

SmartWood Interim Standard for Lithuania

SW-STD-FM-LIT-18MAR08

version 2.3, last updated 18 March, 2008

Standard scope

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

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

SLIMF FMO-s: a) FMO-s managing forest area below 500 ha
 b) FMO-s where the rate of harvest is less than 20% of mean annual increment and total annual harvest is less than 5000 cbm.

medium size FMO-s: FMO-s managing forest area of 500 to 10 000 hectares

large size FMO-s: FMO-s managing forest area over 10 000 hectares

Basis for the standard

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

Public input

This standard is a public document and can be freely distributed to all interested parties, provided that the standard is distributed without any modifications. This standard is publicly available in Lithuanian and English language and is available for download or printout on www.smartwood.org and www.nepcon.net. This standard is subject to consultation and comments from all interested stakeholders (also see the next section "Stakeholder consultation"). Based on stakeholder comments SW can implement changes in the indicators of this standard. Please note that the principles and criteria can not be modified since they are defined by FSC. All stakeholders who have comments regarding this standard or have suggestions for improving the indicators are strongly encouraged to contact NEPCon/SW (www.nepcon.net; Lithuania@nepcon.net). You can send your comments by any means suitable for you (mail, email, fax) or contact NEPCon, SW or FSC working group to agree personal meeting or have a phone discussion. More information about FSC certification background, certification process and certified entities in Lithuania or any other aspect related to FSC certification can be obtained from SW (www.smartwood.org).

Stakeholder consultation process

Present standard is based on SmartWood Interim Standard SW-STD-FM-LIT-30MAR06. Public notification of stakeholders about the standard to be used is a required part of each FM assessment process. During compilation of the present standard comments from various stakeholders were considered and many of them were taken into account.

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.	<p>1.1.1. The staff shall be aware of relevant requirements of legislation and their responsibilities.</p> <p>1.1.2. <u>Large FMO-s</u>: relevant legislation shall be available in head office for the staff.</p> <p>1.1.3. Discovered non compliances with legislation shall be recorded.</p> <p>1.1.4. Corrective actions shall be implemented in case non-compliance is identified.</p> <p>1.1.5. FMO shall meet all national, state/provincial and local environmental, labor and forestry laws (all laws applicable to FMO).</p>
1.2. All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.	<p>1.2.1. FMO shall be aware of applicable fees, royalties and taxes.</p> <p>1.2.2. Evidence shall exist of on-time payment of any applicable financial charges.</p> <p>1.2.3. In case of discrepancies, FMO shall maintain a full documentation related to the discrepancies and solving them.</p>
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.	<p>1.3.1. <u>Large FMO-s</u>: FMO shall be aware of applicable international conventions.</p> <p>1.3.2. No workers under the age of 14 shall be employed in the forest.</p> <p>1.3.3. No workers under the age of 18 shall be employed for operations when the work has higher profession risk.</p>
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.	<p>1.4.1. Perceived conflicts between laws and present standard shall be recorded by the FMO.</p> <p>1.4.2. Any conflicts identified during certification process shall be resolved through consultation between SmartWood, FMO, institution responsible for relevant law generation and relevant stakeholders as needed.</p>
1.5. Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.	<p>1.5.1. <u>Large FMO-s</u>: FMO shall have a monitoring system with formal documented periodic inspections for prevention of illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.</p> <p>1.5.2. Preventive measures shall be taken to decreasing poaching and illegal timber extraction.</p> <p>1.5.3. The FMO shall take all reasonable legal measures to prevent illegal and inappropriate usage of the forest area or natural resources (hunting, trapping and collection).</p> <p>1.5.4. Illegal harvest, settlements and other unauthorized usage of the forest shall be reported to the responsible authorities.</p>

<p>1.6. Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.</p>	<p>1.6.1. FMO shall clearly demonstrate long-term support for the FSC P&C.</p> <p>1.6.2. Large FMO-s: FMO commitment should be expressed in written.</p> <p>1.6.3. FMO shall ensure that applicable staff knows and implements requirements of this standard in daily work.</p> <p>1.6.4. Contractors shall be informed about FSC requirements and FMO shall control how these requirements are upheld.</p>
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PRINCIPLE 2. TENURE AND USE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES	
Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.	
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. FMO shall possess legal documents proving its legal rights of ownership or rights to manage the forest area. 2.1.2. Property borders shall be marked or otherwise clearly delineated (e.g. follow natural boundaries).
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. FMO shall ensure that local communities have access to the forest for collection of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) such as berries and mushrooms, medicine plants and honey as well as traditional recreational resources for own consumption 2.2.2. <u>Large FMO-s</u> : FMO should ensure that communities have controlled access to buy wood for own consumption. 2.2.3. <u>Large FMO-s</u> : If forest usage or restrictions for using it are negatively influencing local communities' lifestyle and economical viability, then usage or restrictions shall be reviewed during stakeholder consultation.
2.3. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified	2.3.1. Records shall be maintained of disputes over tenure and use rights. 2.3.2. Reasonable effort should be made to resolve conflicts through consultation aiming at achieving agreement or consent.

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.	Criteria considered not applicable since Lithuanians are native people in their homeland.
3.2. Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.	Criteria considered not applicable since Lithuanians are native people in their homeland.
3.3. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.	Criteria considered not applicable since Lithuanians are native people in their homeland.
3.4. Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.	Criteria considered not applicable since Lithuanians are native people in their homeland.

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.	<p>4.1.1. Evidence of efforts made for providing stable employment and professional perfection for all staff shall exist.</p> <p>4.1.2. No evidence of discrimination in labor practices, including hiring, advancement, dismissal, remuneration and employment-benefits shall exist.</p>
4.2. Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.	<p>4.2.1. Employees, including contractors, shall be aware of and shall implement safe working practices.</p> <p>4.2.2. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u>: Appropriate health and safety equipment including noise reducing helmet, ear protection, high visibility clothing, safety boots, safety trousers, anti vibration gloves, mobile means of communication and first aid kit shall be used in the field by chain saw operators, harvesting companies and contractors.</p> <p>4.2.3. Any person entering an ongoing logging site shall wear a protection helmet and high visibility clothing.</p> <p>4.2.4. Chain saws shall be kept in good condition and safety equipment shall not be defect.</p> <p>4.2.5. Workers involved in dangerous work such as storm damage removal, logging of large trees and tree climbing shall never works alone.</p> <p>4.2.6. Workers shall be instructed about procedures in case of emergency situation such as accident, fire, impacted logged tree or oil spill.</p> <p>4.2.7. FMO and contractor tractors shall be adapted to the work in the forests including safety equipment.</p> <p>4.2.8. FMO should conduct regular checks and long term monitoring to ensure that all safety procedures are consistently observed in the field.</p> <p>4.2.9. Warning signs shall be posted at access roads to sites with ongoing logging operation.</p> <p>4.2.10. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u>: FMO shall maintain a register of accidents (including those among the contractors working on the FMO territory) and documented steps taken to minimize risk of further accidents.</p> <p>4.2.11. <u>Large FMO-s</u>: FMO shall have written procedures for health and safety in work, where responsible staff is indicated, preventive means and control system are defined.</p> <p>4.2.12. Workers who are staying overnight in the forest should have appropriate sleeping facilities, sufficient supply of clean water and toilet facilities.</p>
4.3. The rights of workers to organize and voluntarily negotiate with their	4.3.1. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u> : All workers shall be able to form and join a trade union of their choice without fear of

<p>employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labor Organisation (ILO).</p>	<p>intimidation or reprisal.</p> <p>4.3.2. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u>: Collective bargaining with representative trade unions shall be carried out in good faith and with best efforts to come to an agreement.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>4.4.1. <u>Large FMO-s</u>: FMO shall have an up-to-date list of stakeholders to be informed in connection with management planning and fulfilment of other stakeholder consultation requirements.</p> <p>4.4.2. <u>Large FMO-s</u>: FMO shall have a system for enabling participation by local communities and other relevant stakeholders in the management planning process.</p> <p>4.4.3. <u>Large FMO-s</u>: New management plans it shall be open for consultation at least 45 days prior to approval.</p> <p>4.4.4. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u>: FMO shall have a system in place to document stakeholder concerns and requests, and the FMO's response.</p> <p>4.4.5. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u>: Areas of special economic, ecological, cultural or religious value for local communities shall be identified and documented, and management takes considerations to these values.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>4.5.1. Effort shall be made to resolve conflicts through consultation aiming at achieving agreement or consent.</p> <p>4.5.2. <u>Large FMO-s</u>: FMO shall have a mechanism for compensation of affected parties in case recourses of local community, individuals or legal entities are damaged as result of forestry activities.</p>

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.	<p>5.1.1. FMO shall have a financial plan detailing funding for silvicultural operations, conservation, forest protection and regeneration measures.</p> <p>5.1.2. In cases when environmental restrictions pose serious threat to FMO's economic viability, discussion should be held among relevant parties to find the best solution.</p>
5.2. Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.	<p>5.2.1. Forest management shall support multiple uses of forest resources, such as hunting, recreation and non-timber forest products</p> <p>5.2.2. Economically valuable hard leave trees depending on their viability should have reached maturity during logging operations.</p>
5.3. Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.	<p>5.3.1. Harvesting techniques shall be designed to avoid losses of merchantable volumes and damage to remaining trees or damage shall be minimal.</p> <p>5.3.2. Waste generated through harvesting operations, wood extraction and on-site processing shall be minimized.</p> <p>5.3.3. The layout of harvesting tracks shall be prepared according to the logging site relief and existing forest resources. .</p>
5.4. Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.	5.4.1. FMO's round wood sales policies and methods shall consider needs of Lithuanian processing industry.
5.5. Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.	<p>5.5.1. <u>Large FMO-s</u>: FMO or the management plan shall assess the impact of forest management on the multiple services produced in the forest such as outdoor life, watersheds, NTFP (fishing, hunting, berries and mushrooms), protection of cultural and biological values in written.</p> <p>5.5.2. <u>Large FMO-s</u>: Negative impacts identified by assessment as described in 5.5.1 should be minimized.</p> <p>5.5.3. FMO shall consider areas important for mushrooms and berry picking; hunting and recreation when planning forest operations.</p>
5.6. The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained	<p>5.6.1. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u>: Annual allowable cut (AAC), by area or/and volume, shall be set based on conservative and well-documented estimates of growth and yield</p> <p>5.6.2. SLIMF: Minimum recommended rotation age for final felling shall be observed..</p> <p>5.6.3. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u>: Actual annual harvest shall be strictly documented, including site, species, quantities,</p>

assortments, date and terms

5.6.4. FMO-s shall document commercial harvest of NTFP such as seeds, Christmas trees, greenery and game.

5.6.5. Large FMO-s: shall participate in the game bag planning process.

5.6.6. Commercial harvest of NTFP shall not exceed sustainable levels.

5.6.7. Boundaries of harvesting areas shall be clearly marked or clearly distinguishable

5.6.8. Large FMO: The overall proportion of pre-mature and mature stands shall not be below 20 %. If it is below, a long term strategy to improve situation shall be prepared.

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
<p>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.</p>	<p>6.1.1. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u>: FMO shall request and create conditions for forest management project preparation team to conduct environmental impact assess with plan of measures to reduce possible negative impact.</p> <p>6.1.2. Measures to minimize negative environmental impacts of forest operations shall be followed in the field, e.g. wet soil types shall be handled with precaution to avoid soil damages, sensitive bird habitats shall not be intervened in birds nesting period, except means that were recommended by Forest Sanitary Protection Service, in case of potential mass spread of forest pests or disease, or if these are already spread.</p> <p>6.1.3. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u>: FMO shall have a clearly defined procedure for conducting documented environmental impact assessments prior to major forest management activities such as constructions of new roads or maintenance of drainage systems.</p> <p>6.1.4. <u>SLIMF FMO-s</u>: FMO shall identify and take steps to avoid negative environmental impacts prior to and during road construction, road maintenance and drainage systems renovation and maintenance.</p> <p>6.1.5. Environmental impacts of on-site processing facilities such as mobile sawmills shall be assessed and controlled (e.g. waste, construction impacts, etc.).</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>6.2.1. <u>Large FMO-s</u>: FMO shall have a written list and implement protection means of threatened, rare, or endangered species or ecosystems identified within their forest area.</p> <p>6.2.2. <u>SLIMF and medium FMO-s</u>: FMO should be aware of and conserve the officially registered protected nationally and internationally species in the forest area.</p> <p>6.2.3. Conservation zones shall be demarcated on forest maps and if relevant also marked in the field.</p> <p>6.2.4. Operations in the conservation zones or nearby shall be conducted so that the conservation values are not harmed or endangered in any way.</p>
<p>6.3. Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Forest regeneration and succession. b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity. c) Natural cycles that affect 	<p>6.3.1. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u>: Special efforts shall be taken to increase the share of native noble hardwoods (a, b).</p> <p>6.3.2. <u>SLIMF FMO-s</u>: Special efforts shall be taken to maintain the share of native noble hardwoods (a, b).</p> <p>6.3.3. Selective logging or natural regeneration should be preferred on wet soil types (a, b, c), except all marshy habitats (P and U hydrotops), with top forest layer consisting more than 30 pct. spruce.</p>

<p>the productivity of the forest ecosystem.</p>	<p>6.3.4. Natural regeneration and local provenances should be preferred. (a, b, c).</p> <p>6.3.5. Thinning and harvesting operations shall favour the development of mixed stands (a, b, c).</p> <p>6.3.6. Forest areas not affected by existing drainage ditches shall not be drained, except cases when new roads are being built or special micro-melioration for re-establishment of forest in wet soil types is prepared if needed.</p> <p>6.3.7. Hollow standing trees and trees with big bird nests shall be preserved.</p> <p>6.3.8. Biologically valuable dead wood (snags, laying dead wood) of various decay stages shall be preserved with consideration of national requirements on work safety as well as safety along major roads and recreational sites. The amount of dead wood should be at least 5% of existing wood volume in the stand. Cutting remainings (stumps, branches, etc.) that are generated during logging operation can be removed for economical purposes.</p> <p>6.3.9. At least 10 living biodiversity trees (7 in case of noble hardwood) per hectare shall be selected and left in final felling (including clear cutting, selective cutting and step wise cutting) and shall be left until natural decay (b). These trees shall be selected before logging operations.</p> <p>6.3.10. Biodiversity trees shall be chosen from wide variety of species with larger diameter among the most biologically valuable and wind stable trees. (6.3 b). Hollow standing trees and trees with big bird nests can be counted as biodiversity trees.</p> <p>6.3.11. Spatial location of biodiversity trees in final felling areas should promote their long term survival and benefit endangered rare biodiversity forms.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>6.4.1. <u>Large FMO-s</u>: FMO shall leave representative samples of existing rare and/or endangered ecosystems for natural succession in their natural state covering at least 5 % of the total forest area. Strict nature reserves located inside or bordering to the FMO may be included in the estimation of the 5 %.</p> <p>6.4.2. In case the same forest owner has got several FSC certified FMOs, then in some FMOs less than 5 % of area can be set aside (see 6.4.1.) while all together certified FMOs of the same owner fulfil the requirement of indicator 6.4.1. Set aside areas can be distributed unevenly with intention to select the most valuable and representative sites of certified forests.</p> <p>6.4.3. Selection of forest areas to be preserved as required in 6.4.1 shall be based on the identification of key biological areas identified through consultation with environmental stakeholders, local government and scientific authorities.</p> <p>6.4.4. Sites selected under 6.4.1. can not be changed without stakeholder consultation.</p> <p>6.4.5. <u>SLIMF and medium FMO-s</u>: FMO shall protect</p>

	<p>representative samples of existing rare and/or endangered ecosystems in their natural state.</p> <p>6.4.6. No timber harvesting shall take place in areas protected as required in 6.4.1, unless specified in legal acts regulating management of these areas with intention to increase the value of protected habitats or species.</p> <p>6.4.7. Existing drainage systems shall be maintained in protected areas only in such way that conservation values are not threatened.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>6.5.1. FMO shall have information needed to classify areas suitable for all-weather harvesting, winter harvesting or dry-weather only.</p> <p>6.5.2. Guidance to field staff shall cover technical specifications for skid trail (location, width and density), log landing, maintaining buffer zones, protection of biodiversity and dead wood as well as road design.</p> <p>6.5.3. Measures shall be taken to minimize soil damage and erosion during harvesting operations.</p> <p>6.5.4. No road fill or waste material (e.g. rocks, brush) from site preparation or other activities shall be placed in stream courses.</p> <p>6.5.5. Buffer zones in clear cuts shall be left along water bodies and open landscape to ensure stability for forest ecosystems and microclimate.</p> <p>6.5.6. Clear cuts along open landscape shall be planted with wind stable tree species. Precommercial thinning shall form stable, site adapted and diverse forest fringes with transition zone to the open adjacent areas.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>6.6.1. Efforts shall be taken to avoid the use of chemicals in the forest management. Increased used of chemicals shall be analyzed and justified.</p> <p>6.6.2. All uses of chemical substances shall be recorded including information on the name of the chemical, the purpose, the site, the date and the amount used at minimum.</p> <p>6.6.3. Chemical storage, mixing and application practices shall meet applicable health protection and other requirements.</p> <p>6.6.4. Responsible employees shall be aware of and able to implement emergency procedures for clean-up following spillages and other accidents with chemicals</p> <p>6.6.5. Chemicals banned according to FSC's pesticides policy shall never be used, except cases when there is temporary derogation received from FSC.</p>
<p>6.7. Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate</p>	<p>6.7.1. Chemical, container, liquid and solid waste shall be disposed of in an environmentally sound and legal manner, whether from forest operations or processing facilities.</p>

<p>manner at off-site locations.</p>	<p>6.7.2. Efforts shall be taken to control and minimize disposal of all types of waste in the forest including garbage left from visitors.</p> <p>6.7.3. Appropriate oil absorbent kit shall be available in forest machinery.</p> <p>6.7.4. Appropriate oil absorbent kit or spill proof tanks shall be used at chain saws filling points.</p> <p>6.7.5. Only well maintained forest machinery without oil/fuel leakage shall be used.</p> <p>6.7.6. Biodegradable oil should be preferred, for chainsaws and hydraulic oil in forest machinery.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>6.8.1. Biological control agents shall only be used in exceptional cases and shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled.</p> <p>6.8.2. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) shall not be used.</p>
<p>6.9. The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.</p>	<p>6.9.1. Native forests shall not be converted to stands of exotic species.</p> <p>6.9.2. Exotic species should not be cultivated in the forest, except scientific and recreational purposes.</p> <p>6.9.3. The spread of invasive exotic species that have been historically introduced shall be monitored and if necessary, actions shall be taken to control or eliminate the species.</p> <p>6.9.4. Species that naturally grow in Middle Europe and have a potential possibility to move to Lithuania because of climate change can be tolerated in case of positive scientific recommendations.</p>
<p>6.10. Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>6.10.1. Conversion of forestland to plantations or other land uses shall not be done unless resulting from legally established procedures and supported by cultural, landscape, recreational or natural interests.</p> <p>6.10.2. Forest and forestland with high conservation values can not be converted to non-forest land.</p> <p>6.10.3. Plans for conversion should be supported by stakeholders, including local communities and governmental agencies.</p>

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
<p>7.1. The management plan and supporting documents shall provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; 	<p>7.1.1. <u>SLIMF FMO-s</u>: FMO shall have a valid management plan prepared according to national legislation and a written description of the management objectives (a, e).</p> <p>7.1.2. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u>: FMO management plan or other management documents shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Management objective (a). b) A general description of the history, including ownership and use of the forest management area (b). c) A stand level description of the forest resources including area, site type/forest type, soil type, species, age class distribution, height, site class, average diameter (dbh) and volume (b, c). d) Summaries for the total forest area including total area (ha), forest cover percentage, area by site types/forest type, age class distribution, total annual increment and average volume per hectare (b, c, d). e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics (e); f) Description and justification of the management system used, including types of silvicultural systems used. g) General description of monitoring activities implemented to ensure conservation of protected areas and HC VF resources (f, g) h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership (h) <p>7.1.3. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u>: The forest management plan shall be technically sound and sufficiently detailed, given the size of the forest operation, complexity and intensity of forest operations.</p> <p>7.1.4. Maps should be of sufficient quality to effectively guide field activities (see also criterion 6.5)..</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>7.2.1. Management plan (and/or annual operating plan) revision or adjustments shall occur in timely manner (with revision period not more than 15 years).</p> <p>7.2.2. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u>: Management plan revisions shall incorporate changing silvicultural, environmental, social and economic conditions</p> <p>7.2.3. <u>SLIMF FMO-s</u>: Management plan revisions shall follow national procedures.</p>
<p>7.3. Forest workers shall receive</p>	<p>7.3.1. <u>Large FMO-s</u>: Forest managers and supervisors shall have</p>

<p>adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.</p>	<p>appropriate qualification, preferably nationally recognized, ensuring that they are able to plan and organize forest operations and other elements of the management plan.</p> <p>7.3.2. <u>Large FMO-s</u>: A written training plan for FMO staff shall exist and be implemented.</p> <p>7.3.3. Forest Management Plan, harvesting operation plan and other activities' plans shall be available for staff and used in everyday work.</p> <p>7.3.4. <u>Large FMO-s</u>: Relevant staff shall receive training in biodiversity issues.</p> <p>7.3.5. <u>SLIMF and medium FMO-s</u>: For harvesting activities, FMO shall hire only workers who have received instructions on proper and safe felling techniques.</p> <p>7.3.6. All workers, as well as contractors and their workers and self-employed persons should be sufficiently educated and trained in the tasks they are assigned to and preferably hold relevant skill certificates.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>7.4.1. <u>Large FMO-s</u>: FMO shall produce a public summary of the management plan that are available in printed versions and/or published on the Internet.</p> <p>7.4.2. <u>SLIMF and medium FMO-s</u>: FMO shall be willing to provide access to relevant parts of the management plan to stakeholders who have justified interest in the forest management activities of FMO (e.g. neighboring landowners and local inhabitants)</p>

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.	<p>8.1.1. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u>: FMO shall have monitoring procedures for consistent monitoring of the aspects mentioned in 8.2, which allows comparison of the results and assessment of changes.</p> <p>8.1.2. <u>SLIMF FMO-s</u>: FMO shall conduct monitoring in connections with harvesting operations and re-forestation.</p>
8.2. Forest management shall include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>8.2.1. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u>: Monitoring plan shall identify/describe observed changes in conditions in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) growth rates, regeneration area and species and age and species composition of forest resources, (typically part of the standard management plan prepared according to national legislation) (b, c); b) commercial harvest including harvest of NTFP such as seeds, seedling, game, greenery and Christmas trees (a). c) environmental changes affecting flora, fauna, soil and water resources (e.g. erosion, outbreak of pest, spreading of invasive species, observed nesting sites for endangered bird species) (c, d) d) socioeconomic aspects (e.g. forest management costs, yields of all products, and changes in community and worker relations or conditions). e) HCV forest areas </p> <p>8.2.2. <u>SLIMF FMO-s</u>: FMO shall have yearly records of commercially harvested products.</p> <p>8.2.3. <u>SLIMF FMO-s</u>: FMO shall ensure that inventory data is regularly updated with periodic management plan revision.</p>
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."	<p>8.3.1. Invoices, waybills and other applicable documentation related to transport of forest products shall be kept in a central location and/or shall be easily available for inspection.</p> <p>8.3.2. In case FMO is also handling non-certified timber or products, FMO shall clearly distinguish certified products from non-certified products through marks or labels, separate documented storage, and accompanying invoices or waybills.</p> <p>8.3.3. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u>: FMO shall establish and implement written procedures that ensure the certified status of sold products is clearly indicated on invoices and</p>

	<p>transport documents</p> <p>8.3.4. <u>SLIMF FMO-s</u>: FMO shall ensure that that the certified status of sold products is clearly indicated on invoices and transport documents.</p> <p>8.3.5. Illegally logged or stolen wood reclaimed by the operation shall not be sold as certified.</p>
<p>8.4. The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.</p>	<p>8.4.1. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u>: Monitoring data as required per 8.2.1 shall be considered for management plan revision.</p> <p>8.4.2. <u>SLIMF FMO-s</u>: FMO shall ensure that the management plan is reviewed periodically according to national legislation.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>8.5.1. <u>Large FMO-s</u>: FMO shall produce a public summary of the monitoring results and make it available in printed versions and/or publish on the internet.</p> <p>8.5.2. <u>SLIMF and medium FMO-s</u>: FMO shall be willing to provide access to relevant parts of the summary of monitoring results to stakeholders who have justified interest in the forest management activities of FMO (e.g. neighbouring landowners and local inhabitants)</p>

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.	9.1.1. Information on officially protected areas and woodland key habitats shall be included on maps and protection reasons described in written. 9.1.2. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u> : FMO shall have written procedures for identifying and recording new HCVF areas.
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. <u>Large FMO-s</u> : Local people and stakeholders including environmental NGOs shall be consulted to identify HCVF. 9.2.2. <u>Large FMO-s</u> : FMO shall document the stakeholder consultation process in written. 9.2.3. Stakeholder consultations should indicate that FMO consistently considers and protects HCVF values.
9.3. The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.	9.3.1. <u>Large FMO-s</u> : Measures to protect HCVF values and officially protected areas shall be described in written public summary. 9.3.2. <u>SLIMF and medium FMO-s</u> : The FMO shall be willing to provide access to the information on protection measures of HCV forest areas in the FMO forests upon request.
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. HCVF shall be monitored on a regular basis to avoid activities such as illegal logging that might endanger the conservation values.

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. Objectives of tree planting shall be explicit in the management plan or afforestation project, with clear statements regarding the relationship between tree planting and the silvicultural, socio-economic and environmental (i.e. forest conservation and restoration) realities in the region.
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.	<p>10.2.1. Areas with natural vegetation shall be protected and taken into consideration when planning establishment of plantations.</p> <p>10.2.2. Streamside buffer zone with natural vegetation shall be established and/or protected.</p> <p>10.2.3. The scale and layout of plantations shall be consistent with natural forest vegetation in the landscape.</p>
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. Felling and regeneration plans shall provide for variations of age classes, species and rotation periods.
10.4. The selection of species for planting shall be based on their overall suitability for the site and their appropriateness to the management objectives. In order to enhance the conservation of biological diversity, native species are preferred over exotic species in the establishment of plantations and the restoration of degraded ecosystems. Exotic species, which shall be used only when their performance is greater than that of native species, shall be carefully monitored to detect unusual mortality, disease, or insect outbreaks and adverse ecological	<p>10.4.1. The species selected shall be suitable for site and the management objective.</p> <p>10.4.2. Exotic species may only be used when they outperform native species in meeting the management objective.</p> <p>10.4.3. Invasive exotic species and species that cross breed with local species shall not be used.</p> <p>10.4.4. Exotic species, provenances and varieties may only be used in case their environmental impact and influence on genetic structure of native species and provenances have been previously assessed and found to be safe.</p> <p>10.4.5. In case exotic species are used, at least 20 pct of the stand shall consist of native species.</p>

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. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u> : FMO shall set aside at least 10 pct of the area for natural vegetation.
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. Information shall exist on all soil types including their susceptibility to degradation from forest operations and silvicultural treatments. 10.6.2. Water bodies within the plantation area shall be identified and buffer zones established (see also 10.2).
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. Staff shall be trained to identify common signs of forest health problems. 10.7.2. An appropriate fire prevention and control system shall be in place. 10.7.3. All employees and contractors, who are required to perform fire control activities, shall have received adequate training.
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	10.8.1. <u>Large and medium FMO-s</u> : Written monitoring procedures shall incorporate ecological and social impacts of plantation activities, where significant (according to assessor judgment and stakeholder observations) ecological impacts could occur. 10.8.2. <u>SLIMF FMO-s</u> : FMO shall record any negative environmental or social impacts identified and design appropriate alleviating measures. 10.8.3. The purchase of land or land leases, for plantation establishment should not adversely impact the community and/or resource use by local people.

<p>acquisition for plantations, especially the protection of local rights of ownership, use or access.</p>	
<p>10.9. Plantations established in areas converted from natural forests after November 1994 normally shall not qualify for certification. Certification may be allowed in circumstances where sufficient evidence is submitted to the certification body that the manager/owner is not responsible directly or indirectly of such conversion.</p>	<p>10.9.1. The plantation shall not occupy land converted from natural forest since November 1994, unless clear evidence exist that the current manager/owner was not responsible.</p> <p>10.9.2. Primary, degraded primary and mature secondary forests shall not be cleared by current forest managers to create tree plantations.</p>

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ANNEX 1

LIST OF MAIN LEGAL ACTS REGULATING FOREST MANAGEMENT

See Lithuanian version of the standard.

ANNEX 2

LIST OF INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTIONS (PROTOCOLS) SIGNED AND RATIFIED BY LITHUANIAN REPUBLIC

See Lithuanian version of the standard.

ANNEX 3

RED LISTED SPECIES IN LITHUANIA

List of Red Book species approved on May 4th, 2007 by Minister of Environment of Lithuania, order Nr. D1-244 ["On order Nr. 504 dated October, 13th, 2003 by Minister of Environment named „On the approval of the list of protected animal, plant and fungi species included in the Red Book of Lithuania".](#)