

# SMARTWOOD INTERIM STANDARD FOR BULGARIA

## SW-STD-BUL-2009-11

version 1.0 approved 11.11.2009

### Standard scope

This standard may be applied within all forests and forest types located in Bulgaria.

Some indicators are only applicable for either small and/or low intensity managed forests (SLIMF), medium size or large forest management operations (FMO) or a combination of them. For the purpose of this standard the thresholds for SLIMF, medium and large FMO-s is following:

- SLIMF FMO-s:           a) FMO-s managing forest area below 100 ha  
                              b) FMO-s where the rate of harvest is less than 20% of mean annual increment and total annual harvest is less than 5000 cbm.
- medium size FMO-s: FMO-s managing forest area of 101 to 7 000 hectares
- large size FMO-s:     FMO-s managing forest area over 7 001 hectares

### Basis for the standard

This standard has been prepared by NEPCon and the Rainforest Alliance SmartWood program. SmartWood is an FSC accredited certification program of Rainforest Alliance and NEPCon is partner of Rainforest Alliance representing the SW program in Scandinavia, Russia and Eastern Europe. The standard is based on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) general requirements detailed in *FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship*. The wording of FSC principles and criteria has been included in the standard unchanged. During the adaptation process NEPCon/SmartWood has developed indicators for each applicable criterion that detail the requirements considering local Bulgarian context. In case a criterion or principle has been considered non-applicable, the reason for this has been justified. The indicators in this standard are partly based on the Draft Bulgarian National FSC Standard (version 3rd), which has been prepared by FSC Working Group in Bulgaria ([www.panda.org/bg](http://www.panda.org/bg) and [www.forestrybg.net](http://www.forestrybg.net)). FSC requirements for standards as described in *FSC-STD-20-003 Local adaptation of certification body generic forest stewardship standards* (ver 1-0) and *FSC-STD-20-002 Structure and Content of Forest Stewardship Standards* (ver 1-0) have been fully followed during preparation of this standard. Based on the review of Bulgarian legislation it is NEPCon/SW position that this standard is not in conflict with any national legal requirements. At the same time NEPCon/SW is in position that this standard does not include performance thresholds that are lower than the national legal requirements.

### Public input

This standard is a public document and can be freely distributed to all interested parties, provided that the standard is distributed without any modifications. This standard is publicly available in Bulgarian and English languages and is available for download or printout on [www.smartwood.org](http://www.smartwood.org) and [www.nepcon.net](http://www.nepcon.net). This standard is subject to consultation and comments from all interested stakeholders (also see the next section "Stakeholder consultation process"). Based on stakeholder comments SmartWood can implement changes in the indicators of this standard. Please note that the principles and criteria can not be modified since they are defined by FSC. All stakeholders who have comments regarding this standard or have suggestions for improving the indicators are strongly encouraged to contact NEPCon/SmartWood ([www.nepcon.net](http://www.nepcon.net); +420 723 854 313). Comments and

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suggestions may also be sent to FSC Working Group Bulgaria ([www.panda.org/bg](http://www.panda.org/bg) and [www.forestrybg.net](http://www.forestrybg.net)). You can send your comments by any means suitable for you (mail, email, fax) or contact NEPCo, SmartWood or FSC working group to agree personal meeting or have a phone discussion. More information about FSC certification background, certification process and certified entities in Bulgaria or any other aspect related to FSC certification can be obtained from SmartWood ([www.smartwood.org](http://www.smartwood.org)).

### **Stakeholder consultation process**

Present standard is based on Draft SmartWood Baltic Interim Standard, which has been used for several assessments in Baltic region, Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Czech Republic. Public notification of stakeholders about the standard to be used is required part of each FM assessment process.

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<b>PRINCIPLE 1 .COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND FSC PRINCIPLES</b>	
<i>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.</i>	
<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>INDICATORS</b>
<b>1.1. Forest management shall respect all national and local laws and administrative requirements.</b>	1.1.1. The staff is aware of relevant requirements of legislation and their responsibilities. 1.1.2. FMO shall meet all national, state/provincial and local environmental, labor and forestry laws. 1.1.3. <u>Medium and Large FMO's</u> :Copies of relevant legislation are available in the head office and for the staff. 1.1.4. Discovered noncompliances with legislation shall be recorded 1.1.5. Corrective actions shall be implemented in case that non-compliances are identified.
<b>1.2 All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.</b>	1.2.1 FMO shall be aware of applicable fees, royalties and taxes 1.2.2 Evidence shall exist of on-time payment of any applicable financial charges 1.2.3. In case of discrepancies, FMO shall maintain a full documentation related to the discrepancies and solving them.
<b>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.</b>	1.3.1. <u>Medium and Large FMO's</u> :FMO shall be aware of all applicable international conventions 1.3.2. Workers under the age of 15 years shall not be employed in the forest. 1.3.3. Workers under the age of 18 years shall not be employed for forest operations when it is likely to jeopardize health and safety.
<b>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 the involved or affected parties.</b>	1.4.1. Perceived conflicts between laws and present standard shall be recorded by the FMO. 1.4.2. Any conflicts identified shall be resolved through consultation between FSC national contact person (if available), the FSC certifier, and FMO, as needed.
<b>1.5. Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.</b>	1.5.1. <u>Medium and Large FMO's</u> :FMO shall have a monitoring system with formal documented periodic inspections. 1.5.2. Poaching and illegal timber extraction shall be controlled 1.5.3. The forest manager shall take all reasonable legal measures to prevent illegal usage of the forest area or natural resource. 1.5.4. Illegal harvest, settlements and other unauthorized usage shall be reported to the responsible authorities. (police, gendarmes, regional forestry inspectorate, environmental guard,etc)
<b>1.6. Forest managers shall demonstrate a long - term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.</b>	1.6.1. FMO shall clearly demonstrate long-term support for the FSC P&C. 1.6.2. FMO commitment shall be expressed in written documents.

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<b>PRINCIPLE 2. TENURE AND USE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	
<i>Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.</i>	
<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>INDICATORS</b>
<b>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</b>	<p>2.1.1. FMO shall possess legal documents proving its legal rights of ownership or rights to manage the forest area.</p> <p>2.1.2. Property borders shall be marked or otherwise clearly delineated in the forest and on the maps(e.g. follow natural boundaries).</p>
<b>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.</b>	<p>2.2.1. FMO shall identify and document local communities, or other stakeholders, who have recognized legal or customary tenure or traditional use rights.</p> <p>2.2.2. In case that local communities claim certain rights over the land , such claims are to be legally proven .</p> <p>2.2.3. FMO shall ensure that local communities have access to the forest for collection of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) such as berries and mushrooms for own consumption.</p> <p>2.2.4. FMO shall ensure that local communities have controlled access to buy wood for own consumption at a reasonable price.</p>
<b>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</b>	<p>2.3.2. Records shall be maintained of disputes over tenure and use rights.</p> <p>2.3.3. Every reasonable effort shall be made to resolve conflicts through consultation aiming at achieving agreement or consent.</p>

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<b>PRINCIPLE 3. INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S RIGHTS - NOT APPLICABLE FOR BULGARIA</b>
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<i>Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.</i>
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**Considered not applicable since Bulgarians are native people in their homeland.**

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**PRINCIPLE 4. COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND WORKERS' RIGHTS**

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

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CRITERIA	INDICATORS
<p><b>4.1. The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.</b></p>	<p>4.1.1. Evidence shall exist for preferring local employees for vacant positions.                      4.1.2. Evidence of efforts made for providing stable employment for all staff shall exist.                      4.1.3. FMO-s supports the local people in their access to basic social services (e.g. health and education).                      4.1.4. Wages or income of contractors shall be at least as high as those in comparable occupations in the same region and shall not be lower than the established minimum wage.</p>
<p><b>4.2. Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.</b></p>	<p>4.2.1. Employees, including contractors, shall be aware of and shall implement safe working practices.                      4.2.2. Appropriate health and safety equipment including helmet, high visibility vest/jacket, safety boots, safety trousers and first aid kit shall be used in the field by chain saw operators, harvesting companies and contractors.                      4.2.3. Any person entering an ongoing logging site shall wear a helmet and high visibility vest.                      4.2.4. Staff climbing trees shall be appropriately trained in safety procedures and tree climbing, and shall use appropriate safety equipment.                      4.2.5. Workers involved in dangerous work such as storm damage removal, logging of large trees and tree climbing shall never work alone.                      4.2.6. Workers shall be instructed about procedures in case of emergency situation such as accident, fire or oil spill.                      4.2.7. Tractors shall be equipped with crash bars.                      4.2.8. FMO shall conduct regular checks to ensure that all safety procedures are observed in the field.                      4.2.9. Warning signs shall be posted at access roads to sites with ongoing logging operation.                      4.2.10. <u>Large and Medium FMO's</u>: FMO shall maintain a register of accidents and documented steps taken to minimize risk of further accidents.                      4.2.11. FMO operations shall have a health and safety policy and management system in place.                      4.2.12. Compensations are granted to the workers in case of accidents.                      4.2.13. Workers who are staying overnight in the forest shall have appropriate sleeping facilities, sufficient supply of clean water and toilet facilities.</p>
<p><b>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 Labor Organization (ILO).</b></p>	<p>4.3.1. All workers shall be able to form and join a trade union of their choice without fear of intimidation or reprisal                      4.3.2. <u>Large and Medium FMO's</u>: Collective bargaining with representative trade unions shall be carried out in good faith and with best efforts to come to an agreement.</p>
<p><b>4.4. Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups directly affected by management operations.</b></p>	<p>4.4.1 <u>Large and Medium FMO's</u>: FMO shall have a system for enabling participation by local communities in the management planning process.                      4.4.2. All interested parties shall have access to relevant information.                      4.4.3. <u>Large and Medium FMO's</u>: FMO shall have a system in place to document stakeholder concerns and request and FMO's response.                      4.4.4. Areas of special economic, ecological cultural or spiritual value for local communities shall be mapped and management takes considerations to these values.</p>
<p><b>4.5. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing</b></p>	<p>4.5.1. Reasonable effort shall be made to resolve conflicts through consultation aiming at achieving agreement or consent.                      4.5.2 <u>Large and Medium FMO's</u>: FMO shall have a documented</p>

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<b>PRINCIPLE 5. BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST</b>	
<i>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.</i>	
<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>INDICATORS</b>
<b>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.</b>	<p>5.1.1. Revenue received shall be sufficient to cover forest management costs, e. g. management planning, road maintenance, silvicultural treatments, long-term forest health, growth and yield monitoring, and conservation investments.</p> <p>5.1.2. The income foreseen in the budget are correlated to the legally approved levels / rate of harvest and the evolution of the market.</p> <p>5.1.3. The yearly budget incorporates all due taxes, fees and other similar obligations, as required by the law.</p> <p>5.1.4. The yearly budget incorporates all social and environmental costs as specified by Principles 4 and 6.</p>
<b>5.2 Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products</b>	<p>5.2.1. The "highest and best use" for individual tree and timber species shall be sought</p> <p>5.2.2. FMO shall utilize frequently occurring, lesser known or less-commonly utilized plant species for commercial and subsistence uses if appropriate.</p> <p>5.2.3. Non-timber forest products (e.g. seeds, berries, mushrooms, resin, greenery, Christmas trees and game) shall be considered during forest use and processing.</p>
<b>5.3. Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.</b>	<p>5.3.1. The layout of existing and planned forest roads, bridges, and harvesting tracks shall be appropriate to the scale and intensity of management operations.</p> <p>5.3.2. Harvesting techniques shall be designed to avoid losses of merchantable volumes and damage to remaining trees.</p> <p>5.3.3. Waste generated through harvesting operations and on-site processing shall be minimized.</p>
<b>5.4. Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.</b>	<p>5.4.1 Managers have information on the range of the forest's potential products and services; including 'lesser known' timber species, Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and opportunities for forest recreation, tourism, ecological education, leisure, etc.</p> <p>5.4.2 Managers have assessed the possibility of utilization of less used species and NTFPs.</p>

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<b>PRINCIPLE 5. BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST</b>	
	5.4.3 FMO's sales policies and methods shall consider needs of local processing industry.
<b>5.5. Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.</b>	<p>5.5.1. <u>Large and Medium FMO's</u>: Forest managers must have information on the downstream uses of water from the forest watershed in that area.</p> <p>5.5.2. <u>Large and Medium FMO's</u>: FMO shall assess the impact of forest management on the multiple services produced in the forest such as outdoor life, watersheds, NTFP (fishing, hunting, berries and mushrooms), protection of cultural and biological values in written.</p> <p>5.5.3. Negative impacts identified by assessment as described in 5.5.2 shall be minimized.</p> <p>5.5.4. FMO shall consider areas important for mushrooms and berry picking; hunting and recreation when planning forest operations.</p>
<b>5.6. The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed level which can permanently be sustained.</b>	<p>5.6.1. Annual allowable cut (AAC), by area or volume, shall be set based on conservative and well-documented estimates of growth and yield.</p> <p>5.6.2. FMO shall ensure that the rate of harvest does not exceed sustainable levels.</p> <p>5.6.3. Actual annual harvest shall be strictly documented, including site, species, quantities, assortments, date and terms and monitoring documentation.</p> <p>5.6.4. FMO-s shall document commercial harvest of NTFP such as seeds, Christmas trees, greenery and game.</p> <p>5.6.5 The levels of harvesting on a short term / annual and long term basis are to be established in accordance with the valid regulations and the FMO's management plan.</p>

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<b>PRINCIPLE 6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT</b>	
<i>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.</i>	
<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>INDICATORS</b>
<p><b>6.1. Assessment 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.</b></p>	<p>6.1.1 FMO shall assess environmental impacts during management planning and designate appropriate mitigation measures in management plan. The assessment will take into consideration the following features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the scale and intensity of the forest management</li> <li>- the game resources</li> <li>- landscape</li> <li>- is appropriate to the uniqueness of the affected resources</li> </ul> <p>6.1.2 The results of the environmental impact assessment are taken into account during the performance of forestry activity. e.g. wet soil types shall be handled with precaution to avoid soil damages, sensitive bird habitats shall not be intervened in birds nesting period.</p> <p>6.1.3. FMO shall have a documented procedure for conducting documented environmental impact assessments prior to major forest management activities such as constructions of new roads or maintenance of drainage systems.</p> <p>6.1.4 Environmental impacts of on-site processing facilities shall be assessed and controlled (e.g. waste, construction impacts, etc.).</p>
<p><b>6.2. Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation</b></p>	<p>6.2.1. <u>Large and Medium FMO's</u>: Biodiversity inventories were performed for the identification of rare, threatened or endangered species. As result of the inventory the FMO-s shall have a written list of threatened, rare, or endangered species or ecosystems within their forest area.</p>

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<p><b>zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting shall be controlled.</b></p>	<p>6.2.2. <u>SLIMF</u> : FMO should be aware of and conserve the officially registered protected species in the forest area.</p> <p>6.2.3. <i>Taxus baccata</i> and <i>Pinus mugo</i> shall not be harvested or damaged by logging.</p> <p>6.2.4. Conservation zones shall be demarcated on maps and if relevant also marked in the field.</p> <p>6.2.5. The areas assigned for conservation and protection are to be located in areas where they can offer a maximum contribution to the biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>6.2.6. Operations in the conservation zones shall be conducted so that the conservation values are not harmed or endangered in any way.</p>
<p><b>6.3. Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:</b></p> <p><b>a) Forest regeneration and succession.</b></p> <p><b>b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity.</b></p> <p><b>c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.</b></p>	<p>6.3.1. The silvicultural system adopted is in accordance with the forestry ecology principles. The system will promote natural regeneration and local proveniences (a,b,c)</p> <p>6.3.2. The system will grant the development of a diversified structure of the forest according with priority functions arrogated to the forest.</p> <p>6.3.3. Clear fellings are allowed only on surfaces of maximum 0.5 ha for shade-tolerant (scilophites) species and of maximum 1 ha for shade-intolerant (heliophites) species (c)</p> <p>6.3.4 Thinning and harvesting operations favor development of mixed stands.(a,b,c)</p> <p>6.3.5. Old and hollow trees and dead wood are preserved in the forest, with consideration of national requirements on work safety.</p> <p>6.3.6 At least 5 living biodiversity trees per hectare shall be left in final felling and shall be left uncut forever (b).</p> <p>6.3.7 Biodiversity trees shall be chosen from wide variety of species with largest diameter among the most biologically valuable and wind stable trees.</p> <p>6.3.8. It is aimed to maintain the marginal forest habitats ( forest belts, stream side vegetation, vegetation on rocky areas, swamps and heaths).</p>
<p><b>6.4. Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be</b></p>	<p>6.4.1. <u>Large and Medium FMO's</u>:At least 5% of the forest area / surface is protected, identified on maps, being entirely excluded from commercial timber production (strictly protected areas, areas with conservation or</p>

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<p><b>protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.</b></p>	<p>sanitary cuttings).                      The area will include representative samples of existing, rare, threatened or endangered forest ecosystems.                      6.4.2. <u>Large and Medium FMO's</u>: Selection of forest areas to be preserved shall be based on the inventory of key biological areas identified through consultation with environmental stakeholders, local government and scientific authorities.                      6.4.3 <u>SLIMF FMO's</u>: FMO shall protect representative samples of existing rare and/or endangered ecosystems in their natural state.</p>
<p><b>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 protect water resources.</b></p>	<p>6.5.1. <u>Large and Medium FMO's</u>: FMO shall have available written rules and procedures for forest road building and ways for nearby wood extraction. In building new roads the following must be taken into consideration:                      1) New roads are traced / planned in advance on topographical maps which indicate the existing water streams                      2) The design shall aim to a minimum alteration of natural features                      3) Wherever possible roads are to be located on natural benches, ridges and flatter slopes. Road construction in steep, narrow valleys, slip-prone or other unstable areas, natural drainage channels and stream sides is to be avoided.                      4) Roads are not to be located through environmentally sensitive areas                      5) The dykes / dams and the embankments shall be stabilised in order to resist erosion                      6) In order to avoid erosion there are to be planned drains and ditches and other required art works, arbustive species for soil fixation, etc.                      7) Stream crossings are planned and registered on maps before the construction works begin                      8) The number of stream crossings is kept to a minimum.                      9) Stream crossings are perpendicular to the stream                      10) Valley bottom roads and paths are not to be located nearby to the stream                      11) Drains are not to flow into the water streams and where possible silt traps / water buffers are to be designed.                      6.5.2 <u>SLIMF FMO's</u>: FMO shall be aware of soil types appropriate for logging in winter, spring summer and autumn seasons to avoid soil damage.                      6.5.3. Guidance to field staff shall cover technical specifications for skid trail (location, width and density), log landing, maintaining buffer zones and road design.                      6.5.4. Measures shall be taken to minimize soil damage and erosion during harvesting operations.                      6.5.5 No road fill or waste material (e.g. rocks, brush) from site preparation or other activities shall be placed in stream courses.                      6.5.6 Buffer zones shall be left along water bodies and open landscape.</p>
<p><b>6.6. Management systems shall</b></p>	<p>6.6.1. The use of pest control substances is made on grounds of a well</p>

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<b>PRINCIPLE 6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT</b>	
<p><b>promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimize health and environmental risks.</b></p>	<p>documented strategy and under the supervision / approval of specialized bodies.</p> <p>6.6.2. Employed chemicals are registered. Registrations content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Name of the product and expiry date,</li> <li>- Location of the treated surface / area;</li> <li>- Size of the treated area,</li> <li>- Method employed;</li> <li>- Date of beginning and date of ending of the treatment;</li> <li>- The overall used quantity.</li> </ul> <p>6.6.3 Chemical storage, mixing and application practices shall meet applicable regulation and codes of best practice. The following basic rule has to be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The chemicals (low toxic or reduced remanance ones) are only used if there were no alternative treatments, or if they were too expensive or of low efficiency.</li> <li>• The use or storage of fertilizers based on mercury, organophosphates and organ-chlorine compounds or other long-lasting chemicals, which can accumulate in food chains or the ecosystem is prohibited.</li> <li>• Transportation and storage are made in safe and sealed / leak proof spaces / conditions and the application is safely performed.</li> <li>• Chemical treatments are prohibited at a distance of less than 20 m from water streams and 30 m from water tanks/reservoirs and lakes.</li> <li>• Chemical treatments are prohibited during the periods when the soil is frozen, covered with snow, rainy periods or severe draught.</li> <li>• The introduction of chemically treated saplings is prohibited in water streams, swamps, wells or carst exurgency areas.</li> <li>• Prior to apply the treatments there shall be taken actions to warn the animal breeders and the bee-masters in the area.</li> </ul> <p>6.6.4 Proof of training and appropriate equipment provided to all individuals to handle or operate chemicals.</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>6.7.1 Chemical, container, liquid and solid waste shall be disposed of in an environmentally sound and legal manner, whether from forest operations or processing facilities.</p> <p>6.7.2. Efforts shall be taken to control and minimize disposal of all types of waste in the forest including garbage left from visitors.</p> <p>6.7.3. Appropriate oil absorbent kit shall be available in forest machinery.</p> <p>6.7.4. Appropriate oil absorbent kit or spill proof tanks shall be used at chain saws filling points.</p> <p>6.7.5. Forest machinery shall be without oil/fuel leakage.</p>

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	6.7.6. Biodegradable oil shall be used for chainsaws and hydraulic oil in forest machinery.
<b>6.8. Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.</b>	6.8.1. Biological control agents shall only be used in exception cases and shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled. 6.8.2. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) shall not be used.
<b>6.9. The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</b>	6.9.1. Native forests shall not be converted to exotic plantations. 6.9.2 Exotic species shall not be cultivated in the forest. 6.9.3 The spread of invasive exotic species that have been historically introduced shall be monitored and if necessary, actions shall be taken to control or eliminate the species. See also 10.3
<b>6.10 Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion:</b>  a) entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit;  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	6.10.1 Conversion of forestland to other land uses shall not be done unless resulting from legally established procedures and supported by cultural, landscape, recreational or natural interests.  6.10.2 Plans for conversion shall be supported by stakeholders, including local communities and governmental agencies.

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<b>PRINCIPLE 7. MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>	
<b><i>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.</i></b>	
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
<p><b>7.1. The management plan and supporting documents shall provide:</b></p> <p><b>a) Management objectives;</b></p> <p><b>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;</b></p> <p><b>c) Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories;</b></p> <p><b>d) Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection;</b></p> <p><b>e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics;</b></p> <p><b>f) Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments;</b></p> <p><b>g) Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species;</b></p> <p><b>h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership;</b></p> <p><b>i) Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used;</b></p>	<p>7.1.1 FMO shall have a valid management plan prepared according to national legislation and a written description of the management objectives (a, e).</p> <p>7.1.2. FMO management plan, or its appendices shall include:</p> <p>a) Management objective (a).</p> <p>b) A general description of the history, including ownership and use of the forest management area.</p> <p>The management plan includes a clear description of the physical aspects of the forest management area (e.g. features of topography, geomorphology, geology, hydrology, soils, tree species, vegetation, etc.)</p> <p>c) A stand level description of the forest resources including area, site type/forest type, soil type, species, age class distribution, height, site class, average diameter (dbh) and volume.</p> <p>d) The management recommendations and procedures provided by the silvicultural system are clearly stated. Description and justification of the management system used, including types of silvicultural systems used.</p> <p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Selection criteria of the trees to be extracted .</li> <li>- The method of marking the trees to be extracted.</li> <li>- Methods to grant regeneration;</li> <li>- Specification of the category of personnel responsible / in charge with the operations /interventions in progress.</li> <li>- Summaries for the total forest area including total area (ha), forest cover percentage, area by site types/forest type, age class distribution, total annual increment and average volume per hectare.</li> </ul> <p>e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics;</p> <p>f) Environmental safeguards based on environmental</p>

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	<p>assessments;</p> <p>The FMO's shall have available an action plan and maps regarding the areas with high fire risk or where after the environmental assessment the structure of the forest represents a risk in this respect. The action plan and maps shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- to know the potential fire sources</li> <li>- methods to identify fire and fire extinction procedure</li> <li>- the direction of the main danger/risk</li> <li>- fuels , their location and flammability</li> <li>- special features( rare flora and archeological sites)</li> <li>- neighboring communities</li> <li>- goods to be protected</li> </ul> <p>g) general description of monitoring activities implemented to ensure conservation of protected areas and HCVF resources</p> <p>h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership (h)</p> <p>i) Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used (i).</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>7.2.1 Management plan (and/or annual operating plan) revision or adjustments shall occur in timely manner (with revision period not more than 10 years).</p> <p>7.2.2 Management plan revisions shall incorporate changing in silvicultural, environmental, social and economic conditions.</p> <p>7.2.3 Management plan revisions shall follow national procedures.</p>

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<p><b>7.3. Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.</b></p>	<p>7.3.1 Forest managers and supervisors shall have appropriate qualification, ensuring that they are able to plan and organize forest operations and other elements of the management plan.</p> <p>7.3.2 A written training plan shall exist and be implemented.</p> <p>7.3.3 Relevant staff shall receive training in biodiversity issues.</p> <p>7.3.4 For harvesting activities, FMO shall hire only workers who have received instructions on proper and safe felling techniques.</p> <p>7.3.5 All workers, as well as contractors and their workers and self-employed persons shall be sufficiently educated and trained in the tasks they are assigned to and preferably hold relevant skill certificates.</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>7.4.1 FMO shall produce a public summary of the management plan that are available in printed versions and/or published on the Internet.</p>

<p><b>PRINCIPLE 8 . MONITORING AND ASSESMENT</b></p>	
<p><b><i>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.</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Criteria</b></p>	<p><b>Indicators</b></p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>8.1.1. FMO shall have monitoring procedures for consistent and frequent monitoring of the aspects mentioned in 8.2, which allows comparison of the results and assessment of changes.</p>

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<p><b>Monitoring procedures should be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.</b></p>	
<p><b>8.2. Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a) Yield of all forest products harvested.</b></li> <li><b>b) Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest.</b></li> <li><b>c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna.</b></li> <li><b>d) Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations.</b></li> <li><b>e) Costs, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.</b></li> </ul>	<p>8.2.1. Monitoring plan shall identify/describe observed changes in conditions in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Growth rates, regeneration area, species, age and species composition of forest resources, (b, c);</li> <li>b) Production is recorded for each type of forest products and the data are stored and may be the basis for future analysis. (a).</li> <li>c) Environmental changes affecting flora, fauna, soil and water resources (e.g. erosion, outbreak of pest, spreading of invasive species, observed nesting sites for endangered bird species) (c, d)</li> <li>d) Socioeconomic aspects (e.g. forest management costs, yields of all products, and changes in community and worker relations or conditions). There is regular meetings with the representatives of the local communities and raised issues shall be recorded.</li> <li>e) HCVF areas.</li> </ul>
<p><b>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."</b></p>	<p>8.3.1 Forest products commercialized from certified forests must be readily identifiable.</p> <p>Transportation documents of the timber/wood originated from certified forests shall specify the following data: the source of the timber, the date of sale, the quantity of certified timber sold out, species, size, quality, the location wherefrom the buyer shall take over the control on the chain of custody over the certified timber.</p> <p>8.3.2 All the documents (invoices, waybill, transportation documents) mentioned in the indicator. 8.1.3 shall be kept in a central location available and shall be easy available for inspection.</p> <p>8.3.3 In case FMO is also handling non-certified timber or products, FMO shall clearly distinguish certified products from non-certified products through marks or labels, separate documented storage, and accompanying invoices or waybills.</p> <p>8.3.4 FMO shall establish and implement written procedures that ensure the certified status of sold products is clearly indicated on invoices and transport documents</p> <p>8.3.5 Illegally logged wood reclaimed by the operation shall not be sold as certified.</p>

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<p><b>8.4. The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.</b></p>	<p>8.4.1 Monitoring data as required per 8.2.1 shall be considered for management plan revision.</p> <p>8.4.2. FMO shall ensure that the management plan is reviewed periodically according to national legislation.</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>8.5.1. FMO shall produce a public summary of the monitoring results and make it available in printed versions and/or publish on the internet (See point 7.4.1)</p>

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<b>PRINCIPLE 9. MAINTENANCE OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS</b>	
<p><b><i>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.</i></b></p> <p>Note: for Bulgaria the guide for identifying HCVF forests is available on the <a href="http://www.panda.org/bg">www.panda.org/bg</a>.</p> <p>The toolkit was developed by wide working group within a project of WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme Bulgaria in close cooperation with different stakeholders.</p>	
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
<p><b><i>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.</i></b></p>	<p>9.1.1 Special investigation is accomplished in order to determine and specify Conservation Valued Forest Areas in forest, which is in a process to certification and its region. The investigation is accomplished in compliance with developed National Methodology for identification, management and monitoring of HCVF (National HCVF Toolkit).</p> <p>9.1.2 Conservation values assessment of the habitats in forest management unit has been made in the process of elaboration of the management plans and HCVF are determined in compliance with developed National HCVF Toolkit.</p>
<p><b><i>9.2. The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.</i></b></p>	<p>9.2.1. <u>Large and Medium FMO-s</u>: Local stakeholders including environmental NGOs should be consulted to identify HCVF.</p> <p>9.2.2. <u>Large and Medium FMO-s</u>: FMO shall document the stakeholder consultation process in written.</p> <p>9.2.3 Stakeholder consultations shall indicate that FMO consistently considers and protects HCVF values.</p>
<p><b><i>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.</i></b></p>	<p>9.3.1. Identified characteristics of the HCVF are included in the forest management plan.</p> <p>9.3.2 Forest management plan includes specific measures for maintenance and protection of the HCVF according to the forest management requirements defined in National HCVF Toolkit. The management objectives and proposed activities in these forests are precisely directed to preservation, maintenance and enhancement of their valuable attributes.</p> <p>9.3.3 The characteristics of the HCVF and measures for their protection are included by appropriate way in publicly available management plan summary.</p> <p>9.3.4. The forest owner implements planned measures in management plan, concerning protection of the HCVFs.</p>

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<p><b>9.4. Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.</b></p>	<p>9.4.1. According to the HCVF monitoring requirements defined in the National HCVF Toolkit are specified/determined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- appropriate indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of undertaken measures for high conservation value forests protection;</li><li>- monitoring system, including adequate frequency of the assessments, appropriate scale and characteristics of the forest management activities.</li></ul> <p>9.4.2. The monitoring results are performed in written standard forms.</p> <p>9.4.3. The monitoring results are used in the process of forest management activities planning and updating of the documentation.</p>
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<b>PRINCIPLE 10. PLANTATIONS</b>	
<i>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.</i>	
<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
<b>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.</b>	10.1.1 Objectives of tree planting shall be explicit in the management plan, with clear statements regarding the relationship between tree planting and the silvicultural, socio-economic and environmental (i.e. forest conservation and restoration) realities in the region.
<b>10.2 The design and layout of the plantations should promote the protection, restoration and conservation of natural forests and not increase pressure 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.</b>	10.2.1 Areas with natural vegetation shall be protected and taken into consideration when planning establishment of plantations. 10.2.2 Streamside buffer zone with natural vegetation shall be established and/or protected. 10.2.3. The scale and layout of plantations shall be consistent with natural forest vegetation in the landscape.
<b>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.</b>	10.3.1 The FMO-s shall promote the culture of indigenous tree species. Afforestation and regeneration compositions shall provide diversity. See also 10.4

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<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>10.4.1. The selection of the species and their origin shall be justified and documented. Species shall be suitable for site and management objectives.</p> <p>10.4.2 Exotic species may only be used when they outperform native species in meeting the management objective.</p> <p>10.4.3. Invasive exotic species and species that cross breed with local species shall not be used.</p> <p>10.4.4 Exotic species, provenances and varieties may only be used in case their environmental impact and influence on genetic structure of native species and provenances have been previously assessed and found to be safe.</p> <p>10.4.5 In areas suffering from at least an intermediate degree of industrial pollution there may be promoted exotic species which proved that are more resistant than the local ones.( taking into consideration 10.4.4.)</p> <p>See also 6.9</p>
<p><b>10.5 A proportion of the overall forest management area, appropriate to the scale of the plantation and to be determined in regional standards, shall be managed so as to restore the site to a natural forest cover.</b></p>	<p>10.5.1 At least 10% of the plantations area shall be managed with goal of biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>10.5.2 At least 5% of the plantations areas shall be managed with the goal to restore in time the natural fundamental forest type.</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>10.6.1. Information shall exist on all soil types including their susceptibility to degradation from forest operations and silvicultural treatments.</p> <p>10.6.2. Water bodies within the plantation area shall be identified and buffer zones established (see also 10.2).</p> <p>see also 6.5</p>
<p><b>10.7 Measures shall be taken to prevent and minimize outbreaks of pests, diseases,</b></p>	<p>10.7.1. Staff shall be trained to identify health problems.</p> <p>10.7.2. An appropriate fire prevention and control system shall be in</p>

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<p>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.</p>	<p>place.          10.7.3. All employees and contractors, who are required to perform fire control activities, shall have received adequate training.          See also 6.6; 6.7</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<p>10.8.1. Planting of species is not resorted to until their capacity to adapt to local conditions is not analyzed.          10.8.2. Plantations are to be set neither in areas with rare or unique elements of biodiversity nor in fragile ecosystems or in areas where they could adversely affect the water sources.          10.8.3. For recently set plantations with a compact surface larger than 500 ha the social and environmental impact shall be assessed.</p>
<p><b>10.9 Plantations established in areas converted from natural forests after November 1994 normally shall not qualify for certification. Certification may be allowed in</b></p>	<p>10.9.1. The plantation shall not occupy land converted from natural forest since November 1994, unless clear evidence exist that the current manager/owner was not responsible.          10.9.2. Primary, degraded primary and mature secondary forests shall not be cleared by current forest managers to create tree</p>

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<p><b>circumstances where sufficient evidence is submitted to the certification body that the manager/owner is not responsible directly or indirectly of such conversion.</b></p>	<p>plantations.</p>
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