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SCS Interim Standard

For Natural Forest and Plantation Forest Management Certification in Australia

A. INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Scientific Certification Systems (SCS) Draft Interim Standard for Forest Management in Australia under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). The scope of this standard includes both natural and plantation forests, and is intended for world-wide use. This standard was developed by reviewing a number of existing forest management standards, including the SCS Generic Interim Standard, the Draft FSC Australia National Standard, the Rainforest Alliance/SmartWood Interim Standard for Assessing Forest Management in Australia, the Soil Association Woodmark Generic Standard and Checklist adapted for Australia, and the Australian Forestry Standard.

In countries where there is not a national standard approved by the FSC, SCS will adapt its interim standard for use in the country. As part of that process, SCS is seeking public comment on this standard. Comments as to how this standard can be improved to make it more suitable for forest management in Australia can be sent to: forestryinfo@scscertified.com.

B. STANDARD USE

This standard is currently open for public comment. Once a final interim standard is produced, conformance shall be determined by evaluating observed performance at the Forest Management Unit (FMU) level against each indicator of the standard, and in comparison with any performance threshold(s) specified for the indicator. The indicators here apply to all forests covered by the scope of the standard, including SLIMF's, unless otherwise specified.

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

PRINCIPLE #1: COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND FSC PRINCIPLES

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

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

Performance Indicators:

1.1.1) The FME has an up- to-date printed listing of all the relevant Commonwealth, State or Territory laws and statutory requirements relevant to forest management and with which the FME is required to comply (see Annex 1 for reference).

1.1.2) If any non-compliances with legal or regulatory requirements have been identified by the FME or by third parties in the previous five years, they have been documented by the FME, were promptly corrected, and effective action has been taken to prevent their recurrence.

The Following indicators apply only to Non-SLIMF FMUs:

1.1.3) The FME has access to copies (physical or electronic) of the texts of the applicable Commonwealth, State or Territory laws listed in Annex 1.

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

Performance Indicators:

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

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

1.3. In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.

Performance Indicators:

1.3.1) The FME is aware of which binding international agreements apply to the nation in which their forest operations reside.

1.3.2) The FME demonstrates sensitivity to all binding international agreements and endeavor to respect their requirements, at a level of effort scaled to the size and intensity of the forest operation.

Verifiers:

- *FME has a compendium of applicable international agreements that summarizes how the FME respects these;.*
- *FME has a list of all locally occurring species that are listed under CITES;*
- *Said compendium is available in offices and field sites or camps.*

1.4. Conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria shall be evaluated for the purposes of certification, on a case-by-case basis, by the certifiers and by the involved or affected parties.

Performance Indicators:

1.4.1) The FME shall conduct an analysis to identify potential conflicts between applicable national/local laws, the FSC P&C, and international agreements and inform SCS auditors of any such conflicts.

1.4.2) The FME is willing to participate in appropriate processes for resolving conflicts, at the request of SCS and/or the FSC.

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

Performance Indicators:

1.5.1) The location of legal boundaries of the forest unit is clearly identified on publicly available maps, and is identified through signage or other physical identification at roads and major trails crossing the boundary.

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

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

1.5.3) Any evidence of illegal activity within the forest management unit identified by the FME has been recorded and has been reported to the appropriate authority.

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

Performance Indicators:

1.6.1) In the management plan, or another appropriate document of broad public availability, there is an express statement of commitment to the FSC Principles and Criteria. When the FME uses contractors, it shall require its contractors to comply with the FSC P&C.

Verifiers:

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

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

1.6.3) If the defined forest area for which certification is being sought does not constitute the entire ownership, management activities on the portions of the ownership not undergoing certification evaluation are generally compatible with the P&C and conform to the current FSC requirements on partial estate certification requirements (FSC-POL-20-002) and FSC-POL-01-004 V1-0 *Policy for Association with FSC.*

PRINCIPLE #2: TENURE AND USE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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

2.1. Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g. land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.

Performance Indicators:

2.1.1) The FME shall demonstrate that land tenure and rights to the forest resource are clear, legally secure and documented.

Legal use rights may be associated with:
- fee-simple ownership;
- long-term or renewable lease rights;
- long-term or renewable exclusive management agreements;
- other mechanisms allocating long-term or renewable management rights and responsibilities to the FME.

2.1.2) The entity seeking certification for the forest can demonstrate that it has all the use rights and/or permissions needed to implement forest management which is compatible with long-term compliance with the requirements of the FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship.

2.2. Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.

Performance Indicators:

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

Examples of legal or customary tenure or use-rights may include:
-public rights of way;
-established easements;
-collection of non-timber forest products;
-hiking, fishing, hunting, or other recreation;
-firewood collection;
-visitation of culturally significant sites.

2.2.2) When communities have delegated control of their legal rights or customary tenure or use in whole or in part, this must be confirmed by documented agreements and / or interviews with representatives of local communities.

2.2.3) There is no substantive evidence that the FME obstructs or prevents local communities with legal tenure or use rights from exercising such rights, other than to the extent that the communities have freely agreed not to exercise such rights (see 2.2.2 above).

2.3. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in

the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.

Performance Indicators:

2.3.1) Conflicts over land tenure and use rights shall be resolved or discussed in a systematic and legal manner.

Verifiers:

- *Records or other relevant documents that detail past and current disputes over tenure claims and use rights are maintained and made available to SCS auditors;*
- *Agreements and / or mechanisms to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights are documented.*

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

2.3.3) In the case of any outstanding dispute relating to tenure claims or forest use rights which are of a substantial magnitude and involve a significant number of interests the main parties to the dispute accept that forest management operations may continue whilst processes to resolve the dispute are implemented.

2.3.4) Notwithstanding an outstanding dispute relating to tenure claims or forest use rights which are of a substantial magnitude and involve a significant number of interests, there are exceptional reasons that justify forest management operations continuing whilst processes to resolve the dispute continue to be implemented. Exceptional reasons might include that in the view of the certification body there is no legal or legitimate basis for the dispute.

PRINCIPLE #3: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS

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

3.1 Indigenous peoples shall control forest management on their lands and territories unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.

Performance Indicators:

3.1.1) The FME seeks to determine if there are existing indigenous peoples with customary or traditional use rights to forest resources associated with the defined forest area that is the focus of the certification evaluation. Specific areas identified as tied to such rights shall be mapped.

3.1.2) No forest management operations shall take place in areas identified under 3.1.1 above, without clear evidence of free and informed consent of the indigenous peoples claiming such land, territories or customary rights.

3.1.3) There has been consultation with a local/regional Aboriginal Land Council of the existing legal rights or traditional Indigenous uses of the forest, and the results of the consultation incorporated into management plans.

3.1.4) Forest management planning recognizes aboriginal customary/traditional rights to own, manage or use forest resources, and has incorporated such rights into management plans.

Note 1

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

Note 2

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

3.1.5) Where rights and use issues involving indigenous peoples are in dispute, an appropriate process for addressing and resolving grievances is in place and being actively utilized by the FME (see Criterion 2.3 for processes to resolve disputes).

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

Performance Indicators:

3.2.1) Forest management activities within the management unit are planned and implemented in such a way as to maintain the resources and tenure rights of the Indigenous Peoples.

3.2.2) All potential and realized adverse impacts of forest management on indigenous communities' resources or tenure rights are identified and documented, and actions taken to mitigate such impacts.

3.2.3) There exist agreed upon mechanisms to ensure that the Indigenous People have the opportunity to participate on an informed basis in management planning and decision-making on forest areas associated with indigenous resources and tenure rights.

3.2.4) The FME solicits—through effective consultative mechanisms—the concerns and perspectives of potentially affected indigenous peoples; the results of such consultation are documented, including the actions taken to reasonably accommodate concerns and perspectives that have been received.

Verifiers:

- *Communications between the FME and indigenous representatives are documented.*

3.2. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.

Performance Indicators:

3.3.1) The FME, with the participation of indigenous communities, shall define the sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance. Processes for identifying such sites are documented.

Examples of sites may include:
-ceremonial, burial, or village sites;
-areas used for hunting, fishing, or trapping;
-areas used for gathering of sustenance and culturally important materials.

3.3.2) Special sites are mapped and otherwise identified in management/operational plans, and protected during forest operations.

3.3.3) Field workers are appropriately trained in the procedures employed for identifying and protecting sites of special significance to indigenous peoples.

3.3.4) When special sites are discovered during operations, forest management operations cease immediately, management personnel are notified, and consultation with relevant indigenous groups or authorities is conducted for the long term protection of such sites. Operations shall resume only after approval has been given.

3.3. Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.

Performance Indicators:

3.4.1) If Indigenous People's knowledge is used by the FME, the use is explicitly recognized and documented.

3.4.2) If commercial utility is created through application of traditional knowledge, the FME seeks to compensate, through appropriate mechanisms, those indigenous peoples with whom the traditional knowledge is associated.

3.4.3) Where indigenous intellectual property or forest products are used commercially, compensation for individuals and/or tribes is agreed upon in writing, with their free and informed consent, prior to commercialization.

PRINCIPLE #4: COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND WORKER'S RIGHTS

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

4.1. The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.

Performance Indicators:

4.1.1) FME policies and practices shall ensure equal treatment of employees in terms of hiring, advancement, dismissal, remuneration and employment related social security.

4.1.2) Qualified people in local communities are given preferential opportunities in employment and contracting; the forest management operation actively targets the local workforce.

Examples may include:
-employment and contractual opportunities offered locally before they are offered outside the region

4.1.3) The FME contributes to or directly develop training programs designed to enhance the capabilities and qualifications of local workers.

4.1.4) The FME gives preference to local vendors of equipment and miscellaneous services, subject to cost considerations.

Examples may include:
-timber being offered to local processors before being sold out of the region;
-utilization of local banks, insurance companies, etc.

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

Performance Indicators:

4.2.1) The forest management operation demonstrates a priority towards worker safety; there is an actively implemented worker safety program, appropriate to the scale of operations that complies with national minimum requirements.

4.2.2) Written guidelines and policies, appropriate to the scale of operations, exist for workplace health and safety.

4.2.3) Workers shall be provided with safety equipment in good working order, appropriate to the tasks of workers and the equipment used, including personal protective equipment, and prohibited from working without the safety equipment that has been provided.

4.2.4) All equipment is periodically inspected and tested for safety performance.

4.2.5) The FME maintains up-to-date information on pertinent health and safety laws and regulations and appropriately disseminates this information to forest workers.

4.2.6) The FME maintains up-to-date safety records; such records indicate at least average performance relative to industrial norms.

4.2.7) No work likely to jeopardize health, safety or morals shall be carried out by anyone under the age of 18 (unless there is special provision for safety, training or traditional community circumstances).

4.2.8) All workers have had relevant training in safe working practice and where required or appropriate hold the necessary skills certificates.

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

Performance Indicators:

4.3.1) The FME, by its actions and policies, respects the rights of workers to organize or join trade unions and to engage in collective bargaining.

4.3.2) Issues and grievances raised by workers and/or their organizations are investigated fairly and objectively.

4.3.3) There are documented procedures for conflict resolution.

4.3.4) FME shall not use forced labor (ILO Conventions 29 and 105).

4.3.5) FME shall provide equal remuneration (pay and benefits) to workers for work of equal value (ILO Convention 100), regardless of gender.

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

Performance Indicators:

4.4.1) The FME shall conduct a social impact evaluation related to forest management activities, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.

4.4.2) The FME shall document in writing the processes that it will use to interact with and consult stakeholders, local communities, and neighboring properties that could be affected during the planning and implementation of forest management activities.

4.4.3) The FME maintains regular and ongoing consultation with all stakeholders and local communities affected by its operations in order to identify social impacts and the potential to avoid or reduce such impacts on an ongoing basis.

4.4.4) The FME shall demonstrate that the information derived from social impact evaluations and/or consultation processes with stakeholders has been considered and/or addressed in the planning and implementation of forest management activities.

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

4.4.5) The FME engages in regular communications with neighbors and other stakeholders within the local communities; to the extent practicable, management policies and activities are sensitive to stakeholder concerns and expectations.

4.4.6) The FME shall maintain an up-to-date list of representatives of neighboring properties or communities that could be affected during and after the implementation of forest management activities.

4.5. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.

Performance Indicators:

4.5.1) The FME endeavors, through actions and policies, to avoid adverse impacts to the property, resources and/or livelihoods of local peoples.

4.5.2) Procedures shall be implemented for the fair and effective resolution of disputes and for the determination of compensation for loss or damage, when necessary. These procedures shall be agreed upon with the parties involved. At a minimum, these procedures shall comply with the following steps:

a) Maintain records of all claims or disputes that affect compliance to certification requirements;
b) Make these records available to SCS or FSC upon request;
c) Conduct an investigation on any claims or disputes;
d) Take appropriate action with respect to any deficiency identified in the investigation that affects compliance to certification requirements; and
e) Document the actions taken.

For large FMUs (>10.000 ha) and group or multiple-FMU certificates, these procedures shall be documented.

4.5.3) Documented procedures are employed for resolving grievances and providing fair compensation where forest operations lead to loss or damage to property, resources, livelihoods and/or legal or customary use rights of local peoples.

PRINCIPLE #5: BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST

Forest management operations shall encourage the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits.

5.1. Forest management should strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.

Performance Indicators:

5.1.1) The forest operation has sufficient financial capital and human resources to implement the management plan, over the long run.

5.1.2) Adequate investments of capital, machinery and human resources are made so as to maintain or restore the productive capacity, ecological integrity and socio-economic profile of the define forest area.

5.1.3) Commercial (income generating) activities are financially viable, given short and medium-term market conditions and costs.

5.2. Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.

Performance Indicators:

5.2.1) Management and marketing policies, as well as field-level decisions, systematically assure that commercial forest products are being sold for their highest and best uses.

Examples may include:

-new products are explored and developed for common but less used species
-access to new markets is explored and developed

5.2.2) The FME strives to diversify the mix of commercial products recovered from the forest.

5.2.3) The FME makes a proportion of its production available to local enterprises, such as small-scale industries and processing operations, unless there is an over-riding reason which makes this impossible.

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

Performance Indicators:

5.3.1) Harvesting operations are designed to avoid waste and residual stand damage.

Examples may include:
-bumper trees and directional felling techniques are used to minimize unintentional tree damage

5.3.2) Yarding and log sorting operations minimize product wastage, de-grade and foregone revenue opportunities.

5.3.3) Log landings are kept to a minimum practicable number and size and are located so as to minimize adverse environmental impacts.

5.3.4) Where on-site processing takes place, the footprint of the milling facility is kept to the smallest practicable size; the processing facilities are located in the most environmentally benign locales as well as in locations where losses to productive forest area are minimized.

Verifier:

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

5.3.5) While minimizing undue waste, the FME implements documented guidelines for the retention of downed woody debris and standing snags within harvest areas.

Verifier:

Written field guidelines for biomass retention (snags, tops, and downed woody debris).

5.4. The FME should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.

Performance Indicators:

5.4.1) The FME has information on the range of potential products and services that could be supplied from their FMU, including 'lesser known' timber species, Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), carbon and opportunities for forest recreation

5.4.2) The FME has assessed the possibility of selling or marketing such products or services locally, either on their own account or through the involvement of local enterprises.

5.4.3) Where market opportunities exist and where such use does not compromise the ecological health of the forest, the marketing of non-timber forest products is undertaken by the FME.

Examples may include:
-compatible uses such as recreation, ecotourism, hunting, fishing, specialty product harvesting, Christmas tree cutting, etc.

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

Performance Indicators:

5.5.1) The full range of forest services and resources within the FMU (including but not limited to watershed values, fisheries, landscape quality, specific contribution to local biodiversity and recreation) has been assessed and such services and resources are identified in the FME's forest management plan (or equivalent documentation).

5.5.2) The management plan (or equivalent documentation) specifies effective measures to ensure that these services and resources are not compromised by wood production.

5.6. The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels that can be permanently sustained.

Performance Indicators:

5.6.1) The FME has a clear methodology to determine the allowable cut that does not jeopardize the forest's productive potential or potential to maintain its environmental or social services in the medium and long term.

5.6.2) All assumptions regarding regeneration, growth, abundance, quality and size distribution of the main commercial species are explicit and are in line with the best available data for the locality from relevant research and/or inventories, and are available to the certification body for review and verification.

5.6.3) The expected level of harvesting is clearly justified relative to the established maximum sustained yield level of forest products.

5.6.4) For forest operations entailing regular annual harvesting, the 10-year rolling average harvest level does not exceed the established maximum sustained yield level.

Verifiers:

1. *Comparison of records of harvested volume by species (or species groups) with the AAC established for the species (or species groups).*

5.6.5) For smaller operations that do not harvest annually, the frequency and intensity of harvest entries is set such that inventory levels are allowed to recover—and increase, as appropriate—between entries.

5.6.6) When harvesting non-timber forest products, management strategies incorporate the best available monitoring and inventory data to ensure a sustainable rate of harvest.

PRINCIPLE #6: ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.

6.1. Assessments of environmental impacts shall be completed -- appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources -- and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on-site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site disturbing operations.

Performance Indicators:

6.1.1) Project (site)-level environmental impact assessments, scaled to the size and complexity of operations, are systematically completed prior to commencement of site disturbing activities and shall address, at a minimum, the potential impacts of management activities to any:

1. Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species and rare ecological communities (including plant communities);
2. Other habitats and species of management concern;
3. High Conservation Values identified within the FMU;
4. Water resources and associated riparian habitats and hydrologic functions;
5. Soil resources; and
6. Historical, archaeological, and cultural sites.

NOTE: Site-disturbing activities may include, but are not limited to, harvesting, invasive species control, prescribed fire, road construction/ maintenance, and those associated with on-site processing facilities.

6.1.2) In addition to project-level assessments, the FME also completes landscape-level environmental impact assessments in which the cumulative effects of forest operations on items 1-6 of indicator 6.1.1 are considered.

NOTE: Cumulative impacts should be assessed within and nearby the FMU at a scale or scales large enough to allow the FME to modify its activities to reduce and/or mitigate any long-term negative impacts identified during assessments.

6.1.3) To provide background for environmental impact assessments, the regional, sub-regional, and landscape environmental context of the defined forest area is established and documented (preferably in the management plan), consistent with the scale and intensity of operations.

6.1.4) Planned management activities are modified to mitigate and/or reduce the negative impacts identified during environmental impact assessments.

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

6.1.5) The FME demonstrates knowledge of the possible negative impacts of its management activities and seeks to minimize them. Assessments do not need to be documented unless legally required.

6.2. Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting shall be controlled.

Performance Indicators:

6.2.1) There is an up to date list of the rare, threatened or endangered (RTE) species (including those species included on CITES Appendices 1 and 2, and any species listed as 'rare, threatened or endangered' at State or Commonwealth levels) that are present or are likely to be present within the FMU.

6.2.2) Using the best information available and the results of field surveys, the FME shall identify the potential presence of RTE species and their habitats within the FMU (e.g., nesting and feeding areas).

6.2.3) The FME shall establish, appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operation, conservation zones and/or other protection measures for RTE species and their habitats. These conservation zones and other protection measures shall be described in the management plan.

6.2.4) Conservation zones are selected to maximize their contribution to the conservation of biodiversity in relation to their size (for example through the creation of conservation corridors, protected wetland areas and consolidation of natural areas).

6.2.5) The size and location of conservation zones shall be sufficient overall to ensure the continuing presence of RTE species as listed, to protect existing examples of ecosystems in their natural state (see Criterion 6.4) and are not less than 10% of the area of the FMU under assessment.

Note: conservation zones are not necessarily forested land. They may include wetlands and open space, and may have dual purposes (e.g. they may be located partly on slopes susceptible to erosion, or in order to protect water sources). However, in all cases, the overall selection must be justified to maximize the conservation of biodiversity across the FMU.

6.2.6) The FME shall not harvest species that are included in Appendix I of CITES (also applicable to SLIMF).

6.2.7) The FME can demonstrate that the levels of authorized hunting, fishing, trapping or collecting estimated to take place do not exceed replacement levels within the FMU.

6.2.8) The FME shall control and minimize illegal, unauthorized and/or inappropriate activities, such as hunting, fishing, trapping, collecting or poaching (also applicable to SLIMF).

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

6.2.9) Where information exists on rare, threatened and endangered (RTE) species and their habitats, the FME designs and implements specific management activities (and/or restrictions) to protect or enhance the associated biodiversity.

6.3. Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:
a) Forest regeneration and succession;
b) Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity;
c) Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.

Performance Indicators:

6.3.1) The forest manager shall have site-specific data or published analyses of local forest ecosystems that provide information on the FMU with regards to:
- regeneration and succession;
- genetic, species and ecosystem diversity; and,
- natural cycles that affect productivity.

6.3.2) Forest management systems shall maintain, enhance or restore ecological functions and values of the FMU based on the data in 6.3.1. Management systems shall include:
- Silvicultural and other management practices which are appropriate for forest ecosystem function, structure, diversity and succession;
- Where appropriate, a program for the restoration of degraded sites; and,
- Natural regeneration, unless data shows that enrichment planting or artificial reforestation will enhance or restore genetic, species or ecosystem diversity.

6.3.3) The FME maintains, enhances, and/or restores forest composition (e.g., species), structure, and under-represented successional stages that would naturally occur on the types of sites found on the FMU.

6.3.4) Harvesting is designed and laid out, over time and space, with consideration of the types, sizes and frequency of natural disturbances as well as connectivity of wildlife habitats.

6.3.5) Standing and fallen dead wood habitats should be retained, based on local best management practice or documented research.

6.3.6) The FME shall ensure that regeneration of native forests and establishment of plantations is effective and timely. Species composition and the density of the regeneration of native forests and the stocking rate of plantations shall be assessed and remedial action taken where necessary to ensure effective regeneration and establishment.

6.3.7) In the management of native forests, FME shall use natural or prescribed fire and other disturbance regimes to maintain and enhance forest ecosystem health where appropriate to the forest type or scale.

6.3.8) FME shall plan for and implement effective measures to reduce the extent and impact of unplanned wildfire.

6.3.9) FME shall identify, assess and prioritize any potential damage agents (such as invasive species, weeds, insect and vertebrate pests, and diseases and pathogens) that may impact ecosystem health and vitality.

6.3.10) Invasive species, weed, pest, disease and pathogen control plans are implemented to ensure ecological functions are maintained including ecosystem regeneration and succession and species diversity.

6.3.11) Management maintains, enhances and/or restores the plant and wildlife habitat of Riparian Management Zones (RMZs) to provide:

a. habitat for aquatic species that breed in surrounding uplands;
b. habitat for predominantly terrestrial species that breed in adjacent aquatic habitats;
c. habitat for species that use riparian areas for feeding, cover, and travel;
d. habitat for plant species associated with riparian areas; and,
e. stream shading and inputs of wood and leaf litter into the adjacent aquatic ecosystem.

6.4. Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.

Performance Indicators:

6.4.1) The FME documents the ecosystems that would naturally exist on the FMU, and assesses the adequacy of their representation and protection in the landscape (i.e., outside of the FMU; see Criterion 7.1). The assessment for medium and large forests includes some or all of the following: a) GAP analyses; b) collaboration with Commonwealth or state natural heritage programs and other public agencies; c) regional, landscape, and watershed planning efforts; d) collaboration with universities and/or local conservation groups.

For an area that is not located on the FMU to qualify as a Representative Sample Area (RSA), it should be under permanent protection in its natural state.

Verifiers:

- *Information on regional protected areas, such as national parks, is reviewed and analyzed in the management plan;*
- *The FME documents and takes measures to prevent adverse effects to identified RSAs.*

6.4.2) Management activities within RSAs are limited to low impact activities compatible with the protected RSA objectives, except under the following circumstances:

a) harvesting activities only where they are necessary to restore or create conditions to meet the objectives of the protected RSA, or to mitigate conditions that interfere with achieving the RSA objectives; or
b) road-building only where it is documented that it will contribute to minimizing the overall environmental impacts within the FMU and will not jeopardize the purpose for which the RSA was designated.

6.4.3) The RSA assessment (Indicator 6.4.1) is periodically reviewed and if necessary updated (at a minimum every 10 years) in order to determine if the need for RSAs has changed; the designation of RSAs (Indicator 6.4.2) is revised accordingly.

6.4.4) Protected areas within the defined forest area are delineated on maps and protection policies are included in the management plan.

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

6.4.5) Representative samples of ecosystems are identified, recorded on maps, and excluded from the harvesting area. If existing representative samples of ecosystems are already adequately protected on other private or public properties within the region then no additional samples need to be identified and protected.

6.5. Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and to protect water resources.

Performance Indicators:

6.5.1) The FME has written guidelines outlining conformance with the Indicators of this Criterion.

6.5.2) Forest operations meet or exceed Best Management Practices (BMPs) that address components of the Criterion where the operation takes place.

6.5.3) Management activities including site preparation, harvest prescriptions, techniques, timing, and equipment are selected and used to protect soil and water resources and to avoid erosion, landslides, and significant soil disturbance. Logging and other activities that significantly increase the risk of landslides are excluded in areas where risk of landslides is high. The following actions are addressed:

- Slash is concentrated only as much as necessary to achieve the goals of site preparation and the reduction of fuels to moderate or low levels of fire hazard;
- Disturbance of topsoil is limited to the minimum necessary to achieve successful regeneration of species native to the site;
- Rutting and compaction is minimized;
- Soil erosion is not accelerated;
- Burning is only done when consistent with natural disturbance regimes;
- Natural ground cover disturbance is minimized to the extent necessary to achieve regeneration objectives;
- Whole tree harvesting on any site over multiple rotations is only done when research indicates soil productivity will not be harmed;
- Low impact equipment and technologies is used where appropriate.

6.5.4) The transportation system, including design and placement of permanent and temporary haul roads, skid trails, recreational trails, water crossings and landings, is designed, constructed, maintained, and/or reconstructed to reduce short and long-term environmental impacts, habitat fragmentation, soil and water disturbance and cumulative adverse effects, while allowing for customary uses and use rights. This includes:

- access to all roads and trails (temporary and permanent), including recreational trails, and off-road travel, is controlled, as possible, to minimize ecological impacts;
- road density is minimized;
- erosion is minimized;
- sediment discharge to streams is minimized;
- there is free upstream and downstream passage for aquatic organisms;

- impacts of transportation systems on wildlife habitat and migration corridors are minimized;
- area converted to roads, landings and skid trails is minimized;
- habitat fragmentation is minimized;
- unneeded roads are closed and rehabilitated.

6.5.5) The FME implements provisions to protect water courses by specifying wetland, water source and streamside protection zones in which harvesting and other site disturbing activities are limited and/or prohibited.

6.5.6) Where they exist, the FME shall manage forest operations to ensure that hydrological flows are in accordance with authorized regional catchment goals. Where regional catchment goals do not exist and if FME operates in or near hydrologically sensitive areas, the FME should follow the regional Catchment Management Authority guidelines to minimize adverse environmental impacts of changes in hydrological flows.

6.5.7) Stream and wetland crossings are avoided when possible. Unavoidable crossings are located and constructed to minimize impacts on water quality, hydrology, and fragmentation of aquatic habitat. Crossings do not impede the movement of aquatic species. Temporary crossings are restored to original hydrological conditions when operations are finished.

6.5.8) Recreation use on the FMU is managed to avoid negative impacts to soils, water, plants, wildlife and wildlife habitats.

6.5.9) Grazing by domesticated animals is controlled to protect in-stream habitats and water quality, the species composition and viability of the riparian vegetation, and the banks of the stream channel from erosion.

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.

Performance Indicators:

6.6.1) All chemical pesticide use occurs within the context of an integrated pest management program; pesticides are only used when non-chemical management is a) not available; b) prohibitively expensive, taking into account overall environmental and social costs, risks and benefits; c) the only effective means for controlling invasive and exotic species; or d) results in less environmental damage than non-chemical alternatives (e.g., top soil disturbance, loss of soil litter and down wood debris). If chemicals are used, the FME uses the least environmentally damaging formulation and application method practical.

Verifiers:

- *Silvicultural prescriptions are selected and designed to minimize the dependence on chemical pesticides.*

- *The FMU can demonstrate documented evidence of reduction or elimination of the use of chemical pesticides over time.*

6.6.2) A complete and up-to-date list of all chemical pesticides used on the FMU shall be maintained (including trade name, active ingredient, quantity of active ingredient used, date of use, location of use, reason for use) and made available to the SCS auditor(s).

6.6.3) No products on the FSC list of Highly Hazardous Pesticides are used (see FSC-POL-30-001 EN FSC Pesticides policy 2005 and associated documents) unless a formal derogation has been granted by the FSC.

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

6.6.5) Chemicals and application methods are selected to minimize risk to non-target species and sites. When considering the choice between aerial and ground application, the FME evaluates the comparative risk to non-target species and sites, the comparative risk of worker exposure, and the overall amount and type of chemicals required.

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

6.7. 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.

Performance Indicators:

6.7.1) Chemical, container, liquid and solid waste shall be disposed of in an environmentally sound and legal manner, whether from forest management or processing facilities.

6.7.2) The forest manager shall manage forest operations to prevent or constrain water pollution and soil contamination, with the objective that:
- chemicals from planned applications are not transported into waterways; and
- disposal of waste fuels, lubricants and chemicals is carried out in the prescribed manner.

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

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.

Performance Indicators:

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

6.8.2) All use of biological control agents takes place within the context of an integrated pest management program that will document, minimize, monitor, and strictly control their application.

6.8.3) Use of biological control agents takes place only where demonstrably necessary and only under strict protocols in compliance with applicable laws and peer reviewed scientific protocols.

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

Performance Indicators:

6.9.1) Exotic species (tree species as well as other flora and fauna) are introduced into the FMU only after active investigation demonstrates that they are not invasive and do not have other adverse ecological impacts at the local level.

6.9.2) The FME shall introduce exotic species ONLY in accordance to national and local laws and regulations, as well as any legally mandated testing and control measures.

6.9.3) Planting and replanting occur only where the risks of wilding tree spread can be safely managed from an ecological perspective.

6.9.4) Where exotic species are planted, measures shall occur to prevent spontaneous regeneration outside plantation areas, unusual mortality, disease, insect outbreaks or other adverse environmental impacts.

6.10. Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion:
a) entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and
b) does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; and
c) will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.

Performance Indicators:

6.10.1) The FME shall not convert forests or threatened non-forested habitats to plantations or other non-forest land uses, except when the conversion complies with indicators 6.10.2 to 6.10.5.

6.10.2) If there is conversion, this shall not exceed 5% of the FMU during any given period of 5 years and this conversion shall comply with relevant state or federal legislation, and the enterprise has all necessary approvals for the conversion, in line with the applicable Commonwealth and state/ territory requirements.

6.10.3) Plantations or conversion to non-forested land uses shall not occur in High Conservation Value Forests or Areas.

6.10.4) The FME shall demonstrate the long-term conservation benefits of converting portions of the FMU to plantations or non-forest land.

Examples may include:

- *The installation of a charcoal kiln allows for the use of small woody residues, which can be proven to improve the conditions for the regeneration of some commercial species;*
- *The construction of a look-out tower to detect illegal logging or forest fires.*

6.10.5) The FME shall not conduct activities that contribute to the destruction or substantial alteration of natural forest, or other natural ecosystem types, in areas outside of the FMU under evaluation.

PRINCIPLE #7: MANAGEMENT PLAN

A management plan - appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operations - shall be written, implemented, and kept up to date. The long-term objectives of management, and the means of achieving them, shall be clearly stated.

7.1. The management plan and supporting documents shall provide:

a) Management objectives;
b) Description of the forest resources to be managed, environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands;
c) Description of silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories;
d) Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection;
e) Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics;
f) Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments;
g) Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species;
h) Maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership;
i) Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.

Performance Indicators:

7.1.1) Appropriate to the scale, intensity, and complexity of operations, there shall be a written management plan for the defined forest area that addresses the subjects and plan components enumerated in this criterion, above, as well as provisions for protection against forest fires, forest pests and diseases, illegal settlement and harvesting, hunting and fishing policies, safeguarding archaeological sites, and others.

7.1.2) The management plan contains both long term goals and objectives as well as short and near term tactical direction.

7.1.3) There are clear and accessible maps describing the forest resource base including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership, at appropriate scales for their respective purposes.

7.1.4) There are sufficient resources invested in plan development so as to produce a functional and effective management plan.

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

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

a) The objectives of management;
b) A description of the forest;

c) How the objectives will be met, harvesting methods and silviculture (clear cuts, selective cuts, thinnings) to ensure sustainability;
d) Sustainable harvest limits (which must be consistent with FSC criteria 5.6);
e) Plans for monitoring forest growth;
f) Environmental/ social impacts of the plan;
g) Conservation of rare species and any high conservation values;
h) Maps of the forest, showing protected areas, planned management and land ownership;
i) Pest and weed control planned;
j) Duration of the plan.

7.2. The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.

Performance Indicators:

7.2.1) The management plan is revised and updated at regular intervals, the frequency of which is appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.

7.2.2) The FME maintains conversancy in emerging scientific and technical information pertinent to the management of the defined forest area.

7.2.3) Over time, the management plan is kept current and relevant; as such, the plan is able to provide ongoing guidance to the management of the defined forest area.

7.2.4) The management plan and supporting documentation incorporates the results of monitoring by the enterprise up to the date of its last revision.

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

7.2.5) The management plan is revised and updated at regular intervals, the frequency of which is appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.

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

Performance Indicators:

7.3.1) Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, there is a documented protocol by which forest workers (including subcontractors) are duly trained as to their role in implementing the management plan.

7.3.2) There are accurate and up-to-date records showing training and education records of all employees.

7.3.3) There is a demonstrable track record of compliance with and implementation of the management plan.

7.3.4) Forest workers are supervised by qualified managers who provide guidance in the implementation of the management plan.

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

7.3.5) Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, forest workers are duly trained, according to a documented protocol, as to their role in implementing the management plan.

7.4. While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, including those listed in Criterion 7.1.

Performance Indicators:

7.4.1) Interested stakeholders are readily able to obtain a public summary of the management plan, which provides information on the primary elements of the plan, including those enumerated in criterion 7.1.

7.4.2) The summary includes a specific section on the presence of High Conservation Values within the FMU, and the measures that are being taken to maintain or enhance such values within the FMU (see criterion 9.3).

7.4.3) The public summary is appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.

7.4.4) The public summary is updated periodically, at a frequency appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.

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

7.4.5) Interested stakeholders are readily able to obtain a public summary of the management plan.

PRINCIPLE #8: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Monitoring shall be conducted -- appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management -- to assess the condition of the forest, yields of forest products, chain of custody, management activities and their social and environmental impacts.

8.1. The frequency and intensity of monitoring should be determined by the scale and intensity of forest management operations as well as the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures should be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.

Performance Indicators:

8.1.1) Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, there are written protocols for periodic monitoring of forest conditions, management activities, plan compliance and chain-of-custody.

8.1.2) Forest managers have a demonstrated track record of implementing monitoring protocols which are consistent and replicable over time.

8.1.3) The FME periodically reviews and evaluates monitoring and feedback mechanisms, including the adequacy of monitoring activities, and incorporates results of such reviews into monitoring protocols.

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

8.1.4) Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, periodic monitoring of forest conditions, management activities, plan compliance and chain-of-custody is conducted, and done so according to written protocols.

8.2. Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators:
a) Yield of all forest products harvested;
b) Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest;
c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna;
d) Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations;
e) Costs, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.

Performance Indicators:

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

8.2.2) The data collected during pre- and post- harvest inventory and general inventory is sufficient to provide an accurate estimate of species composition, stocking, growth rates, regeneration and presence of commercially significant pests or diseases for each forest type in the production forest.

8.2.3) The enterprise has a documented program for collecting data sufficient to demonstrate the maintenance (or otherwise) of any High Conservation Values (see Criterion 9.1.1, 9.1.2) within the FMU, and this plan is made publicly available as part of the public submission of the management plan.

8.2.4) The monitoring program is sufficient to identify unusual mortality, disease, insect outbreaks or adverse ecological impacts related to the planting of exotic species within the FMU.

8.2.5) Forest managers regularly monitor the presence, change in population or conditions of:
a) Rare, threatened and endangered species;
b) Location, presence and abundance of invasive species;
c) Condition of protected areas, set-asides and buffer zones;
d) Special sites of cultural or archeological significance.

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

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

8.2.7) Information necessary to judge progress towards management objectives is collected and recorded. In all cases this will include:
- Amount of products harvested, by species;
- Effects of operations as identified under Criteria 6.1;
- Changes in features identified under Criteria 6.2;

- Annual monitoring of high conservation values identified under Criteria 9.1;
- Invasive exotic species.

8.3. Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain of custody."

Performance Indicators:

8.3.1) The FME shall have written procedures for the tracking of certified products, also known as “Chain-of-Custody” (COC). At a minimum, these procedures shall include:
- The measures to control and track data related to volume and origin of harvested forest products (e.g., weights, inventories, and other measurements) in the forest, during transport, in logging decks and landings and processing centres controlled by the FME;
- A description of the FSC product claim (e.g., FSC-Pure) and the FME’s certificate code (e.g., SCS-FM/COC-XXXXXX) on invoices and other documentation related to the sale of certified products; and
- A description of the measures used to segregate certified forest products from non-certified ones through marking, labels, separate storage, and invoices or other documentation that accompanies the product until the point of sale, or the “forest gate.”

8.3.2) The FME shall consistently implement the COC procedures defined in indicator 8.3.1.

8.3.3) If the FME wants to use the logo and/or other trademarks of FSC or SCS on its products or in publications, including websites, it shall ask for documented approval from SCS prior to use.

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

Performance Indicators:

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

8.4.2) The forest managers monitor and document the degree to which the objectives in the management plan are being fulfilled, as well as significant deviations from the plan.

8.4.3) Where monitoring indicates that management objectives and guidelines are not being met or if changing conditions indicate that a change in management strategy is necessary, the management plan, operations plans, and /or other plan implementation measures are revised to ensure the objectives and guidelines will be met.

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

8.4.4) Forest managers and planners demonstrate a commitment to adaptive management where information gathered during systematic monitoring is incorporated into

revisions to the management plan as well as revisions to standard operating procedures, see Criterion 7.2.

8.5. While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2.

Performance Indicators:

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

8.5.2) Forest managers shall endeavor to the keep all monitoring summaries up-to-date.

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

8.5.3) Upon request, the FME shall make available the results of monitoring (see 8.2.4) pertinent to stakeholders who could be affected directly or indirectly by forest management activities (e.g., (neighboring properties, affected communities).

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

PRINCIPLE 9. MAINTENANCE OF HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS

Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes, which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.

9.1 Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.

Performance Indicators:

9.1.1) The FME shall conduct an assessment to identify the presence on the FMU of High Conservation Values (HCV) attributes HCV1 – HCV6 as defined in the Australian HCV Framework, Draft 2.1.[1]. This evaluation should include:

- Consultation of conservation databases and resources as listed in the Australian HCV Evaluation Framework for CW, including the IBRA (Interim Bio- Regionalisation for Australia);
- A thorough data audit and gap analysis undertaken using the FSC Australia HCV database;
- Consultation of the national HCVF toolkit: until the national toolkit is finalized, the FME shall use the Australian HCV Evaluation Framework for CW; Consideration of forest inventory data and observations from field workers, contractors or consultants of the FME;

[1]High Conservation Values (HCVs) Evaluation Framework: (http://www.fscaustralia.org/sites/default/files/HCV%20draft%202%201.pdf)

- Interviews with biologist and scientific experts, local communities, and other stakeholders;
- Identification and documentation of possible threats to HCVs.

9.1.2) For non-SLIMF operations, the FME shall:
- Provide a written evaluation for HCVs that includes the elements of 9.1.1 and proposals to protect these HCVs; and
- Provide a technical explanation for the HCVs identified and the recommendations presented for the protection of these attributes;

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

9.1.3) The FME shall consult environmental stakeholders, government officials or researchers to identify HCVs and/or HCVFs.

9.1.4) The FME shall consult the national HCVF toolkit: until the national toolkit is finalized, the FME shall use the Australian HCV Evaluation Framework for CW;

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

Performance Indicators:

9.2.1) The results of the data analysis and gap assessment conducted in accordance with Indicator 9.1.1 using the FSC Australia HCV Database shall be made available to stakeholders.

9.2.2) The FME holds consultations with stakeholders and experts to confirm that proposed HCVF locations and their attributes have been accurately identified, and that appropriate options for the maintenance of their HCV attributes have been adopted.

Verifiers:
- *FME's current list of pertinent stakeholders;*
- *Comments related to HCVF are documented.*

9.2.3) The results of periodic stakeholder consultation on the maintenance and/or enhancement of HCV attributes indicate that the FME consistently protects areas of high conservation value.

9.3. The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.

Performance Indicators:

9.3.1) The management plan, relevant operational plans, and public summary describe the measures necessary to ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of all high conservation values present in all identified HCVF areas, including the precautions required to avoid risks or impacts to such values (see Principle 7). These measures are implemented.

9.3.2) All management activities in HCVFs must be consistent with a precautionary approach and maintain or enhance the high conservation values and the extent of the HCVF.

9.3.3) If HCVF attributes cross ownership boundaries and where maintenance of the HCV attributes would be improved by coordinated management, then the forest owner or manager attempts to coordinate conservation efforts with adjacent landowners.

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

Performance Indicators:

9.4.1) The FME monitors, or participates in a program to annually monitor, the status of the specific HCV attributes, including the effectiveness of the measures employed for their maintenance or enhancement. The monitoring program is designed and implemented consistent with the requirements of Principle 8.

9.4.2) When monitoring results indicate increasing risk to a specific HCV attribute, the FME re-evaluates the measures taken to maintain or enhance that attribute, and adjusts the management measures in an effort to reverse the trend.

PRINCIPLE # 10: PLANTATIONS

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

10.1. The management objectives of the plantation, including natural forest conservation and restoration objectives, shall be explicitly stated in the management plan, and clearly demonstrated in the implementation of the plan.

Performance Indicators:

10.1.1) The management plan for the defined plantation forest area includes a presentation of the landowner and/or plantation owner objectives.

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

10.1.3) The FME demonstrates a systematic pattern of implementing the management plan.

10.2. The design and layout of plantations should promote the protection, restoration and conservation of natural forests, and not increase pressures on natural forests. Wildlife corridors, streamside zones and a mosaic of stands of different ages and rotation periods shall be used in the layout of the plantation, consistent with the scale of the operation. The scale and layout of plantation blocks shall be consistent with the patterns of forest stands found within the natural landscape.

Performance Indicators:

10.2.1) FMEs shall demonstrate through action their commitment to protect, restore and conserve key areas of natural forest within the ownership.

10.2.2) Streamside buffer zones are established, within which natural vegetative cover is maintained or established. Width of buffer zones meets or exceeds regional norms.

10.2.3) Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, natural vegetative corridors are established for wildlife movement. The need for wildlife corridors shall be assessed and managed appropriate to rare, threatened and endangered species present within the ecological landscape.

10.2.4) The plantation design includes stands with a diversity of age classes and rotation periods.

10.3. Diversity in the composition of plantations is preferred, so as to enhance economic, ecological and social stability. Such diversity may include the size and spatial distribution of management units within the landscape, number and genetic composition of species, age classes and structures.

Performance Indicators:

10.3.1) Plantation management shall maintain and/or enhance landscape diversity by varying block size and configuration, species, genetic diversity, age class and structure.

10.3.2) The management regime introduces diversity through practices such as: variable rotations, cut blocks of different size and shape, maintenance of volunteer (naturally established) seedlings within planted stands.

10.3.3) The plantation forest management plan contains biodiversity objectives, policies and guidelines.

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

Performance Indicators:

10.4.1) Exotic tree species are planted only after an assessment of native species is conducted, in which it is demonstrated that native species cannot achieve comparable performance levels.

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

10.4.3) Periodic monitoring is conducted of the adaptability of exotic stands, as indicated by measured levels of mortality, disease and insect outbreaks.

10.4.4) Selection of plantation species and provenances is based on documented trials that demonstrate their suitability to the plantation sites and management objectives.

10.4.5) Information about the source of seed or planting stock is presented in the management plan or another suitable document.

10.5. A proportion of the overall forest management area, appropriate to the scale of the plantation, shall be managed so as to restore the site to a natural forest cover.

Performance Indicators:

10.5.1) Representative samples of existing natural ecosystems are being protected or restored in their natural state.

10.5.2) The percentage of the plantation forest operation that is devoted to natural forest cover exceeds regional plantation forestry norms.

10.5.3) Areas of natural forest or natural vegetative cover are delineated on maps and, as necessary, delineated in the field for purposes of assuring protection.

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

10.5.4) Improvements to the ecological value of the plantation are made particularly around conservation features.

10.5.5) Where it is ecologically and economically unviable for a small plantation to manage a restoration area, the plantation manager or group is able to demonstrate off-site contributions to the management and/or restoration of similar landscape and ecosystem types either jointly with other adjacent small operations, or in-kind by supporting an existing protected area.

10.6. Measures shall be taken to maintain or improve soil structure, fertility, and biological activity. The techniques and rate of harvesting, road and trail construction and maintenance, and the choice of species shall not result in long term soil degradation or adverse impacts on water quality, quantity or substantial deviation from stream course drainage patterns.

Performance Indicators:

10.6.1) The FME actively engages in field research to assess trends in soil productivity; soil types found within the plantation forest area are mapped and considered during field operations.

10.6.2) Prescriptions for the establishment, tending and final harvest of planted stands are designed with consideration to soil health and productivity.

10.6.3) Site disturbing activities do not adversely impact aquatic and riparian resources including water quality and do not significantly alter the hydrologic characteristics of the site; planted stand establishment is limited to flat or gently sloping terrain.

10.6.4) All stream courses within the operating area are identified and mapped.

10.6.5) The management plan contains policies and guidelines for soil maintenance and water quality protection.

10.7. Measures shall be taken to prevent and minimize outbreaks of pests, diseases, fire and invasive plant introductions. Integrated pest management shall form an essential part of the management plan, with primary reliance on prevention and biological control methods rather than chemical pesticides and fertilizers. Plantation management should make every effort to move away from chemical pesticides and fertilizers, including their use in nurseries. The use of chemicals is also covered in Criteria 6.6 and 6.7.

Performance Indicators:

10.7.1) Plantation forest standard operating procedures include regular monitoring for pest and pathogen activity, inordinate levels of mortality, and the spread of invasive exotic plants.

10.7.2) The management plan contains policies and guidelines for integrated pest management that are demonstrably followed in the field. The plan shall identify: the range and number of pests; population dynamics – when is it best to intervene, what is a sustainable pest population; compliance with the regional pest management strategy; and methods of intervention.

10.7.3) The FME, through its policies and actions, demonstrate a commitment to progressively lessen the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

10.7.4) Fire management and protection plans are in place. FMEs have the following:

- Employee and contractor responsibilities are clear through contracts, training and orientation;
- Key contact details are available at the field level;
- Proper safety gear and fire suppression equipment; and,
- Emergency procedures and maps are produced (plans for access routes, firebreaks, dams,
- ponds and other water supplies, helipads and priority buildings/areas for protection) and readily available.

10.8 Appropriate to the scale and diversity of the operation, monitoring of plantations shall include regular assessment of potential on-site and off-site ecological and social impacts, (e.g. natural regeneration, effects on water resources and soil fertility, and impacts on local welfare and social well-being), in addition to those elements addressed in Principles 8, 6 and 4. No species should be planted on a large scale until local trials and/or experience have shown that they are ecologically well-adapted to the site, are not invasive, and do not have significant negative ecological impacts on other ecosystems. Special attention will be paid to social issues of land acquisition for plantations, especially the protection of local rights of ownership, use or access.

Performance Indicators:

10.8.1) Monitoring incorporates ecological and social impacts of plantation forest activities, see Criterion 4.4 and 8.2.

10.8.2) Monitoring focuses on both on-site and off-site impacts such as landscape level effects generated by the species that are being planted.

10.8.3) Species are selected for planting only after local trials and other empirical evidence demonstrates their suitability to the site. Species selected are determined to be not invasive, and have minimal negative ecological impacts on other ecosystems.

10.8.4) Acquisition of land for establishment of plantation forests does not adversely impact, without due compensation, local ownership rights or access/use patterns.

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

10.8.5) Monitoring incorporates ecological and social impacts of plantation forest activities, see Criterion 4.4 and 8.2.

10.9 Plantations established in areas converted from natural forests after November 1994 normally shall not qualify for certification. Certification may be allowed in circumstances where sufficient evidence is submitted to the certification body that the manager/owner is not responsible directly or indirectly of such conversion.

Performance Indicators:

10.9.1) Records are of sufficient detail to enable the SCS auditor(s) to determine if conversion of natural forests to plantations has occurred since November, 1994.

10.9.2) Any such conversions, if they have taken place, can be demonstrated to not be attributable to the current managers/owners.

ANNEX 1 National and Local Laws in Australia Applicable to Forest Management

The following is a list of national and local laws that may be applicable to Forest Management Certification evaluations in Australia. It is not intended to be an exhaustive list, and the extent to which the laws are relevant to an evaluation will vary from case to case.

National Laws

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984;

Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975;

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999;

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Amendment (Wildlife Protection) Act 2001;

Export Control Act 1982;

Forest and Timber Bureau Act 1930;

Native Title Act 1993 (Amended 1998);

Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976;

Quarantine Act 1908;

Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002;

Workplace Relations Act 1996;

Trade Practices Act 1974

State laws

New South Wales

Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983

Catchment Management Authorities Act 2003

Contaminated Lands Management Act 1997

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

Fisheries Management Act 1994

Forestry Act 1916

Forestry and National Park Estate Act, 1998

Heritage Act 1977*

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974

Native Title Act 1993

Native Title (NSW) Act 1994

Native Vegetation Act 2003

Noxious Weeds Act 1993

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000

Pesticides Act 1999

Plantations and Reafforestation Act 1999

Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997

Rural Fires Act 1997

Rural Lands Protection Act 1998

Soil Conservation Act 1938

Timber Marketing Act 1977

Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995

Threatened Species Legislation Amendment Act 2004

Water Management Act 2000

Wilderness Act 1987

Victoria

Catchment and Land Protection Act, 1994

Conservation, Forests and Lands Act, 1987

Country Fire Authority Act 1958

Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978

Environment Effects Act 1974

Environment Protection Act 1970

Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, 1988

Forests Act, 1958

Key Subordinate Legislation under the Forests Act:

- Forests (Timber Harvesting) Regulations 2000
- Forests (Miscellaneous) Regulations 2000

Forestry Rights Act 1996

Forestry Rights (Amendment) Act 2001

Heritage Rivers Act 1992

Land Act, 1958

National Parks Act 1975

Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004

Planning and Environment Act 1987

Road Management Act 2004

Reference Areas Act 1978

Sustainable Forests (Timber) Act 2004

Safety on Public Land Act 2004

Victorian Environmental Assessment Council Act 2001

Northern Territory

Aboriginal Lands Act 1992

Bush Fires Act

Crown Lands Act 2000

Environment Assessment Act 1994

Land Acquisition (Pastoral Leases) Act 1982

Mining Act 2000

Northern Territory Codes of Practice for Forestry Plantations

Plant Diseases Control Act 2000

Pastoral Lands Act 2000

Parks and Wildlife Commission Act 2000

Noxious Weed Act 2000

Water Act 2000

Water Management and Pollution Control Act 2000

Tasmania

Aboriginal Land Act 1995

Aboriginal Relics Act 1975

Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Control of Use) Act 1995

Animal Welfare Act 1993

Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994

Fire Service Act 1979

Forestry Act 1920

Forest Practices Act 1985

Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995

Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993

National Parks and Reserves Management Act 2002

Nature Conservation Act 2002

Natural Resources Management Act 2002

Threatened Species Protection Act 1995

Weed Management Act 2000

Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995

Workplace Health and Safety Regulations 1998

Western Australia

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972

Aerial Spraying Control Act 1966

Aerial Spraying Control Regulations 1971

Agriculture Protection Board Act 1950

Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976

Agriculture Protection Board Act 1950

Agriculture and Veterinary Chemicals (Western Australia) Act 1995

Biological Control Act 1986

Bush Fires Act 1954

Conservation and Land Management (CALM) Act 1984

CALM Amendment Act 2000

Carbon Rights Act 2003

Control of Vehicles (Offroad Areas) Act 1978

Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947

Country Areas Water Supply (Clearing Licence) Regulations 1981

Country Areas Water Supply By-Laws 1957

Metropolitan Water Supply Sewerage and Drainage Act 1909

Dangerous Goods (Transport) Act 1998

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Explosives and Dangerous Goods Act 1961

Fish Resources Management Act 1994

Forest Management Regulations 1993

Forest Products Act 2000

Health Act 1911

Health (Pesticide) Regulations 1956

Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990

Land Administration Act 1997

Land Drainage Act 1925

Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984

Plant Diseases Act 1914

Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914

Sandalwood Act 1929

Sandalwood Regulations 1993

Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945

Timber Industry Regulation Act 1926

Town Planning and Development Act 1928

Waterways Conservation Act 1976

Wildlife Conservation Act 1950

Queensland

Aboriginal Land Act 1991

Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991

Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966

Cultural Record (Landscapes Queensland and Queensland Estate) Act 1987

Diseases in Timber Act 1975

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Fire and Rescue Authority Act 1990

Forestry Act 1959

Integrated Planning Act 1997

Land Act 1994

Land Title Act 1994

Nature Conservation Act 1992

Plant Protection Act 1989

Queensland Heritage Act 1992

Rural Lands Protection Act 1985

Sawmills Licensing Act 1936

Soil Conservation Act 1986

Timber Utilisation and Marketing Act 1987

Transport Infrastructure Act 1994

Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994

Vegetation Management Act 1999

Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995

South Australia

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988

Agricultural and Veterinary Products (Control of Use) Act 2002

Animal and Plant Control Act 1986

Biological Control Act 1986

Country Fires Act 1989

Dangerous Substances Act 1979

Development Act 1993

Environment Protection Act 1993

Forestry Act 1950

Forest Property Act 2000

Fruit and Plant Protection Act 1992

Heritage Act 1993

Mining Act 1971

National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972

Native Vegetation Act 1991

Natural Resources Management Act 2004

Occupational Health Safety and Welfare Act 1986

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1985

Public and Environmental Health Act 1987

River Murray Act 2003

Soil Conservation and Land Care Act 1989

South Eastern Water Conservation and Drainage Act 1992

Water Conservation Act 1936

Water Resources Act 1997

Wilderness Protection Act 1992

Australian Capital Territory

Environment Protection Act 1997

Cotter River Act 1914

Nature Conservation Act 1980

Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991

Bushfire Act 1936

Heritage Objects Act 1991

National Land Ordinance 1989

Enclosed Lands Protection Act 1943

Protection of Lands Act 1937

Recovery of Lands Act 1929

Water Resources Act 1998

Occupational Health and Safety Act 198

ANNEX 2 List of Relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements and ILO Conventions that Australia has ratified

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals;

Convention on Biological Diversity;

ILO conventions (29, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138, 182);

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

Agenda 21 and the Statement of Forest Principles;

Commission on Sustainable Development;

United Nations Forum on Forests.

ANNEX 3 Threatened and Endangered species

The list of endangered species in Australia is maintained and updated by the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population, and Communities.
A list of species originally protected under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) can be found on the Department's website:
http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/sprat/public/publicthreatenedlist.pl

Additions to the list of species made since the commencement of the EPBC Act can be found here:
http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-tmp/publiclistchanges.9aca4d329a80cd608f3e.html

ANNEX 4. Glossary

Words in the P&C are used as defined in most standard English language dictionaries. The precise meaning and local interpretation of certain phrases (such as local communities) should be decided in the local context by forest managers and certifiers. In this document, the words below are understood as follows:

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.

Biological diversity values: The intrinsic, ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components.

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

organisms.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Forest Management Enterprise (FME): The people or entities responsible for the operational management of the forest resource and of the enterprise, as well as the management system and structure, and the planning and field operations.
Forest Management Unit (FMU): The forested area that falls under the scope of an FSC forest management certificate.

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

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.

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

High Conservation Value Forests: High Conservation Value Forests are those that possess one or more of the following attributes:
a) forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant : concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia); and/or large landscape level forests, contained

within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance
b) forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems
c) forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control)
d) forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Restoration: The act of modifying a habitat or ecosystem to introduce or reintroduce components and characteristics appropriate to the site both ecologically and historically.

Seral stage: a temporary community of vegetation, defined by the dominant species, which indicates the successional phase of the ecosystem

Short rotation coppice systems -- harvest systems, which are typically perpetuated long-term, and in which only a few characteristics of an indigenous ecosystem remain.

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

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

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

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

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