



# NEPCon Standard for Assessing Forest Management in Latvia

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**Title: NEPCon Standard for Assessing Forest Management in Latvia**

**Approved by: Forest and Climate Programmes Manager**

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## Table of contents

1.	Introduction .....	4
2.	Background .....	4
3.	Public Comment.....	4
4.	Regional Standards.....	5
5.	Structure of the NEPCon Standards.....	6
6.	Indicators for Small and Large FMEs .....	6
7.	Contents.....	7
Annex 1: FSC Glossary of terms .....		45
Annex 2: List of national and local forest and related laws and administrative requirements which apply in Latvia ...		54
Annex 3: List of the multilateral environmental agreements and ILO Conventions that Republic of Latvia has ratified .....		65
Annex 4: List of officially endangered species in the Republic of Latvia .....		67
Annex 5: Summary of the Certification Assessment Process.....		68

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# 1. Introduction

A key purpose of NEPCon is to recognise good forest managers through credible independent certification of forestry practices. NEPCon is an FSC™ Certification Body accredited by Accreditation Services International (ASI).

The purpose of these standards are to provide forest managers, landowners, forest industry, scientists, environmentalists and the general public with information on the aspects of forest management operations that NEPCon evaluates to make certification decisions in the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC) certification system.

These standards are the default starting point for the development of region-specific NEPCon Interim Standards that shall be developed in all locations where there are no existing, approved FSC standards. The principles, criteria and indicators<sup>1</sup> in this document are applicable for assessing all forest management enterprises (FMEs) with wood production as a major (though not exclusive) objective. These standards are global in application, for all forest types.

This Standard will be reviewed annually and revised if needed to ensure continued conformance with all approved FSC policies, standards, directives, guidelines and advice notes that apply to the interpretation of the FSC Principles and Criteria.

## 2. 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 mechanised 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 silvicultural impacts of forest management activities in a clear and consistent fashion, based on a combination of scientific research and practical experience?

## 3. Public Comment

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 45 days prior to field work;
2. The certification standard used; and,
3. A public certification summary including the results of each separate forest certification.

The stakeholder consultation document is typically distributed by hand delivery, fax, mail, or email and is also posted at the NEPCon website [www.nepcon.net](http://www.nepcon.net). The specific NEPCon standard used 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 report 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 public stakeholder consultation document or NEPCon interim

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<sup>1</sup> It is NEPCon philosophy to keep the certification process as straightforward and simple as possible, without sacrificing technical quality, in order to foster the value of certification as an educational, policy, and training tool. In practice this means writing as clearly as possible and keeping scientific terms to a minimum.

Forest Management standard, visit [www.nepcon.net](http://www.nepcon.net). For public certification summaries, visit the FSC database <http://info.fsc.org/>, or contact NEPCon's certification headquarters (NEPCon | Filosoofi 31 | 50108 Tartu, Estonia, email [estonia@nepcon.net](mailto:estonia@nepcon.net), phone +372 7 380 723). We strongly encourage you to give us your input, either positive or negative, on our candidate or certified operations, certification standards, or certification procedures.

**Note on the use of this standard:** All aspects of this standard are considered to be normative, including the scope, standard effective date, references, terms and definitions, tables and annexes, unless otherwise stated.

## 4. Regional Standards

FSC working groups around the world are developing country- or region-specific forest certification standards. NEPCon 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 endorsed standard". Once accredited, all FSC-approved certifiers (like NEPCon) 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, NEPCon 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 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 submitted for consultation at least 45 days prior to the start of fieldwork for a full assessment. Distribution to key stakeholders occurs via the Internet (email and posted on the NEPCon website), mailings and face to face meetings.

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

NEPCon 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:

- National FSC Forest Stewardship Standard for the Republic of Latvia, FSC-STD-LVA Version 1-0 Draft 2-5;
- FSC-STD-01-001 (version 4-0) FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship
- FSC-STD-20-002 (version 3-0) Structure, content and local adaptation of certification body generic Forest Stewardship Standards.
- FSC-POL-30-401 FSC certification and ILO conventions.
- FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria
- NEPCon Generic Standards for Assessing Forest Management"
- NEPCon Global Non Timber Forest Product Certification Addendum

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## 5. Structure of the NEPCon Standards

The NEPCon generic standards are based directly on the global FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship (FSC-STD-01-001). They include specific generic indicators for each criterion to create a global NEPCon standard.

These indicators are the starting point from which region-specific “NEPCon Interim Standards” are developed for use in the forest by auditors who evaluate the sustainability of forest management practices and impacts of candidate FMEs.

The standards are divided into the following ten principles:

- 1 Compliance with Laws and FSC Principles
- 2 Tenure and Use Rights & Responsibilities
- 3 Indigenous Peoples' Rights
- 4 Community Relations and Workers' Rights
- 5 Benefits from the Forest
- 6 Environmental Impact
- 7 Management Plan
- 8 Monitoring and Assessment
- 9 Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests
- 10 Plantations.

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

## 6. Indicators for Small and Large FMEs

As required under FSC policy, NEPCon has developed indicators for certain criteria<sup>2</sup> that are specific to certain sizes of operations. Clear quantitative definitions for small versus large FMEs are included in regionalised NEPCon Interim Standards. Where these NEPCon 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. FSC National Initiative in Latvia has specified national threshold for SLIMF operations in Latvia 1000ha.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

## **7. Contents**

### **A Scope**

This standard shall be the basis for FSC forest management certification of forest management enterprises in the Republic of Latvia.

### **B Standard effective date**

This standard shall be effective from 01.01.2015

### **C References**

FSC-STD-01-001 v. 4.0 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship

FSC-STD-01-002 (v1-0) 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

SLIMF: Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests

# INDICATORS OF LATVIAN FSC FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD

## FSC 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.

### FSC Criterion 1.1

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

- 1.1.1 The forest manager shall comply with laws and regulations issued by the state and municipal authorities in force in the RL.  
Verification means S: documents, inspections on site  
Verification means L: documents, local laws, inspections on site
- 1.1.2 All employees and subcontractors involved in forest management, according to their job responsibilities, shall fulfil the requirements of the binding laws and regulations in force in the RL.
- 1.1.3 The forest manager shall record in writing non-compliances with the requirements of laws and regulations identified by the forest manager or by a third party in the previous five years.
- 1.1.4 The forest manager shall perform corrective actions in cases when non-compliances with the laws and regulations are indicated.
- 1.1.5L The forest manager shall have procedures ensuring that the activities of employees and subcontractors involved in forest management comply with the requirements of laws and regulations.  
Verification means for Indicators 1.1.2 - 1.1.5L: documents, inspections on site
- 1.1.6L The forest manager shall comply with nationally approved programmes, plans and strategies for sustainable use of resources including those for biological diversity.  
Verification means: a list of national programmes, plans and strategies, inspections on site

### FSC Criterion 1.2

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

- 1.2.1 The forest manager shall pay all fees, taxes and other charges.  
Note: "Other charges" include all payments mentioned in the FSC Criterion 1.2 but not in the indicator, including "royalties" if such will be used in forest management in Latvia.
- 1.2.2 The forest manager shall settle all applicable payments in good faith.  
Verification means of indicators for FSC Criterion 1.2: documents, interviews FSC Criterion 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.
- 1.3.1L The forest manager shall be informed about all regulations applicable to forest management and included in all binding international treaties and agreements to which Latvia is signatory and/or which are listed in Annex 2 of the Latvian FSC Standard.



Verification means: interviews

Note: Laws and regulations of RL do not include requirements of all ratified international treaties and agreements. RL has not ratified some of the ILO Conventions which must be complied with in all FSC certified forests but their requirements are included under FSC Principle 4, 6 and 9. The Indicator 1.3.1L ensure that Large FMEs are informed about the requirements of those conventions.

#### **FSC Criterion 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 The forest manager shall record all identified conflicts between the laws and regulations of the RL, the FSC P&C and international treaties.

Verification means: documents, interviews

1.4.2 The forest manager shall consult certification bodies and/or the Latvian Forest Certification Council about possible solutions and interpretation of the Latvian FSC Standard in order to eliminate non-compliances indicated in line with Indicator 1.4.1.

Verification means: interviews

#### **FSC Criterion 1.5**

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

1.5.1L Upon discovering illegal activities (e.g. illegal harvesting, construction and other unauthorized activities) the forest manager shall immediately inform the competent state and/or municipal agencies and record the respective incident.

Verification means: documents

1.5.1S Upon discovering illegal harvesting, construction or other illegal activities, the appropriate measures shall be carried out immediately to eliminate the identified illegal activities.

Verification means: documents where all identified illegal activities have been recorded, inspections on site

1.5.2L The forest manager shall assess the need for corrective and preventive measures. Verification means: documents

1.5.3L The forest manager shall carry out corrective and preventive measures as stated in Indicator 1.5.2L.

Verification means: documents

#### **FSC Criterion 1.6**

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

1.6.1L The forest manager's long-term commitments to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria shall be publicly available.

Verification means: documents

1.6.1S The forest manager shall demonstrate long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria by signing certification contract.

Verification means: certification contract with Certification Body or with Group Manager (agreement on certification, group agreement)

1.6.2L The forest manager have disclosed all forest territories in their possession including both - certified and non-certified.

Verification means: MP, public summary of certification report.

1.6.3 The forest manager shall operate in compliance with FSC Policy for Association.

Verification means: manager's policy, management objectives, MP, inspections on site, information on FSC non-certified forest areas

## FSC Principle 2: Tenure and use rights and responsibilities

Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established.

### FSC Criterion 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 The forest manager shall have documented forest use rights to the land.

Verification means: documents verifying ownership and/or management rights or documents confirming the forest manager's right to perform respective activities

2.1.2 Forest managers applying for certification of property with multiple owners shall ensure that all owners agree observe the Latvian FSC Standard.

Verification means: a manager/-s can produce documents confirming the agreement of all forest owners or their authorization to perform respective activities

2.1.3 The forest manager shall respect property boundaries and avoid damage to neighbouring properties.

Verification means: a land boundary and situation plan, MP, inspections on site

2.1.4 In case the measurement of land boundaries has not been completed the forest manager shall apply a precautionary approach to ensure that outer boundaries are respected.

Verification means: an action plan

### FSC Criterion 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 The forest manager shall respect everyone's right to free movement and access to other forest resources (e.g. wild berries, fruits, nuts, mushrooms and herbs), unless justified to imposed restrictions.

Verification means: inspections on site, documents

2.2.2 The forest manager shall inform the public about the restrictions on free access in the forest territory.

Verification means L: information signs, articles, and publications

Verification means S: information signs

### FSC Criterion 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 Disputes over tenure claims and use rights of forest land shall be documented. Verification means: documents

2.3.2 Disputes shall be resolved by mutual agreement of the parties, but if no agreement is reached, disputes shall be resolved according to the laws and regulations of the RL.

Verification means: documents related to disputes and conflicts, statements of competent institutions

## FSC Principle 3: Indigenous peoples' rights

The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.

*Note: Descendants of Latvians (Couronians, Semigallians, Selonians and Latgilians) and Livonians who keep cultural and/or religious traditions of their ancestors are considered as indigenous people in Latvia. So far there are no groups of indigenous people or their representatives identified or reported to the SDG. It is impossible to distinguish any lands or territories in their possession, as these people are part of Latvian people and their prevalence is not characteristic to any specific territory but they are spread all over the country.*

### FSC Criterion 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.**

### FSC Criterion 3.2

**Forest management shall not threaten or diminish, either directly or indirectly, the resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.**

### FSC Criterion 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.**

### FSC Criterion 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.**

## FSC Principle 4: Community relations and worker's rights

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

### FSC Criterion 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 hourly, piece-work payment shall be organized according to the laws and regulations of the RL and a collective employment contract if there is any.

Verification means: an approved payment system; an agreement with workers' representatives if there are any

4.1.2L The forest manager shall provide access to forest areas to educational and training organizations for training and educational purposes if it does not contradict forest management objectives.

Verification means: interviews

4.1.3L The forest manager shall first seek to employ workers from local communities and/or provide local employees (including forest dependent people) with the training needed for performance of their job duties and improvement of work quality.

*Note: Everything related to employment of local community should apply at the national level, since in Latvia no special local communities can be distinguished due to the relatively small size of its territory.*

Verification means: interviews with a forest manager, employees

4.1.4L The forest manager shall evaluate proposals of stakeholders for cooperation with local communities in relation to employment, training and other services.

Verification means: interviews with a forest manager, stakeholders, local communities

### FSC Criterion 4.2

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

4.2.1L The forest manager and workers shall have working knowledge of safe working techniques and technologies relevant to their duties.

Verification means: documents, interviews

4.2.2 Performers of forest management works shall be informed about labor protection requirements according to their respective job duties.

Verification means: interviews, contracts

4.2.3 Individuals under the age of 18 years shall not be involved in the forest works that might pose danger to health and safety except for training and educational purposes.

Verification means: interviews with employees, inspections on site, employment contracts, a certificate of the person employed in forest management

- 4.2.4 Personal protection equipment shall be used in forest management works according to the work safety requirements.  
Verification means: employment contracts, inspections on site, interviews
- 4.2.5L The work equipment used in forest management works shall have safety devices according to the manufacturer's instructions.  
Verification means: employment contracts, contracts with subcontractors, inspections on site, interviews with employees
- 4.2.5S All tools, equipment (including personal protective equipment) and facilities shall be in safe and serviceable condition.  
Verification means: employment contracts, contracts with subcontractors, inspections on site, interviews with employees
- 4.2.6 The forest manager shall ensure that the workers using mechanical equipment when performing forest management works, have documents confirming their level of professional qualification.  
*Note: When work is for training purpose the forest manager shall ensure that those trained are accompanied by experienced and qualified workers.*  
Verification means: documents
- 4.2.7 When introducing new technologies and equipment, the forest manager shall make sure that employees are trained and/or retrained in the use of such technologies and additionally instructed about the work safety requirements.  
Verification means: training programmes, instructions, inspection checklists, qualification documents
- 4.2.8 Before signing the contract with subcontractors, the suitability of the qualification of their employees for the planned forestry works shall be verified.  
Verification means: system/regulations, contracts, instructions, inspection checklists, qualification documents
- 4.2.9 First aid kits shall be available at the places where dangerous forestry works are performed.  
Verification means: interviews, inspections on site
- 4.2.10 A person trained to provide first aid shall be present at the places where works are performed using forestry machinery and motorized tools, except sprayers.  
Verification means: documents, interviews
- 4.2.11L Contracts with subcontractors shall include conditions for performance of works in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations on labor protection.  
Verification means: a work safety system, inspection checklists

### FSC Criterion 4.3

**The rights of workers to organize and voluntarily negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).**

*Note: Forced labour in Latvia is regulated by the laws and regulations of the RL.*

- 4.3.1 The forest manager shall not restrict the rights of workers to organize and voluntarily join the organisations of their choice.  
Verification means: company's policy, interviews with workers

- 4.3.2 Employment contracts in written shall be concluded with all employees of the forest manager.  
Verification means: employment contracts, interviews with workers
- 4.3.3 If there is an organization representing the employees, which proposes to conclude a collective employment contract, the forest manager shall conclude collective employment contracts by mutual agreement.  
Verification means: a collective employment contract, documented proposals of employee's representatives if there are any

#### FSC Criterion 4.4

**Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.**

- 4.4.1L applied to forest properties covering more than 10,000 ha: Using the procedures appropriate to the size and scale of forest management activities, the forest manager shall inform how to access the information about the planned forest management activities.  
Verification means: documents, interviews
- 4.4.2L applied to forest properties covering more than 10,000 ha: The forest manager shall elaborate and implement the procedure for conducting the social impact assessment that includes consultations with employees and local community (both men and women) on forest management which form the basis for the social impact assessment conducted no less than once in 5 years.  
Verification means: a procedure, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, training documents, checklists, publications in local press, a social impact assessment
- 4.4.3 Identified objects with cultural heritage and/or archaeological value shall be protected. Verification means: MP, a list of objects, inspections on site
- 4.4.4 The forest manager shall take into account the interests of local community when working in populated areas.  
Verification means: MP, interviews, inspections on site
- 4.4.5 The forest manager shall take all possible restoring and/or compensating measures in case of causing damage to the places significant for local community.  
Verification means: inspections on site, interviews
- 4.4.6 The forest manager shall use the results of consultations and correspondence with the stakeholders in planning of forest management.  
Verification means L: checklists, records, MP  
Verification means S: stakeholder complaints, stakeholder interviews, MP
- 4.4.7L applied to forest properties covering more than 10,000 ha: The forest manager shall support the retraining of the employees within the enterprise as much as possible in case of staff reduction.  
Verification means: interviews, contracts, copies of retraining documents
- 4.4.8L The employer shall provide the workers performing forestry works with the vaccination against tick-borne encephalitis.  
Verification means: interviews

## FSC Criterion 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 The forest manager shall avoid conflicts when carrying out forest management operations.

Verification means: interviews with stakeholders

4.5.2L Information of all conflicts arising between the forest manager and local community that are documented in writing as well as their settlement process and compensation of losses shall be available.

Verification means: documents on conflicts and their settlement procedure, negotiations with representatives of local community

4.5.3 There shall be a documented procedure for the resolution of disputes or grievances raised in relation to the activities of the forest enterprise.

Verification means: documents on conflicts, interviews with stakeholders

4.5.4 Applied to forest properties covering more than 10,000 ha: In the event of any unresolved dispute the enterprise shall show that it has followed (or is following) its dispute resolution process in a good faith effort to resolve the dispute.

Verification means: documents on conflicts, interviews with stakeholders

4.5.5 Compensation or indemnification for losses shall be determined by mutual agreement between the parties or, in the event of disagreement, according to the laws and regulations of the RL.

Verification means: documents, statements of competent institutions, interviews with stakeholders

## FSC 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.

### FSC Criterion 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 The forest manager shall prepare the budget which includes revenue and costs for all significant activities (including the cost of meeting all social and environmental commitments) according to the forest management planning documentation.

Verification means: documents, interviews

5.1.2L The forest manager shall summarize and analyse information about revenue and costs related to forest management (including costs for maintenance of social and environmental values).

Verification means: annual reports, interviews

5.1.2S The forest manager shall summarize information about revenue and costs related to forest management (including costs for maintenance of social and environmental values).

Verification means: documented income and costs

5.1.3 The revenue estimates shall be reasonable, and consistent with the expected rate of harvest of forest products and/or provision of other products or services.

Verification means: documented income and costs

5.1.4 If the budget shows a deficit for the year, the forest manager shall demonstrate how the shortfall will be covered whilst ensuring that the management plan is implemented in the long term.

Verification means: documented income and costs, MP

## **FSC Criterion 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 The forest manager shall assess options for various uses of forest resources.

Verification means L: documents are available on assessment of options for use of forest resources

Verification means S: documents are available on options for use of forest resources, inspections on site

5.2.2L The forest manager shall strive to apply such forest management methods which encourage the optimal use of diverse forest products.

Verification means: policy/objectives

5.2.3L Depending on the demand, forest manager shall offer part of their products to local processing companies, unless there is an overriding reason, which would make it impossible.

Verification means: an invitation to tender, a documented offer, interviews with stakeholders

## **FSC Criterion 5.3**

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

5.3.1L The forest manager shall use such logging technique which prevent the loss of valuable timber and supervise the results of timber preparation.

Verification means: instructions, documents, requirements and inspections on site

5.3.1S When performing harvesting operations, the loss of value of timber resources shall be avoided.

Verification means: inspections on site

5.3.2 Efforts shall be made to avoid damage to maintained growing trees in forest works. Verification means: instructions, documents, requirements and inspections on site

5.3.3 The use of logging residues and wood biomass shall comply with the harvesting techniques and soil characteristics.

Verification means: documents, inspections on site

5.3.4 After completion of harvesting operations, the condition of infrastructure objects (ditches, roads, communications, etc.) as well as watercourses affected by harvesting operations shall be set in order.

Verification means: inspections on site

5.3.5 The log yard shall be set in order after transportation of timber. Verification means: inspections on site



#### **FSC Criterion 5.4**

**Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product. See Indicator 5.2.1**

5.4.1 The forest manager shall allow local community to access other forest resources if it does not contradict the forest owner's management objectives.

Verification means: management objectives (MP), interviews with local community, inspections on site

5.4.2L The forest manager shall evaluate proposals of entrepreneurs for sustainable use of other forest resources if it does not contradict the forest owner's management objectives.

Verification means: interviews, documents

#### **FSC Criterion 5.5**

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

5.5.1L The forest manager shall identify and update information in its forest management plan, about the full range of ecosystem services (forest services and resources), significant areas having other forest resources (e.g. sources of drinking water and recreation sites significant to local community).

Verification means: documents, interviews, inspections on site

5.5.1S Before commencement of forest management works, nature objects and formations that are significant to local community shall be identified and management activities shall not reduce their value.

Verification means: a list of objects, MP, inspections on site

5.5.2L The forest manager shall ensure that management activity preserves and if possible increases the value of the objects identified in accordance with Indicator 5.5.1L.

Verification means: documents, provisions in the work execution documents, interviews with stakeholders, etc.

5.5.3S The forest manager shall not restrict access to the objects identified according to Indicator 5.5.1S if it does not contradict the forest owner's management objectives.

Verification means: management objectives (MP), interviews with stakeholders, inspections on site

#### **FSC Criterion 5.6**

**The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels which can be permanently sustained.**

5.6.1L The forest manager shall set sustainable harvesting levels for the forest resources intended to be obtained for commercial purposes. The indicator does not apply to berries, mushrooms, nuts and juices obtained from forests.

Verification means: documents

5.6.2L The average amount of forest resources harvested does not exceed sustainable harvesting levels. The indicator does not apply to berries, mushrooms, nuts and juices obtained from forests.

Verification means: documents

5.6.3 The forest manager shall summarize information about the forest resources obtained by forest manager for commercial purposes. See Indicators 8.2.2L and 8.2.2S.

Verification means: MP, documents

## FSC 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

### FSC Criterion 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 The forest manager before commencement of forestry works:

6.1.1.1 shall assess the impact of harvesting operations and on-site processing facilities on the structural elements of the forest stand that are significant for biological diversity, the soil, water and cultural objects at the level of a potentially affected stand and neighbouring (adjacent) stands;

6.1.1.2 shall check the site for indicators of the presence of specially protected species (such as large nests, hollow trees, increased amount of large  $D > 40\text{cm}$  dead wood, etc.);

6.1.1.3 shall plan measures for reduction or mitigation of negative impact on the mentioned objects.  
Verification means: inspections on site, interviews

6.1.2 The forest manager, managing the forest tract larger or equal of 500 ha, shall assess the impacts of forestry works at the level of the landscape paying particular attention to the proportion of old stands.

Verification means: inspections on site, interviews

6.1.3L For the drainage objects for which a design task of planning and architecture has not been issued to forest manager until the date when the Latvian FSC Standard becomes valid:

6.1.3.1L potential risks shall be assessed for conservation of biodiversity, including specially protected habitats, sites of specially protected species and biologically valuable grasslands, as well as regulated natural watercourses;

6.1.3.2L precaution approach shall be taken to avoid adverse effect on the areas of wet forests (spruce, black alder and broadleaf species) retained within the landscape and natural watercourses if it does not impair the operation of the drainage object and the land use possibilities of other land owners and other legal possessors;

6.1.3.3L measures shall be planned for reduction of sediment and biogenic element flow from drainage systems into natural waterbodies and watercourses, e.g. by creating sediment ponds, wetlands, dam cascades etc.;

6.1.3.4L restoring and compensating measures shall be implemented (e.g. for restoration of wet forest, natural riverbeds, protection of specially protected habitats) if necessary to mitigate risk identified under 6.1.3.1L.

Verification means: inspections on site, interviews

6.1.3S In the territories where construction, reconstruction and renovation of the drainage systems are planned:

6.1.3.1S potential risks shall be assessed for conservation of biodiversity in specially protected habitats, sites of specially protected species and biologically valuable grasslands, as well as in regulated natural watercourses;

Verification means: interviews, inspections on site

6.1.3.2S precaution approach shall be taken to avoid adverse effect on natural watercourses;  
Verification means: inspections on site, interviews with stakeholders

6.1.3.3S Managing a continuous forest tract exceeding 100 ha, a precautionary approach shall be taken to avoid adverse effect on the areas of wet forests (spruce, black alder and broadleaf species) retained within the landscape if it does not impair the operation of the drainage object and the land use possibilities of other land owners and other legal possessors;

Verification means: inspections on site, interviews with stakeholders

6.1.3.4S appropriate to the scale and impact of the planned operation the measures shall be planned for reduction of sediment and biogenic element flow from drainage systems into natural waterbodies and watercourses, e.g. by creating sediment ponds, wetlands, dam cascades etc.;

Verification means: inspections on site

6.1.3.5S restoring and compensating measures shall be implemented (e.g. for restoration of wet forest, natural riverbeds, protection of specially habitats) if necessary to mitigate risk identified under 6.1.3.1S.

Verification means: inspections on site

6.1.4L For road construction or reconstruction objects for which a design task of planning and architecture has not been issued to forest manager until the date when the Latvian FSC Standard becomes valid:

6.1.4.1L potential risks shall be assessed for conservation of biodiversity, including the potential effect on specially protected habitats, WKHs, their buffer zones and potential WKHs, sites of specially protected species and biologically valuable grasslands;

6.1.4.2L precautionary approach shall be taken during the planning process and possible restoring and compensating measures shall be carried out if necessary mitigate risk identified under 6.1.4.1L.

Verification means: inspections on site, interviews

6.1.4S In the territories where road construction or reconstruction is planned:

6.1.4.1S potential risks shall be assessed for conservation of biodiversity in specially protected habitats, sites of specially protected species and biologically valuable grasslands;

6.1.4.2S precautionary approach shall be taken during the planning process and possible restoring and compensating measures shall be carried out (e.g. for protection of wet forest, specially protected habitats) if necessary mitigate risk identified under 6.1.4.1S.

Verification means: inspections on site, interviews

6.1.5 Introducing a new forest management method, the forest manager, appropriate to the scale and impact of the planned operation, shall assess whether it would not substantially negatively affect populations and habitats of species, soil, air, water, landscape, material values, cultural and natural heritage.

6.1.6 The introduction of the new forest management technique has been conducted, as far as possible reducing environmental impact.

Verification means: impact on biological diversity, soil, air, water, climate, landscape, material values, cultural and natural heritage, and an appropriate assessment of interaction of all these elements, inspections on site

## FSC Criterion 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.**

6.2.1L The forest manager shall maintain and update a register of biologically valuable forest stands (listed in the indicator 6.4.1).

Verification means: register of biologically valuable forest stands

6.2.2S The forest manager shall ensure maintenance of recorded locations of protected species in the managed territory.

Verification means: documents, cartographic materials

6.2.3S The forest manager shall identify the WKHs. Verification means: MP, WKH

6.2.4L The forest manager during forest management planning shall take into account the conservation action plans in force for rare, endangered species.

Verification means: MP, interviews

6.2.5L applied to forest properties covering more than 10,000 ha: The forest manager shall identify the sites where additional inspection must be performed regarding the existence of previously unreported habitats of specially protected species.

Verification means: MP, a list of objects, interviews with employees, interviews with stakeholders

6.2.6L The forest manager shall register newly identified habitats of specially protected species.

Verification means: a procedure, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, interviews with employees

6.2.6S If WKH or a site of a specially protected species, which had not been identified earlier, including the nests of protected birds and Capercaillie's (*Tetrao urogallus*) leks, have been found in the managed territory, the forest manager shall ensure their protection.

Verification means: interviews, cartographic material

6.2.7 The forest manager shall maintain populations of birds and mammals (including game species) living in the managed forest areas including:

6.2.7.1 The buffer zone around the nesting sites of specially protected bird species shall be respected where no type of felling and mechanized soil preparation are carried out during the following periods:

- around the nesting sites of black stork (*Ciconia nigra*), black kite (*Milvus migrans*), red kite (*Milvus milvus*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), short-toed snake eagle (*Circaetus gallicus*), greater spotted eagle (*Aquila clanga*), lesser spotted eagle (*Aquila pomarina*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), northern goshawk (*Acciper gentilis*), Eurasian eagle owl (*Bubo*

*bubo*), European roller (*Coracias garrulus*) and stock dove (*Columba oenas*) from 1st of March till August 31;

- around the nesting sites of sea eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla*) and golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) from 1<sup>st</sup> of February till 1<sup>st</sup> of November.

6.2.7.2 In the buffer zones around in micro-reserves of Capercaillie's (*Tetrao urogallus*) leks:

- forestry operations other than firefighting and reforestation using manual labour are prohibited from 1 March till 31 August;
- reforestation with pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) shall be facilitated as much as possible;
- construction and reconstruction of drainage systems and their stages are not carried out.

6.2.7.3 From April 1<sup>st</sup> till June 30 thinning shall not take place for up to the 10-year-old pine and deciduous trees and 30-year-old spruce stands, with the exception of a mean height of coniferous trees up to 0.7 m, and deciduous trees - up to 1 meter.

6.2.7.4 To reduce the negative effects of disturbance on forest birds nesting success, in the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April till May 31 economic activity must be carried out so that felling and forwarding (to the roadside) volumes for any of the indicators (per month) would be less than the average per month of the total amount of the harvested timber in the managed territory for the rest of the year.

6.2.7.5 Old beaver ponds, flood-lands, wetlands in natural watercourses characterized by dead trees and/or by vegetation characteristic of wet sites shall remain intact. This does not apply to drainage systems.

Verification means: MP, provisions in work execution documents and contracts, interviews, inspections on site

6.2.8 There shall be no evidence that the forest enterprise allows or condones illegal or unauthorised hunting, fishing, trapping or collecting within the FMU.

Verification means: interviews, inspections on site

### FSC Criterion 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 The forest manager managing the forest tract larger or equal of 500 ha, shall develop and introduce the principles of landscape ecological planning in the management of this area, paying particular attention to the proportion of old stands.

Verification means: principles of landscape ecological planning, MP, inspections on site

6.3.2L The structures characteristic to natural forest shall be retained after felling:

6.3.2.1L after final felling on average at least 10 growing trees per ha shall be retained;

6.3.2.2L the retained trees shall be preserved regardless of their condition in the subsequent rotation cycles;

6.3.2.3L if possible, such trees shall be retained in groups.

Verification means: work execution documents, contracts, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, interviews with employees and service providers, inspections on site

6.3.2S The structures characteristic to natural forest shall be retained after felling:

6.3.2.1S after final felling on average at least 7 growing trees shall be retained per 1 ha;

6.3.2.2S the retained trees shall be preserved regardless of their condition in the subsequent rotation cycles;

6.3.2.3S if possible, such trees shall be retained in groups. Verification means: interviews, inspections on site

6.3.3 Preferences shall be given to retention trees (ecological trees; trees that are retained as structural elements of biodiversity; see Indicator 6.3.2) meeting at least one of the following requirements:

6.3.3.1 trees with large nests (the diameter of the nest exceeds 50 cm);

6.3.3.2 trees from the previous rotation cycle;

6.3.3.3 pine, oak, linden, elm, fluttering elm, black alder, maple, hornbeam, ash;

6.3.3.4 the oldest trees and trees with largest dimensions with broad, well-developed crowns;

6.3.3.5 trees with hollows;

6.3.3.6 trees with burning scars.

Verification means L: work execution documents, contracts, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, interviews with employees and service providers, inspections on site

Verification means S: interviews, inspections on site

6.3.4L The entire wooded vegetation shall be retained 15 meters around the tree with the nest (the diameter of the nest exceeds 50 cm). Trees of the first storey making up wooded vegetation can be considered as retention trees.

Verification means: work execution documents, contracts, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, interviews with employees and service providers, inspections on site

6.3.4S The entire wooded vegetation shall be retained 10 meters around the tree with the nest (the diameter of the nest exceeds 50 cm). Trees of the first storey making up wooded vegetation can be considered as retention trees.

Verification means: interviews, inspections on site

6.3.5 If a nest (the diameter of the nest exceeds 50 cm) is found during the harvesting process, the harvesting process in the zone around the nest's tree will be suspended.

Verification means: interviews, inspections on site

6.3.6L At least 10 trees per hectare shall be retained after thinning if they meet the following requirements:

6.3.6.1L trees with large nests (the diameter of the nest exceeds 50 cm);

6.3.6.2L trees from the previous rotation cycle;

6.3.6.3L trees with hollows;

6.3.6.4L trees with burning scars.

Verification means: work execution documents, contracts, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, interviews with employees and service providers, inspections on site

6.3.6S At least 7 trees per hectare shall be retained after thinning if they meet the following requirements:

6.3.6.1S trees with large nests (the diameter of the nest exceeds 50 cm);

6.3.6.2S trees from the previous rotation cycle;

6.3.6.3S trees with hollows;

6.3.6.4S trees with burning scars.

Verification means: interviews, inspections on site

6.3.7 In conifer stands thinning shall favour development of stand with a mixture of deciduous trees, if permitted by growing conditions.

Verification means L: work execution documents, contracts, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, interviews with employees and service providers, inspections on site

Verification means S: interviews, inspections on site

6.3.8 In carrying out pre-commercial thinning, a mix of broadleaf species shall be preserved. Verification means: interviews, inspections on site

6.3.9 During harvesting operations and forwarding of logs, considering work safety requirements, efforts shall be made to avoid:

6.3.9.1 damage to the trees retained after felling and retention understorey and undergrowth;

6.3.9.2 damage to the neighbouring stands;

6.3.9.3 damage to the retention dead wood.

Verification means: inspections on site

6.3.10 Clearcuts containing dry dead wood corresponding to requirements shall be maintained giving priority to the following order:

6.3.10.1 dry dead wood in  $D > 50\text{cm}$ ;

6.3.10.2 dry dead wood in  $D > 25\text{cm}$ ; there shall be at least 5 dry trunks or sections thereof per hectare average in clearcuts; there shall be at least 3 dry trunks per hectare in other cuts;

6.3.10.3 rest of the dry trees may be economically used if there are at least 8 trunks of dry dead wood complying to these requirements maintained in the harvesting site;

Verification means: work execution documents, contracts, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, interviews with employees and service providers, inspections on site

6.3.11 The forest manager may disregard the requirements of Indicator 6.3.10 in urban and village administrative territories and recreation sites, as well as within a 50 metre zone alongside State roads.

Verification means: documents, interviews, inspections on site

6.3.12 In performing forestry works and mechanized soil cultivation, efforts should be made to avoid damage to maintained dead wood.

Verification means: inspections on site

6.3.13 In forestry operations native undergrowth species shall be retained including juniper (*Juniperus L.*) and European wild apple (*Malus sylvestris*) in the amount which does not impede the forest growth, regeneration and does not contradict the work safety requirements.

Verification means: documents, interviews, inspections on site

- 6.3.14 In transition zones from the forest to an open ecosystem (grassland, pasture, arable land), in the area where the width of the stand is equal to half of the average height of the trees of the first storey:
- 6.3.14.1 Dry dead trees with a diameter exceeding 25 cm and undergrowth species shall be retained to the extent that forest regeneration is not impeded and the dry trees does not threaten work safety.
- 6.3.14.2 Preference shall be given for concentration of the retention trees. Verification means: documents, interviews, inspections on site
- 6.3.15L Forest management along mires with an area up to 10 ha, all rivers, including regulated natural watercourses, lakes and streams shall be cautious by taking into account the terrain i.e. flood-land boundaries, coastal slopes, incline of those slopes, as well as the composition of tree species in the stand which differs from that of the surrounding forest tract.
- Verification means: work execution documents, contracts, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, interviews with employees and service providers, inspections on site
- 6.3.15S Forest management along mires with an area up to 10 ha, rivers and lakes shall be cautious by taking into account the terrain i.e. flood-land boundaries, coastal slopes, incline of those slopes, as well as the composition of tree species in the stand which differs from that of the surrounding forest tract.
- Verification means: MP, inspections on site
- 6.3.16 The forest manager shall not perform clear cutting (retain the density of growing trees in the first storey of the stand no less than 0.4) in protection belts (in border (transition) zones) around the mires:
- 6.3.16.1 in 20 meter belt for the mires with an area 10 - 100 ha;
- 6.3.16.2 for mires exceeding 100 ha - in 50 meter belt in forest growing conditions with dry, drained, wet mineral soils and drained peat soils, and in at least 100 meter belt in forest types with wet peat soils.
- Verification means: work execution documents, contracts, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, interviews with employees and service providers, inspections on site
- 6.3.17 In wet micro-lowlands (terrain depressions) the understorey, lying dead wood, dry trees and undergrowth shall be preserved and preference shall be given for concentration of the retention trees. (see Indicators 6.3.2L, 6.3.2S and 6.3.3)
- Verification means: work execution documents, contracts, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, interviews with employees and service providers, inspections on site
- 6.3.18 In areas with foxholes and badger burrows, the undergrowth and understorey shall be preserved and the area shall not be used for transport trails or log landings.
- Verification means: work execution documents, contracts, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, interviews with employees and service providers, inspections on site
- 6.3.19 The following requirements shall be met in management of wet forests:
- 6.3.19.1 In naturally regenerated wet spruce forests (*Dryopteriosocaricosa*, *Dryopteriosa*, *Myrtilloso-polytrichosa*, *Caricoso-phragmitosa*) efforts shall be made to preserve the undergrowth and at least partial regeneration under the crowns of the parent stand shall be facilitated, with the exception of sanitary or reconstructive cuts.



6.3.19.2L In wet deciduous forests (*Dryopteriosocaricosa*, *Filipendulosa*, *Dryopteriosa*, *Myrtilloso-polytrichosa*, as well as *Caricoso-phragmitosa* where the black alder prevails):

- the area of the clearcut shall not exceed 2 ha;
- at least 30 growing trees per 1 ha shall be retained in clearcuts and left in one or more groups, as far as possible preserving therein all wooded vegetation, or separately;
- the regeneration of deciduous trees shall be facilitated.

6.3.19.2S In wet deciduous forests (*Dryopteriosocaricosa*, *Filipendulosa*, *Dryopteriosa*, *Myrtilloso-polytrichosa*, as well as *Caricoso-phragmitosa* where the black alder prevails):

- the area of the clear cut shall not exceed 1 ha;
- at least 10 growing trees per 1 ha shall be retained;
- the trees shall be retained in groups.

Verification means: MP, inspections on site

6.3.20L The forest manager shall summarize information about forest fires of any scale.

6.3.21L Groups of surviving or dead trees shall be retained intact in the burnt stands older than 30 years. Separate surviving or dead trees of larger dimensions shall be retained.

Verification means: documents, interviews, inspections on site

6.3.21S If it does not pose real threats of disease outbreaks and pest proliferation in the surrounding stands and/or threats to work safety in burnt stands older than 30 years at least several surviving trees and several dead trees shall be retained.

Verification means: interviews, inspections on site

6.3.22 In forest stands where oak (*Qercus robur L.*), linden (*Tilia cordata Mill.*), maple (*Acer platanoides L.*), elm and fluttering elm (*Ulmus glabra Huds.*, *Ulmus laevis Pall.*), willow (*Salix sp.*) and hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus L.*) constitute 5 and more units in the stand formula of the species composition of a forest stand, it is prohibited to perform clear cuts. The trees are cut gradually in the final felling, maintaining the density of growing trees in the first storey of the stand no less than 0.4 and facilitating the preservation of the proportion of these tree species in the forest stand.

Verification means: MP, inspections on site

6.3.23 In glades (except in the glades used for feeding of game animals) the activities transforming ecosystems i.e. construction of new drainage systems, fertilization, planting of trees and soil cultivation shall not be performed.

Verification means: interviews, inspections on site

6.3.24 Artificial forest regeneration shall be carried out using origin certified forest reproductive material the origin of which is appropriate for the growing conditions of the site.

Verification means: documents on the origin of forest seeds and/or seedlings used in artificial regeneration of forest areas

## FSC Criterion 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 The following shall be identified and protected in the managed area (protection may include management activities ensuring ecological functionality of the specific site):

6.4.1.1 woodland Key Habitats (WKHs);

6.4.1.2 habitats of rare, protected and endangered species;

6.4.1.3 specially protected habitats; 6.4.1.4L mire and lake islands;

6.4.1.5L 10 meter wide forest border zone along natural watercourses and waterbodies. 25 meter wide forest border zone along salmonid waterbodies. Amelioration systems and related regulated natural watercourses, and amelioration-ditches are not covered by this subindicator.

6.4.1.6L forests in river and stream valleys and ravines with slope steepness at least 30°.

Verification means: maps, MP, inspections on site

6.4.2L If the managed area does not contain the stands complying with the requirements of Indicators 6.4.1 or if such stands cover less than 10% of the managed forest territory, the areas shall be designated covering at least 10% of the total forest territory which could potentially develop into valuable territories regarding biodiversity:

6.4.2.1L older stands;

6.4.2.2L mature and older deciduous stands covering the area of less than 2 ha and surrounded by coniferous stands, if in a distance of less than 1 km there are no other deciduous stands;

6.4.2.3L mature and older coniferous stands covering the area of less than 2 ha and surrounded by deciduous stands if in a distance of less than 1 km there are no other coniferous stands;

6.4.2.4L mature and older stands covering the area of less than 2 ha and surrounded by young stands (coniferous up to 40 years old, deciduous up to 20 years) if in a distance of less than 2 km there are no other mature stands;

6.4.2.5L other potentially biologically valuable areas.

Verification means: forest inventory data, a list of sites, cartographic material, MP, inspections on site

6.4.2S If the area of the stands complying with the requirements set out in Indicator 6.4.1 is less than 10% in the managed territory, the sites shall be designated which comply with the listed requirements so that the total area of the stands complying with the requirements of Indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2S will not be less than 10% of the managed territory:

6.4.2.1S forests in river and stream valleys and ravines with slope steepness at least 30°.

Verification means: maps, MP, inspections on site

6.4.2.2S at least 10 m wide forest border zone with salmonid waterbodies;

6.4.2.3S forests on mire and lake islands;

Verification means: forest inventory data, a list of sites, cartographic material, MP, inspections on site

6.4.3S If the area of the stands complying with the requirements set out in Indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2S is less than 5% of the managed territory, other biologically valuable areas shall be designated if such can be identified in the managed territory.

Verification means: forest inventory data, a list of sites, cartographic material, MP, inspections on site

6.4.4L All stands complying with the requirements set out in Indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2L shall be marked in cartographic materials.

Verification means: forest inventory data, a list of sites, cartographic material, MP, inspections on site

6.4.4S All stands complying with the requirements set out in Indicators 6.4.1, 6.4.2S and 6.4.3S shall be marked in cartographic materials.

Verification means: forest inventory data, a list of sites, cartographic material, MP, inspections on site

## FSC Criterion 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.**

6.5.1L The forest manager shall develop and implement guidelines to minimize damage to soil and to avert the damage caused as a result of forest management operations, and carry out regular monitoring and control.

Verification means: a description of the used methods and technologies, technological maps of felling sites, work execution documents, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, interviews with employees and service providers, contracts with a service provider, inspections on site

6.5.1S Harvesting operations in forest growing conditions on wet mineral soils and wet peat soils are carried out in such weather conditions and/or using techniques (choice of machinery, layer of branches in technological corridors and skid trails, freezing of roads, etc.) to avoid damage to the top layer of soil, prevent it from turning into mire or avoid wind and/or water erosion.

Verification means: interviews, inspections on site

6.5.2 Temporary crossings shall be set up at the places where skid trails cross streams, small rivers and watercourses. The number of places where skid trails cross the watercourses shall be as small as possible in the felling site.

Verification means: interviews, inspections on site

6.5.3 Stream crossings shall be cleared and restored after the completion of the harvesting works.

Verification means L: work execution documents, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, interviews with employees and service providers, contracts with a service provider, inspections on site

Verification means S: interviews, inspections on site

6.5.4 Prior to fertilization of soil in the forest lands (except with wood ash and mineral substances of natural origin) the forest manager has performed an assessment of the impact of fertilizing on biodiversity, soil and water.

Verification means: provisions in work execution documents, interviews with employees and service providers, contracts with service providers, inspections on site

6.5.5 Draining of forest roads shall be carried out assessing alternatives of water drainage and reducing as much as possible the area affected by the drainage system.

Verification means: MP, inspections on site

6.5.6 Construction, reconstruction or renovation of drainage systems shall not be planned and carried out in the following areas:

6.5.6.1 in Natura 2000 areas and other specially protected nature territories (except in the landscape protection zone of North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve and in cases when construction, reconstruction or renovation of drainage systems is permitted by the nature conservation plan of the specially protected nature territory or individual protection and use regulations);

Verification means: MP, a nature conservation plan of the territories specified in the indicator or individual protection and use regulations, inspections on site

6.5.6.2 in micro-reserves, buffer zones of Capercaillie's (*Tetrao urogallus*) micro-reserves, except cases when in accordance with certified species and habitat expertise and, if necessary, the sector expertise, it does not contradict the purposes for which micro-reserves or buffer zones were established;

Verification means: MP, purposes for establishment of micro-reserves and/or buffer zones, expertise, inspections on site

6.5.6.3 specially protected habitats (included on the list of specially protected habitats of Latvia), WKHs, their buffer zones and potential WKHs, sites of specially protected species and biologically valuable grasslands, except cases when they are located along the main (trunk) ditches of the drainage systems or, according to certified species and habitat expertise and, if necessary, the sector expertise, it does not contradict the preservation of the value of the respective habitat.

Verification means: MP, inspections on site

6.5.6.4 habitats included on the list of the specially protected habitats of the EU Habitats Directive, except cases when according to certified species and habitat expertise and, if necessary, the sector expertise, it does not contradict the preservation of the value of the respective habitat.

Verification means: MP, inspections on site

6.5.7 Road construction or reconstruction shall not be planned and performed:

6.5.7.1 in reserve, strict regime, regulated regime and nature park zones of Natura 2000 sites and other specially protected nature territories, except cases when it is intended in the nature conservation plan of the specially protected nature territory or individual protection and use regulations, in the existing micro-reserves and their buffer zones;

Verification means: MP, a nature conservation plan of the territories specified in the indicator or individual protection and use regulations, inspections on site

6.5.7.2 in specially protected habitats (included on the list of the specially protected habitats of Latvia or the EU Habitats Directive), WKHs, their buffer zones and potential WKHs, sites of specially protected species and biologically valuable grasslands, except cases when according to certified species and habitat expertise and, if necessary, the sector expertise, it does not contradict the preservation of the value of the respective habitat and road safety.

Verification means: MP, inspections on site

## FSC Criterion 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 The use of environmentally friendly methods of pest and disease control shall be encouraged and documented in forest management.

Verification means: interviews, inspections on site

- 6.6.2 Staff working with pesticides is instructed and follow safe work practice.

Verification means: distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, instruction of employees

- 6.6.3 Only those pesticides can be used in forest management that are registered in RL and are intended for specific works in the forest and which active substances are not included in the FSC list of highly hazardous pesticides (see [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org)).

Verification means L: a list of the used chemical pesticides, MP, the FSC list of highly hazardous pesticides, a documented permit to use any product from the FSC list highly hazardous pesticides

Verification means S: a list of the used chemical pesticides, MP

- 6.6.4 The records shall be kept of the amount of the used pesticides and the treated sites.

Verification means L: records of the amounts of the used pesticides, MP, interviews with the employees in charge

Verification means S: a list of the used pesticides, and the areas where each of the products was used, MP

- 6.6.5 The enterprise shall have an up-to-date copy of FSC's list of 'highly hazardous' pesticides, and shall apply for and obtain 'derogations' in accordance with the current FSC Pesticide Policy, prior to any use.

- 6.6.6 The enterprise shall implement a documented 'integrated pest management' (IPM) strategy designed to minimise the likelihood of serious pest problems occurring through an ecological management approach, and to identify and address potential pest problems at the optimum effective time.

## FSC Criterion 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 The forest manager shall ensure collection, disposal and/or destruction of the waste generated as a result of forest management operations only at the landfills and/or other places that shall be identifiable and where disposal is performed in environmentally friendly and/or lawful manner.

Verification means L: documents, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, interviews with employees

Verification means S: interviews, inspections on site

6.7.2 The chemicals used in forest management and the generated liquid and solid non-organic waste shall be stored under safe conditions.

Verification means L: documents on the storage, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, interviews with employees, inspections on site

Verification means S: interviews, inspections on site, documents

6.7.3S Forestry equipment shall have an oil absorbent kit.

Verification means: interviews, inspections on site

6.7.4S At the sites of chainsaw refuelling, appropriate oil absorbent kits or spill-safe containers shall be used.

Verification means: interviews, inspections on site

6.7.5 Oil products and their waste generated as a result of equipment maintenance shall be collected to prevent their spilling and leaking into the soil or water bodies.

Verification means: documents on the storage, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, interviews with employees and service providers, inspections on site, an absorbent kit of petroleum products, for chainsaws - a mat or a spill-safe container

6.7.6 Forestry equipment shall be kept in a good technical condition to prevent oil spills. Verification means: inspections on site

6.7.7 The forest manager and the subcontractors shall use bio-oils for lubrication of chainsaws.

Verification means: interviews

6.7.8L The forest manager shall take preventive measures to reduce the amount of household rubbish illegally left by the population in the forest.

Verification means: documents, interviews, inspections on site

6.7.8S The forest manager, upon finding household rubbish left by other persons, shall carry out rubbish collection as far as possible.

Verification means: interviews, inspections on site

## FSC Criterion 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 The use of biological control agents with potentially invasive species as its active ingredient shall be controlled and reduced.

Verification means: documents, interviews

6.8.2 If biological control agents are used, the forest manager shall demonstrate that such use is in strict compliance with national laws.

Verification means: documents, interviews

6.8.3 The forest manager shall document the use of biological control agents. Verification means: documented use of biological control agents

6.8.4 Genetically modified organisms shall not be used in forest management. Verification means L: interviews with stakeholders, inspections on site, MP Verification means S: interviews

## FSC Criterion 6.9

**The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.**

- 6.9.1 Only local tree species shall be used in forest regeneration. Verification means: MP, inspections on site
- 6.9.2 An action plan for prevention of uncontrolled spreading of exotic species, including impact of invasiveness, shall be developed and agreed upon with the stakeholders if exotic species are grown or reared.  
Verification means: consultations with stakeholders, a documented action plan, MP, inspections on site
- 6.9.3 A monitoring system shall be developed and implemented for control of spreading of exotic species and assessment of the impact on forest ecosystems for species grown or reared by forest manager.  
Verification means L: a monitoring system of exotic species, interviews, distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees  
Verification means S: a monitoring system of exotic species, interviews
- 6.9.4 Exotic species shall not be used for non-commercial purposes (e.g. erosion control, bank stabilisation, etc), unless it is proven they are not invasive or have other adverse ecological impacts.  
Verification means: consultations with stakeholders, a documented action plan, MP, inspections on site

## FSC Criterion 6.10

**Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion:**

- a) entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and**
- b) does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; and**
- c) will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.**

- 6.10.1L The conversion of all forest lands under management responsibility shall be identified and reasons of conversion substantiated in the MP while taking to account FSC's parameters for conversion.  
Verification means: MP
- 6.10.2L Stakeholders shall be informed about the prospective conversion and the forest manager shall have all necessary approval for conversion in line with national requirements.  
Verification means: consultations with stakeholders, documented proposals
- 6.10.3S The cultural and landscape values shall be respected during the conversion of forest lands into non-forest lands.  
Verification means: documents related to the transformation process, consultations with stakeholders
- 6.10.4S If forest lands are converted into non-forest lands, the forest manager shall provide additional benefits to environmental protection in the managed territory.  
Verification means: an interview with the forest manager, inspections on site

6.10.5 Deforestation or the conversion shall not occur in high conservation value forests (HCVF), if that contradict to the parameters the HCVF had been identified and doesn't increase social or ecological value of the HCVF:

6.10.5.1 shall be converted in order to restore the land securely and in the long term to a pre-existing "High Conversation Value" habitat;

6.10.5.2 by establishing recreational and infrastructure objects within a HCVF territory of social significance, if they increase the recreational value of this territory, or they are included in municipal territorial planning documents and are necessary to deliver municipal functions;

6.10.5.3 Ensuring the servitudes of owners of other lands;

*Note: Conversion shall be performed in a very limited portion.*

Verification means: HCVF definition, criteria, cartographic material, a list of transformed lands, interviews with employees, inspections on site

6.10.6L In deforestation of forest lands or conversion of the type of land use the area of the transformed land must not exceed 5% of the managed territory.

Verification means: documents, MP, inspections on site

## FSC 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.

### FSC Criterion 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.

7.1.1L The MP shall contain long term objectives of forest management and tasks for achieving them in economic, environmental and social fields in the managed territory.

Verification means: MP, objectives, interviews with the forest manager

7.1.2L The forest manager shall plan management operations in accordance with the long-term forest management objectives.



Verification means: MP, objectives, interviews

7.1.3 The MP shall include:

7.1.3.1 description of management objectives;

7.1.3.2 proof of ownership or a right to use and a map of land boundaries;

7.1.3.3 description of the managed forest resources, including protected areas, specially protected forest habitats and WKH;

7.1.3.4 description of HCVF areas;

7.1.3.5 description of methods and technologies applied in forest management;

7.1.3.6 description of monitoring results at least regarding those parameters that are listed in the indicators of the FSC Criterion 8.2;

7.1.3.7 the scale of forest management works planned for the next 5 years; 7.1.3.8L justified sustainable annual allowable cut;

7.1.3.9L justified selection of species and regeneration technique;

7.1.4 The cartographic material of the MP shall include the information about:

7.1.4.1 boundaries of the managed territory;

7.1.4.2 infrastructure;

7.1.4.3 types of land use;

7.1.4.4 HCVF areas;

7.1.4.5 identification and protection of protected areas, specially protected forest habitats and WKHs, HCV, threatened and endangered species;

7.1.4.6L sites of road construction and drainage works in the planned period;

7.1.4.7L the planned yield of timber resources in the final felling in the unit of planning in the planned period.

Verification means: MP, inspections on site

7.1.5 Forest management shall be carried out in accordance with the MP and/or documented justification of changes in environmental, social and economic circumstances.

Verification means: MP, inspections on site, interviews

## FSC Criterion 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.**

7.2.1L The MP shall be updated at least once every 5 years.

Verification means: MP

7.2.1S The MP shall be updated at least once every 5 years or according to the procedure for the MP updating developed by the forest manager.

Verification means: MP

7.2.2 Updating the MP, at least the following aspects shall be taken into account: 7.2.2.1L changes in environmental, social and economic circumstances;

7.2.2.2 The forest manager has incorporated the results of the social impact assessment into the forest management plan.

7.2.2.3L evaluation of monitoring results;

7.2.2.4L the latest scientific and technical information. Verification means: MP, interviews

7.2.3 applied to forest properties covering up to 10,000 ha: Updating the MP, monitoring results as well as changes in environmental, social and economic circumstances shall be taken into account.

Verification means: MP, interviews

### **FSC Criterion 7.3**

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

7.3.1L Employees shall be informed about the MP and shall be adequately trained in their respective duties.

Verification means: distribution of job duties and responsibilities of employees, training documents, etc.

7.3.1S Prior to commencement of forestry operations workers have received instructions on appropriate work techniques.

Verification means: MP, contracts, interviews with workers

7.3.2L The forest manager shall ensure that persons and companies involved in forest management are conducting the activities in compliance with applicable requirements.

Verification means: contracts, interviews

### **FSC Criterion 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.**

7.4.1L The forest manager shall prepare a summary of the MP describing at least those requirements that are included in the indicators of the FSC Criterion 7.1, except for confidential information.

Verification means: a summary of the MP

7.4.1S The forest manager shall be ready to familiarise the stakeholders, who have expressed a justified interest in particular forest management activities, with the relevant parts of the forest management plan, as required by the indicators of the FSC Criterion 7.1, except for confidential information.

Verification means: documented requests from the stakeholders, documented replies

7.4.2L The forest manager has published a summary of the MP on FME's website or, if there is no website, this summary shall be sent to the stakeholders upon a verbal or written request.

Verification means: forest manager's website, interviews with stakeholders, documented requests and replies, etc.

## FSC 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.

### FSC Criterion 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.**

8.1.1L The forest manager shall develop a monitoring procedure which allows comparing the results and assessing the changes.

Verification means: documents

8.1.2L The forest manager shall ensure that activities described in Indicator 8.1.1L are being implemented.

Verification means: interviews

8.1.3S The forest manager shall document the monitoring results. Verification means: monitoring results, etc.

### FSC Criterion 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.

8.2.1L The forest manager shall perform monitoring or use reliable information that is available at least in regard to the parameters set out in the FSC Criterion 8.2.

Verification means: monitoring procedure, distribution of responsibilities of employees, execution documents, interviews, etc.

8.2.2L The forest manager shall summarize and update information about commercially harvested forest products and the generated revenue from them at least once a year.

Verification means: monitoring results, distribution of responsibilities of employees, execution documents, interviews, etc.

8.2.2S The forest manager shall summarize information on the harvested volumes of timber and other forest products that are harvested for commercial purposes.

Verification means: documented volumes of timber and other forest resources that are harvested for commercial purposes

- 8.2.3L The forest manager shall summarize information on forest regeneration and forest vitality at least once a year.  
Verification means: documents, interviews, inspections on site
- 8.2.4L The forest manager shall use scientific information on changes in the flora and fauna published by scientific and research institutions and/or record significant changes in the flora and fauna at least once every 5 years.  
Verification means: documents, interviews, inspections on site
- 8.2.4S The forest manager shall record significant changes in the flora and fauna at least once every 10 years.  
Verification means: documented changes in the flora and fauna.
- 8.2.5L The forest manager shall summarize the conclusions made on the basis of the assessments according to Indicator 6.1.1L and and consider options for improvement of forest management.  
Verification means: monitoring results, distribution of job duties of employees, execution documents, interviews, etc.  
Pre-approval draft of the Latvian FSC Standard
- 8.2.6L Results of the measures of the indicator 6.1.1L shall be evaluated annually. Verification means: documents, interviews, inspections on site
- 8.2.7L The forest manager shall summarize the conclusions made on the basis of the assessment according to Indicator 4.4.2L and improve the applied forest management practice at least once every 5 years.  
Verification means: monitoring results, social impact assessment, distribution of job duties of employees, execution documents, interviews, etc.
- 8.2.8L At least once a year the forest manager shall summarize and evaluate breaches of work safety requirements in the FMU and improve according to the evaluation.  
Verification means: monitoring procedure and results, distribution of job duties of employees, execution documents, interviews, etc.
- 8.2.9L At least once a year the forest manager shall summarize and evaluate information on violations of environmental protection requirements in the managed territory and improve according to the evaluation.  
Verification means: monitoring procedure and results, distribution of job duties of employees, execution documents, interviews, etc.
- 8.2.10L The forest manager shall summarize and update information on forest management costs and efficiency at least once a year.  
Verification means: documents
- 8.2.11S Once a year the forest manager shall document all performed forest management operations.  
Verification means: documented forest management operations FSC Criterion 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 There shall be a system in place which allows all harvested products (timber and non-timber) to be identified as such, from the harvesting through to the point of sale.  
Verification means: documents, interviews

8.3.2 The identification system shall allow the physical products to be linked to paper records including all of the following information:

- type of product;
- volume (or quantity) of product;
- logging/production site;
- logging/production date

Verification means: documents, interviews

8.3.3 The forest enterprise shall keep sales invoices for all products sold, which identify at least:

- name and address of purchaser;
- the date of sale;
- type of product;
- the volume (or quantity) sold.

Verification means: documents, interviews

8.3.4 The forest manager shall ensure that the certification status and number of the sold products shall be clearly indicated in the invoices and the required accompanying documents.

Verification means: documents, interviews

8.3.5L The procedure for identifying all products leaving the forest shall be clearly documented. Verification means: documents, interviews

8.3.6 All records on transactions involving the FSC certificate shall be kept at least for five years.

Verification means: documents, interviews FSC Criterion 8.4

The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.

8.4.1 Monitoring results pertaining at least to the parameters listed in indicators of the FSC Criterion 8.2 shall be used in forest management planning.

Verification means: documents

8.4.2L The forest manager shall maintain the data summary obtained as a result of performance of the indicators of the FSC Criterion 8.2 in such a manner that it would be also possible to analyse them later.

Verification means: data

## **FSC Criterion 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.**

8.5.1L While respecting the confidentiality of information, the forest manager shall make publicly available a summary of the monitoring results, including the elements listed in the indicators of the FSC Criterion 8.2.

Verification means: documents

8.5.2L The forest manager shall publish a summary of monitoring results on his/her website or, if there is no website, this summary shall be sent to the stakeholders upon a verbal or written request.

Verification means: forest manager's website, interviews with stakeholders, correspondence documents, a summary of monitoring results, etc.

8.5.2S The forest manager shall be ready to familiarise the stakeholders, who have expressed a justified interest, with a summary of monitoring results, except for information which is a business secret.

Verification means: documented requests from the stakeholders, documented replies, etc. FSC

## 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.

### FSC Criterion 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.**

9.1.1L The forest manager shall have procedures for identification, evaluation and updating information on HCVF according to the HCVF definition in Latvian FSC Forest Stewardship Standard (see Annex No.4: Glossary).

Verification means: a procedure, an analysis, a list of HCVF, a substantiation for selection, interviews with employees, documented correspondence with local community, etc.

9.1.1S The forest manager shall identify and evaluate HCVF in the FMU according to the HCVF definition in Latvian FSC Forest Stewardship Standard (see Annex No.4: Glossary).

Verification means: a list of HCVF, interviews with local community, interviews with the forest manager, etc.

9.1.2 Before commencing the economic activities the forest manager shall ensure if the particular forest area has the attributes characteristic of the biodiversity HCVF.

Verification means: a list of HCVF, a substantiation for selection, a documented process of consultations, etc.

9.1.3L During the consultations with the local community, the forest manager shall identify cultural and historical monuments and objects or other important places for the local community present in the managed territory.

Verification means: a list of HCVF, a substantiation for selection, a documented process of consultations, etc.

9.1.4L The identification of HCVF shall be documented.

Verification means: documents, interviews FSC

### Criterion 9.2

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

9.2.1L The forest manager shall provide information about HCVF and HCVF management publicly available.

Verification means: publicly available information about HCVF and their management

9.2.2L The forest manager shall carry out consultations with local municipalities and stakeholders regarding the management of HCVF on its own initiative and on received proposals.

Verification means: interviews with stakeholders, documented correspondence with stakeholders and local community, documented proposals that are received regarding the management of HCVF

9.2.2S The forest manager shall consult with stakeholders, including local community and NGOs, if they have submitted proposals regarding the management of HCVF.

Verification means: documented correspondence with stakeholders, documented proposals that are received regarding the management of HCVF

9.2.3 The forest manager shall take into account the results of consultative process into the MP and management of HCVF.

Verification means L: documented proposals that are received regarding the management of HCVF, documents on updating of the MP, results of consultations, their analysis, etc.

Verification means S: MP

### FSC Criterion 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 The forest manager shall include information about HCVF in the MP, including:

9.3.1.1 Information justifying the selection of HCVF;

9.3.1.2 Information on measures for management of HCVF;

9.3.1.3 HCVF marked on maps. Verification means: MP

9.3.2 Management operation in HCVF shall not harm the identified HCVF attributes. Verification means L: MP, an analysis of observation results, work planning documents, etc. Verification means S: MP, inspections on site, interviews

9.3.3 The forest manager shall ensure the implementation of the defined HCVF management measures.

Verification means L: MP, interviews with employees, distribution of job duties, inspections on site, etc. Verification means S: MP, inspections on site, interviews

9.3.4 The forest manager shall ensure that the HCVF management principles are described in the publicly available summary of the MP.

Verification means: the publicly available summary of the MP, etc.

### FSC Criterion 9.4

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

9.4.1L The forest manager shall have monitoring methodology for HCVF including methodology for summarization and recording of results.

Verification means: monitoring methodology, employees trained, interviews, etc. 9.4.1S The forest manager shall have guidelines for monitoring of HCVF. Verification means: monitoring conditions, an interview with the forest manager

- 9.4.2 The forest manager shall monitor HCVF according to the requirements they were identified:
- 9.4.2.1L every year over the next 2 years after performance of managing activity.
  - 9.4.2.1S every year over the next 2 years after performance of managing activity which may significantly affect HCVF;
  - 9.4.2.2 once every 5 years if no economic activity has been performed.
- Verification means: inspections on site, an interview with the forest manager, documented monitoring results
- 9.4.3 The forest manager shall document monitoring results. Verification means: monitoring results, interviews, etc.
- 9.4.4 The forest manager shall evaluate the changes in the HCVF attributes on the basis of the obtained results.
- Verification means: monitoring results, an interview with the forest manager
- 9.4.5L The results of HCVF monitoring shall be considered during revision of MP.
- Verification means: the analysis of monitoring results, MP, distribution of job duties of employees, interviews, etc.
- 9.4.6L The forest manager shall include the monitoring results of the HCVF management in the publicly available summary of the MP.
- Verification means: the publicly available summary of the MP, distribution of job duties of employees, interviews, etc.

## FSC 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.

### FSC Criterion 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 The forest manager shall include the objectives of establishment and management of plantations in the MP.
- Verification means: MP, planning documents
- 10.1.2 The management objectives of the MP for establishment of plantations shall include natural forest development and facilitation of protection according to Indicators 10.2.4, 10.2.5, 10.2.6, 10.3.1 and 10.5.1.
- Verification means: MP
- 10.1.3L The forest manager shall implement the principles and actions determined by the objectives for establishment and management of plantations.



Verification means: MP, planning documents, inspections on site

## FSC Criterion 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 Plantations shall be planned:

10.2.1.1 in accordance with the municipal territorial plan while also taking into account requirements of P7 in the Latvian FSC Forest Stewardship Standard;

10.2.1.2 in compliance with restrictions of specially protected areas;

10.2.1.3 in compliance with protection belts along water bodies. Verification means: MP, planning documents

### 10.2.2 Plantations shall be established only: 10.2.2.1 on agricultural lands;

10.2.2.2 on non-forest lands which previously were used for non-agricultural purposes (quarries, bogs drained for peat extraction, landfills);

10.2.2.3 along infrastructure objects, including power lines;

10.2.2.4 within degraded territories (e.g. within former industrial or military site territories).

Verification means L: MP, planning documents, inspections on site

Verification means S: MP, inspections on site

### 10.2.3 Before establishing plantations on a continuous area exceeding 25 ha, the assessment of impact on biodiversity, soil, water and cultural heritage shall be carried out.

Verification means: MP, impact assessment, inspections on site

### 10.2.4 The plan for establishment and management of plantations shall provide wildlife corridors if the area of a continuous plantation exceeds 100 ha.

Verification means: MP, inspections on site

### 10.2.5 The plan for establishment and management of plantations shall ensure protection of water resources:

10.2.5.1 soil cultivation shall not be carried out closer than 10 m to a waterbody or a watercourse;

10.2.5.2 in cases when coniferous trees are planted in plantation, a mix of deciduous trees shall be 30%, closer than 25 metres to a waterbody or a watercourse, if it is permitted by growing conditions.

Verification means: MP, inspections on site

### 10.2.6 Management of continuous plantations exceeding 100 ha shall promote development of stands with different ages.

Verification means: MP, inspections on site

### 10.2.7 The scale and layout of plantation blocks shall be consistent with the patterns of forest stands found within the natural landscape.

See: Criterion 6.3 and 10.3.2 below

Verification means: MP, inspections on site

### FSC Criterion 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 Continuous plantations covering more than 10 ha shall have at least 5% of the area with natural vegetation or other tree species than the main species.

Verification means: MP, inspections on site

10.3.2 The plan for establishment and management of plantations covering more than 25 ha and established in places that are significant from a social aspect, shall include considerations for visual characteristics of the landscape and requirement for the plantations to blend harmoniously within the natural landscape.

Verification means: a documented assessment of the impact on visual characteristics of the landscape, interviews with representatives of local government, a local spatial plan

### FSC Criterion 10.4

**The selection of species for planting shall be based on their overall suitability for the site and their appropriateness to the management objectives. In order to enhance the conservation of biological diversity, native species are preferred over exotic species in the establishment of plantations and the restoration of degraded ecosystems. Exotic species, which shall be used only when their performance is greater than that of native species, shall be carefully monitored to detect unusual mortality, disease, or insect outbreaks and adverse ecological impacts.**

10.4.1 The use of exotic species shall be justified and according to the economic goals set for the plantations and the climate, geology and soils at the planting sites.

Verification means: MP, inspections on site

10.4.2 If an exotic tree species are grown a monitoring system shall be developed and implemented to control the spread of the species and assess the impact on forest ecosystems.

Verification means: monitoring system of exotic species, interviews

10.4.3 If there is a native species, which meets the management objectives, as well as an exotic species, the native species shall be selected in preference to the exotic species.

Verification means: MP, interviews, inspections on site

### FSC Criterion 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 At least 10% of the area in a single plantation covering more than 100 ha shall be left to natural development.

Verification means: MP, inspections on site

### FSC Criterion 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. See indicator 6.5.1L.

10.6.1 The forest manager shall respect protection belts along waterbodies (except drainage systems and their components) in order to ensure the role of the forest in protection of water resources.

Verification means: inspections on site

#### **FSC Criterion 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.

See indicators under FSC Criterion 6.6, 6.7 and 6.8.

10.7.1L The forest manager shall prepare a forest fire prevention plan if necessary. Verification means: a plan

10.7.2L The forest manager shall develop action plans to restrict spreading of forest pests, diseases and invasive species if necessary.

Verification means: plans

10.7.3 The plantation layout shall be designed to prevent uncontrolled fires, and to provide access for fire-control.

Verification means: MP

#### **FSC Criterion 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 The forest manager shall perform monitoring to assess the impact of plantations with exotic species on the adjacent areas (invasive spreading in the surrounding forest, spreading of forest pests and diseases) at least once every five years.

Verification means: monitoring results

See indicators under FSC Principle 4., 6. and 8.

10.8.2 The interests of third parties shall be taken into account before establishing plantations in rural areas around the buildings belonging to another person who doesn't have any adjacent land.

Verification means: documents, inspections on site

#### **FSC Criterion 10.9**

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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.

10.9.1 The forest manager shall not establish plantations on forest lands. Verification means: MP

10.9.2 Plantations established in areas converted from forest lands after November 1994 shall not qualify for certification.

Verification means: documents

## Annex 1: FSC Glossary of terms

**Amelioration system:** A complex of dedicated structures and installations for regulation of groundwater regime.

**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)

**Certificate:** A document issued under the rules of a certification system, indicating that adequate confidence is provided that a duly identified product, process or service is in conformity with a specific standard or other normative document [ISO/IEC Guide 2:1991 paragraph 14.8 and ISO/CASCO 193 paragraph 4.5]. [FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1]

**Certification Body:** See "Conformity Assessment Body (CAB)"

**Certified forest reproductive material the origin of which is appropriate for the site (origin certified forest reproductive material):** The certified forest reproductive material of appropriate origin is the one which meets Cabinet Regulation No 648 of 19 November 2003 "Regulations on forest reproductive material."

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

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

**Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) (also referred to as Certification Body):** Body that performs conformity assessment services and that can be the object of accreditation (adapted from ISO/IEC 17011:2004 (E)). [FSC-STD-01-005 V1-0]

**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.

**Dangerous forestry works:** Forestry works performed using forest machines, motorized as well as sharp tools.

**Document:** Any type of written information or data created, stored, sent or received electronically that can be used for planning and performance of a certain activities, enforcement or protection of rights.

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

**Ecosystem services:** Benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food and water; regulating services such as flood and disease control; biodiversity conservation; cultural services such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits; and supporting services, such as nutrient cycling.

**Employer:** An employer is a natural or legal person or a partnership with legal capacity that, on the basis of an employment contract, employs at least one employee.

**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.

**Final felling:** A type of cutting for final harvesting of timber performed in one or several stages.

**Flood-lands:** Areas along watercourses and water bodies forming the periodically flooded part of the valley whose vegetation is characteristic of flood-lands.

**Forest:** An ecosystem in all stages of its development, where the main producers of the organic mass are trees, with the height at a given place reaching at least 5 metres and with current or potential coronal projection of at least 20% of the forest stand area. The following do not qualify as forests:

- territories lying separately from the forests, covered with trees and the area of which is less than 0.1 ha;
- artificial or natural rows of trees with their width being less than 20 m;
- Orchards, parks, graveyards and plantations producing forest tree seeds.

#### **Forest growing conditions (Latvian forest site types)**

##### **Dry mineral soils:**

Sl - *Cladinoso-callunosa*

Mr - *Vacciniosa*

Ln - *Myrtillosa*

Dm - *Hylocomiosa*

Vr - *Oxalidosa*

Gr - *Aegopodiosa*

##### **Wet mineral soils:**

Gs - *Callunoso-sphagnosa*

Mrs - *Vaccinoso-sphagnosa*

Dms - *Myrtilloso-sphagnosa*

Vrs - *Myrtilloso-polytrichosa*

Grs - *Dryopteriosa*

##### **Wet peat soils:**

Pv - *Sphagnosa*

Nd - *Caricoso-phragmitosa*

Db - *Dryopteriosocaricosa*

Lk - *Filipendulosa*

##### **Drained mineral soils:**

Av - *Callunosa mel.*

Am - *Vacciniosa mel.*

As - *Myrtillosa mel.*

Ap - *Mercurialis mel.*

**Drained peat soils:**

Kv - *Callunosa turf. mel.*

Km - *Vacciniosa turf. mel.*

Ks - *Myrtillosa turf. mel.*

Kp - *Oxalidoso turf. mel.*

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

**Forest inventory:** Collection and recording of data about the forest.

**Forest land:** The land with the forest on it, the land under the forest infrastructure objects, as well as flood-lands, mires and glades located in the forest and adjoining it.

**Forest management:** Administration and utilisation of forest lands in order to obtain economic, social and ecological benefits.

**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.

**Forest manager:** In the sense of the Latvian FSC Standard the forest manager is a physical or legal entity which performs or organises management and use of forest lands according to a legally established order.

**Forest products:** Timber and non-timber forest values - after their harvesting, objects of various transactions.

**Forest property:** an object with registered ownership consisting of a forest land as well as forest and non-forest ecosystems and infrastructure objects located on it.

**Forest resources:** Timber and non-timber forest values in nature before their harvesting.

**Forest stand:** A forest with homogeneous growing conditions, tree species, composition and age. In the sense of the Latvian FSC Standard the boundaries of the forest stand are the boundaries of the forest plot.

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

**Forestry works (operations):** Activities aimed at production of forest products, mainly timber, and logging.

**FSC Certification Scheme:** is developed by the Forest Stewardship Council A.C. to enable independent third-party certification of environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management as a market mechanism allowing producers and consumers to identify and purchase timber and non-timber forest products from well-managed forests.

**FSC Forest Management Standard:** See "FSC Forest Stewardship Standard"

**FSC Forest Stewardship Standard (FSC Forest Management Standard):** The FSC Principles and Criteria together with the addition of indicators that are adapted to regional (trans-national, supra-national), national and/or sub-national conditions in order to be implemented at the forest management unit (FMU) level. [FSC-STD-60-006 V1-2]

**FSC Principles and Criteria of Forest Stewardship (P&C):** The 10 Principles and associated Criteria specified in the FSC document "FSC Principles and Criteria of Forest Stewardship" (FSC-STD-01-001).

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

**Glades:** Open non-forest ecosystems with typical vascular plant vegetation which have developed in the forest under the influence of natural or anthropogenic factors. This also includes wetlands - flooded clearings which overflow 4-5 times in a 10-year period. These ecosystems do not include glades used for feeding of game animals.

**Habitat:** Natural or semi-natural land or water area distinguished by geographical, abiotic and biotic features.

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

HCV1: Biologically valuable forest concentration areas - continuous areas of at least 100 ha (also as a part of large forest tracts) with at least 50% of the area consists of:

- An endangered, specially protected species habitats;
- Specially protected habitats;
- WKHs;
- Stands with large dimension ( $D > 40\text{cm}$ ) of dead wood in various stages of decomposition is more than 40 m<sup>3</sup>/ha;
- From a forest stands that has naturally developed for 20 or more years after a large-scale natural disturbance and still includes dead wood and scorched trees.

Within the biologically valuable forest concentration areas stands shall be assessed where the dominant species are above the age of: pine - 140 years, spruce - 120 years; birch - 100 years, ash - 100 years, alder - 80 years; aspen - 70 years. These stands shall be assessed if they comply with the criteria to be identified as biologically valuable forest stands.

HCV2: Forest areas covering more than 1000 ha where the total length of two or more natural watercourses exceeds 1 km per 100 ha of forest lands.

HCV3: Primary forests in meanders of rivers.

HCV4: Forest areas significant for providing basic environmental functions (e.g. in the coastal protection zone along the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga, in the protection belts along rivers and lakes, in protection zones around mires).

HCV5, HCV6: Forest areas which as a result of the consultation with local municipality have been recognized as important areas to the local community and included in planning documents.

**Illegal settlement:** Settlement related to illegal construction.

**Impact assessment:** A document describing the possible impact of a particular or planned economic activity and providing proposals for minimizing or preventing the adverse impact or prohibition of economic activity.

**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.

**Indicator species:** An ecologically specialized species that has rather high requirements to its habitat.



**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 people:** 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). [FSC-STD-01-001]

Descendants of Latvians (Couronians, Semigallians, Selonians and Latgalians) and Livonians who keep cultural and/or religious traditions of their ancestors are considered as indigenous people in Latvia. So far there are no groups of indigenous people or their representatives identified or reported to the SDG. It is impossible to distinguish any lands or territories in their possession, as these people are part of Latvian people and their prevalence is not characteristic to any specific territory but they are spread all over the country.

**Introduced (exotic) species:** An introduced species not native or endemic to the area in question. [FSC-STD-01-001]

**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 community:** Persons who live or have immovable property in the territory of the respective municipality or the surrounding area.

**Local economy:** Latvian FSC standard development group has found that everything related to the local economy refers to the national level as the local economy cannot be established in a smaller or regional level within the territory of Latvia.

**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.

**Local processing:** Latvian FSC standard development group has found that everything related to the local processing refers to the national level as the local processing cannot be established in a smaller or regional level within the territory of Latvia.

**Logging:** Felling of trees and delivery of timber products (round timber and felling debris) to the landing.

**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.

**Management plan:** A document determining management operations for a particular forest property or legal tenure.

**Mature stands:** Pine stands older than 101 years; spruce, ash stands older than 81 years; birch, black alder stands older than 71 years; aspen and grey alder stands older than 41 years.

**Mire:** A plot of land with permanent or prolonged humidity, specific vegetation and accumulation of peat.

**Monitoring:** A system of constant observations in order to assess the effect of a given process or activity

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

**Native tree species:** Species naturally occurring in the given region. There are the following native tree species in Latvia: Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) Norway spruce (*Picea abies* (L.) Karsten) Silver birch (*Betula pendula* Roth.) Downy birch (*Betula pubescens* Ehrh.) Black alder (*Alnus glutinosa* (L.) Gaertn.) Gray alder (*Alnus Incan* (L.) Moench) Small-leaved lime (*Tilia cordata* Mill.) Norway maple (*Acer platanoides* L.) Pedunculate Oak (*Qercus robur* L.) Common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior* L.) Wych elm, fluttering elm (*Ulmus glabra* Huds., *Ulmus laevis* Pall.) Common aspen (*Populus tremula* L.) Willow species (*Salix* sp.)

Only in the western part of Latvia (Kurzeme): Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus* L.) European beech (*Fagus sylvatica* L.) Sweet cherry (*Prunus avium* L.)

**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 disturbances:** Fire, windfall, wind-throw, flood, snow loads, etc.

**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.

**Natural watercourses:** Naturally formed, not transformed by human activities, rivers and streams or their stages flowing along the natural bed.

**New forest management techniques:** Forest management techniques differing from the existing forest management planning and practice.

**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.

**P&C:** See "FSC Principles and Criteria of Forest Stewardship"

**Pesticide:** Any substance or preparation prepared or used in protecting plants or wood or other plant products from pests. (This definition includes insecticides, rodenticides, acaricides, molluscicides, larvaecides, fungicides and herbicides). In the sense of the Latvian FSC Standard, pesticides are considered to be active substances or preparations, which have been prepared to be supplied to users in ready form and contain one or more active substances. These are intended for the protection of plants or plant products against organisms harmful to plants or for the prevention of the impact of such organisms, influencing plant growing processes, preservation of plant products, destroying unfavourable plants or parts of plants and prevention of the undesirable growth of plants.

**Planning unit:** A territory for planning of forest management works (logging, forest regeneration, thinning, etc.)

**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.

**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. [FSC-STD-01-001].

In the sense of the Latvian FSC Standard plantations shall be considered to be:

- Forest stands on non-forest lands regenerated by sowing, planting or natural regeneration
- techniques and established as plantation forests in accordance with the laws and regulations of RL.
- Seed orchards shall not be considered as plantations.

**Precautionary approach:** Activities respecting objectives for selection of HCVF. It should be assumed that HCVF are in an unsatisfactory condition unless there is convincing evidence proving the opposite. The possible factors that affect or might affect HCVF should be taken into account until their harmlessness has not been scientifically proved. In case if the scientific substantiation is insufficient, measures should be taken to control the potential damage. Management can be considered efficient only if there is a justified assurance that it will bring the desired results. Assessing conservation capacity of some protected site against visitors or utilisation for economic purposes, specific affirmations are required that the intended activities will not endanger its existence. The same applies to any other management operation intended to prevent or minimize the potential damage. If the risk of decreasing the biodiversity is real, implementation of measures intended to minimize such a risk should not be postponed due to an insufficient scientific basis [Rio Declaration].

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

**Property:** A property is an object to which one has full administration, usage and action rights, i.e. to obtain all possible benefits from it, act with it and demand its return from a third person according to an established procedure on the basis of a property claim.

**Protected areas:** Protected territories are:

- specially protected nature territories;
- micro-reserves;
- specially protected forest areas.

**Regulated natural watercourse:** Natural watercourse (river or a stream) adjusted to the drainage needs as a main (trunk) drainage-ditch by catching the water inflow from one or more drainage systems and discharging in a drainage-ditch, a waterbody or the sea.

**Road construction:** Performance of works according to the building design for construction of a new road or its section. Road reconstruction Performance of works according to the building design for reconstruction or replacement of road structures.

**Rotation cycle:** A period starting from regeneration or plantation of a forest stand until its final felling.

**Salmonid waterbodies:** Rivers and lakes with the water type L - salmonid waterbodies according to Table 1 "Priority fish waters" of Annex 2.1 to Cabinet Regulation No 118 "Regulations on surface and underground water quality" of 12 March 2002. (with a list according to catchment basins)

**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.

**Site (of a specially protected species):** A place determined by certain specific abiotic and biotic factors where the species has been found.

**Social impact assessment:** Assessment of the impact of economic activities on various stakeholders in the social sphere (needs for jobs, human health, needs for forest resources, etc.) and provide recommendations to reduce or eliminate adverse effects.

**Specially protected habitats:** Habitats included in Paragraph 1 "Forests and shrubs" of Cabinet Regulation of 12 May 2000 "Regulations on the List of Types of Specially Protected Habitats".

**Specially protected species:** Species included in Annex 1 "Specially protected animal, flowering plant, spore plant, moss, lichen and mushroom species for which micro-reserves should be established" and Part 1 of Annex 2 "Bird species for which reserves should be established at nesting or mating places" to Cabinet Regulation No 45 "Regulations on Establishment, Protection and Management of Micro-reserves" of 30 January 2001.

**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 organisations 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 organisations 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.

**Sustainable forest management:** Management and use of the forest and forest lands in a way and intensity that preserves its biodiversity, productivity, regeneration capacity, viability and potential at present and in future, the capacity to perform important ecological, economic and social functions at local, national and global level without causing threats to other ecosystems.

**Technique:** A systematised set of techniques required to perform a certain task or achieve a certain goal.

**Tenure:** Socially defined agreements held by individuals or groups, recognised 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.).

**Territory held in possession:** In the sense of the Latvian FSC Standard, these are territories held in possession where the forest manager takes part in decision making regarding forest management and timber sale.

**Thinning:** Improvement of forest stand composition, growth conditions and health of the retained forest stand.

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

**Types of land use:** Characterisation of the land area according to its natural characteristics and current economic use which complies with the classification of types of land use.["Land Survey Law" of 14 September 2006 ("LV", 157 (3525), 03.10.2006.) entered into force on 1 January 2007.]

**Undergrowth:** All trees and shrubs that in respective growing conditions cannot reach the height of the main stand.

**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 In the sense of the Latvian FSC Standard these are rights to gain benefit from an object not owned by oneself by using it or harvesting its fruits.

**Verification means:** A potential source of information or evidence that allows an auditor to evaluate compliance with an indicator.[FSC-STD-20-002 V2-1]

**Very limited portion:** The area affected (by conversion) shall not exceed 0.5% of the area of the FMU in any one year, 2,5% - in a five year period, but in total shall not exceed 5% of the area of the FMU.

**Waters:** In the sense of the Latvian FSC Standard, waters are seas, rivers, lakes and streams.

**Wildlife corridor:** A corridor of ecosystems or habitats connecting populations of species.

**Woodland Key Habitats (WKH):** Forest stands which include indicatorspecies and/or special habitat species as well as related structural elements that are vanishing in the forests used for timber harvesting.

## Annex 2: List of national and local forest and related laws and administrative requirements which apply in Latvia

- 24.02.2000. likums "Meža likums" (Law On Forests)
- 05.02.1997. likums "Aizsargjoslu likums" (Protection Zone Law) 28.01.1937. likums "Civillikums" (The Civil Law)
- 14.10.1998. likums "Civilprocesa likums" (Civil Procedure Law)
- 15.03.2001. likums "Par piesārņojumu" (Law On Pollution)
- 29.03.1995. likums "Par valsts un pašvaldību zemes īpašuma tiesībām un to nostiprināšanu zemesgrāmatās" (Law on the Land Ownership Right of the State and the Local Governments and their Securing in the Land Registry)
- 02.11.2006. likums "Vides aizsardzības likums" (Environmental Protection Law)
- 01.10.1997. likums "Par valsts sociālo apdrošināšanu" (Law On State Social Insurance)
- 29.04.1999. likums "Darba devēju organizāciju un to apvienību likums" (Employers' Organisations and their Associations Law)
- 15.12.1992. likums "Par sabiedriskajām organizācijām un to apvienībām" (Law On Public Organisations and Associations Thereof)
- 24.10.2002. likums "Ugunsdrošības un ugunsdzēsības likums" (Fire Safety and Fire-fighting Law)
- 02.05.1996. likums "Par zemes dziļēm" (Law On Subterranean Depths) 28.10.2010. likums "Atkritumu apsaimniekošanas likums" (Waste Management Law)
- 13.04.2000. likums "Komerclikums" (The Commercial Law)
- 17.06.1998. likums "Krimināllikums" (The Criminal Law)
- 07.12.1984. likums "Latvijas Administratīvo pārkāpumu kodekss" (Latvian Administrative Violations Code)
- 22.12.1937. likums "Zemesgrāmatu likums" (Land Register Law)
- 12.09.2002. likums "Ūdens apsaimniekošanas likums" (Water Management Law) 14.01.2010. likums "Meliorācijas likums" (Melioration Law)
- 05.06.2003. likums "Par Starptautisko augu aizsardzības konvenciju" (Law On International Plant Protection Convention)
- 16.12.2004. likums "Par koku un apaļu kokmateriālu uzskaiti darījumos" (Law On Inventory of Trees)
- 31.08.1995. likums "Par 1992.gada 5.jūnija Riodežaneiro Konvenciju par bioloģisko daudzveidību" (Law On Rio de Janeiro Convention on Biological Diversity)
- 16.03.2000. likums "Sugu un biotopu aizsardzības likums" (Law on the Conservation of Species and Biotopes)
- 08.07.2003. likums "Medību likums" (Hunting Law)
- 25.11.1999. likums "Valsts meža dienesta likums" (The State Forest Service Law)
- 20.06.2001. likums "Darba likums" (Labour Law)
- 20.06.2001. likums "Darba aizsardzības likums" (Labour Protection Law) 13.12.1990. likums "Par arodbiedrībām" (Law On Trade Unions)
- 02.11.1995. likums "Par obligāto sociālo apdrošināšanu pret nelaimes gadījumiem darbā un arodslimībām" (Law On Compulsory Soc. Ins. in respect of Accidents at Work and Occ. Diseases)

- 15.06.1994. likums "Par Starptautiskās darba organizācijas konvencijām Nr. 81, 129, 144, 154, 155, 158, 173" (Law on International Labour Organization Conventions No. 81, 129, 144, 154, 158, 173)
- 17.12.1998. likums "Augu aizsardzības likums" (Plant Protection Law)
- 02.03.1993. likums "Par īpaši aizsargājamām dabas teritorijām" (Law On Specially Protected Nature Territories)
- 14.10.1998. likums "Par ietekmes uz vidi novērtējumu" (Law On Environmental Impact Assessment)
- 30.06.2005. likums "Par zemes īpašnieku tiesībām uz kompensāciju par saimnieciskās darbības ierobežojumiem īpaši aizsargājamās dabas teritorijās un mikroliegumos" (Law On the Rights of Landowners to Compensation for Restrictions on Economic Activities in Specially Protected Nature Territories and Microreserves)
- 14.09.1995. likums "Par īpašuma tiesību atjaunošanu uz zemi, kura aizņemta ar īpaši aizsargājamiem dabas objektiem" (Law On Restoration of Ownership Rights On Land Which Has Specially Protected Nature Objects)
- 09.12.1999. likums "Dzīvnieku aizsardzības likums" (Animal Protection Law) 02.02.1995. likums "Par nodokļiem un nodevām" (Law On Taxes and Fees)
- 04.05.1990. AP deklarācija "Par LR pievienošanās starptautisko tiesību dokumentiem cilvēktiesību jautājumos" (Declaration of the Supreme Soviet On Accession of the Republic of Latvia to the International Law on Human Rights)
- 30.06.2010. MK rīkojums Nr.364 "Par koku ciršanas maksimāli pieļaujamo apjomu 2011.-2015.gadam" (Cabinet Order No.364 "Order On Maximal Permissible Tree Felling Amounts for Years 2011 - 2015")
- 26.01.2010. MK noteikumi Nr.85 "Kārtība, kādā nosaka zaudējumu atlīdzības veidu un apmēru, kā arī aprēķina zaudējumus, kas saistīti ar gājēju celiņu ierīkošanu un īpašuma lietošanas tiesību aprobežojumu Baltijas jūras un Rīgas jūras līča piekrastes aizsargjoslā" (Cabinet Regulation No.85 "Procedure for Determining Type and Extent of Compensation for Damages, Calculation of Losses Related to Installation of Walking Routes and Restrictions in Property Rights in Protection Belt of The Baltic Sea and The Riga Gulf")
- 10.11.2009. MK noteikumi Nr.1312 "Noteikumi par darbību ierobežojumiem aizsargjoslās ap valsts aizsardzības objektiem" (Cabinet Regulation No.1312 "Regulation on Restricted Operations in Protection Belt Around National Defense Facilities")
- 29.09.2009. MK noteikumi Nr.1114 "Noteikumi par dzīvnieku kapsētu iekārtošanas, reģistrācijas, uzturēšanas, darbības izbeigšanas un likvidēšanas kārtību un aizsargjoslu noteikšanas metodiku ap dzīvnieku kapsētām" (Cabinet Regulation No.1114 "Regulation on Animal Graveyard Placement, Registration, Maintenance, Dissolution and Liquidation; Methodology for Determining the Protection Belt Around Animal Graveyards")
- 03.06.2008. MK noteikumi Nr.406 "Virszemes ūdensobjektu aizsargjoslu noteikšanas metodika" (Cabinet Regulation No.406 "Methodology for the Determination of Surface Water Body Protection Zones")
- 20.02.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.131 "Aizsargjoslu noteikšanas metodika ap aizsprostiem" (Cabinet Regulation No.131 "Method of Establishing Protection Belts Around Dams")
- 12.12.2006. MK noteikumi Nr.1002 "Aizsargjoslu datu bāzes izveides, uzturēšanas un informācijas aprites kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.1002 "Procedures for Protection Belt Database Formation, Maintenance and Circulation of Information")
- 05.12.2006. MK noteikumi Nr.982 "Energētikas infrastruktūras objektu aizsargjoslu noteikšanas metodika" (Cabinet Regulation No.982 "Methodology for Determination of Power Infrastructure Protection Belts")
- 18.07.2006. MK noteikumi Nr.599 "Metodika drošības aizsargjoslu noteikšanai gar dzelzceļiem, pa kuriem pārvadā naftu, naftas produktus, bīstamas ķīmiskās vielas un produktus" (Cabinet Regulation No.599 "Method of Establishing Security Protection Belts along The Railways Carrying Oil, Oil Products and Hazardous Chemicals and Products")
- 27.06.2006. MK noteikumi Nr.508 "Noteikumi par aizsargjoslām ap valsts aizsardzības objektiem un šo aizsargjoslu platumu" (Cabinet Regulation No.508 "Regulation on Protection Belts and Their Width around National Defense Facilities")

17.02.2004. MK noteikumi Nr.86 "Baltijas jūras un Rīgas jūras līča piekrastes aizsargjoslas noteikšanas metodika" (Cabinet Regulation No.86 "Method of Determining Protection Belt for Coast of The Baltic Sea and The Riga Gulf") 20.01.2004. MK noteikumi Nr.43 "Aizsargjoslu ap ūdens ņemšanas vietām noteikšanas metodika" (Cabinet Regulation No.43 "Method of Determining Protection Belt around Water Sources")

15.07.2003. MK noteikumi Nr.392 "Kultūras pieminekļu aizsargjoslas (aizsardzības zonas) noteikšanas metodika" (Cabinet Regulation No.392 "Method of Establishing Protection Belts (Protection Zones) for Cultural Heritage")

13.05.2003. MK noteikumi Nr.258 "Noteikumi par ekspluatācijas aizsargjoslu ap meliorācijas būvēm un ierīcēm noteikšanas metodiku lauksaimniecībā izmantojamās zemēs un meža zemēs" (Cabinet Regulation No.258 "Regulation on Method of Establishing The Operational Protective Zone around The Drainage Structures and Devices in Agricultural Land and Forest Land")

25.02.2003. MK noteikumi Nr.93 "Aizsprostu un hidroelektrostaciju hidrotehnisko būvju drošuma kontrolmērietaišu aizsardzība un aizsargjoslu noteikšanas metodika" (Cabinet Regulation No.93 "Protection of Hydropower Station's Hydro Technical Structure Safety Measuring Devices and Method of Establishing Protection Belts")

10.09.2002. MK noteikumi Nr.412 "Noteikumi par navigācijas tehnisko līdzekļu ekspluatācijas aizsargjoslu noteikšanas metodiku" (Cabinet Regulation No.412 "Regulation on Method of Establishing Protection Belt for Operation of Technical Means of Navigation")

10.04.2001. MK noteikumi Nr.162 "Autoceļu aizsargjoslu noteikšanas metodika" (Cabinet Regulation No.162 "Method of Establishing Protection Belts for Roads")

29.12.1998. MK noteikumi Nr.502 "Aizsargjoslu ap kapsētām noteikšanas metodika" (Cabinet Regulation No.502 "Method of Establishing Protection Belts around Cemeteries")

15.12.1998. MK noteikumi Nr.457 "Dzelzceļa aizsargjoslu noteikšanas metodika" (Cabinet Regulation No.457 "Method of Establishing Protection Belts along Railways")

15.03.2011. MK noteikumi Nr.200 "Paredzētās darbības akceptēšanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.200 "Procedures for the Acceptance of the Intended Activity")

04.01.2011. MK noteikumi Nr.4 "Dzīvnieku izcelsmes produktu ieguvei vai sugas selekcijai izmantojamo savvaļas sugu dzīvnieku turēšanas kārtība iežogotās platībās un prasības šādu platību ierīkošanai" (Cabinet Regulation No.4 "Procedure for Animal Keeping in Enclosed Areas for Breeding or Production of Animal Products from Wild Species of Animal; Requirements for Installation of Such Areas")

21.12.2010. MK noteikumi Nr.1146 "Savvaļas sugu dzīvnieku turēšanas vietu reģistrācijas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.1146 "Procedure for Registration of Wild Animal Species Keeping Places")

21.12.2010. MK noteikumi Nr.1147 "Noteikumi par valsts nodevu par savvaļas sugu dzīvnieku turēšanas vietas reģistrāciju" (Cabinet Regulation No.1147 "Regulation on State Fee for Registration of Wild Species of Animal Keeping Place")

21.12.2010. MK noteikumi Nr.1165 "Kārtība, kādā izsniedz atļaujas nemedījamo sugu indivīdu iegūšanai, ievieš Latvijas dabai neraksturīgas savvaļas sugas (introdukcija) un atjauno sugu populāciju dabā (reintrodukcija)" (Cabinet Regulation No.1165 "Procedure for Issuing Permits to Obtain Individuals of Non-game Species, Introduce Wild Species Uncharacteristic to Nature in Latvia and Reinroduce Populations of Species")

21.12.2010. MK noteikumi Nr.1131 "Noteikumi par izmēģinājumu dzīvnieku audzētāju, piegādātāju un lietotāju reģistrāciju, kārtība, kādā veicamas darbības ar izmēģinājumu dzīvniekiem, un izmēģinājumu dzīvniekiem nodrošināmās labturības prasības" (Cabinet Regulation No.1131 "Regulation on Registration of Experimental Animal Breeders, Suppliers and Users; Procedure for Operations and Provision Of Welfare to Experimental Animals")

22.12.2008. MK noteikumi Nr.1079 "Dzīvnieku pārvadāšanas noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No.1079 "Animal Transport Regulations")



- 17.07.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.489 "Kārtība, kādā apturama saimnieciskā darbība speciālās pārbaudes veikšanai, ja nav nodrošināta ar nodokļiem un nodevām apliekamo objektu pareiza un pilnīga uzskaitē" (Cabinet Regulation No.489 "Procedure for Stopping Economic Activity to Perform Special Inspection if Correct and Complete Accounting of Taxable Items Is Not Provided")
- 15.05.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.324 "Noteikumi par skaidrās naudas izņemšanu no juridiskās personas vai individuālā komersanta kases vai citas glabāšanas vietas" (Cabinet Regulation No.324 "Regulation on Cash Withdrawal form Entity's or Individual Entrepreneur's Cash Register or Other Storage Place")
- 01.07.2003. MK noteikumi Nr.360 "Noteikumi par skaidrās naudas izņemšanu no juridiskās personas kases vai citas glabāšanas vietas" (Cabinet Regulation No.360 "Regulation on Cash Withdrawal form Entity's Cash Register or Other Storage Place")
- 02.05.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.282 "Nodokļu un citu maksājumu reģistrēšanas elektronisko ierīču un iekārtu lietošanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.282 "Procedures for Using Electronic Devices and Equipment for the Registration of Taxes and Other Payments")
- 10.04.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.237 "Skaidrā naudā veikto darījumu deklarēšanas noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No.237 "Regulation on Declaration of Cash Transactions")
- 20.02.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.133 "Noteikumi par nodokļu un citu maksājumu reģistrēšanas elektronisko ierīču un iekārtu tehniskajām prasībām" (Cabinet Regulation No.133 "Regulations regarding Technical Requirements for Electronic Devices and Equipment for the Registration of Taxes and Other Payments")
- 28.06.2005. MK noteikumi Nr.480 "Noteikumi par kārtību, kādā pašvaldības var uzlikt pašvaldību nodevas" (Cabinet Regulation No.480 "Regulation on Procedure by which Municipalities May Impose Municipal Fees")
- 30.04.2001. MK noteikumi Nr.178 "Kārtība, kādā piemērojami starptautiskajos līgumos par nodokļu dubultās uzlikšanas un nodokļu nemaksāšanas novēršanu noteiktie nodokļu atvieglojumi" (Cabinet Regulation No.178 "Procedures for Application of Tax Relief Determined in International Agreements for Prevention of Double Taxation and Tax Evasion")
- 27.03.2001. MK noteikumi Nr.150 "Noteikumi par nodokļu maksātāju un nodokļu maksātāju struktūrvienību reģistrāciju Valsts ieņēmumu dienestā" (Cabinet Regulation No.150 "Regulations regarding the Registration of Taxpayers' and Taxpayer Units with the State Revenue Service")
- 04.07.2000. MK noteikumi Nr.221 "Kārtība, kādā nokavētajiem valsts budžetā ieskaitāmajiem nodokļu maksājumiem samazināma iepriekš aprēķinātā nokavējuma nauda un kādā atceļams lēmums par nokavēto nodokļu maksājumu samaksas termiņu pagarināšanu" (Cabinet Regulation No.221 "Procedure for Reduction of Previously Charged Delayed Payment Penalty for Tax Arrears to the State Budget; Procedure for Cancellation of The Decision on Term Extension for Tax Arrears Settlement")
- 18.04.2000. MK noteikumi Nr.149 "Kārtība, kādā kārtējie nodokļu maksājumi un nokavētie nodokļu maksājumi tiek ieskaitīti budžetā" (Cabinet Regulation No.149 "Procedure for Current Tax Payment and Tax Arrears Transfer to The Budget")
- 18.04.1995. MK noteikumi Nr.103 "Noteikumi par kārtību, kādā nodokļi, valsts nodevas un citi obligātie maksājumi ieskaitāmi valsts budžetā" (Cabinet Regulation No.103 "Regulation on Procedures for Transfer of Taxes, State Fees and Other Mandatory Payments to The State Budget")
- 16.03.2010. MK noteikumi Nr.267 "Sugu un biotopu aizsardzības jomas ekspertu sertificēšanas un darbības uzraudzības kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.267 "Procedures for Supervision of Activities and Certification of Species and Habitat Conservation Experts")
- 17.07.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.497 "Kārtība, kādā nosaka materiālo zaudējumu apjomu, kurus lauksaimniecībai un mežsaimniecībai nodarījuši medījамie dzīvnieki" (Cabinet Regulation No.497 "Procedure for Determining of Losses to Agriculture and Forestry Caused by the Game Animals")
- 25.04.2006. MK noteikumi Nr.334 "Noteikumi par metodiku, kādā nosaka materiālo zaudējumu apjomu, kurus lauksaimniecībai un mežsaimniecībai nodarījuši medījамie dzīvnieki" (Cabinet Regulation No.334 "Regulation on Methodology to Determine Losses to Agriculture and Forestry Caused by the Game Animals")

19.06.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.409 "Kārtība, kādā nosaka maksu par medību tiesību izmantošanu valstij piekritošās vai piederošās medību platībās" (Cabinet Regulation No.409 "Procedure to Determine Fees for Use of Hunting Rights in State-owned Hunting Areas")

11.10.2005. MK noteikumi Nr.766 "Kārtība, kādā nosakāma maksa par medību tiesību izmantošanu valstij piekritošās vai piederošās medību platībās" (Cabinet Regulation No.766 "Procedure to Determine Fees for Use of Hunting Rights in State-owned Hunting Areas")

18.12.2012. MK noteikumi Nr.940 "Noteikumi par mikroliegumu izveidošanas un apsaimniekošanas noteikumi kārtību, to aizsardzību, kā arī mikroliegumu un to buferzonu noteikšanu" (Cabinet Regulation No.940 "Regulation on Microreserve Establishment and Management Procedure, Their Protection, as well as Identification of Microreserves and Their Bufferzones")

23.02.1999. MK noteikumi Nr.69 "Noteikumi par aizsargājamo ainavu apvidiem" (Cabinet Regulation No.69 "Regulation on Protected Landscape Areas")

09.03.1999. MK noteikumi Nr.83 "Noteikumi par dabas parkiem" (Cabinet Regulation No.83 "Regulation on Nature Parks")

28.09.2004. MK noteikumi Nr.806 "Meža zemes transformācijas noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No.806 "Forest Land Transformation Regulations")

06.03.2001. MK noteikumi Nr.108 "Meža ieaudzēšanas un plantāciju mežu noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No.108 "Regulation on Afforestation and Plantation Forests")

20.03.2001. MK noteikumi Nr.131 "Noteikumi par aizsargājamiem dendroloģiskajiem stādījumiem" (Cabinet Regulation No.131 "Regulation on Protected Dendrological Plantations")

31.10.2006. MK noteikumi Nr.892 "Noteikumi par koku ciršanu meža zemēs" (Cabinet Regulation No.892 "Regulation Regarding Tree Felling in Forest Lands")

08.05.2001. MK noteikumi Nr.189 "Dabas aizsardzības noteikumi meža apsaimniekošanā" (Cabinet Regulation No.189 "Nature Protection Regulations in Forest Management")

07.04.2009. MK noteikumu Nr.313 "Meža monitoringa veikšanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.313 "Order for Performing Forest Monitoring")

16.03.2010. MK noteikumi Nr.264 "Īpaši aizsargājamo dabas teritoriju vispārējie aizsardzības un izmantošanas noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No.264 "General Regulations on Protection and Use of Specially Protected Nature Territories")

10.06.2008. MK noteikumi Nr.421 "Noteikumi par meža aizsardzības pasākumiem un ārkārtējās situācijas izsludināšanu mežā" (Cabinet Regulation No.421 "Regulations for Taking Forest Protection Measures and Declaring Emergency Situations")

23.12.2003. MK noteikumi Nr.760 "Medību noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No.760 "Hunting Regulations")

04.02.2003. MK noteikumi Nr.63 "Meža aizsargjoslu ap pilsētām noteikšanas metodika" (Cabinet Regulation No.63 "Method of Establishing Forest Protection Belt around Urban Centres")

04.08.1998. MK noteikumi Nr.284 "Ūdenstilpju un ūdensteču aizsargjoslu noteikšanas metodika" (Cabinet Regulation No.284 "Method of Determining Protection Belts for Waterbeds and Watercourses")

19.11.2003. MK noteikumi Nr.648 "Noteikumi par meža reprodiktīvo materiālu" (Cabinet Regulation No.648 "Regulation Regarding Forest Reproductive Material")

29.04.2003. MK noteikumi Nr.228 "Mežam nodarīto zaudējumu noteikšanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.228 "Procedure for Determination of Forest Damage")

15.12.2009. MK noteikumi Nr.1453 "Meža atjaunošanas noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No.1453 "Forest Regeneration Regulations")

29.08.2006. MK noteikumi Nr.717 "Kārtība koku ciršanai ārpus meža zemes" (Cabinet Regulation No.717 "Procedures for Felling Trees Outside Forest Land")

- 06.11.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.743 "Medību saimniecības attīstības fonda nolikums" (Cabinet Regulation No.743 "Regulation on Game Management Development Fund")
- 11.02.2003. MK noteikumi Nr.76 "Kārtība, kādā ar nekustamā īpašuma nodokli neapliek zemi, kuru aizņem atjaunotās vai ieaudzētās mežaudzes" (Cabinet Regulation No.76 "Procedures by which Immovable Property Tax is not Imposed on Land under Regenerated or Newly Established Forest
- 25.06.2009. MK noteikumi Nr.647 "Mežaudzes novērtēšanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.647 "Procedure for Forest Stand Evaluation")
- 02.03.2004. MK noteikumi Nr.111 "Kārtība, kādā atlīdzināmi zaudējumi, ko fiziskās vai juridiskās personas nodarījušas, pārkāpjot medības reglamentējošajos normatīvajos aktos noteiktās prasības, un to apmērs, kā arī nelikumīgi iegūtās medību produkcijas vērtības atlīdzināšanas kārtība un apmērs" (Cabinet Regulation No.111 "Procedures for Compensation of Losses Caused by Natural or Legal Persons Violating the Requirements Specified in Regulatory Enactments Regulating Hunting, Determining the Amount thereof, as well as the Procedures and Amount of Compensation for the Value of Illegally Acquired Hunting Products")
- 02.03.2004. MK noteikumi Nr.110 "Noteikumi par mednieku un medību vadītāju apmācības kārtību, zināšanu un praktisko iemaņu pārbaudes programmu, kā arī mednieka apliecības un medību vadītāja apliecības izsniegšanas kārtību" (Cabinet Regulation No.110 "Regulations regarding Procedures for Training Hunters and Heads of Hunts, the Knowledge and Practical Skills Examination Programme, as well as Procedures for the Issue of a Hunter's Certificate and Head of a Hunt's Certificate")
- 02.03.2004. MK noteikumi Nr.109 "Noteikumi par valsts nodevu par mednieka apliecības, mednieka sezonas kartes un medību atļaujas izsniegšanu, par atļaujas izsniegšanu ārvalstu medniekam medīt Latvijas teritorijā un atļaujas izsniegšanu izvest medību trofejas no Latvijas, kā arī medību trofeju izvešanas kārtību" (Cabinet Regulation No.109 "Regulations regarding State Fees for Issuance of a Hunter's Certificate, a Hunter's Seasonal Card and Hunting Permit, for Issuance of a Permit for a Foreign Hunter to Hunt in the Territory of Latvia and for Issuance of a Permit to Export Hunting Trophies from Latvia, as well as Procedures for the Export of Hunting Trophies")
- 28.05.2002. MK noteikumi Nr.199 "Eiropas nozīmes aizsargājamo dabas teritoriju (Natura 2000) izveidošanas kritēriji Latvijā" (Cabinet Regulation No.199 "Criteria for Creation of Protected Nature Territories of European Significance (Natura 2000) in Latvia")
- 06.04.1999. MK noteikumi Nr.133 "Kārtība, kādā tiek nodrošināta starptautiskā tirdzniecība ar apdraudētajiem savvaļas dzīvnieku un augu sugu īpatņiem" (Cabinet Regulation No.133 "Procedure for International Trade with Endangered Wild Animal and Plant Species")
- 10.02.1999. MK rīkojums Nr.60 "Par 1992.gada 5.jūnija Riodežaneiro Konvencijas par bioloģisko daudzveidību izpildi" (Cabinet Order No.60 "Order on Implementation of Rio Convention (June 5, 1992) about biodiversity")
- 30.09.2010. MK noteikumi Nr.925 "Sugu un biotopu aizsardzības jomas ekspertu atzinuma saturs un tajā ietvertās minimālās prasības" (Cabinet Regulation No.925 "Species and Habitat Conservation Expertise Statement Content and Minimum Requirements Contained")
- 20.11.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.778 "Kārtība, kādā zemes lietotājiem nosakāmi to zaudējumu apmēri, kas saistīti ar īpaši aizsargājamo nemedijamo sugu un migrējošo sugu dzīvnieku nodarītajiem būtiskiem postījumiem" (Cabinet Regulation No.778 "Procedure for Determining Extent of Land User Losses Related to Damages Caused by Specially Protected Non-game Species and Migrating Species")
- 24.04.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.281 "Noteikumi par preventīvajiem un sanācijas pasākumiem un kārtību, kādā novērtējams kaitējums videi un aprēķināmas preventīvo, neatliekamo un sanācijas pasākumu izmaksas" (Cabinet Regulation No.281 "Regulations Regarding Preventative and Rehabilitation Measures and the Procedures for Evaluation of Environmental Damage and Calculation of Costs of Preventative, Emergency and Rehabilitation Measures")
- 24.08.2010. MK noteikumi Nr.801 "Noteikumi par apliecinājuma derīguma termiņu" (Cabinet Regulation No.801 "Regulations Regarding Permission Time Validity")

28.08.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.590 "Meža inventarizācijas un Meža valsts reģistra informācijas aprites noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No.590 "Regulations regarding Forest Inventory and Information Flow in the State Register of Forests")

09.01.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.46 "Noteikumi par valsts nodevu par mežsaimnieciskām darbībām, mednieku un medību vadītāju eksāmeņiem un medījamo dzīvnieku nodarīto zaudējumu aprēķinu" (Cabinet Regulation No.46 "State Tax for Forest Operations, Hunting and Examination for Hunters; The Calculation of Penalties Regarding Hunting")

19.09.2006. MK noteikumi Nr.776 "Valsts meža zemes atsavināšanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.776 "Procedure for Alienation of State Forest Land")

03.10.2006. MK noteikumi Nr.819 "Parku ierīkošanas kārtība un apsaimniekošanas pamatprincipi" (Cabinet Regulation No.819 "Procedure for Park Establishment and Management Principles")

27.07.2004. MK noteikumi Nr.630 "Zinātniskās izpētes mežu apsaimniekošanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.630 "Procedure for Management of Scientific Research Forests")

14.07.2008. MK noteikumi Nr.559 "Invazīvo augu sugas - Sosnovska latvāņa - izplatības ierobežošanas noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No.559 "Regulations Regarding Restricting the Spread of the Invasive Plant Species - Heracleum sosnowskyi Manden")

30.06.2008. MK noteikumi Nr.467 "Invazīvo augu sugu izplatības ierobežošanas noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No.467 "Regulations Regarding Restriction of the Distribution of Invasive Alien Plant Species")

30.06.2008. MK noteikumi Nr.468 "Invazīvo augu sugu saraksts" (Cabinet Regulation No.468 "List of Invasive Alien Plant Species")

15.06.1999. MK noteikumi Nr.212 "Noteikumi par dabas liegumiem" (Cabinet Regulation No.212 "Regulation on Nature Reserves")

15.06.1999. MK noteikumi Nr.212 "Noteikumi par dabas liegumiem (1. turpinājums)" (Cabinet Regulation No.212 "Regulation on Nature Reserves (Sequel 1)")

15.06.1999. MK noteikumi Nr.212 "Noteikumi par dabas liegumiem (2. turpinājums)" (Cabinet Regulation No.212 "Regulation on Nature Reserves (Sequel 2)")

15.06.1999. MK noteikumi Nr.212 "Noteikumi par dabas liegumiem (3. turpinājums)" (Cabinet Regulation No.212 "Regulation on Nature Reserves (Sequel 3)")

09.10.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.686 "Noteikumi par īpaši aizsargājamās dabas teritorijas dabas aizsardzības plāna saturu un izstrādes kārtību" (Cabinet Regulation No.686 "Regulation on Content and Procedure for the Development of Management Plan for Specially Protected Nature Territory")

18.07.2006. MK noteikumi Nr.594 "Noteikumi par kritērijiem, pēc kuriem nosakāmi kompensējošie pasākumi Eiropas nozīmes aizsargājamo dabas teritoriju (Natura 2000) tīklam, to piemērošanas kārtību un prasībām ilgtermiņa monitoringa plāna izstrādei un ieviešanai" (Cabinet Regulation No.594 "Regulation on Criteria to Determine Compensatory Measures for The Network of Specially Protected Nature Territories of European Significance (Natura 2000); Procedure of Criteria Application and Requirements for Development and Implementation of Long-term Monitoring Plan")

22.11.2005. MK noteikumi Nr.888 "Noteikumi par aizsargājamām alejām" (Cabinet Regulation No.888 "Regulation on Protected Alleys")

27.03.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.212 "Noteikumi par putnu sugu sarakstu, uz kurām neattiecas aizliegtās darbības" (Cabinet Regulation No.212 "Regulation on The List of Bird Species Not Covered by The Prohibited Acts")

28.05.2002. MK noteikumi Nr.206 "Noteikumi par darbiem, kuros aizliegts nodarbināt pusaudžus, un izņēmumi, kad nodarbināšana šajos darbos ir atļauta saistībā ar pusaudža profesionālo apmācību" (Cabinet Regulation No.206 "Regulations regarding Work in which Employment of Adolescents is prohibited and Exceptions when Employment in such Work is Permitted in Connection with Vocational Training of the Adolescent")

- 23.08.2001. MK noteikumi Nr.378 "Darbā nodarītā kaitējuma atlīdzības aprēķināšanas, finansēšanas un izmaksas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.378 "Procedures On Calculation, Financing and Disbursement of Work Injury Compensation")
- 17.04.2001. MK noteikumi Nr.175 "Noteikumi par aizsargājamiem ģeoloģiskajiem un ģeomorfoloģiskajiem dabas pieminekļiem" (Cabinet Regulation No.175 "Regulation on Protected Geological and Geomorphological Sites")
- 23.03.2004. MK noteikumi Nr.157 "Kārtība, kādā veicams ietekmes uz vidi stratēģiskais novērtējums" (Cabinet Regulation No.157 "Procedures for Carrying Out a Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment")
- 25.01.2011. MK noteikumi Nr.83 "Kārtība, kādā novērtējama paredzētās darbības ietekme uz vidi" (Cabinet Regulation No.83 "Procedures for the Environmental Impact Assessment of an Intended Activity")
- 10.08.2010. MK noteikumi Nr.749 "Apmācības kārtība darba aizsardzības jautājumos" (Cabinet Regulation No.749 "Regulations Regarding Training in Labour Protection Matters")
- 03.08.2010. MK noteikumi Nr.713 "Noteikumi par kārtību, kādā nodrošina apmācību pirmās palīdzības sniegšanā, un pirmās palīdzības aptiecināšanas medicīnisko materiālu minimumu" (Cabinet Regulation No.713 "Regulations Regarding Procedure for Providing Training on First Aid and on Minimum of Medical Materials in First Aid Kits")
- 25.08.2009. MK noteikumi Nr.950 "Nelaiemes gadījumu darbā izmeklēšanas un uzskaites kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.950 "Procedures for Investigation and Registration of Accidents at Work")
- 28.04.2009. MK noteikumi Nr.359 "Darba aizsardzības prasības darba vietās" (Cabinet Regulation No.359 "Regulations Regarding Training in Labour Protection Matters")
- 10.03.2009. MK noteikumi Nr.219 "Kārtība, kādā veicama obligātā veselības pārbaude" (Cabinet Regulation No.219 "Procedures for Performance of Mandatory Health Examinations")
- 29.09.2008. MK noteikumi Nr.803 "Darba aizsardzības prasības, saskaroties ar kancerogēnām vielām darba vietās" (Cabinet Regulation No.803 "Labour Protection Requirements in Contact With Carcinogenic Substances in the Workplace")
- 08.02.2005. MK noteikumi Nr.99 "Noteikumi par komercdarbības veidiem, kuros darba devējs iesaista kompetentu institūciju" (Cabinet Regulation No.99 "Regulations regarding the Types of Commercial Activities in which an Employer shall Involve a Competent Authority ")
- 17.09.2002. MK noteikumi Nr.427 "Uzticības personu ievēlēšanas un darbības kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.427 "Procedures for the Election of Trusted Representatives and the Activities Thereof")
- 02.10.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.660 "Darba vides iekšējās uzraudzības veikšanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.660 "Procedures for the Performance of Internal Supervision of the Work Environment")
- 15.05.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.325 "Darba aizsardzības prasības saskarē ar ķīmiskajām vielām darba vietās" (Cabinet Regulation No.325 "Labour Protection Requirements when Coming in Contact with Chemical Substances at Workplaces")
- 21.06.2005. MK noteikumi Nr.434 "Darba aizsardzības prasības mežsaimniecībā" (Cabinet Regulation No.434 "Labour Protection Requirements in Forestry")
- 13.04.2004. MK noteikumi Nr.284 "Darba aizsardzības prasības nodarbināto aizsardzībai pret vibrācijas radīto risku darba vidē" (Cabinet Regulation No.284 "Labour Protection Requirements for the Protection of Employees from the Risk Caused by Vibration in the Work Environment")
- 04.02.2003. MK noteikumi Nr.66 "Darba aizsardzības prasības nodarbināto aizsardzībai pret darba vides trokšņa radīto risku" (Cabinet Regulation No.66 "Labour Protection Requirements for Protection of Employees from the Risk Caused by the Noise of the Work Environment")
- 09.12.2002. MK noteikumi Nr.526 "Darba aizsardzības prasības, lietojot darba aprīkojumu un strādājot augstumā" (Cabinet Regulation No.526 "Labour Protection Requirements when using Work Equipment and Working at a Height")

- 08.01.2002. MK noteikumi Nr.10 "Noteikumi par darbiem, kuros atļauts nodarbināt bērņus vecumā no 13 gadiem" (Cabinet Regulation No.10 "Regulations regarding Work in which Employment of Children from the Age of 13 is permitted")
- 20.08.2002. MK noteikumi Nr.372 "Darba aizsardzības prasības, lietojot individuālos aizsardzības līdzekļus" (Cabinet Regulation No.372 "Labour Protection Requirements When Using Personal Protective Equipment")
- 06.08.2002. MK noteikumi Nr.344 "Darba aizsardzības prasības, pārvietojot smagumus" (Cabinet Regulation No.344 "Labour Protection Requirements, when Moving Heavy Loads")
- 06.08.2002. MK noteikumi Nr.343 "Darba aizsardzības prasības, strādājot ar displeju" (Cabinet Regulation No.343 "Labour Protection Requirements when Working with Displays")
- 21.05.2002. MK noteikumi Nr.189 "Darba aizsardzības prasības, saskaroties ar bioloģiskajām vielām" (Cabinet Regulation No.189 "Labour Protection Requirements when coming into Contact with Biological Substances")
- 16.02.1999. MK noteikumi Nr.50 "Obligātās sociālās apdrošināšanas pret nelaimes gadījumiem darbā un arodslimībām apdrošināšanas atlīdzības piešķiršanas un aprēķināšanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulations No.50 "Procedures for Calculation and Allocation of Insurance Compensation for Compulsory Social Insurance in Respect of Accidents at Work and Occupational Diseases")
- 14.12.2010. MK noteikumi Nr.1117 "Bioeļļas kvalitātes prasības un mežizstrādes darbos izmantojamo griezējinstrumentu eļļošanai lietojamās bioeļļas izmantošanas un kontroles kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.1117 "Requirements for Bio-oil Quality and Procedures for Bio-oil Use and Control for Cutting Tools Used in Forestry")
- 27.03.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.213 "Noteikumi par kritērijiem, kurus izmanto, novērtējot īpaši aizsargājamām sugām vai īpaši aizsargājamiem biotopiem nodarītā kaitējuma ietekmes būtiskumu" (Cabinet Regulation No.213 "Regulation Regarding Criteria for Assessing Impact Significance of the Damage to the Specially Protected Species or Specially Protected Habitats")
- 11.12.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.842 "Kārtība, kādā juridiskajām un fiziskajām personām kompensējami izdevumi un zaudējumi, kas radušies, iesaistot personu resursus reaģēšanas pasākumos, ugunsgrēka dzēšanā vai glābšanas darbos, un kompensācijas apmēra aprēķināšanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.842 "Procedures Regarding Legal Entities' and Individuals' Eligibility for Compensation of Expenses and Losses for Involvement in Fire-fighting or Rescue Operations; Procedure for Compensation Amount Calculation")
- 17.02.2004. MK noteikumi Nr.82 "Ugunsdrošības noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No.82 "Fire Safety Regulations")
- 19.07.2005. MK noteikumi Nr.536 "Kalifornijas bruņuts izplatības apkarošanas un ierobežošanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.536 "Procedures for Limitation and Spread Prevention of *Quadraspidium perniciosus*")
- 29.04.2004. MK noteikumi Nr.463 "Augu aizsardzības līdzekļu izplatīšanas, glabāšanas un lietošanas noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No.463 "Regulations regarding Placing on the Market, Storage and Use of Plant Protection Products")
- 07.07.2008. MK noteikumi Nr.511 "Dabas pieminekļiem nodarītā kaitējuma novērtēšanas un sanācijas pasākumu izmaksu aprēķināšanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.511 "Cost Calculation Procedure for Natural Preserve Damage Assessment and Restoration")
- 21.03.2006. MK noteikumi Nr.219 "Kārtība, kādā novērtē atlīdzības apmēru par saimnieciskās darbības ierobežojumiem īpaši aizsargājamās dabas teritorijās un mikrolieģumos, kā arī izmaksā un reģistrē atlīdzību" (Cabinet Regulation No.219 "Procedure for Assessing The Amount of Compensation for Restrictions On Economic Activities in Specially Protected Nature Territories and Microreserves, as well as fulfillment and registration of reimbursement")
- 30.10.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.735 "Noteikumi par valsts vai pašvaldības zemes nomu" (Cabinet Regulation No.735 "Regulations Regarding Rental of State or Municipal Land")
- 23.12.2003. MK noteikumi Nr.736 "Noteikumi par ūdens resursu lietošanas atļauju" (Cabinet Regulation No.736 "Regulations Regarding a Permit for the Use of Water Resources")

- 12.07.2011. MK noteikumi Nr.549 "Noteikumi par ūdens objektiem, kuru hidroloģiskais režīms ir regulējams ar hidrotehniskajām būvēm" (Cabinet Regulation No.549 "Regulations Regarding Waterbodies which Hydrological Regime is Adjustable by Hydro-technical Structures")
- 27.12.2005. MK noteikumi Nr.1014 "Ūdens objektu ekspluatācijas (apsaimniekošanas) noteikumu izstrādāšanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.1014 "Procedures for Development of Waterbody Management Rules")
- 10.08.2010. MK noteikumi Nr.755 "Koplietošanas meliorācijas sistēmas būvniecības, ekspluatācijas un uzturēšanas izmaksu aprēķina, to sadales un norēķinu kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.755 "Procedure for Calculation of Costs and Expense Sharing for Construction, Usage and Maintenance of Shared Melioration System")
- 03.08.2010. MK noteikumi Nr.714 "Meliorācijas sistēmas ekspluatācijas un uzturēšanas noteikumi" (Cabinet Regulation No.714 "Regulation Regarding Usage and Maintenance of Melioration System")
- 06.10.2009. MK noteikumi Nr.1139 "Starptautiskās tirdzniecības apdraudēto savvaļas sugu īpatņu uzglabāšanas, reģistrācijas, turēšanas nebrīvē, marķēšanas, tirdzniecības un sertifikātu izsniegšanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.1139 "Procedures On Storage, Registration, Keeping in Captivity, Labeling, Trade and Issuing of Certificates for Wild Species Endangered by the International Trade")
- 05.12.2000. MK noteikumi Nr.421 "Noteikumi par īpaši aizsargājamo biotopu veidu sarakstu" (Cabinet Regulation No.421 "Regulation Regarding the List of Specially Protected Habitats")
- 30.11.2010. MK noteikumi Nr.1096 "Noteikumi par minimālo mēneša darba algu un minimālo stundas tarifa likmi" (Cabinet Regulation No.1096 "Regulation Regarding Minimum Monthly Wage and the Minimum Hourly Wage")
- 26.08.2003. MK noteikumi Nr.474 "Noteikumi par kultūras pieminekļu uzskaiti, aizsardzību, izmantošanu, restaurāciju un vidi degradējoša objekta statusa piešķiršanu" (Cabinet Regulation No.474 "Regulations regarding the Registration, Protection, Utilisation and Restoration of Cultural Monuments, the Right of First Refusal of the State and the Granting of the Status of an Environment-Degrading Object")
- 28.12.2004. MK noteikumi Nr.1064 "Augu aizsardzības līdzekļu klasificēšanas, marķēšanas un iepakojšanas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.1064 "Procedures for Classification, Labeling and Packaging of Plant Protection Products")
- 23.03.2004. MK noteikumi Nr.156 "Augu aizsardzības līdzekļu reģistrācijas kārtība" (Cabinet Regulation No.156 "Registration Procedures for Plant Protection Products")
- 19.04.2011. MK noteikumi Nr.300 "Kārtība, kādā novērtējama ietekme uz Eiropas nozīmes īpaši aizsargājamo dabas teritoriju (Natura 2000)" (Cabinet Regulation No.300 "Procedure on Assessment of Impact on Specially Protected Nature Territory of European Significance (Natura 2000)")
- 19.12.2006. MK noteikumi Nr.1019 "Noteikumi par 1973.gada Vašingtonas konvencijā par starptautisko tirdzniecību ar apdraudētajām savvaļas dzīvnieku un augu sugām noteiktās atļaujas un sertifikāta izsniegšanas valsts nodevas apmēru, nodevas maksāšanas kārtību un atvieglojumiem" (Cabinet Regulation No.1019 "Regulation on State Fees, Payment Procedure and Incentives to Obtain Permissions and Certificate Stated in The 1973 Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora")
- 15.09.2009. MK noteikumi Nr.1055 "Noteikumi par to Eiropas Kopienā nozīmīgu dzīvnieku un augu sugu sarakstu, kurām nepieciešama aizsardzība, un to dzīvnieku un augu sugu indivīdu sarakstu, kuru ieguvei savvaļā var piemērot ierobežotas izmantošanas nosacījumus" (Cabinet Regulation No.1055 "Regulation on List of Animal and Plant Species of European Community Significance Requiring Conservation and The List of Animal and Plant Species Which Obtaining May Adjust Restricted Conditions of Use")
- 21.02.2006. MK noteikumi Nr.153 "Noteikumi par Latvijā sastopamo Eiropas Savienības prioritāro sugu un biotopu sarakstu" (Cabinet Regulation No.153 "Regulation on the List of European Union Priority Species and Habitats Occurring in Latvia")
- 27.03.2007. MK noteikumi Nr.211 "Noteikumi par putnu sugu sarakstu, kurām piemēro īpašus dzīvotņu aizsardzības pasākumus, lai nodrošinātu sugu izdzīvošanu un vairošanos izplatības areālā" (Cabinet Regulation No.211 "Regulation on The List of Bird Species Subject to Special Habitat Protection Measures to Ensure the Survival and Reproduction in Population Area")

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14.11.2000. MK noteikumi Nr.396 "Noteikumi par īpaši aizsargājamo sugu un ierobežoti izmantojamo īpaši aizsargājamo sugu sarakstu" (Cabinet Regulation No.396 "Regulation Regarding the List of Specially Protected Species and Specially Protected Species of Limited Use")



## Annex 3: List of the multilateral environmental agreements and ILO Conventions that Republic of Latvia has ratified

- 06.12.1951. "Starptautiskā augu aizsardzības konvencija (pārstrādātais teksts apstiprināts FAO konferences 29 sesijā, 1997.gada novembrī)" (International Plant Protection Convention (New Revised Text approved by the FAO Conference at its 29th Session - November 1997))
- 20.10.2000. "Eiropas ainavu konvencija" (European Landscape Convention)
- 16.09.1979. Berne, "Konvencija par Eiropas dzīvās dabas un dabisko dzīvotņu aizsardzību" (Convention for the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, Bern, 1979)
- 23.06.1979. "1979.gada Konvencija par migrējošo savvaļas dzīvnieku sugu aizsardzību" (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Bonn, 1979)
- 03.03.1973. konvencija "Konvencija par starptautisko tirdzniecību ar apdraudētajām savvaļas dzīvnieku un augu sugām" (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Washington, 1973)
- 25.02.1991. starptautisks dokuments "1991.gada 25.februāra ESPO Konvencija par ietekmes uz vidi novērtējumu pārrobežu kontekstā" (25 February 1991, ESPO Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context)
- 22.03.1974. un 1992.g. starptautisks līgums "Baltijas jūras reģiona jūras vides aizsardzības konvencija (Helsinki Konvencija)" (Convention on the Protection of Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, Helsinki, 1974 and 1992)
- 16.11.1972. UNESCO Parīzes "Konvencija par pasaules kultūras un dabas mantojuma aizsardzību" (Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, Paris, 1972)
- 17.10.2003. UNESCO Parīzes "Konvencija par nemateriālā kultūras mantojuma saglabāšanu" (Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Paris, 2003)
- 02.02.1971. Ramsāres "Konvencija par starptautiskās nozīmes mitrājiem, īpaši kā par ūdensputnu dzīvesvidi" (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, Ramsar, 1971)
- 05.06.1992. starptautisks dokuments "Konvencija par bioloģisko daudzveidību" (Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro, 1992)
- 22.03.1985. "Vīnes konvencija par ozona slāņa aizsardzību" un tās 16.09.1987. protokols "Monreālas protokols par ozona slāni noārdošām vielām"(Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, Vienna, 1985 and the 1987 Montreal Protocol on the Substances Depleting the Ozone Layer)
- 09.05.1992. "Apvienoto Nāciju Organizācijas vispārējā konvencija par klimata pārmaiņām" (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992)
- ILO Conventions listed in FSC-POL-30-401 FSC and the ILO Conventions which must be complied with in all FSC certified forests
- ILO C29 1930.g. "Piespiedu darba konvencija" (ILO C29 Forced Labour Convention)
- ILO C87 1948.g."Konvencija par asociāciju brīvību un tiesību aizsardzību, apvienojoties organizācijās" (ILO C87 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Conventions)
- ILO C97 1949.g. (nav ratificēta) "Konvencija par darbaspēka migrāciju" (ILO C97 Migration for Employment (Revised) Convention)
- ILO C98 1949.g. "Konvencija par tiesībām uz apvienošanas organizācijās un kolektīvo līgumu slēgšanu" (ILO C98 Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention)
- ILO C100 1951.g. "Konvencija par vienlīdzīgu atlīdzību" (ILO C100 Equal Remuneration Convention)
- ILO C105 1957.g. "Konvencija par piespiedu darba izskaušanu" (ILO C105 Abolition of Forced Labour Convention)

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ILO C111 1958.g. "Par diskrimināciju (attiecībā uz nodarbinātību un nodarbošanos)" (ILO C111 Discrimination (Occupation and Employment) Convention)

ILO C131 1970.g. "Par minimālās algas noteikšanu" (ILO C131 Minimum Wage Fixing Convention)

ILO C138 1973.g. "Minimālā vacuma konvencija" (ILO C138 Minimum Age Convention)

ILO C141 1975.g. (nav ratificēta) "Konvencija par lauku strādnieku organizācijām" (ILO C141 Rural Workers' Organizations Convention)

ILO C142 1975.g. "Par darbaspēka resursu attīstību" (ILO C142 Human Resources Development Convention)

ILO C143 1975.g. (nav ratificēta) "Konvencija par migrējošiem strādniekiem (papildu noteikumi)" (ILO C143 Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention)

ILO C155 1981.g. "Konvencija par darba drošību un arodveselību" (ILO C155 Occupational Safety and Health Convention)

ILO C169 1989.g. (nav ratificēta) "Pamatiedzīvotāju un cilšu iedzīvotāju Konvencija" (ILO C169 Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention)

ILO C182 1999.g. "Bērnu darba ļaunāko formu konvencija" (ILO C182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention)

ILO Prakses kodekss attiecībā uz drošību un veselības aizsardzību meža darbos (ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work (ILO 1998))

ILO R135 1970.g. "Rekomendācija minimālās algas noteikšanai" (ILO Recommendation R135 Minimum Wage Fixing Recommendation)

## Annex 4: List of officially endangered species in the Republic of Latvia

The following legal acts contain lists of species that have officially endangered species status in the Republic of Latvia:

15.09.2009 MK noteikumi Nr.1055 "Noteikumi par to Eiropas Kopienā nozīmīgu dzīvnieku un augu sugu sarakstu, kurām nepieciešama aizsardzība, un to dzīvnieku un augu sugu indivīdu sarakstu, kuru ieguvei savvaļā var piemērot ierobežotas izmantošanas nosacījumus" (Cabinet Regulation No.1055 "Regulation on List of Animal and Plant Species of European Community Significance Requiring Conservation and The List of Animal and Plant Species Which Obtaining May Adjust Restricted Conditions of Use")

21.02.2006 MK noteikumi Nr.153 "Noteikumi par Latvijā sastopamo Eiropas Savienības prioritāro sugu un biotopu sarakstu" (Cabinet Regulation No.153 "Regulation on the List of European Union Priority Species and Habitats Occurring in Latvia")

27.03.2007 MK noteikumi Nr.211 "Noteikumi par putnu sugu sarakstu, kurām piemēro īpašus dzīvotņu aizsardzības pasākumus, lai nodrošinātu sugu izdzīvošanu un vairošanos izplatības areālā" (Cabinet Regulation No.211 "Regulation on The List of Bird Species Subject to Special Habitat Protection Measures to Ensure the Survival and Reproduction in Population Area")

14.11.2000 MK noteikumi Nr.396 "Noteikumi par īpaši aizsargājamo sugu un ierobežoti izmantojamo īpaši aizsargājamo sugu sarakstu" (Cabinet Regulation No.396 "Regulation Regarding the List of Specially Protected Species and Specially Protected Species of Limited Use")

## Annex 5: Summary of the Certification Assessment Process<sup>3</sup>

The certification assessment process begins with a candidate operation submitting an application to NEPCon. Based on a review of the application, the scope of the area to be certified and discussions with the candidate, NEPCon will propose a certification process that includes either a) a pre-assessment followed by a main assessment, or b) a main assessment only. Every candidate operation is assigned a NEPCon task manager who will liaise with the assessment lead auditor and the candidate to schedule and perform the evaluations.

NEPCon auditors are provided with detailed guidance on the certification process, including pre-assessment briefings (either in person or by telephone) and access to a NEPCon forest assessment handbook. 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 NEPCon 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 NEPCon policy to involve local specialists in all assessments.
2. Team members must be familiar with NEPCon certification procedures. Each NEPCon certification assessment has a designated lead auditor who must have participated in a formal NEPCon auditor training course or previously participated in other NEPCon forest management assessments or audits.
3. The assessment must use region-specific standards (i.e. accredited FSC standard or a “regionalised” NEPCon Interim Standard, based on this NEPCon Generic Standard).

Team Selection and Planning - NEPCon 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 45 days prior to forest evaluation, NEPCon notifies stakeholders of the pending assessment and requests stakeholders’ observations or comments with regard to the operations conformance 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 organises 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 NEPCon auditors 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 facilities, and in surrounding communities. Visits emphasise 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

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<sup>3</sup> For detailed information about procedures, contact our headquarters or regional offices through [www.nepcon.net](http://www.nepcon.net)

landowners, local forest industry, environmental organisations, 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 analyse 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 analysed and classified as either minor or major. A non-conformance is considered major if it results in a fundamental failure to achieve the objective of the relevant criterion in the standard. Conversely, a non-conformance 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 non-conformance identified, the assessment team develops a nonconformity report (NCR) which is classified as follows:

- **A Major Nonconformity Report (NCR)** is issued to document a major non-conformance with an indicator(s)/criterion that the candidate FME must correct before NEPCon certification is granted.
- **A Nonconformity Report (NCR)** is issued to document a minor non-conformance that candidate FME must correct 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).
- **An 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 non-conformance in the future.

Report Write-up - following the forest evaluation, the team prepares the certification assessment report. This report follows a standardised format and includes detailed findings of performance and proposes pre-conditions (major non-conformances), NCRs or observations.

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

Certification Decision - Once the above steps are completed, the applicable NEPCon regional office 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.

## About NEPCon

NEPCon is an international, non-profit organisation. We work to foster sustainable land use and climate-friendly solutions.

We empower people and organisations to be part of the solution in tackling some of the greatest challenges facing mankind - such as climate change and the loss of our natural heritage. We do this through certification services, capacity building and innovation projects.

NEPCon is an accredited FSC Certification Body providing FSC Forest Management and Chain of Custody certification to thousands of forest operations and timber supply chain companies.

Our tailored, international FSC Expert training courses fulfil FSC's formal requirements for FSC Lead Auditor training. We are actively engaged in the FSC system and in projects that aim to facilitate FSC certification.

NEPCon also provides services within PEFC, Sustainable Biomass Partnership (SBP), LegalSource and Carbon Footprint Management (CFM) certification.

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