

**SCS Generic Interim Standard  
For Natural Forest and Plantation Forest  
Management Certification  
Under the Forest Stewardship Council  
V. 2.0 October, 2010**

**A. INTRODUCTION**

This document contains the Generic Interim Standard used by Scientific Certification Systems. The scope of these standards includes both natural and plantation forests, and is intended for world-wide use. This standard is designed to be locally adapted for use in regions without an FSC approved standard. The SCS process for locally adapting this standard is detailed in FM\_GUI\_StandardAdaption (Appendix A of the FM Auditor Handbook).

**B. STANDARD USE**

Conformance with locally adapted standards produced from this generic standard shall be determined by evaluating observed performance at the Forest Management Unit (FMU) level against each indicator of the standard, and in comparison with any performance threshold(s) specified for the indicator. The indicators here apply to all forests covered by the scope of the standard, including SLIMF's, unless otherwise specified.

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

**PRINCIPLE #1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND FSC PRINCIPLES**

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

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

**Performance Indicators:**

1.1.1) The Forest Management Enterprise (FME) maintains an up-to-date register of all pertinent statutes and bodies of regulations and makes this register available to forest managers

1.1.2) The frequency and nature of regulatory violations shall not be indicative of widespread and systemic non-compliance; when violations occur, forest managers act promptly to correct and remediate the circumstances associated with the violation

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

Performance Indicators:

1.2.2) There is no evidence of chronic non-payment; rather, payments are regularly made in a timely manner

1.2.3) Up-to-date records are kept of all payments and are available to the SCS auditor(s)

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 are aware of which binding international agreements apply to the nation in which their forest operations reside

1.3.2) Forest managers demonstrate a sensitivity to all binding international agreements and endeavor to respect their requirements, at a level of effort scaled to the size and intensity of the forest operation

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) Forest managers are willing to participate in appropriate processes for resolving conflicts, at the request of SCS and/or the FSC

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

Performance Indicators:

1.5.1) Managers shall take measures to prevent illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities within the management area. Depending on the size of the forest area and on the risk of illegal activity occurring, such measures may include:

- Forest roads have gates and/or have controlled access to areas of high risk;
- Forest roads are physically closed off after harvesting;
- Forest roads are patrolled to detect and prevent illegal access to the forest;

1.5.2) Personnel and resources have been assigned to detect and control illegal activities promptly.

1.5.3) Forest managers conduct regular surveillances of the defined forest area so that unauthorized activities are promptly found and controlled

1.5.4) 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:

- Contracts contain clear and appropriate language that requires contractors to comply with the FSC P&C

1.6.2) Written or electronic copies of the FSC Principles and Criteria are available to all management and field personnel; forest managers demonstrate a general conversancy with the P&C

1.6.3) If the defined forest area for which certification is being sought does not constitute the entire ownership, management activities on the portions of the ownership not undergoing certification evaluation are generally compatible with the P&C and conform to the current SCS requirements on partial estate certification requirements and FSC-POL-01-004 V1-0 *Policy for Association with FSC*.

## **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:*

- 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

2.2. 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) Local communities, and/or other stakeholders with duly recognized legal or customary tenure or use rights within the defined forest area have been identified and the nature of these rights are described and documented

*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

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 is documented, with evidence of free and informed consent

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.

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) The magnitude and severity of unresolved tenure claims and use rights disputes are minor, relative to the scale of forest management operations.

### **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) Forest managers seek to determine if there are existing indigenous peoples issues (e.g., land claims) associated with the defined forest area that is the focus of the certification evaluation

3.1.2) If the defined forest area is comprised of or includes lands or territories duly owned or controlled by indigenous peoples, management of said lands is either: i) under the control of the indigenous peoples or ii) undertaken by other parties to whom free and informed consent to manage has been granted, and appropriately documented, by appropriate indigenous representatives

#### **Note 1**

For consent to be *informed* requires that the peoples concerned were fully and accurately informed of the implications of any agreements and were consulted through appropriate procedures and through their representative institutions (Ref, ILO Convention 169, Article 6(1)).

#### **Note 2**

For consent to be *free* requires that it was given by the Indigenous Peoples through their representative institutions and was freely expressed without coercion or duress. (Ref: ILO Convention 169 Article 7(1)).

3.1.3) Where rights and use issues involving indigenous peoples are in dispute, an appropriate process for addressing and resolving grievances is in place and being

actively utilized by the forest managers/owners (see Criterion 2.3 for processes to resolve disputes).

- 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) Forest managers demonstrate, through policies and actions, a sensitivity to the resources and tenure rights of indigenous peoples
- 3.2.2) As appropriate, indigenous peoples are afforded opportunities to participate in management planning, research, and monitoring on forest areas associated with indigenous resources and tenure rights
- 3.2.3) Forest managers solicit—through effective consultative mechanisms—the concerns and perspectives of potentially affected indigenous peoples; the results of such consultation are documented, including the actions taken to reasonably accommodate concerns and perspectives that have been received

Verifiers:

- Communications between the FME and indigenous representatives are documented.

- 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) The FME, with the participation of indigenous communities, shall define the sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance.

Examples of sites may include:

- ceremonial, burial, or village sites
- areas used for hunting, fishing, or trapping
- areas used for gathering of sustenance and culturally important materials

- 3.3.2) Forest managers engage in affirmative procedures for identifying and appropriately protecting sites of special cultural or religious significance; the processes for identifying and protecting such sites are documented
- 3.3.3) Field workers are appropriately trained in the procedures employed for identifying and protecting sites of special significance to indigenous peoples
- 3.3.4) Confidential maps recording the locations of sites of special significance are maintained up-to-date and are used by forest managers and field workers

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) If commercial utility is created through application of traditional knowledge, forest managers seek to compensate, through appropriate mechanisms, those indigenous peoples with whom the traditional knowledge is associated
- 3.4.3) Where indigenous intellectual property and forest products are used commercially, compensation for individuals and/or tribes is agreed upon in writing, with their free and informed consent, prior to commercialization

**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 forest management operation actively targets the local workforce

Examples may include:

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

4.1.2) Forest managers contribute to or directly develop training programs designed to enhance the capabilities and qualifications of local workers

4.1.3) Forest managers give 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.

4.2. 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 forest management operation 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) Workers shall be prohibited from working without the personal protective equipment that has been provided.
- 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) Forest managers maintain up-to-date safety records; such records indicate exemplary performance relative to industrial norms
- 4.2.7) No work likely to jeopardize health, safety or morals shall be carried out by anyone under the age of 18 (unless there is special provision for safety, training or traditional community circumstances).

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) Forest managers, by their actions and policies, respect the rights of workers to organize or join trade unions and to engage in collective bargaining
  - 4.3.2) Issues and grievances raised by workers and/or their organizations are investigated fairly and objectively
  - 4.3.3) There are documented procedures for conflict resolution
- 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.
- 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.

For FMU's meeting SLIMF requirements, only the following indicator(s) apply; the indicator(s) are not to be used for assessing non-SLIMF operations:

- 4.4.4) Forest managers engage in regular communications with neighbors and other stakeholders within the local communities; to the extent practicable, management policies and activities are sensitive to stakeholder concerns and expectations
  - 4.4.5) 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.
- 4.5. 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
- 4.5.2) Forest managers endeavor, 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

## **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 forest operation has sufficient financial capital and human resources to implement the management plan, over the long run
  - 5.1.2) Adequate investments of capital, machinery and human resources are made so as to maintain or restore the productive capacity, ecological integrity and socio-economic profile of the define forest area
  - 5.1.3) Commercial (income generating) activities are financially viable, given short and medium-term market conditions and costs
- 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) Forest managers strive to diversify the mix of commercial products recovered from the forest
  - 5.2.3) The forest operation has a demonstrated track record of favoring or encouraging local processing of wood 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 are designed to avoid 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

Verifier:

- Records of an impact assessment with completed mitigation measures (where applicable) for placement of charcoal kilns or milling operations.

- 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.

Performance Indicators:

- 5.4.1) Forest managers can demonstrate their efforts to diversify the mix of commercial products recovered from the forest and marketed
- 5.4.2) Forest managers 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, specialty product harvesting, 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 defined forest area including: municipal watersheds, commercial and recreational fisheries (or the supply of water to downstream fisheries), visual quality, contributions to regional biodiversity, recreation and tourism
  - 5.5.2) Timber management activities are designed and implemented, spatially and temporally, with due consideration to the impacts on other forest services
  - 5.5.3) Forest managers engage 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) Appropriate to the scale of operations and the frequency of commercial activity, timber harvesting is guided by a timber management plan that includes a calculated periodic allowable harvest
- 5.6.2) Average annual harvests do not exceed the calculated allowable harvest
- 5.6.3) Appropriate to the scale of operations and the frequency of commercial activity, estimates of total periodic timber growth on the defined forest area—by species categories—are generated through a combination of empirical data and published literature; growth estimates are conservative
- 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
  - 5.6.7) When harvesting non-timber forest products, management strategies incorporate the best available monitoring and inventory data to ensure a sustainable rate of harvest

## **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 addition to project-level assessments, forest managers also complete landscape-level environmental impact assessments in which the cumulative effects of forest operations are considered
- 6.1.3) To provide background for environmental impact assessments, the regional, sub-regional, and landscape environmental context of the defined forest area is established and documented (preferably in the management plan), consistent with the scale and intensity of operations
- 6.1.4) 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) apply; the indicator(s) are not to be used for assessing non-SLIMF operations:

- 6.1.5) The forest operation demonstrates knowledge of the possible negative impacts of its activities and seeks 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 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 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) Field employees are trained in the recognition of endangered species and their habitats
- 6.2.4) There shall be an up to date list of the rare, threatened or endangered species that are present or are likely to be present within the FMU.
- 6.2.5) The FME shall not harvest species that are included in Appendix I of CITES (also applicable to SLIMF).
- 6.2.6) 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).
  - Fences are installed to control grazing when appropriate.\
  - Established hunting or gathering seasons are respected in order to allow for reproduction.

For FMU's meeting SLIMF requirements, only the following indicator(s) apply; the indicator(s) are not to be used for assessing non-SLIMF operations:

- 6.2.7) Where information exists on rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats, the forest manager uses this information to map and protect them.

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; forest managers take affirmative steps to eliminate gaps in information and knowledge about ecological functions within the defined forest area

- 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

6.4. 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, forest managers take actions to make contributions to the network.  
Verifiers:
  - 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 defined forest area are delineated on maps and protection policies are included in the management plan

For FMU's meeting requirements, only the following indicator(s) apply; the indicator(s) are not to be used for assessing non-SLIMF operations:

- 6.4.4) 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 effectively minimizing soil erosion and damage to forest vegetation as a result of site disturbing activities
- 6.5.2) The management plan, or another pertinent policy document, contains provisions for protecting water resources (e.g., stream courses and adjoining riparian areas, wetlands, seeps and springs) found within the defined forest area
- 6.5.3) Forest managers and forest workers demonstrate a working knowledge of these protection guidelines and, in fact, systematically implement them in day-to-day operations
- 6.5.4) All watershed, riparian, and aquatic features are identified, classified, and mapped
- 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) Areas with extremely unstable slopes or at high risk of landslides are not logged
- 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 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.

6.7.

Performance Indicators:

- 6.6.1) All chemical pesticide use occurs within the context of an integrated pest management program; pesticides are only used when non-chemical management has been proven ineffective

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) A complete and up-to-date list of all chemical pesticides used on the defined forest area shall be maintained (including trade name, active ingredient, quantity of active ingredient used, date of use, location of use, reason for use) and made available to the SCS auditor(s); no chemicals prohibited under criterion 6.6 are used unless a formal derogation has been granted by the FSC

6.6.3) All pesticide use is guided by site-specific written prescriptions designed to avoid human and environmental hazard and to maximize efficacy of use

Field personnel applying pesticides are properly licensed (where applicable) and trained; appropriate equipment and gear to assure safe application is used by field personnel

6.8. 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

There are contingency plans and procedures for prevention and cleanup following spills or other accidents involving chemical pesticides, oils and fuels

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

6.9. Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.

Performance Indicators:

6.8.1) There shall be no use (defined as commercial use as well as research) of genetically modified organisms within the defined forest area

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 peer reviewed scientific protocols.

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, forest owners or managers develop and implement 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.

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.

## **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.
- 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) apply; the indicator(s) are not to be used for assessing non-SLIMF operations:

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

- 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) Forest managers maintain conversancy in emerging scientific and technical information pertinent to the management of the defined forest area

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) 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

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:

- 7.3.7) Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, forest workers 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:

- 7.4.4) Interested stakeholders are readily able to obtain a public summary of the management plan

## **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 written protocols for periodic monitoring of forest conditions, management activities, plan compliance and chain-of-custody

8.1.2) 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:

8.1.3) Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, periodic monitoring of forest conditions, management activities, 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, forest managers periodically gather information on the indicators enumerated in this criterion, above

8.2.2) Written records are kept of the annual or periodic harvest levels by species, at levels of specificity appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations

8.2.3) Forest managers demonstrate a commitment to acquiring and utilizing information on key indicators pertaining to the production, environmental and socio-economic profiles of their operation

For FMU's meeting SLIMF requirements, only the following indicator(s) apply; the indicator(s) are not to be used for assessing non-SLIMF operations:

8.2.5) Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, forest managers periodically gather information on the indicators enumerated in this criterion, above

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

- Amount of 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

- 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 (e.g., FSC-Pure rubber sheets) 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."
- 8.3.2) The FME shall implement consistently 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) Forest managers and planners demonstrate a commitment to adaptive management where information gathered during systematic monitoring is incorporated into revisions to the management plan as well as revisions to standard operating procedures, see Criterion 7.2
- 8.4.2) The evolution of the management plan over successive revisions demonstrates that the results of monitoring are being appropriately incorporated

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

- 8.4.3) Forest managers and planners demonstrate a commitment to adaptive management where information gathered during systematic monitoring is incorporated into revisions to the management plan as well as revisions to standard operating procedures, see Criterion 7.2

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) Interested stakeholders are readily able to obtain a public summary of the results of periodic monitoring that addresses the indicators listed in criterion 8.2

8.5.2) Forest managers endeavor to keep the monitoring summary up-to-date

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:

8.5.3) 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).

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

## **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)<sup>1</sup>;
- 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.

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<sup>1</sup> *HCVF Toolkit: Guidance for High Conservation Value Forests assessment*  
([http://www.panda.org/what\\_we\\_do/how\\_we\\_work/conservation/forests/tools/hcvf\\_toolkit/](http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/conservation/forests/tools/hcvf_toolkit/))

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

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.

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).<sup>2</sup>

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

Note: This criterion primarily addresses obligations of the certifier, not the forest management operation.

Performance Indicators:

9.2.1) Forest managers have documented evidence of having consulted stakeholders about HCVF conservation attributes and options for the maintenance thereof.

Verifiers:

- Forest managers maintain current list of pertinent stakeholders
- Comments related to HCVF are documented

9.2.2) Stakeholder consultation indicates that the forest management operation consistently protects areas of high conservation value

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 conservation attributes of each identified HCV area found within the defined forest area are described in the management plan

9.3.2) The management plan and public summary thereof contain specific policies for maintenance and enhancement of the conservation attributes that define HCV areas; these protections are consistent with the precautionary approach.

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

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

9.4.3) The results of HCVF monitoring are used adaptively in modifying HCVF management and protection policies as well in revising the management plan

**PRINCIPLE # 10: PLANTATIONS**

Plantations shall be planned and managed in accordance with Principles and Criteria 1 - 9, and Principle 10 and its Criteria. While plantations can provide an array of social and economic benefits, and can contribute to satisfying the world's needs for forest products, they should complement the management of, reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.

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 the defined plantation forest area includes a presentation of the landowner and/or plantation owner objectives

10.1.2) The plantation forest objectives include express policies for natural forest conservation as well as restoration of degraded natural forest areas.

10.1.3) Plantation forest managers demonstrate a systematic pattern of implementing the management plan

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 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) 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.

Performance Indicators:

- 10.5.1) Representative samples of existing natural ecosystems are being protected or restored in their natural state
- 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 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) apply; the indicator(s) are not to be used for assessing non-SLIMF operations:

- 10.5.4) Improvements to the ecological value of the plantation are made particularly around conservation features
- 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
- 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) Forest managers, through their policies and actions, demonstrate a commitment to progressively lessen the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers
- 10.7.4) Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, there is 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
- 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