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1. Introduction

The purpose of the Rainforest Alliance's SmartWood Program is to recognize good forest managers through credible independent certification of forestry practices. The Rainforest Alliance SmartWood Program (hereafter referred to as SmartWood) is a certification body accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council. The purpose of these standards is to provide forest managers, landowners, forest industry, scientists, environmentalists and the general public with information on the aspects of forest management operations that SmartWood evaluates to make certification decisions in the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification system. These standards have been developed for Finland based upon the Rainforest Alliance/SmartWood Generic standards which have been approved by the FSC (through the Accreditation Services International). The scope of the current standard is Finland (all forests types and geographic areas). The current interim standards have been specifically adapted by SmartWood to apply to Finland and will be continuously up-dated based on stakeholder input and field trials to this version. The principles, criteria and indicator in this document are applicable for assessing all forest management operations (FMEs) with wood production as a major (though not exclusive) objective.

Background

Forests can be managed for many different objectives and products. Such management can occur in natural forests or plantations, for timber or non-timber forest products, include mechanized or manual harvesting, and managed by a large industrial operation or a local community or landowner cooperative. Many combinations are possible. A critical question has been - how to evaluate the wide range of ecological, socioeconomic and silviculture impacts of forest management activities in a clear and consistent fashion, based on a combination of scientific research and practical experience?

In 1991, the SmartWood Program put forth the *first* set of global standards for forest management certification, entitled "Generic Guidelines for Assessing Natural Forest Management" applicable at the forest or operational level for forest operations. In 1991, SmartWood also distributed the first region-specific guidelines for management of natural forests in Indonesia. In 1993, SmartWood distributed the draft "Generic Guidelines for Assessing Forest Plantations" and revised guidelines for natural forest management. The initial Working Group for developing the first FSC Principles and Criteria in 1991-1993 was co-chaired by the SmartWood Director. In 1998, after seven years of application and "learning by doing" through forest assessments and audits, SmartWood conducted a major revision of its standard for assessing forest management in both natural forests and tree plantations. Revisions since then have occurred in 2000 and 2004. Since 1993, each set of our standards has been reviewed by FSC staff, the international body that has accredited SmartWood as a forest management and chain of custody certifier.

These SmartWood standards were developed in consultation with our staff and representatives of the SmartWood Program worldwide, as well as other professional foresters, ecologists, social scientists and forest practitioners. SmartWood representatives have in-depth field experience developing region-specific forest certification standards, some going back as far as 1989 (Indonesia, California). We developed these standards to be in accord with FSC requirements as well as other forest management and biological conservation guidelines issued by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). We have also drawn on work of our SmartWood Network partners (Imaflora in Brazil and NEPCon in Denmark, Scandinavia, Russia and Eastern Europe), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), International Labor Organization (ILO), many scientists, forest industry, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and FSC regional standards working groups. We would

like to acknowledge the significant contributions made by these and other international, national and local organizations, and the many forestry operations (certified and uncertified), foresters, loggers, and local stakeholders who have critiqued past versions of the SmartWood standards and provided suggestions for improvement.

Regional Standards Development

FSC working groups around the world are developing country- or region-specific forest certification standards. SmartWood fully supports, encourages and participates wherever possible in such processes. Our experience is that the regional standard setting process is vital. Regional standard setting is an excellent way of engaging the public in important, broad ranging discussions on the future of forests and human communities. In other words, the regional standards setting process should not be seen just as a technical standards setting process, but also as a process of outreach on the topic of sustainable forest management.
As part of the FSC process, regional standards are developed by a regional working group, field-tested, revised and approved by the regional working group, and then submitted to the FSC's international headquarters for approval. The final product, if approved, is an "FSC accredited standard". Once accredited, all FSC-approved certifiers (like SmartWood) must use the endorsed regional standard as the fundamental starting point for FSC certification in that country/region. Certifiers may choose to be more rigorous than the regional standard, but they cannot be less rigorous.

In all countries or regions not covered by an FSC accredited forest stewardship standard, SmartWood will develop a locally adapted or interim standard for use in evaluating forest management operations in that designated geographic area. The adapted standard is developed from the SW generic standard with modification to certification indicators to take into account the national context (e.g. legal requirements, environmental, social and economic perspectives). This draft will be translated to the official language of the country in which the FME to be evaluated is located and is be submitted for consultation at least 30 days prior to the start of fieldwork for a full assessment. Distribution to key stakeholders occurs via the Internet (email and posted on the SW website), mailings and face to face meetings.

Operations certified under a previous FSC or SmartWood standard have a minimum of one year to meet any newly endorsed FSC regional standard.

SmartWood have also used other sources as basis for and inspiration for developing the indicators and verifiers of the Interim Standard. Among the documents that have been reviewed and considered in developing this Interim Standard are:

- FSC-STD-01-001 (version 4-0) FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship
- FSC-STD-20-003 (version 2-1) Local adaptation of certification body generic Forest Stewardship Standards.
- FSC-STD-20-002 (version 2-1) Structure and Content of Forest Stewardship Standards
- FSC-POL-30-401 FSC certification and ILO conventions.
- FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria
- RA/SmartWood Generic Standards for Assessing Forest Management", Rainforest Alliance, January 2008
- SmartWood Generic Guidelines for Assessing the Management of Non-Timber Forest Products, Rainforest Alliance, January 2000.

- SmartWood Non-Timber Forest Products Certification Standards Addendum, Rainforest Alliance, November 2002.

SmartWood Standards Structure

The SmartWood generic standards are based directly on the FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship (**FSC-STD-01-001)** and include specific generic indicators for each criterion to create a global SmartWood standard. These indicators are the starting point from which region-specific "SmartWood Interim Standards" are developed for use in the forest by forest assessors to evaluate the sustainability of forest management practices and impacts of candidate FME.

The standards are divided into the following ten principles:
1.0 Compliance with Laws and FSC Principles
2.0 Tenure and Use Rights & Responsibilities
3.0 Indigenous Peoples' Rights
4.0 Community Relations and Workers' Rights
5.0 Benefits from the Forest
6.0 Environmental Impact
7.0 Management Plan
8.0 Monitoring and Assessment
9.0 Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests
10.0 Plantations

In the standard, each FSC principle and its associated criteria is stated, along with the SmartWood indicators. All criteria in all principles must be evaluated in every assessment; unless certain principles are deemed not applicable by SmartWood auditors (e.g. Principle 10 will not be applicable if there are no plantations).

Indicators for Small and Large FMEs

As required under FSC policy SmartWood has developed indicators for certain criteria [1] that are specific to certain sizes of operations. Clear quantitative definitions for small versus large FMEs are included in regionalized SmartWood Interim Standards. Where these SmartWood regional thresholds are not established, large FME should be considered those larger than 50,000 ha. Small FME definition is determined by FSC regional thresholds set for small and low intensity managed forests (SLIMF) which have been set either globally by FSC (100 ha) or by FSC National Initiatives.

Public Input and Comment on SmartWood Standard and Certification Processes

The certification process has both public and private aspects. Certification assessments are not public documents unless specifically required by law (e.g. for some public forests) or approved for public distribution by the certified operation. However, three public documents are available for each and every certified FME:

1. A public stakeholder consultation document that announces each certification assessment at least 30 days prior to field work;
2. The certification standard used; and,
3. A public certification summary that is produced with the results of each separate forest certification.

[1] Criteria 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5. 9.1, 10.5 and 10.8.

The public stakeholder consultation document informs the public about the assessment at least 30 days prior to it taking place. This document is distributed publicly prior to or during an assessment. The document is typically distributed by hand delivery, FAX, mail, or email. The specific SmartWood standard for each assessment is also publicly available before and during the assessment and is a part of the public record for every forest certification. The public certification summary is produced as a final step of the certification process and is available only after an operation has been approved for certification. For copies of any of the above documents, visit our website at www.smartwood.org. or contact SmartWood (finland@nepcon.net). **We strongly encourage you to give us your input, either positive or negative, on our candidate or certified operations, certification standards, or certification procedures.**

Contents

A Scope

This standard shall be the basis for FSC forest management certification of forest management enterprises in [enter country].

B Standard effective date

This standard shall be effective from [enter date]

C References

- FSC-STD-01-001 v. 4.0 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship
- FSC-STD-01-002 (draft 1-0) FSC Glossary of Terms

D Terms and definitions

See annex A for glossary.
Acronyms**:**
FME: Forest management enterprise
FSC: Forest Stewardship Council
HCVF: High conservation value forests
RA: Rainforest Alliance
SLIMF: Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests
SW: SmartWood

Rainforest Alliance/SmartWood Interim Standard for Assessing Forest Management in Finland

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.	
Criteria	**Indicators**
1.1. Forest management shall respect all national and local laws and administrative requirements.	1.1.1. Forest manager shall not violate any national or local laws or administrative requirements 1.1.2. Forest manager shall be are aware of existing forestry legislation 1.1.3. Forest manager shall make records of the conflicts with laws or guidelines if such occur 1.1.4. Forest manager shall develop and implement countermeasures for solving the conflicts
1.2. All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.	1.2.1. Taxes and fees related to forestry and forest use, such as a) forest management fee, b) income tax, c) VAT related to forestry, and d) employment payments, shall be paid by the forest manager.
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.	1.3.1. The forest management is aware of the legal and administrative obligations with respect to international treaties and conventions signed by Finland. 1.3.2. Forest manager shall make records of the conflicts with provisions of all binding international agreements if such occur 1.3.3. Forest manager shall develop and implement countermeasures for solving the conflicts with international agreements
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.	1.4.1. Forest manager shall assess together with the certification body and the involved or affected parties the potential conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria for the purposes of certification 1.4.2. Forest manager shall (a) document and (b) report conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria to the certification body. 1.4.3. Forest manager shall refer to ASI in case conflict cannot be solved using the provisions of the current indicators
1.5. Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.	1.5.1. Forest manager shall maintain a list of possible and occurring illegal or unauthorized activities (e.g. illegal forest harvesting, settlement, hunting or catching the migratory fish in the spawning rivers) in the certified forest area 1.5.2. Activities conducted in forest either by the forest manager

	or on his/her request shall be legal. 1.5.3. Forest manager shall notify the authorities of any knowledge of illegal activities in the certified forest.
1.6. Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.	1.6.1. Forest manager shall make a commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria and the FSC Policy on partial certification (FSC-POL-20-002) by writing such statement in a) the forest management plan, b) the policies of forest operations or c) other document related to the management of the forest 1.6.2. Forest manager shall supervise that the activities are in accordance with the standard in case he/she has hired other party for conducting any activities within the application scope of the standard 1.6.3. Forest manager shall require that forest workers are given spoken or written instructions necessary for good quality of work 1.6.4. If the forest manager no longer complies with the standard and the certificate is given up, new certification shall not be possible without specific evidence demonstrating a renewed commitment to the FSC principles. 1.6.5. The forest manager shall ensure that the areas set aside for protection, in order to fulfil the standard, will be kept under protection as long as the certificate is effective.

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.	
Criteria	**Indicators**
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.	2.1.1. Ownership of the land by the forest manager shall be a) demonstrated or b) the forest manager shall show he/she has obtained the long-term legal right to manage the lands and utilize the forest resources
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.	2.2.1. Forest manager shall identify local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights 2.2.2. Forest manager shall recognise legal or customary tenure or use rights in the (a) forest management planning and (b) in the implementation of the Forest management plan 2.2.3. Forest manager shall allow local communities who possess legal or traditional ownership or tenure to control a) forest management planning and b) the implementation of the forest management plan 2.2.4. Forest manager shall compensate the damage of the transform of the land for other uses/purposes to the user's rights owners 2.2.5. Forest manager shall provide controlled access to local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights for use of timber and non-timber forest products. 2.2.6. The State forest manager shall comply with following specifications in the Sámi homeland: a) The Sámi Parliament, the concerned Skolt Village assembly as well as the concerned reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units retain control over the forest management planning and the forest operations or b) they have given free and informed consent (= written approval) to the state forest manager's forest operations that affects their rights or resources, as a result of the participatory forest management planning 2.2.7. State forest manager shall not sell out land in the Sámi homeland for a third party
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	2.3.1. The forest manager and the other disputants shall: a) agree to and b) have implemented (when required) a process to address disputes 2.3.2. Forest manager shall maintain a record of disputes and the status of their resolution 2.3.3. Forest manager shall not be involved in outstanding (majority of neighbours) disputes over tenure claims and use rights involving a significant number of interests

will normally disqualify an operation from being certified	(combination of social; environmental and economical interests)

PRINCIPLE 3. INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS	
Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.	
Criteria	**Indicators**
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.	Note: Indicator 3.1.1. addresses both private and public forestry in the whole Finland, while indicators 3.1.2 – 3.1.5. refer specifically to the state forestry in the Sámi homeland. 3.1.1. Forest manager shall demonstrate that indigenous peoples control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies: a) On the forest management area all indigenous peoples groups are identified. b) Possible ownership, interests and customary rights of indigenous people are identified and known to the forest manager. c) Indigenous peoples are free to exercise their forest management rights d) Forest management operations are designed in participatory processes and all parties adhere to the agreements made. e) All claims, requests and recommendations of local indigenous peoples communities concerning forest areas are documented and fulfilled. 3.1.2. State forest manager shall design forest management plans separately to each reindeer herding association in the Sámi homeland. 3.1.3. State forest manager shall ensure that in the Sámi homeland, Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village Assembly (regarding the forest management in the Skolt region), and the concerned reindeer herding associations and their sub-units have controlled the forest management through participatory forest management planning procedure. The documents shall indicate: a) A description of the roles and responsibilities of the parties in the forest management planning; b) The interests of the parties; c) A description of appropriate decision-making authorities for all parties; d) Conditions under which the Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village Assembly, the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units have delegated the control on forest management on their lands to other agencies, and under which it might be withdrawn e) Signatures in the forest management plans indicating that the Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village Assembly, the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units

	are satisfied with the forest management plan. 3.1.4. State forest manager shall demonstrate that Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village Assembly (regarding the forest management in the Skolt region), and the concerned reindeer herding associations and their sub-units accept the implementation of the forest management plans 3.1.5. State forest manager shall (a) design a dispute resolution mechanism for addressing and resolving grievances together with the Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village Assembly, the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units and (b) fairly implement it.
3.2. Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.	Note: Indicators 3.2.1. and 3.2.2. addresses both private and public forestry in the whole Finland, while indicators 3.2.3 – 3.2.6. refer specifically to the state forestry in the Sámi homeland. 3.2.1. Forest practises conducted by the forest manager shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples: a) Resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples shall be considered in the forest management plan. b) There shall be a mechanism of recognising and addressing the social problems and rights of indigenous people. c) Forest management proceedings, logging and management plans shall be agreed with local indigenous peoples communities and their NGOs. d) Actual damages to resources and lands of indigenous people shall be compensated according to the legal base and decisions of the authorised representatives. 3.2.2. Forest manager shall not restrict (e.g. by fencing) grazing of reindeer, except when fencing has been accepted by the appropriate reindeer herding co-operatives and their appropriate sub-units 3.2.3. State forest manager shall support reindeer herding in the long run and in all conditions in the Sámi homeland 3.2.4. In the Sámi homeland, the State forest manager shall undertake an assessment together with the Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village assembly and the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units on the impact of the forestry activities to a) the indigenous livelihoods b) natural resources c) tenure rights in the affected sites 3.2.5. In the Sámi homeland, a) Natural Resource Plans b) Landscape Ecological Plans c) Operational plans of the Manager of the state forest shall be endorsed through participatory planning procedure by

	the Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village assembly and the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units prior to enforcement. 3.2.6. State forest manager shall cover the expenses of appointing a lawyer or other expert nominated by the Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village assembly and the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units, for assisting them when their written approval is requested for any document related to the Sámi culture or livelihoods
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.	Note: Indicators 3.3.1. and 3.3.2. address both private and public forestry in the whole Finland, while indicators 3.3.2 – 3.3.3 refer specifically to the state forestry in the Sámi homeland 3.3.1. Forest manager shall identify, recognise and protect sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance in cooperation with the Sámi people a) Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance shall be specified in co-operation with Sámi people b) Management documentation and maps shall clearly show sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to the Sámi people c) All pure lichen heaths shall be restored outside soil scarification d) Forest manager and workers shall be familiar with these sites and protect them. 3.3.2. Forest managers (over 1000 hectares of forest land) shall a) define together with the respective reindeer herding cooperative and its local sub-unit the most important lichen areas found both on dry and semi-dry heaths. b) These sites shall be left outside soil scarification and other soil disturbing activities (e.g. logging with heavy forest machinery in snow free conditions) 3.3.3. In the Sámi homeland, State forest manager shall: a) identify b) map and c) protect the sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance together with the representatives of the Sàmi people. 3.3.4. The Manager of the state forests shall not allow damping down the ground lichen by the forest machinery, when the snow is not thick enough to protect the ground.
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	Note: Indicator 3.4.1. addresses both private and public forestry in the whole Finland, while indicator 3.4.2 –refer specifically to the state forestry in the Sámi homeland. 3.4.1. a) The forest manager shall be aware about the traditional skills and knowledge of Sámi people concerning forest species and forest management.

their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.	b) Forest manager shall compensate the use of the traditional Sámi peoples' knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. c) Consultation costs of the Sámi and their representatives shall be compensated by the forest manager d) The compensation shall be formally agreed upon with the free and informed consent of Sámi people before forest operations commence. 3.4.2. State forest manager shall enter into an agreement with the Sámi Parliament, Skolt Village assembly and the relevant reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units on the compensations paid for utilizing the traditional Sámi knowledge: a) in the forest management, b) in the forest management planning and c) in the use of forest species, in particular non-timber forest products

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.	
Criteria	**Indicators**
4.1. The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.	4.1.1. The forest manager shall (a) collect information about forestry services offered by local residents or entrepreneurs (b) negotiate with them when recruiting new employees. 4.1.2. Forest manager shall provide (a) remuneration compatible with the prevailing collective labour agreement in the industry and (b) opportunities for life-long education 4.1.3. Local communities and residents shall be given equal or preferential opportunities in forest management activities in terms of employment, training, and provision of supplies to FMO, and other benefits or opportunities.
4.2. Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.	4.2.1. Forest manager shall ensure that the contractors and the forest workers are familiar with the regulations and legislation regarding the health and safety of the forest work. 4.2.2. Forest manager, the contractors and the forest workers shall work in compliance with the regulations and legislation for the health and safety of the forest work. 4.2.3. Forest manager shall ensure that only such contractors are used in forest work who have paid statutory fees and taxes and adhere to: a) the legislation b) collective labour agreements, c) occupational safety and health, and d) provisions pertaining to workers' rights in their employee relations. 4.2.4. Forest manager shall ensure that the workers have such personal safety devices, which are deemed necessary at the evaluation of the occupational health risks. 4.2.5. Forest manager shall ensure that when the work is done by the forest owners themselves or on a voluntary basis, the same level of occupational safety as in other employment is maintained. 4.2.6. Indicators under criterion 4.2 are also applicable for workers family members in case they are present at the operational sites
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	4.3.1. Forest manager shall allow workers to form and join a trade union of their choice without fear of intimidation or reprisal 4.3.2. Forest manager shall ensure that if trade unions organise collective bargaining, it shall be carried out in good faith

Organization (ILO).	and with best efforts to come to an agreement 4.3.3. Forest manager shall allow the workers to form and join interest groups of their choice without fear of intimidation or reprisal 4.3.4. Forest manager shall allow interest groups of the workers to participate in the decision making
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.	4.4.1. Forest manager shall evaluate the social impact, both to men and women, in relation to forest management planning. 4.4.2. (a) Forest manager in municipalities with at least 1,000 hectares of forest land and (b) forest owners with at least 10,000 hectares of forest land shall compose a landscape ecological plan (LEP, or equivalent land use plan) according to the participatory planning principles established by the Metsähallitus (state enterprise managing public lands). 4.4.3. Forest manager shall ensure the results of social impact evaluations are incorporated in the LEP. 4.4.4. Forest manager shall ensure that forest owners with less than 10 000 ha incorporate the results of social impact evaluations in their forest management plan 4.4.5. Forest manager shall ensure that forest owners with less than 10 000 ha shall maintain consultations with the people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations
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.	4.5.1. Forest manager shall be aware of a) the legal or customary rights, b) property, c) resources and d) livelihoods of local peoples 4.5.2. Forest manager shall make records of the conflicts regarding loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local people. 4.5.3. Forest manager shall (a) develop and (b) implement countermeasures for solving the conflicts 4.5.4. Forest manager shall record the handling and resolution of disputes, including the figures of paid compensations 4.5.5. Forest management shall be covered by forest manager's liability insurance or private insurance 4.5.6. Forest manager shall regularly (a) conduct internal audits in order to avoid loss or damage affecting local people and (b) keep records of the internal audits.

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.	
Criteria	**Indicators**
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.	5.1.1. Forest manager shall set the economic targets of forest management in the management plan 5.1.2. Forest manager shall have funding for implementing the entire forest management plan (including operations, which may not be economically profitable in short term) 5.1.3. Forest manager shall incorporate all relevant business proceedings in accounting statements. 5.1.4. Forest manager shall be aware of the opportunity to apply for subsidies based on a) the Act on the Financing of Sustainable Forestry (1094/1996), or b) environmental and other subsidies as compensation for social and ecological measures conducted on their lands. 5.1.5. Forest manager shall ensure the forests are regenerated after final felling with tree species suitable for the habitat
5.2. Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.	5.2.1. Forest manager shall be aware of the local processing facilities, including non-timber forest products 5.2.2. Forest manager shall give preference to local, value-added processing and manufacturing facilities in selling the forest products. 5.2.3. Forest manager shall explore markets for an expanded diversity of forest products and logging by-products.
5.3. Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.	5.3.1. Forest manager shall utilize all marketable timber unless left on-site to provide structural diversity 5.3.2. Forest manager shall (a) undertake and (b) document measures for protection of remaining stands, forest re-growth, soil and water quality, and wild animal life.
5.4. Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.	5.4.1. Forest manager shall (a) indicate areas designated for multiple use in the management plan and (b) the specific use of these areas shall be taken into account in forestry operations. 5.4.2. Forestry practises conducted by the state forest manager shall support reindeer husbandry in areas designated for reindeer herding in particular (Reindeer Management Act 848/90). a) State forest manager shall identify important pastures in co-operation with herding co-operatives and their sub-units. b) State forest manager shall acquire an endorsement of the reindeer herding co-operatives and their sub-units in question before implementation of the forest management

	plans. 5.4.3. Forest manager shall conduct harvesting only during the winter season in areas in which reindeer lichen (Cladonia alpestris) is collected. 5.4.4. Forest manager shall not restrict the use of forest roads without justification 5.4.5. Forest manager shall provide hunters of moose and deer the right to use forest roads for transporting the quarry. 5.4.6. Forest manager shall not prohibit hunting the moose and deer without justification.
5.5. Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.	5.5.1. Forest manager shall indicate at the forest management plan: a) ground water areas as identified by the Regional environmental centre b) shelter belts for fishing waters (water courses) 5.5.2. Forest manager shall maintain and enhance quality of ground water areas and fishing waters through the implementation of the forest management plan 5.5.3. The forest manager shall create suitable habitats for game animals in connection to forestry activities 5.5.4. Forest manager shall (a) indicate important sites for game management, such as Capercaillie leks and the boundary forests of the Black Grouse leks in the forest management plan and (b) take them into consideration in forestry operations.
5.6. The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained	5.6.1. Forest manager shall be able to demonstrate the long-term sustainable harvesting level in the forest management plan 5.6.2. Forest manager shall not conduct harvests, which exceed the long term productivity capacity of the forest

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.	
Criteria	**Indicators**
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.	6.1.1. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall assess the environmental impact of forest operations a) at the forest property level, b) landscape level and c) around on-site processing facilities 6.1.2. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall incorporate the results of the environmental impact assessment to the forest management plan or operational plan before conducting the operations. 6.1.3. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall submit (a) forest road network plans, (b) drainage renewals and (c) other operational plans affecting areas over 200 ha to the regional Environment Centre in order to assess the need for conducting the EIA procedure as defined in the Act on the Environmental Impact Assessment (1994/468). 6.1.4. (FMUs<200ha) Forest manager shall demonstrate knowledge of the possible negative environmental impacts of its activities and seek 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.	6.2.1. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall present known habitats of rare, threatened and endangered flora and fauna in the maps of the forest management plan 6.2.2. Forest manager shall establish conservation zones and protection areas (see indicator 6.4.1.) appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources 6.2.3. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall (a) document inappropriate uses e.g. hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering or recreation and (b) take measures to ensure that these activities are correspondingly altered (see indicator 1.5.3) 6.2.4. Forest manager shall avoid harvesting during spring and early summer in the valuable bird nesting habitats. 6.2.5. Forest manager shall organise prescribed burning in forest management units larger than 1000 hectares of forest land. 6.2.6. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall a) restore endangered peat land habitats (as classified by the Finnish Peat land Society) if such exist in the renewal drainage plans for instance by damming or filling the ditches b) include restoration plan to the drainage plan for the

	endangered peat land habitats 6.2.7. Forest manager shall not afforestate cultural landscapes brought about by pasturing or mowing in the past. 6.2.8. Forest manager shall comply with hunting and fishing regulations 6.2.9. Forestry practises implemented by the forest manager shall not threaten game and fish species 6.2.10. (FMUs<200ha) In case information exists on rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats, the forest manager shall use this information to a) map and b) protect them. 6.2.11. (FMUs<200ha) Forest manager shall control inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting
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.	6.3.1. Forest manager shall preserve dead trees in harvesting operations. 6.3.2. Forest manager shall preserve at least 10 large (DBH at least 20 cm) living trees per hectare as retention trees in each harvesting operation. 6.3.3. Forest manager shall place at least 10% of the forest land permanently outside final felling operations. This quota may include the permanently protected areas defined at indicator 6.4.1. 6.3.4. Forest managers of more than 10,000 hectares of forest land shall manage the high-altitude forests (more than 300 metres above sea level) as uneven-aged. These areas can be included to the 10 % quota described at 6.3.3. 6.3.5. Forest manager shall not harvest spruce and pine swamps a) if they are not drained, or b) if there are only old, individual ditches that do not have impact on the water balance. 6.3.6. Forest manager shall avoid fragmentation of forests. 6.3.7. Forest manager shall ensure sufficient share of broadleaved tree species. 6.3.8. Forest manager shall not conduct soil scarification on a) spruce and pine swamps nor b) in paludified depressions on mineral soil if these (a, b) are un-drained or if old, individual ditches do not have effect on the water balance. 6.3.9. Forest manager shall not use ploughing as a soil scarification method. 6.3.10. Forest manager shall ensure large down logs and dead trees (DBH > 20 cm) are preserved intact in soil scarification. 6.3.11. Forest manager shall minimize the adverse

	impacts of fertilization: a) The nutrient and heavy metal content of fertilisers, ash, and other substances used for soil improvement shall be analysed. b) Fertilisation shall be limited only in sites which have created symptoms of nutrient imbalance in soil or in trees, as confirmed by chemical nutrient analysis. c) The organisation doing the chemical analyses shall demonstrate the validity of the results with an international quality system (e.g. ISO 9000). 6.3.12. Forest manager shall leave a buffer zone of at least 50 metres wide between the fertilised area and water courses containing water all-year round. 6.3.13. Forest manager shall leave a non-fertilized buffer zone of at least 5 metres wide around the ditches in drained areas
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.	6.4.1. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall set aside at least 5% of the productive forest land for biodiversity protection. 6.4.2. (FMUs<200ha) Forest manager shall set aside at least 5% of the productive forest land for biodiversity protection, which can be measured at the group level in a group certification scheme. 6.4.3. Forest manager shall not carry out forestry operations on scrub lands and wastelands in their natural state). 6.4.4. Forest manager shall ensure that (a) construction of forest roads, (b) delineation of harvest sites, and (c) renewal of drainage systems shall not harm the protected sites defined under this criterion or other existing or planned (confirmed by the Council of State) protected areas. 6.4.5. (a) Municipalities with at least 1,000 hectares of forest land; (b) private forest owners with at least 10,000 hectares of forest land and (c) the Metsähallitus shall comply with the buffer zones defined at the Environmental Guidelines to Practical Forest Management
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.	6.5.1. Forest manager shall prepare and implement written guidelines for: a) erosion control b) minimizing forest damage during harvesting c) minimizing forest damage during road construction d) minimizing forest damage during other mechanical disturbances, e.g. collecting energy wood e) protection of water resources 6.5.2. Forest manager shall reserve a 20 metres wide untouched buffer zone adjacent to water courses measured from the water's edge. Exceptional management activities may include: a) selective logging,

	b) restoration operations c) operations for scenic reasons or d) improving the nutrient-absorbing capacity of the site 6.5.3. Forest manager shall ensure un-drained peat land, paludified sites, or even parts of such sites shall not be drained. 6.5.4. Forest manager shall not conduct drainage in the protective zones of important ground water areas. 6.5.5. Forest manager shall not conduct drainage on sites where old or individual ditches do not have effect on the water balance 6.5.6. Forest manager shall submit drainage renewal plans affecting areas over 200 ha to the regional Environment Centre in order to assess the need for conducting the EIA procedure
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.	6.6.1. Forest manager shall design an environmentally friendly plan for the pest management in case the productivity of the forest is threatened by pests. 6.6.2. Forest manager shall use biological control methods in areas with a heavy risk of infection by Heterobasidion annosum in summer harvesting of spruce and pine. 6.6.3. Forest manager shall not use chemicals prohibited by a) the FSC under Criterion 6.6. b) the Act on Prevention of Fungal and Insect Damage in Forest 263/1991 and/or c) the EU Commission decision C(2000) 4140 (permethrin) 6.6.4. Forest manager shall prefer biological or mechanical methods for pest and weed management instead of chemicals
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.	6.7.1. Forest manager shall dispose chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil in an appropriate manner at off-site location in accordance with the Waste Act (1072/1993) and Decree (1390/1993).
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.	6.8.1. Forest manager shall use biological control agents only when other non-chemical pest control methods are, or can be expected to be ineffective. 6.8.2. Forest manager shall (a) document the rationale for the use of biological control and (b) the use shall be based on scientific evidence 6.8.3. Forest manager shall comply with relevant provincial laws, national laws and internationally accepted protocols if

	biological control agents are used. 6.8.4. Forest manager shall monitor the (a) impacts and (b) effectiveness of the use of biological control agents 6.8.5. Forest manager shall not use genetically modified organisms
6.9. The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.	6.9.1. Forest manager shall (a) control and (b) monitor the use of exotic species. In addition, (c) the origin of all seeds and seedlings used in forest regeneration shall be documented. Apart from the native species, use of Siberian larch (Larix sibirica) is allowed 6.9.2. Forest manager shall ensure that the total area of hybrid aspen plantations shall not exceed 2 ha per holding.
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; 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. Forest manager shall not convert High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) areas to non-forest land uses (except roads required for access. 6.10.2. Forest manager shall not convert forest to non-forest land (beyond that permitted in approved plans e.g. for roads, trails, landings). 6.10.3. Forest manager shall undertake actions to convert all non-forest areas (landings, gravel pits, etc.) back to forest once the non-forest use has ceased.

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.	
Criteria	**Indicators**
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;	7.1.1. Forest manager shall present a holding-specific forest management plan which is tailored to the owner's needs 7.1.2. Forest manager shall present in the forest management plan the long-term: a) economic, b) social, and c) ecological objectives of management, and d) the means of achieving them 7.1.3. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall present in the forest management plan: a) 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) Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories. c) Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection. d) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics. e) Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments. f) Restoration measures and identification of protection of endangered species; g) Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species. h) Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used. 7.1.4. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall enclose maps in the forest management plan showing: a) Description of the forest resource base including planned management activities and land ownership. b) Protected sites, c) important sites for reindeer husbandry forests with beard lichen and lichen heaths including the immediate surroundings of separation corral, earmark corral system, control fence and feeding corrals including routes for moving reindeer, the surroundings of huts and the most important winter and spring grazing sites (map endorsed by the herding co-operatives and their sub-units), d) in the Sámi homeland, religious sites important to the Sámi culture (map endorsed by the Sámi parliament); e) known habitats of endangered species, f) sites where harvesting should be avoided in the bird

	nesting season, g) important sites for game, h) herb-rich forests and forests on mineral soils to be restored to natural state, i) managed cultural landscapes j) traditional monuments, k) known Capercaillie leks and l) trekking routes and recreational areas. 7.1.5. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall indicate in the forest management plan areas designated for: a) hiking and outdoor activities (VR areas in municipal plans), b) nearby areas for recreation (VL areas), c) areas mainly used in agriculture and forestry where there is a need for guided activities (MU areas), d) areas with high ecological values (MYareas), e) other areas important for outdoor activities, e.g. hiking routes, the surroundings of recreational routes, and areas of scenic importance. 7.1.6. (FMUs>200ha) Municipal and state forest manager shall design the areas listed at the Indicator 7.1.5. with participatory planning 7.1.7. (FMUs>200ha) Municipal and state forest manager shall manage the forest areas listed at the Indicator 7.1.5. at uneven age structure. 7.1.8. (FMUs<200ha) Forest manager shall have written management plan, which includes at least the following: a) objectives of management b) description of the forest c) how the objectives will be met, harvesting methods and silviculture to ensure sustainability d) sustainable harvest limits 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.	7.2.1. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall revise the forest management plan at least every 10 years 7.2.2. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall add important habitats and habitats of endangered species in the forest management plan immediately after their identification. 7.2.3. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall document forest operations in the forest management plan.

	7.2.4. (FMUs<200ha) Forest manager shall ensure the forest management plan is (a) reviewed at least every 10 years, (b) updated if necessary and (c) the results of monitoring shall be used to plan and implement future management.
7.3. Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.	7.3.1. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall ensure that training and vocational skills of the forest workers are adequate in order to conduct the measures specified in the forest management plan. 7.3.2. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall set up a supervisory system to ensure consistent and reliable implementation of the forest management plan. 7.3.3. (FMUs<200ha) Forest manager shall (a) ensure that training and vocational skills of the forest workers are adequate in order to conduct the measures specified in the forest management plan and (b) forest manager shall set up a supervisory system to ensure consistent and reliable implementation of the forest 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.	7.4.1. (FMUs>200ha) Municipal and state forest managers shall make forest management plans completely public and available after their official approval. 7.4.2. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager in private forest shall make a summary of the management plan (including the primary elements of the management plan, listed in Criterion 7.1.) publicly available for interested parties 7.4.3. (FMUs<200ha) Forest manager shall ensure that the management plan, or a summary of it (which includes the information required by 7.1 and 8.5 and any results of monitoring) is available for the public to see on request.

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.	
Criteria	**Indicators**
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.	8.1.1. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall have an internal monitoring plan, adjusted to the scale and intensity of the forest operations that outlines: a) the parameters, b) the frequency, c) procedures, d) rationale and e) responsibility for monitoring 8.1.2. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall conduct internal monitoring of the forest management, which shall include following: a) execution and deviations of the forest management plan b) unexpected impacts on business management and operations c) resulting adjustments to the forest management plan. 8.1.3. (FMUs<200ha) Forest manager shall conduct monitoring in a consistent and replicable way over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.
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.	8.2.1. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall collect data on: 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 8.2.2. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall record in the forest management plan (a) the times and (b) locations of fertilisation and pesticide use, as well as (c) the corresponding amounts. 8.2.3. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall collected data on the amount of (a) preserved trees in harvesting and (b) on the dead wood in the forest in connection with forest management planning. 8.2.4. (FMUs<200ha) Forest manager shall record following: a) Amount of products harvested b) Effects of operations as identified under Criteria 6.1 c) Changes in features identified under Criteria 6.2 d) Monitoring of high conservation values identified under Criteria 9.1 e) 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."	8.3.1. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall document in the book keeping: a) name of the product, b) quantity of each product group, c) date of production, d) forest of origin, e) FSC certification code, f) destination, g) persons/companies involved in processing, h) persons/companies involved in sale, and i) persons/companies involved in transport of the product. 8.3.2. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall clearly mark and/or label the certified forest products 8.3.3. (FMUs<200ha) Forest manager shall maintain documentation that enable products to be traced from the forest. 8.3.4. FMO shall establish and implement procedures according to FM-35 SmartWood Chain-of-Custody Standard for Forest Management Enterprises (FMEs).
8.4. The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.	8.4.1. (FMUs>200ha) Based on the results monitoring, forest manager shall (a) record and (b) analyse deviations from the existing management plan per 8.2.1 shall be considered for management plan revision. 8.4.2. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall incorporate the results of monitoring into the implementation and revision of the management plan 8.4.3. (FMUs<200ha) See 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.	8.5.1. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2. 8.5.2. (FMUs<200ha) See 7.4

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.	
Criteria	**Indicators**
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.	(FMUs>200ha) FMO shall carry out an assessment of the FMU sufficient to identify all parts of the FMU that have each of the following attributes: a) HCV1. Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia), such as Natura 2000 sites. b) HCV2. Forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance, such as intact forest landscapes. c) HCV3. Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems, such as Natura 2000 sites and Woodland Key Habitats. d) HCV4. Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control), such as areas important for drinking water. e) HCV5. Forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health). f) HCV6. Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities). 9.1.1. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall preserve the conservation values of (a) traditional and (b) cultural landscapes and (c) nationally important scenic landscapes in accordance with the guidelines delivered by the regional Forestry Centre, Environment Centres and/or the National Board of Antiquities 9.1.2. (FMUs<200ha) Forest manager shall assess his/her forest for high conservation values.
9.2. The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.	9.2.1. Forest manager shall consult with relevant experts and authorities on the (a) identification and (b) management of High Conservation Value Forest
9.3. The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or	9.3.1. Forest manager shall (a) present in the forest management plan specific guidelines for the management of identified high conservation value forests consistent with the

enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.	precautionary approach to ensure the protection values are maintained or increased, and (b) implement the measures described in the guidelines 9.3.2. Forest manager shall make guidelines for management of high conservation value forests publicly available.
9.4. Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.	9.4.1. The forest manager shall develop and implement a plan for monitoring measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes. 9.4.2. Forest manager shall (a) assess and (b) document the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.

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.	
Criteria	**Indicators**
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.	10.1.1. Forest manager shall determine objectives of the management, including natural forest conservation and restoration objectives in accordance with Criterion 7.1. 10.1.2. Forest manager shall demonstrate the management objectives in the implementation of the 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.	10.2.1. Forest manager shall protect areas with valuable natural vegetation when planning and establishing plantations. 10.2.2. Forest manager shall ensure the scale and layout of plantations are consistent with natural forest vegetation in the landscape. 10.2.3. Forest manager shall develop a landscape level plan before planting activities take place for important cultural landscapes. The planning shall take into account traditional and cultural landscapes, landscape change, areas important for environmental protection, and the adaptation of the lands to be afforested into the visual landscape 10.2.4. Forest manager shall incorporate wildlife corridors in the design and layout of the plantations. 10.2.5. Forest manager planting larger than 3 ha areas shall incorporate different rotation ages and a mosaic of stands to the layout of the plantation 10.2.6. Forest manager shall (a) leave buffer zones, at least 20 meters in width, adjacent to water courses and (b) restore the buffer zones to natural condition by leaving them untreated or by active restoration.
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.	10.3.1. Forest manager shall induce variation in (a) age classes, (b) species and (c) rotation periods in felling and regeneration operations in plantations larger than 3 hectares 10.3.2. Forest manager shall not establish monocultures in areas larger than 3 hectares.
10.4. The selection of species for planting shall be based on their	10.4.1. Forest manager shall document (a) the selection of species, (b) their origin, and (c) justification for the species

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.	selection. 10.4.2. Forest manager shall ensure that (a) the share of native species is over 95 % and (b) native broad-leaved trees are favoured by the Southern coastline. 10.4.3. In case exotic species are planted, forest manager shall monitor them in order to detect a) unusual mortality, b) disease, c) insect outbreaks and d) adverse ecological impacts.
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.	10.5.1. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall (a) set aside at least 5% of the overall forest management area for biodiversity protection so as to restore the site to a natural forest cover and (b) indicate the site at the maps of the forest management plan. 10.5.2. (FMUs<200ha) Forest manager shall (a) set aside at least 5% of the overall forest management area for biodiversity protection so as to restore the site to a natural forest cover and (b) indicate the site at the maps of the forest management plan.
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.	10.6.1. When planting at agricultural lands adjacent to water courses, forest manager shall minimize leaching of nutrients by (a) using buffer zones at least 20 metres wide (as defined under 6.5.2) and (b) leaving the buffer zones untreated (except for possible weed control). 10.6.2. In the buffer zone of the planted agricultural lands, forest manager shall apply mechanical weed control instead of chemical methods 10.6.3. On areas to be planted after being released from peat production, forest manager shall leave a 15-30 cm thick peat layer. 10.6.4. If planting of areas released from agriculture or peat production requires drainage, forest manager shall design the main and feeder drains in accordance with the best practises guide book in forest drainage. 10.6.5. Forest manager shall not construct ditches from the fields directly to the water courses. 10.6.6. Forest manager shall ensure the measures of water protection are (a) planned, (b) implemented, and (c) monitored according to the guidelines and regulations regarding renewal of drainage systems (Criterion 6.2).

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.	10.7.1. Forest manager shall take measures to prevent outbreaks of a) pests, b) diseases, c) fire and d) invasive plant introductions in plantations. 10.7.2. Forest manager shall (a) incorporate integrated pest management to the forest management plan, with reliance on (b) prevention and (c) biological control methods rather than chemical pesticides 10.7.3. Forest manager shall acquire seedlings from nurseries with ISO based environmental quality systems. Nurseries used shall actively decrease use of fertilisers, chemical pest agents, and other chemicals, and use environmentally friendly methods of seedling production
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.	10.8.1. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall (a) conduct monitoring of plantations, including the (b) assessment of on-site and off-site (c) ecological and (d) 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. 10.8.2. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall not plant any exotic species to large areas (maximum 0.5 hectares) until local trials and/or experience have shown that they are (a) ecologically well-adapted to the site, (b) are not invasive, and (c) do not have significant negative ecological impacts on other ecosystems. 10.8.3. (FMUs>200ha) Forest manager shall ensure that establishing the plantation does not violate local rights of (a) ownership, (b) use or (c) access. (FMUs<200ha) Forest manager shall comply with indicators 10.8.1.; 10.8.2. and 10.8.3.
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	10.9.1. Forest manager shall accept that natural forests converted after 1994 to forests with foreign tree species shall not be certified.

conversion.	

Annex 1: List of national and local forest and related laws and administrative requirements which apply in Finland

Metsälaki (12.12.1996/1093)
Laki kestävän metsätalouden rahoituksesta 12.12.1996/1094
Laki metsän hyönteis- ja sienituhojen torjunnasta (8.2.1991/263)
Laki metsänviljelyaineiston kaupasta (24.8.1979/684)
Puutavaranmittauslaki (22.2.1991/364)
Luonnonsuojelulaki (20.12.1996/1096)
Kiinteistönmuodostamislaki (12.4.1995/554),
Maankäyttö- ja rakennuslaki (5.2.1999/132),
Vesilaki (19.5.1961/264)
Erämaalaki (17.1.1991/62)
Ympäristönsuojelulaki (4.2.2000/86)
Laki ympäristövaikutusten arviointimenettelystä (10.6.1994/468)
Laki metsäkeskuksista ja metsätalouden kehittämiskeskuksesta (18.12.1995/1474)
Laki metsähallituksesta (17.12.1993/1169)
Laki metsäntutkimuslaitoksesta (3.12.1999/1114)
Laki metsänhoitoyhdistyksistä (10.7.1998/534)
Yhteismetsälaki (11.1.1991/37)

Other legislation that is related to forestry in Finland:

Suomen perustuslaki 11.6.1999/731,
Laki yksityisistä teistä 15.6.1962/358,
Ulkoilulaki 13.7.1973/606,
Geenitekniikkalaki 17.3.1995/377,
Kemikaalilaki 14.8.1989/744,
Torjunta-ainelaki 23.5.1969/327,
Jätelaki 3.12.1993/1072,
Maa-aineslaki 24.7.1981/555,
Muinaismuistolaki 17.6.1963/295,
Metsästyslaki 28.6.1993/615 ja
Poronhoitolaki 14.9.1990/848.
Työsopimuslaki 30.4.1970/320,
Työehtosopimuslaki 7.6.1946/436,
Työaikalaki 9.8.1996/605,
Työturvallisuuslaki 28.6.1958/299)

Annex 2: List of the multilateral environmental agreements and ILO Conventions that Finland has ratified

ILO Convention (No. 98) in 1951
ILO Convention (No. 100) in 1963
SopS n:o 45/1976 CITES Asetus villieläimistön ja –kasviston uhanalaisten lajien kansainvälistä kauppaa koskevan sopimuksen voimaansaattamisesta.
SopS n:o 43/1985 Asetus vuoden 1983 kansainvälisen trooppista puuta koskevan sopimuksen voimaansaattamisesta.
SopS n:o 61/1994 Asetus ilmastonmuutosta koskevan Yhdistyneiden Kansakuntien puitesopimuksen voimaansaattamisesta
SopS n:o 1/1997 Asetus aavikoitumisen estämiseksi vakavasta kuivuudesta ja /tai aavikoitumisesta kärsivissä maissa, erityisesti Afrikassa, tehdyn Yhdistyneiden kansakuntien yleissopimuksen voimaansaattamisesta.
SopS n:o 78/1998 Asetus biologista monimuotoisuutta koskevan yleissopimuksen voimaansaattamisesta.
SopS n:o 29/1986 Asetus Euroopan luonnonvaraisen kasviston ja eläimistön sekä niiden elinympäristön suojelusta tehdyn yleissopimuksen voimaansaattamisesta.
SopS19/1994 Euroopan neuvoston ihmisoikeussopimus: Ihmisoikeuksien ja perusvapauksien suojaamiseksi tehdyn yleissopimuksen ja siihen liittyvien lisäpöytäkirjojen voimaansaattamisesta sekä yleissopimuksen ja lisäpöytäkirjojen eräiden määräysten hyväksymisestä annetun lain voimaantulosta
ILO Convention (No. 169) concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries

Annex 3: List of officially endangered species in Finland .

Copied from the draft Finnish FSC standard dated 10 April 2007

According to the Evaluation of Threatened Species in Finland 2000 report, 1,505 species of animals and plants are classified as threatened in Finland – about one in ten of the 15,000 species that could be evaluated. There are thought to be a total of around 43,000 species in Finland, but there was only enough information for about a third of all these species to be assessed. This latest evaluation has been based on the new categories and criteria developed and approved by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) in 1994.

The threatened species include 50 vertebrates, 759 invertebrates, 180 vascular plants, 142 cryptogams, and 374 fungi or lichens. Some 37% of the threatened species are primarily associated with forest habitats, particularly herb-rich woodland and old growth heath land forest habitats. About 28% of the species typically live in traditional farmland habitats, and this proportion has risen considerably since the previous evaluation in 1990.

The main factors that threaten species or have led to extinctions include the overgrowing of open habitats no longer used for traditional forms of agriculture, and changes in forests induced by modern forestry methods.

The results of the Evaluation of Threatened Species in Finland 2000 report are being used to update the "red list" of threatened species and species under strict protection in Finland, which is officially maintained for the purposes of the Nature Conservation Act. This list contains some 1,410 threatened species, of which 608 are under strict protection, meaning that the destruction or degradation of habitat important for their survival is prohibited. In some cases, the Ministry of the Environment may also have to create special protection program for these species.

Reference:

Rassi, P., Alanen, A., Kanerva, T. & Mannerkoski, I. (eds.). 2001. The Red List of Finnish Species. Ministry of the Environment & Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki. 432 pages. (English Summary)

Annex 4: Glossary of terms2

Biological diversity: The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. (see Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992)

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

Biological diversity values: The intrinsic, ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components. (see Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992)

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

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

Criterion (pl. Criteria): A means of judging whether or not a Principle (of forest stewardship) has been fulfilled.

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

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

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

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

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

Forest management/manager: The people responsible for the operational management of the forest resource and of the enterprise, as well as the management system and structure, and the planning and field operations.

Forest management unit (FMU): a clearly defined forest area with mapped boundaries, managed by a single managerial body to a set of explicit objectives which are expressed in a self-contained multi-year management plan.

[2] from FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship FSC-STD-0120-0015 (February 2000(draft 2-0) and FSC glossary of terms, FSC-STD-01-002 (draft 1-0)

Forest stewardship: forest management which, in conformity with the FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship, is environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable.

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

Indicator: a quantitative or qualitative variable which can be measured or described, and which provides a means of judging whether a forest management unit complies with the requirements of an FSC Criterion. Indicators and the associated thresholds thereby define the requirements for responsible forest management at the level of the forest management unit and are the primary basis of forest evaluation.

Indigenous lands and territories: The total environment of the lands, air, water, sea, sea-ice, flora and fauna, and other resources which indigenous peoples have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used. (Draft Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: Part VI)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Precautionary approach: Tool for the implementation of the precautionary principle.

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

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

SLIMF (small or low intensity managed forest): a forest management unit which meets specific FSC requirements related to size and/or intensity of timber harvesting, and can therefore be evaluated by certification bodies using streamlined evaluation procedures. The applicable FSC requirements are defined in *FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria*.

Stakeholder: individuals and organizations with a legitimate interest in the goods and services provided by an FMU; and those with an interest in the environmental and social effects of an FMU's activities, products and services. They include: those individuals and organizations which exercise statutory environmental control over the FMU; local people; employees; investors and insurers; customers and consumers; environmental interest and consumer groups and the general public [modified from Upton and Bass, 1995].

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

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

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

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

Annex 5: Summary of the SmartWood Certification Assessment Process[3]

The certification assessment process begins with a candidate operation submitting an application to SmartWood. Based upon a review of the application, the scope of the area to be certified and discussions with the candidate, SmartWood will propose a certification process that includes either a preassessment followed by a main assessment, or goes directly to a main assessment. Every candidate operation is assigned a SmartWood task manager who will liaise with the assessment lead auditor and the candidate to schedule and perform the evaluations.

SmartWood assessors are provided with detailed guidance on the certification process, including pre-assessment briefings (either in person or by telephone) and access to a written SmartWood handbook for forest assessment. The purpose of these briefings and the manual is to ensure that a consistent and thorough certification process is followed.

In addition to following the SmartWood procedures outlined in our forest evaluation handbook, there are three other ways in which we ensure accuracy and fairness in our certifications:

1. The assessment must involve individuals who are familiar with the particular region and type of forest management operation under evaluation. It is SmartWood policy to involve local specialists in all assessments.
2. Team members must be familiar with SmartWood certification procedures. Each SmartWood certification assessment has a designated lead auditor who must have participated in a formal SmartWood assessor-training course or previously participated in other SmartWood forest management assessments or audits.
3. The assessment must use region-specific standards (i.e. accredited FSC standard or a "regionalized" SmartWood Interim Standard, based on this SmartWood Generic Standard).

Team Selection and Planning – SmartWood selects a qualified lead auditor and other team members to participate in the assessment. The lead auditor's first task is to ensure that all team members understand the scope and intent of the assessment process. Responsibility for evaluation of different sections (i.e. specific criteria and indicators) of the standard are assigned to different team members, depending on their particular training and expertise. All team members can provide input into any principle, but lead responsibility is assigned for data collection, analysis and writing for each criterion and indicator.

Stakeholder notification: At least 30 days prior to forest evaluation, SmartWood notifies stakeholders of the pending assessment and requests stakeholders' observations or comments with regard to the operations compliance with the certification standard.

Fieldwork and Data Collection – Evaluation of conformance with the standard is based upon data collection by the auditors through review of FME management documentation, interviews with staff and stakeholders, and field observations and measurements. The team organizes opening meetings with the FME staff to review the assessment scope and procedures and certification standards. Documentation review and interview with FME staff begin immediately. The assessment process then moves quickly to the field phase. Inspections are made to sites chosen by SmartWood assessors based on a comprehensive review of the candidate FME's forest holdings and management activities, discussions with interested/affected parties, and identification of critical issues or challenging sites. Site visits occur in the forest, at processing

[3] For detailed information about procedures, contact our headquarters or regional offices through www.smartwood.org.

facilities, and in surrounding communities. Visits emphasize management activities of all types and phases and different biological or physical conditions.

Team members meet independently with stakeholders. All assessments solicit and incorporate input (confidential and/or open) from directly affected and/or knowledgeable stakeholders, including local communities, adjoining landowners, local forest industry, environmental organizations, government agencies, and scientific researchers. During these consultations, assessment team members explain the assessment process, solicit opinions, and gather impressions about the field performance of the operation being assessed.

Data Analysis and Decision making – Throughout the assessment the team meets independently to discuss progress in gathering information, and discuss preliminary findings. The assessment team works in a consensus fashion to analyze information and evidence gathered, evaluate conformance and reach agreement on their findings as to the certification of the candidate operation.

The assessment team evaluates performance by the FME at the indicator level of the standard. Any non-conformances are analyzed and classified as either minor or major. A noncompliance is considered major if it results in a fundamental failure to achieve the objective of the relevant criterion in the standard. Conversely, a nonconformance is considered minor if the impacts are limited in scale, prompt corrective action has been taken to ensure it will not be repeated and it does not result in a fundamental failure to achieve the objective of the relevant criterion. For each area of nonconformance identified, the assessment team develops corrective actions which are classified as follows:

- **Major Corrective Action Request (CAR)** is an improvement addressing major nonconformance that candidate FME must implement before SmartWood certification is granted;
- **Corrective action request (CAR)** is an improvement addressing a minor nonconformance that candidate FME must implement by a specific deadline (i.e. short term - usually within one year) during the renewable five-year certification period (which is the standard FSC certification contract period); and,
- **Observation** is a very minor problem or the early stages of a problem which do not of itself constitute a non-conformance, but which the auditor considers may lead to a future non-conformance if not addressed by the client. An observation may be a warning signal on a particular issue that, if not addressed, could turn into a nonconformance in the future.

Report Write-up – following the forest evaluation, the team prepares the certification assessment report. This report follows a standardized format and includes detailed findings of performance and proposes pre-conditions, CARs or observations.

Review of Assessment Report by Candidate Operation, Independent Peer Reviewers and SmartWood Report Review – the candidate operation, at least one peer reviewer, and SmartWood regional staff, review each certification assessment report.

Certification Decision – Once the above steps are completed, SmartWood headquarters coordinates a certification decision process. If a certification decision is to approve certification, a five-year certification contract will be executed which requires annual on-site audits. If an operation is not approved, the certification decision will establish what must be done in order for the operation to achieve certified status in the future.

Annex 6 Definition of HCVF

a) Natura 2000-alueet, lakisääteiset suojelualueet sekä valtakunnallisten suojeluohjelmien kohteet (HCVF 1)

b) Maakuntakaavojen suojelualueet (S- ja SL-alueet) ja voimassa olevien maakuntakaavojen suojelualuevaraukset (HCVF 2)

c) Alueet, joilla esiintyy laaja-alaisina[1] ja yhtenäisenä[2] FSC-standardin 6.4.1:n mukaisia elinympäristöjä (HCVF 1; HCVF 3)

[1] Laaja tarkoittaa kohdetta, jonka alueella on hemiboreaalisella vyöhykkeellä vähintään 20 ha kriteerin 6.4.1 mukaisia arvoelinympäristöjä, etelä- ja keskiboreaalisella vyöhykkeellä 50 ha ja pohjoisboreaalisella vyöhykkeellä 100 ha.

[2] Yhtenäisyys tarkoittaa sitä, että yhtenäisen alueen sisällä enintään 10 % voi muodostua muista kuin kriteerin 6.4.1 mukaisista elinympäristöistä

d) Kansainvälisesti arvokkaat lintualueet (IBA) ja kansallisesti arvokkaat lintukosteikot (FINIBA) * (HCVF 3)

Koskee arvokkaita lintualueita niiden vuonna 2010 voimassa olleen määritelmän mukaan.

e) I ja II-luokan pohjavesialueet (HCVF 4)

f) Vesitaloudeltaan pääosin luonnontilaisina säilyneet laajat[1] suomuodostumat hemi-, etelä- ja keskiboreaalisella vyöhykkeellä (HCVF 1; HCVF 3)

Perustelu: Laajat, pääosin ojittamattomina säilyneet suomuodostumat ovat keskeisen tärkeitä hiilivarastoja sekä muiden ekosysteemipalvelujen ylläpitäjiä. Alueiden HCVF-arvot säilyvät, mikäli alueen soiden vesitalous säilyy.

[1] Laajaksi suomuodostumaksi tulkitaan ojittamattomista ja toisiinsa kytkeytyneistä soista muodostuva alue, jonka minimilaajuus on hemiboreaalisella vyöhykkeellä vähintään 30 ha, eteläboreaalisella vyöhykkeellä vähintään 50 ha sekä keskiboreaalisella vyöhykkeellä vähintään 100 ha.

g) Erämaa-alueet (HCVF 5)