term market conditions and costs.

Verifiers:

- Annual or semi-annual balance sheets or other records that show the costs of management activities conducted, as well as the income received.

5.2. Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.

Performance Indicators:

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

Examples may include:

- new products are explored and developed for common but less used species
- access to new markets is explored and developed

5.2.2) THE FME strives to diversify the mix of commercial products recovered from the forest and marketed.

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Examples:

- 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 forest carbon offsets projects.

5.2.3) The FME has a demonstrated track record of favouring or encouraging local processing of wood, latex, and other forest products.

5.3. Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.

Performance Indicators:

5.3.1) Harvesting operations minimize waste and residual stand damage

*Examples may include:
-bumper trees and directional felling techniques are used to minimize unintentional tree damage*

5.3.2) Yarding and log sorting operations minimize product wastage, de-grade and foregone revenue opportunities.

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:

- The FME locates charcoal kilns or portable sawmills only after evaluating the environmental impacts of the selected sites.

5.3.5) While minimizing undue waste, forest managers establish field guidelines that recognize the ecological value of biomass (e.g., tops and branches) being left on site; forest managers have written guidelines for retention of downed woody debris and standing snags within harvest areas.

Verifier:

- Written field guidelines for the biomass retention (snags, tops, and downed woody debris).

5.4. Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.

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Performance Indicators:

- 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.

Examples may include:

-compatible uses such as recreation, ecotourism, hunting, fishing, Christmas tree cutting, etc.

5.5. Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.

Performance Indicators:

- 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.

5.6. The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels that can be permanently sustained.

Performance Indicators:

- 5.6.1) For natural forest management operations, the 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 regeneration.

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- 5.6.2) Average annual harvests shall not exceed the calculated AAC. **Note: Non-conformance to this Indicator constitutes a *Major Failure* and precludes award of certification until appropriately corrected.**
- 5.6.3) For plantation forest management, the growth and harvest rates (for thinning and final cuts), shall be based on well-documented information and/or field trials, and be consistent with the observed behaviour of the species at the national or regional level.
- 5.6.4) Harvest levels shall be set such that inventories of desired species increase over time, unless it is established (in the management plan) that current inventories (measured in average standing volume per hectare) exceed optimal levels.
- 5.6.5) For operations entailing regular annual harvesting, the 10-year rolling average harvest level does not exceed average annual increment.
Verifiers:
- Comparison of records of harvested volume by species (or species groups) with the AAC established for the species (or species groups).
- 5.6.6) 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—between entries.
Verifiers:
- Comparison of records of harvested volume by species (or species groups) with the AAC established for the species (or species groups).
- 5.6.7) For operations harvesting non-timber forest products, management strategies incorporate the best available monitoring and inventory data to calculate a conservative growth and harvest rates; harvest of non-timber forest products is also subject to Indicator 5.6.2.
- 5.6.8) For timber investment¹ management programs: If growth projections are used to 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).

¹ 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

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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.

6.1. 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.

Performance Indicators:

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

6.1.2) In areas where drainage is planned in VD-natural essence, reconstruction or renovation of: system construction, reconstruction or renovation:

- Identify the possible risks to biological conservation of the environment, protected biodiversity and environment conservation, the habitat (included in Latvian or EU Habitats Directive), the protected species in Latvian or EU Habitats Directive, the Special Protection discoveries and biologically valuable grasslands, as well as regulated natural water courses;
- Comply with maximum precaution principle in order to prevent adverse affects to the remaining wet (spruce, deciduous and broadleaf) forest fragments of landscape and natural watercourses;
- Plan measures to minimize sediment and nutrient flow into the drainage systems in natural water bodies and water courses.
Examples may include: nosēddīķus, wetlands, dams, cascade, etc.
- In territories where roads construction or reconstruction is planned a possible risks to biological diversity is identified, including the protected species in Latvian or EU Habitats directive, natural biologically valuable forest lands and grasslands and it's buffer zones.

6.1.3) Planned management activities are appropriately modified based upon the results of the environmental impact assessments.

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:

6.1.4) The FME demonstrates knowledge of the possible negative impacts of its activities and implement measures to minimize them.

6.2. Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and

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**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.**

Performance Indicators:

- 6.2.1) Using the best information available and the results of field surveys, the FME shall identify the potential presence of rare, threatened or endangered (RTE) species (see Appendix 3) and their habitats within the FMU (e.g., nesting and feeding areas).
- 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 **(also applicable to SLIMF)**.
- 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 **(also applicable to SLIMF)**.

Examples may include:

- Fences are installed to control grazing when appropriate.
- Established hunting or gathering seasons are respected in order to allow for reproduction.

- 6.2.6) Forest managers shall ensure protection of birds and mammals (including game) populations at managed forest areas which include:
- A) following restrictions of commercial activities in buffer zones around micro-reserves of black stork, black bran, red bran osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*, sea eagle, serpent-eagle, eagle medium, rock eagle, Lesser Spotted Eagle, a large falcon, eagle owl, Goosander (*Mergus merganser*), forest dove and green crows (*Coracias garrulous*):
- all types of cutting are banned from the 1st of March till 31st of August;
 - mechanized soil preparation is banned from 1st of first March till 30th of June.
- B) Prohibition of forest harvesting activities in a buffer zone around micro-reserves of Capercaillie's (*Tetrao urogallus*) ruts:

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- From 1 March to 31st August, when forest management activities are forbidden other than reforestation by hand labor and fire fighting.
- From April 1 to June 30, when thinning is not permitted up to the 10-year-old pine and deciduous trees and 30-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.

6.2.7) To reduce the negative effects of disturbance on forest birds breeding success, economic activity must be carried out in the period from 1st April 31st May felling and delivery volumes in any of the indicators (per month) would be less than the average for every month the rest of the year.

6.2.8) Perennial, beaver ponds, appludinājumi, (overflows) natural watercourses, wetlands, characterized by dead trees and / or wet sites characterized by vegetation remain unimpaired, with a buffer zone around wetlands.

6.2.9) From April 1 to June 30, care work is not done up to 10-year-old pine and deciduous trees and 30-year-old spruce coppice, coppice with the exception of a mean height of coniferous trees is up to 0.7 m, while deciduous trees can be up to 1 meter.

6.2.10) Perennial, beaver ponds created, their systems and appludinājumi / wetlands to natural water courses, which is characterized by dead trees and / or wet sites characterized by vegetation, at least in part, remain unaffected.

For FMU's 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:

6.2.11) Where information exists on RTE species and their habitats, the FME uses this information to map and protect these resources.

6.2.12) The use of fire is controlled within the FMU and the FME helps in its prevention and control in contiguous areas.

6.3. Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:

- a) Forest regeneration and succession.**
- b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity.**
- c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.**

Performance Indicators:

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.

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- 6.3.2) Subject to the scale of operations, the forest is managed so as to maintain a full range of successional stages at distributions within the range of natural variability.
- 6.3.3) 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 all naturally occurring species.
- 6.3.5) Harvesting is 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.
- 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.
- 6.3.7) Forest manager has developed and introduced forest management planning landscape ecological planning principles, with special attention to the growing proportion.
- 6.3.8) The natural forest is characterized by the structure:
- Final felling averages over a minimum of 10 ha of retained live trees.
 - Abandoned trees are maintained, regardless of their position in the subsequent cycle time.
 - Where possible, these trees are to remain in groups.
- 6.3.9) Retained treated trees meets at least one of the following criteria:
- trees from the previous cycle;
 - oaks, linden, pine, ash, elm, maple, hornbeam;
 - the oldest and largest dimension of trees with broad, well-developed crown;
 - trees with hollows;
 - trees with burning scars;
 - Trees with large ($D > 50$ cm) nests and rows of trees around them.
- 6.3.10) Transition zones from the forest to an open ecosystem (grassland, pasture, arable land), forested part of the width is equal to half the average height of trees. Trees are fully retained with $D > 20$ cm and undergrowth species do not interfere forestry activities;
- 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.

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6.3.12) In forest border areas with swamps where cutting of trees is performed in dry and drained mineral soils the density - not less than 0,4- has to be retained:

- in area of at least 20 m for swamps with area of 1-100 ha;
- in area of at least 50 m for swamps with area above 100 ha - in forest types with dry, drained and wet mineral soils, drained turf soils;
- and - at least 100 m in forest types with wet turf soils.

6.3.13) The underwood, fallen deadwood, runts, windfalls and regrowth have to be retained and where possible, retainable trees have to be concentrated in wet micro- lowlands.

6.3.14) The following requirements have to be met for management of wet forests:

- The maintenance of regrowth and at least partial renovation of it under cover of parent wood is encouraged in wet spruce woods (marshlands, mixed forests on wet peat soils, wet rich deciduous forests and reeds).
- Allowable clear cutting area up to 2 ha; at least 30 live trees per 1 ha have to be retained and groups of retained trees created in wet deciduous woods (marshlands, mixed forests on wet peat soils, wet rich deciduous forests, wet mast spruce forest and reeds with dominating black alder).

6.3.15) The following areas in managed area are not a subject of forest management unless that is not causing real threats of diseases and spawning of pests to neighbouring stands:

- at least 10% of woods older than 40 years with burning sites, windfalls and wind broken trees within further 20 years from moment of disturbance;
- non-transformed windfalls;
- burned stands older than 30 years.

6.3.17) In stands dominated by ash, maple, oak, elm, flatterling elm and hornbeam it is necessary to ensure the renovation of these species forest stands at extent at least equal to proportion before start of main cutting.

6.4. 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.

Performance Indicators:

6.4.1) The FME compiles and reviews information on the amount of representative samples of existing ecosystems protected within the regional landscape, both within and outside of the FMU.

6.4.2) Where deficiencies (i.e., opportunities to protect and restore the extent of certain representative sample ecosystems) exist within the landscape, the FME takes actions to make contributions to the regional network.

Verifiers:

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- Information on regional protected areas, such as national parks, is reviewed and analyzed in the management plan.
 - The FME documents and takes measures to prevent adverse effects to protected areas.
- 6.4.3) Protected areas within the FMU are delineated on maps and protection policies are included in the management plan.
- 6.4.4) The managed area should retain:
- natural forest habitats;
 - rare, protected and threatened species habitats;
 - specially protected habitats;
 - forests of ravines and hillsides with a slope of at least 25°, and slope-length of 20 m.
- 6.4.5) When managed area does not contain stands conforming to criteria 6.4.1 or these are less than 7%, territories of at least 7% of the total forest area are to be determined with potential to transform into biodiversity valuable. For FMU's meeting requirements, only the following indicator(s) apply; the indicator(s) are not to be used for assessing non-SLIMF operations.
- 6.4.6) 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.

6.5. 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.

Performance Indicators:

- 6.5.1) The management plan, or another pertinent policy document, contains express written guidelines for the protection of water resources (e.g., stream courses and adjoining riparian areas, wetlands, seeps and springs) found within the FMU and minimization of soil erosion and damage to forest vegetation as a result of site disturbing activities.
- 6.5.2) Prior to conducting site disturbing activities, the FME shall prepare maps, of sufficient scale and detail, in which primary and secondary roads, skid trails, landings, large drainage structures, watercourse crossings, buffer zones, and conservation areas are identified.
- 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.

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- 6.5.4) The FME shall have written guidelines for the construction, maintenance, and closure of roads within the FMU.
- 6.5.5) Road construction, maintenance and closure standards are followed in the field; road surfaces are well drained, culverts are large enough to accommodate peak flow, and water bars are appropriately installed.
- 6.5.6) 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.
- 6.5.7) Reconstruction of drainage systems or refurbishment are planned and carried out in the following areas:
- Natura 2000 areas and 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);
 - micro-reserves, buffer zones of micro-reserves, except in accordance with industry expertise that is inconsistent with the micro-reserve or buffer purposes,
 - previously unregulated natural watercourses, except in cases where drainage systems, construction, reconstruction or renovation relate to the natural river flow
- 6.5.8) Road construction or reconstruction is not planned or carried out in the following:
- Natura 2000 areas and other specially protected natural areas reserve, strict regime, controlled regime, the nature reserve and natural park areas, except when required by the specially protected natural areas conservation plan or individual management rules, micro-reserves, buffer zones of micro-reserves;
 - .Protected habitats (included in Latvian or EU Habitats Directive, the list of protected habitat), natural forest habitats, their buffer zones and potential sites of buffer zones;
 - Previously unregulated natural watercourses, except in the case of drainage systems construction, reconstruction or renovation related to the natural flow of river or adjacent to those areas of hydrological regime restoration;
 - Particularly vulnerable habitats, sensitive species wells and biologically valuable grasslands.
- 6.6. 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**

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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.

Performance Indicators:

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:

- Silvicultural prescriptions are selected and designed to minimize the dependence on chemical pesticides.
- The FMU can demonstrate evidence of reduction or elimination of the use of chemical pesticides over time.

6.6.2) If the FME uses chemical pesticides:

- The FME shall have a complete list of chemical pesticides used;
- 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;
- The FME shall comply with all safety regulations during the transport, manipulation, application, and storage of chemical pesticides;
- Where required by law, field personnel shall be properly licensed to apply chemical pesticides;
- FME personnel and contractors shall use appropriate equipment and gear to assure safe application;
- The FME shall provide adequate supervision and training to personnel and contractors related to the transport, storage, manipulation, and application of chemical pesticides.

6.7. 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.

Performance Indicators:

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) There are on-site facilities for secure collection of waste, including oil and fuel.

6.8. Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally

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accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.

Performance Indicators:

- 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. **Note: Non-conformance to this Indicator constitutes a *Major Failure* and precludes award of certification until appropriately corrected.**
- 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.
- 6.9. The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.**

Performance Indicators:

- 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.
Verifier:
- Control and monitoring of exotic species is included in the management plan (C7.1) and monitoring program (C8.1).
- 6.9.3) In areas where invasive exotic plants are problematic, the FME develops and implements appropriate control measures
- 6.10. Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion:**
- a) entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and**
 - b) does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; and**
 - c) will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.**

Performance Indicators:

- 6.10.1) The FME shall not convert forests or threatened non-forested habitats to plantations or other non-forest land uses, except when the conversion complies with indicators 6.10.2 to 6.10.5.

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- 6.10.2) If there is conversion, this shall not exceed 5% of the FMU during any given period of 5 years and this conversion shall have the backing of the responsible government agencies and the support of social and environmental stakeholders (See FSC-ADV-30-602).
- 6.10.3) If the FME has the intention of creating plantations or converting to other non-forested land uses in forests or savannahs, the FME shall supply written, verbal or visual guidelines to its staff for the identification of acceptable areas and implement technically appropriate management practices.
- 6.10.4) Plantations or conversion to non-forested land uses shall not occur in High Conservation Value Forests or Areas.
- 6.10.5) The FME shall demonstrate the long-term conservation benefits of converting portions of the FMU to plantations or non-forest land.
Examples:
- The installation of a charcoal kiln allows for the use of small woody residues, which can be proven to improve the conditions for the regeneration of some commercial species.
 - The construction of a look-out tower to detect illegal logging or forest fires.
- 6.10.6) The FME shall not conduct activities that contribute to the destruction or substantial alteration of natural forest, or other natural ecosystem types, in areas outside of the FMU under evaluation.

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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.

Performance Indicators:

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. **Note: Non-conformance to this Indicator constitutes a *Major Failure* and precludes award of certification until appropriately corrected.**

7.1.2) The management plan contains both long term goals and objectives as well as short and near term tactical direction.

7.1.3) There are sufficient resources invested in plan development so as to produce a functional and effective management plan.

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:

7.1.4) A written management plan exists and is implemented. The management plan includes at least the following:

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- a) the objectives of management;
- b) a description of the forest;
- c) how the objectives will be met, harvesting methods and silviculture (clear cuts, selective cuts, thinnings) to ensure sustainability;
- d) sustainable harvest limits (which must be consistent with FSC criteria 5.6);
- e) plans for monitoring forest growth;
- f) environmental/ social impacts of the plan;
- g) conservation of rare species and any high conservation values;
- h) maps of the forest, showing protected areas, planned management and land ownership;
- i) Pest and weed control planned;
- j) Duration of the plan.

7.2. 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.

Performance Indicators:

- 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.
- 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 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:

- 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.

7.3. Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.

Performance Indicators:

- 7.3.1) Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, there is a documented protocol by which forest workers (including subcontractors) are duly trained as to their role in implementing the management plan

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- 7.3.2) Records are maintained as to when each forest worker received management plan training
- 7.3.3) There is a demonstrable track record of compliance with and implementation of the management plan
- 7.3.4) Forest workers are supervised by qualified managers who provide guidance in the implementation of the management plan.

For FMU's meeting SLIMF requirements, only the following indicator(s) apply:

- 7.3.5) Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, forest workers (including subcontractors) are duly trained, according to a documented protocol, as to their role in implementing the management plan
- 7.4. 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.**

Performance Indicators:

- 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.
- 7.4.2) The public summary is appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations,
- 7.4.3) The public summary is updated periodically, at a frequency appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations,

For FMU's meeting SLIMF requirements, only the following indicator(s) apply. These indicators cannot be used to evaluate non-SLIMF operations:

- 7.4.4) Interested stakeholders are readily able to obtain a public summary of the management plan.
- 7.4.5) The FME shall update all public summaries at least one time during the period of validity of the forest management certificate (5 years).

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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.

8.1. 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.

Performance Indicators:

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 FMU's 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.

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

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

Performance Indicators:

8.2.1) Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, the FME's monitoring plan shall include protocols to periodically gather information on components a) – e) enumerated in this criterion, above.

8.2.2) Written records shall be kept of the annual or periodic harvest levels of each commercial forest product, at levels of specificity appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.

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Examples may include:

- *Records of timber harvest volume by species*

8.2.3) The FME shall demonstrate a commitment to acquiring and utilizing information on key indicators pertaining to the production, environmental and socio-economic profiles of its operation.

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:

8.2.4) Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, forest managers periodically gather information on components a) – e) enumerated in this criterion, above.

8.2.5) Information necessary to judge progress towards management objectives is collected and recorded. In all cases this will include:

- Amount of all commercial forest products harvested, by species
- Effects of operations as identified under Criteria 6.1
- Changes in features identified under Criteria 6.2
- Annual monitoring of high conservation values identified under Criteria 9.1
- Invasive exotic species

Examples may include:

- *Records of timber harvest volume by species*
- *Records of NTFPs by volume*

8.3. 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."

Performance Indicators:

8.3.1) The FME shall have written procedures for the tracking of certified products, also known as "Chain-of-Custody" (COC). At a minimum, these procedures shall include:

- The measures to control and track data related to volume and origin of harvested forest products (e.g., weights, inventories, and other measurements) in the forest, during transport, in logging decks and landings and processing centres controlled by the FME;
- A description of the FSC product group and the FME's certificate code (e.g., SCS-FM/COC-XXXXXX) on invoices and other documentation related to the sale of certified products; and
- A description of the measures used to segregate certified forest products from non-certified ones through marking, labels, separate storage, and invoices or other documentation that accompanies the product until the point of sale, or the "forest gate."

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- 8.3.2) The FME shall consistently implement the COC procedures defined in indicator 8.3.1.
- 8.3.3) If the FME wants to use the logo and/or other trademarks of FSC or SCS on its products or in publications, including websites, it shall ask for documented approval from SCS prior to use.
- 8.4. The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.**

Performance Indicators:

- 8.4.1) 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).
- 8.4.2) The evolution of the management plan over successive revisions demonstrates that the results of monitoring are being appropriately incorporated and used to implement new or modified procedures in the field.

For FMU's 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).
- 8.5. 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.**

Performance Indicators:

- 8.5.1) The FME shall make available a public summary of the results of periodic monitoring that addresses the indicators listed in criterion 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.

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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:

- 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., (neighbouring properties, affected communities).

- 8.5.5) The FME shall update all public summaries at least one time during the period of validity of the forest management certificate (5 years).

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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.

9.1 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.

Performance Indicators:

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:

- Consultation of regional or national conservation databases and maps;
- Consultation of the national HCVF toolkit, if it exists, or the first and third parts of the international toolkit for HCV presence (see *HCVF Toolkit* by WWF)²;
- Consideration of forest inventory data and observations from field workers, contractors or consultants of the FME;
- Interviews with biologist and scientific experts, local communities, and other stakeholders;
- Identification and documentation of possible threats to HCVs.

9.1.2) For non-SLIMF operations, the FME shall:

- Provide a written evaluation for HCVs that includes the elements of 9.1.1 and proposals to protect these HCVs;
- Provide a technical explanation for the HCVs identified and the recommendations presented for the protection of these attributes; and
- Demonstrate that actions are being taken to protect and/or reduce threats to HCVs that stem from the FME's management activities.

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:

9.1.3) The FME shall consult environmental stakeholders, government officials or researchers to 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.

² *HCVF Toolkit: Guidance for High Conservation Value Forests assessment*
(http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/conservation/forests/tools/hcvf_toolkit/)

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9.1.4) The FME shall consult the national HCVF toolkit, if it exists, or the first and third parts of the international toolkit for HCV presence (see footnote below).

9.2. The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.

Performance Indicators:

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.

9.3. The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.

Performance Indicators:

9.3.1) The FME, in the management plan and its public summary, shall describe the conservation values of each area of HCV identified in the FME, as well as the actions taken to maintain and/or enhance these values.

9.3.2) A) For non-SLIMF operations, 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.

B) For SLIMFs, the FME shall update all public summaries at least one time during the period of validity of the forest management certificate (5 years).

9.3.3) The FME shall provide evidence in the field that it takes measures to protect HCVs, consistent with a precautionary approach.

9.4. Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.

Performance Indicators:

9.4.1) Measurable effectiveness indicators are developed and presented in the HCVF section of the management plan

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- 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

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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.

10.1. 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.

Performance Indicators:

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.

10.2. 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.

Performance Indicators:

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 meet or exceed regional norms

10.2.3) Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, natural vegetative corridors are established for wildlife movement

10.2.4) The plantation design includes stands with a diversity of age classes and rotation periods.

10.3. Diversity in the composition of plantations is preferred, so as to enhance economic, ecological and social stability. Such diversity may include the size

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and spatial distribution of management units within the landscape, number and genetic composition of species, age classes and structures.

Performance Indicators:

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 plantation forest management plan contains biodiversity objectives, policies and guidelines

10.4. 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.

Performance Indicators:

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

10.5. 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.

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Performance Indicators:

- 10.5.1) Representative samples of existing natural ecosystems are being protected or restored in their natural state, on- or off-site
- 10.5.2) The percentage of the plantation forest operation that is devoted to natural forest cover exceeds regional plantation forestry norms
- 10.5.3) Areas of natural forest or natural vegetative cover within the FMU are delineated on maps and, as necessary, delineated in the field for purposes of assuring protection

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:

- 10.5.4) Plantation design and management practices shall maintain or enhance ecological values, especially those that relate to protected areas.
- 10.5.5) Where it is ecologically and economically unviable for a small plantation to manage a restoration area, the plantation manager or group is able to demonstrate off-site contributions to the management and/or restoration of similar landscape and ecosystem types either jointly with other adjacent small operations, or in-kind by supporting an existing protected area.

10.6. 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.

Performance Indicators:

- 10.6.1) Plantation forest managers actively engage in field research to assess trends in soil productivity; 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

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10.6.5) The management plan contains policies and guidelines for soil maintenance and water quality protection

10.7. 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.

Performance Indicators:

10.7.1) Plantation forest standard operating procedures include regular monitoring for pest and pathogen activity, inordinate levels of mortality, and the spread of invasive exotic plants.

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.

10.8 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.

Performance Indicators:

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

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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 FMU's 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.

10.9 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.

Performance Indicators:

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) Any such conversions, if they have taken place, can be demonstrated to not be attributable to the current managers/owners

10.9.3) In cases of conversion post-November 1994, actions shall be taken that compensate said conversion convincingly with the support of field evidence and interviews and/or evidence obtained from stakeholders.

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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 arodbiedribām" (Law on Trade Unions)	13.12.1990.
Likums "Par akciju sabiedrībām" (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.

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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 ieadzēšanas 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.

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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.

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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.

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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 apvienošanas 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.

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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

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ANNEX 3. List of Endangered Species

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.iucnredlist.org/>

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ANNEX 4. Glossary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Genetically modified organisms: Biological organisms which have been induced by

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various means to consist of genetic structural changes.

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

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

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

- a) forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant : concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance
- b) forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems
- c) forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control)
- d) forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

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

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

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

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

Natural cycles: Nutrient and mineral cycling as a result of interactions between soils,

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water, plants, and animals in forest environments that affect the ecological productivity of a given site.

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

Non-timber forest products: All forest products except timber, including other materials obtained from trees such as resins and leaves, as well as any other plant and animal products.

Other forest types: Forest areas that do not fit the criteria for plantation or natural forests and which are defined more specifically by FSC-approved national and regional standards of forest stewardship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Use rights: Rights for the use of forest resources that can be defined by local custom, mutual agreements, or prescribed by other entities holding access rights. These

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rights may restrict the use of particular resources to specific levels of consumption or particular harvesting techniques.