

SCS Interim Standard for Forest Management Certification in Lao People's Democratic Republic under the Forest Stewardship Council

A. INTRODUCTION

This document contains the Interim Standard used by Scientific Certification Systems for conducting forest certification evaluations in Lao PDR. The scope of this standard includes both natural and plantation forests. This standard was designed in compliance with FSC-STD-20-002, which specifies the structure and content for local adaptation of generic Forest Stewardship standards, and complies with all applicable FSC International policies, standards, and advice notes. This standard was updated in December 2014 to take into account stakeholder comments regarding conversion and minimum conservation area.

B. STANDARD DEVELOPMENT AND USE

Although the FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship constitute an international set of requirements for responsible forest management, the FSC requires that standards be adapted at the indicator level in order to accurately reflect the diversity of local forest management issues. In countries or regions where there is not yet an FSC accredited standard, it is the responsibility of the Certification Body, such as SCS, to develop a local interim standard, in which the indicators have been adapted to the local forest management context, such as legal requirements, local regulations, and stakeholder issues. This standard for forest management certification in Lao has been adapted from SCS's generic standard and includes the international principles and criteria of the FSC and locally adapted indicators. It is the hope that the use of this interim standard will advance the practice of responsible forestry in Lao. Once there is an FSC accredited standard for use in Lao PDR, all further evaluations will be done against said standard.

Stakeholder consultation for this standard will begin with translation into Lao and distribution to all identified stakeholders for a public comment period beginning at least six weeks prior to the evaluation of any forest management unit in Lao. Conformance with this standard 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 SLIMFs, 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 Management 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.

REFERENCES:

- FSC-STD-01-001 (version 4-0) FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship
- FSC-STD-20-003 (version 2-1) Local adaptation of certification body generic Forest Stewardship Standards.
- FSC-STD-20-002 (version 2-1) Structure and Content of Forest Stewardship Standards
- FSC-POL-30-401 FSC certification and ILO conventions.
- FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria
- SCS generic interim standards

STANDARD EFFECTIVE DATE

This standard shall be effective from **March, 2012**

INTERIM STANDARD FOR LAO PDR

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.			
C1.1. Forest management shall respect all national and local laws and administrative requirements.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
1.1.1. The Forest Management Enterprise (FME) maintains an up-to-date register (reference list; see Appendix 1) of all pertinent statutes and bodies of regulations and ensures that forest managers are informed of all applicable laws and			

regulations.			
1.1.2. The FME shall comply with all applicable federal, provincial/state, and local laws and regulations. The FME resolves any case of non-compliance with these laws and regulations with the appropriate authorities.			
1.1.3. The frequency and nature of legal or regulatory violations shall <i>not</i> be indicative of widespread and systemic non-compliance; when violations occur, the FME acts promptly to correct and remediate the circumstances associated with the violation.			
C1.2. All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
1.2.1. The FME shall demonstrate evidence that payments of fees, taxes, royalties, and other charges are made in a timely manner. There is no evidence of chronic non-payment.			
1.2.2. The FME shall maintain up-to-date records of all payments and make these available to the SCS auditing team.			
C1.3. In signatory countries, the provisions of all binding international agreements such as CITES, ILO Conventions, ITTA, and Convention on Biological Diversity, shall be respected.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
1.3.1. Forest management plans (FMPs) and operations comply with relevant provisions of all applicable binding international agreements (see Appendix 2).			

1.3.2. The FME's forest managers and field technicians are aware of and understand the applicable international agreements and how the obligations therein are met by the forest management.	<i>Verifiers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>FME has a compendium of applicable international agreements that summarizes how the FME respects these, or</i> • <i>Conversations/interviews with managers and field technicians indicate awareness and understanding of said agreements.</i> 		
C1.4. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
1.4.1. The FME shall 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. In the event of any conflicts being identified, the FME participates in a process for resolving such conflicts with pertinent entities, as required by SCS and/or the FSC, and documents the results of any such attempt at resolution.	<i>Verifiers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with FSC National Office or Working Group. • Documented analysis of applicable national/ local laws, international agreements, and FSC P&C. 		
C1.5. Forest management areas should be protected from illegal harvesting, settlement and other unauthorized activities.			
1.5.1. Managers shall undertake measures to protect the Forest Management Unit (FMU) from illegal harvesting, settlement, harvesting or gathering of RTE species, and other unauthorized activities.	Appropriate measures may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demarcating and clearly posting the property boundaries of the FMU in the field; • Controlling access to areas of high risk through gates or road 		

	<p>closures;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular patrols to prevent unauthorized access to the forest. 		
1.5.2. The FME dedicates sufficient resources (human and financial) to monitor the forest area for evidence of illegal or unauthorized activities in such a way that these are promptly detected.			
1.5.3. Appropriate measures shall be taken when illegal activities are detected.	<p>Depending on the nature of the activity such measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting the activity to an appropriate authority; • Disciplinary action or fines in the case that staff were involved; • Working with the appropriate authorities, and always within the law, to control the unauthorized activity; • Working with local communities and/or authorities to resolve underlying grievances leading to illegal or unauthorized activity; • Pursuing legal action (e.g. prosecution) if necessary. 		
1.5.4. For large FMEs, a system shall exist for documenting and reporting to the appropriate authority instances of illegal or unauthorized activities.			
C1.6. Forest managers shall demonstrate a long-term commitment to adhere to the FSC Principles and Criteria.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
1.6.1. In the FMP, or			

another appropriate publicly available document, there is an express statement of commitment to the FSC Principles and Criteria.			
1.6.2. A program shall be in place to inform staff of the FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship and the long-term management implications of adherence; FME personnel demonstrate general knowledge of the P&C.			
1.6.3. For large FMEs, the FME shall provide information on all forested areas over which it exercises responsibility for forest management in order to demonstrate compliance with FSC policies on partial certification and on the exclusion of areas from the scope of the certificate.			
1.6.4. The FME shall not conduct activities that are in violation of the FSC P&C in forested areas outside the scope of the certificate.			

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.

C2.1 Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights to the land (e.g. land title, customary rights, or lease agreements) shall be demonstrated.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
2.1.1. The FME shall demonstrate that land tenure and long term management or use rights to the forest resource are clear, legally secure and	<i>Verifiers:</i> <i>Legal use rights may be associated with:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Authenticated copies of land titles of the FMU(s);</i> • <i>Fee-simple ownership;</i> 		

<p>documented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Long-term or renewable lease rights;</i> • <i>Long-term or renewable exclusive management agreements;</i> • <i>Usufruct agreements, such as Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) documents signed by the District Governor;</i> • <i>Other mechanisms allocating long-term or renewable management rights and responsibilities to the forest manager.</i> 		
<p>2.1.2. The FME shall clearly identify, document and describe any customary rights and use rights applicable to the lands and forests under evaluation. This documentation explicitly identifies any local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights.</p>	<p><i>Guidance: Note that customary use rights in Laos may only be formally recognized if they are determined to be in compliance with the forestry law. This does not mean that a lack of documentation implies customary rights are not present or acted upon by local communities, but rather that the responsibility to document those rights falls to the FME.</i></p> <p><i>Verifiers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Traditional or customary use rights may include:</i> • <i>rights relating to hunting;</i> • <i>mineral resources;</i> • <i>access to harvest non-timber forest products;</i> • <i>access to treaty lands, municipal boundaries, trap-lines;</i> • <i>water permits;</i> • <i>firewood collection;</i> • <i>established easements;</i> • <i>visitation to customary sites for established cultural purposes.</i> • <i>Examples of rights that</i> 		

	<p><i>may be subject to implied or expressed consent include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>traditional public access to hiking trails and canoe routes, and other recreation;</i> • <i>gathering for traditional crafts;</i> • <i>harvesting medicinal plants;</i> • <i>long-standing private access to landlocked parcels lacking a deeded right of way.</i> 		
2.1.3 For Community management forests only: Communities have clear and credible evidence, endorsed by the communities themselves, of collective ownership and control of the lands they customarily own or otherwise occupy or use (Ref: ILO 169 Articles 14-17).			
C2.2. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
2.2.1. Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights (see Indicator 2.1.2, above) shall, EITHER: maintain clear and direct control over forest operations to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources; OR: have delegated such control with free, prior and informed consent to other agencies.			
2.2.2. Where communities			

<p>have delegated control of their legal rights or customary tenure or use in whole or in part, free and informed consent to this must be confirmed by documented agreements and / or interviews with representatives of local communities.</p>			
<p>C2.3. 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.</p>			
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>Verifiers, Examples, and Notes</p>	<p>Evaluation Team Notes</p>	<p>Conformance (C, NC or NA)</p>
<p>2.3.1. The FME shall maintain an up-to-date and complete record of all disputes relating to tenure claims and use rights, including evidence relating to the dispute and a clear and up-to-date description of any steps taken to resolve the dispute.</p>			
<p>2.3.2 Conflicts over land tenure and use rights shall be resolved or discussed in a systematic and legal manner, using locally accepted mechanisms and institutions, with preference given to voluntary and conciliatory methods rather than the through the judiciary mechanisms (e.g., courts).</p>			
<p>2.3.3. The magnitude and severity of unresolved tenure claims and use rights disputes are minor, relative to the scale of forest management operations.</p>			

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.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
3.1.1. The identity, location and population of all indigenous peoples, including migratory groups, living in the vicinity of the FMU are documented by the FME.			
3.1.2. The communities concerned have identified themselves as indigenous.			
3.1.3. All rights and claims to lands, territories or customary rights within the FMU are documented and/or clearly mapped.			
3.1.4. Rights identified in terms of Indicator 3.1.3 are respected.			
3.1.5 Forest management operations do not take place in areas identified in Indicator 3.1.3 above, without clear evidence of the free and informed consent of the indigenous or traditional peoples claiming such land, territory or customary rights.			

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

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
3.2.1. Forest management activities within the management unit shall be planned and implemented in such a way as to maintain the resources and			

tenure rights of the Indigenous Peoples.			
3.2.2. Potential adverse impacts of forest management on indigenous communities' resources or tenure rights shall be identified and documented.			
3.2.3. The FME discusses potential impacts with indigenous peoples; the results of such consultation are documented, including the actions taken to prevent or mitigate adverse impacts on resources or tenure rights of indigenous peoples.	<i>Verifiers: A social impact assessment (SIA) undertaken by the FME may serve to confirm compliance with indicators 3.2.2 and 3.2.3.</i>		
3.2.4 When consistent with existing agreements with Indigenous peoples, or management objectives, indigenous peoples are afforded opportunities to participate in management planning, research, and monitoring on forest areas associated with indigenous resources and tenure rights.			
3.3. Sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to indigenous peoples shall be clearly identified in cooperation with such peoples, and recognized and protected by forest managers.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
3.3.1. The FME, with the participation of indigenous communities, shall identify sites of special cultural, ecological, economic, subsistence or religious significance that occur within the FMU.	<i>Verifiers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Examples of sites may include:</i> • <i>ceremonial, burial, or village sites;</i> • <i>areas used for hunting, fishing, or trapping;</i> • <i>areas used for gathering of sustenance and culturally important materials.</i> 		
3.3.2. The FMP contains			

explicit written policies for the identification and protection of sites of special significance for indigenous peoples. The identified sites shall be demarcated on maps of forest operations and, where consistent with the protection of such sites, in the field.			
3.3.3. Field workers are appropriately trained in the procedures employed for protecting sites of special significance to indigenous peoples.			
3.3.4. Findings of special sites of archaeological interest are communicated to the appropriate authorities, recorded by the FME and protected during forest operations.			
3.4. Indigenous peoples shall be compensated for the application of their traditional knowledge regarding the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations. This compensation shall be formally agreed upon with their free and informed consent before forest operations commence.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
3.4.1 Indigenous peoples shall be duly informed of the intention and nature of use of traditional knowledge by the FME.			
3.4.2. Documented agreements on terms of compensation shall exist when there is use of indigenous people's traditional knowledge, intellectual property and/or forest products for commercial purposes, with evidence of free, prior and informed consent.			
3.4.3 Compensation for the			

use of such knowledge shall be in place prior to commencement of forest operations.			
---	--	--	--

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.

C4.1. The communities within, or adjacent to, the forest management area should be given opportunities for employment, training, and other services.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
4.1.1. Qualified people in local communities are given preferential opportunities in employment and contracting; the FME actively targets the local workforce.			
4.1.2. The FME gives preference to local vendors of equipment and miscellaneous services, subject to cost considerations.			
4.1.3. For large FMEs only: The FME contributes to or directly develops training programs designed to enhance the capabilities and qualifications of local workers.			

C4.2. Forest management should meet or exceed all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
4.2.1. The FME implements an active worker safety program, appropriate to the scale of operations.			
4.2.2. Written guidelines and policies, appropriate to the scale of operations, exist for workplace health and safety.			
4.2.3. Safety equipment is			

provided to all workers, appropriate to the task being performed and equipment in use; workers use safety equipment properly and when required.			
4.2.4. All tools, machines, and equipment, including personal protective equipment shall be in safe and serviceable condition.			
4.2.5. Health and safety measures shall comply with national minimum requirements.			
4.2.6. Up-to-date information on pertinent health and safety laws and regulations is maintained by the FME and appropriately disseminated to forest workers.			
4.2.7. The FME maintains up-to-date records of work related accidents; such records indicate exemplary performance relative to industrial norms.			
4.2.8. The FME's policies and labour practices shall guarantee the equal treatment of all employees (without discrimination based race, gender, religion or caste) in relation to recruitment, promotion, dismissal, remuneration and benefits.			
4.2.9. The FME shall not allow the hiring or contracting of workers less than 14 years of age. In cases of hiring or contracting workers between the ages of 14 and 18, working hours must not			

exceed 8 hours per day, and shall not involve the performance of heavy work or work that is dangerous to their health (See Lao's ratification of ILO Conventions 138 and 182 and the Amended Labour Law, 2006).			
C4.3. 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).			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
4.3.1. The FME, by its actions and policies, shall respect the rights of forest workers to organize or join trade unions; forest workers shall be able to form and/or join organizations of their choice (including trade unions) without fear of intimidation or reprisal.			
4.3.2. The FME shall document, respect and implement agreements reached with employees in relation to remuneration, work hours, work conditions, and safety.	<i>Guidance: Lao PDR has not ratified ILO Conventions 87 and 98. As such, there may be contradictions between the provisions of these ILO conventions and the provisions of Lao national laws and regulations. These contradictions should be noted under Criteria 1.4. The Trade Union Law of 2008 dictates provisions on freedom of association and collective bargaining and the FME should in all cases be in compliance with Lao law on these topics.</i>		
C4.4. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
4.4.1. The FME shall conduct			

<p>a social impact evaluation to identify and document potential social impacts related to forest management activities, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.</p>			
<p>4.4.2. The FME shall document the processes that it will use to consult with local communities, neighbouring properties, and other groups of interest affected by the planning and implementation of forest management activities.</p>			
<p>4.4.3. Information derived from social impact evaluations and/or consultation processes with stakeholders is addressed in the planning and implementation of forest management activities, including measures to mitigate identified negative impacts.</p>			
<p>4.4.4. The FME maintains regular communication with neighbours, local communities and other stakeholders affected by forest management operations, in order to identify social impacts and mitigate such impacts on an ongoing basis.</p>			
<p>4.4.5. Large FMEs and plantations only: The FME shall maintain a list of affected parties and stakeholders.</p>			
<p>C4.5. Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.</p>			
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>Verifiers, Examples, and Notes</p>	<p>Evaluation Team Notes</p>	<p>Conformance</p>

			(C, NC or NA)
4.5.1. The FME shall endeavour, through actions and policies, to resolve grievances related to, and avoid losses and damages to the property, resources, customary rights, and/or livelihoods of local peoples.			
4.5.2. In the event of a grievance or dispute, the FME shall implement documented dispute resolution procedures that require it to, at a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • keep a record of all complaints made known to them relating to the FME’s compliance with FSC requirements; • make these records available to SCS upon request; • conduct an investigation on any claims or disputes to identify the root cause; • take appropriate action with respect to such complaints and any deficiencies found in FME’s forest management system that affect compliance with the requirements for FSC certification; and • document the actions taken to resolve grievance or dispute 			
4.5.3. Fair compensation shall be offered in the case of any loss or damage caused by the forest enterprise and affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources or livelihoods 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.

C5.1. 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.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
5.1.1. The FME has sufficient financial capital and human resources to implement the FMP, over the long term (at least one rotation in the case of plantations).			
5.1.2. The FME budget shall include provisions for environmental, social, and operational costs necessary to maintain certifiable status (e.g. management planning, road maintenance, silvicultural treatments, long-term forest health, growth and yield monitoring, and conservation investments). The assumptions included in the budget or financial model must be duly substantiated.			
5.1.3. Commercial (income generating) activities are financially viable, given short and medium-term market conditions and costs, and revenue estimates shall be reasonable and consistent with the expected rate of harvest of forest products and/or provision of other products or services.			
5.1.4. If the FME has	<i>Guidance:</i>		

<p>received external funding for certification, the FME shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Make available to SCS all information about the external funding, including any payment schedules, time limits, and applicable interest rates. 2) Implement a documented plan to reduce dependency on external funding over a defined period if the financiers have imposed interest, time limits or any other restriction that could impact the economic viability of the FME. 	<p>External funding includes, but is not limited to, grants, loans, subsidies, and foreign aid.</p>		
<p>5.1.5. An exception shall be made to the second point of 5.1.4 when the interested parties present documented evidence that their financial agreement complies with indicators 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 and that the FME has sufficient funds to adhere to any payment schedule.</p>	<p><i>Guidance:</i> The “interested parties” in this indicator may include the FME, the provider(s) of the external funding, investors in the FME, etc.</p>		
<p>C5.2. Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest’s diversity of products.</p>			
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>Verifiers, Examples, and Notes</p>	<p>Evaluation Team Notes</p>	<p>Conformance (C, NC or NA)</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p><i>Examples may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>new products are explored and developed for common but less used species;</i> • <i>access to new markets is explored and developed.</i> 		
<p>5.2.2. Local processing shall be emphasized where possible.</p>			

C5.3. Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
5.3.1. Management practices are employed to minimize the loss and/or waste of harvested forest products.	Guidance: "Waste" consists of damage or underutilization of harvested products, except where portions of harvested material need to be left on site to maintain woody debris, nutrient cycling, or other ecological functions (see Criterion 6.3).		
5.3.2. Log landings are kept to a minimum practicable number and size and are located so as to minimize adverse environmental impacts.			
5.3.3. Where on-site processing takes place, the footprint of the processing activity is kept to the smallest practicable size; processing is conducted in the most environmentally benign locales as well as in locations where losses to productive forest area are minimized.	<i>Examples may include: the FME locates charcoal kilns or portable sawmills only after evaluating the environmental impacts of the selected sites.</i>		
5.3.4. Removal of unused biomass shall be minimized; field guidelines are in use that recognize the ecological value of biomass (e.g., tops and branches) being left on site.			
C5.4 Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
5.4.1. The FME demonstrates efforts to diversify the mix of commercial products recovered from the forest			

and marketed, including lesser known or lesser utilized species where possible.			
5.4.2. The FME demonstrates efforts taken to encourage local value-added processing.			
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.	<i>Examples may include: compatible uses such as recreation, ecotourism, hunting, fishing, rubber harvesting, Christmas tree cutting, etc.</i>		
C5.5 Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
5.5.1. The FMP addresses the full range of forest services associated with the FMU including: municipal watersheds, commercial and recreational fisheries (or the supply of water to downstream fisheries), visual quality, contributions to regional biodiversity, recreation and tourism as identified by the FME.			
5.5.2. Forest management activities are designed and implemented, spatially and temporally, with due consideration to the impacts on the forest services identified in 5.5.1.			
C5.6 The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels that can be permanently sustained.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
5.6.1. The FME shall have a clear methodology to determine the allowable			

<p>cut: for natural forest management operations, the annual allowable cut (AAC) of forest products, either by area or volume, shall be established by a combination of empirical data and published literature, based on conservative, well-documented growth and yield estimates to ensure that the rate of harvest does not exceed the calculated rates of long-term regeneration.</p>			
<p>5.6.2. Average annual harvests over the lifetime of the certificate shall not exceed the calculated AAC.</p>			
<p>5.6.3. For plantation forest management, the growth and harvest rates (for thinning and final cuts), shall be based on well-documented information and/or field trials, and be consistent with the observed behaviour of the species at the national or regional level.</p>			
<p>5.6.4. For operations entailing regular annual harvesting, the 10-year rolling average harvest level does not exceed mean annual increment (MAI).</p>	<p>Verifiers: <i>Comparison of records of harvested volume by species (or species groups) with the AAC established for the species (or species groups).</i></p>		
<p>5.6.5. For operations that do not harvest annually, the frequency and intensity of harvest levels shall not exceed growth levels for the resources being harvested and the cycle proposed</p>	<p>Verifiers: <i>Comparison of records of harvested volume by species (or species groups) with the AAC established for the species (or species groups).</i></p>		

5.6.6. The harvesting of NTFPs shall not exceed estimated replenishment rates over the long term.			
5.6.7. When stock levels and growth are not well known (e.g. for certain NTFP species) the forest operation shall use conservative harvesting levels.			

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.

C6.1. 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.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.1.1. Site-level environmental impact assessments, scaled to the size and complexity of operations, are completed prior to commencement of site disturbing activities.			
6.1.2. The FME shall complete and document an assessment of the environmental impacts of any processing facilities within the FMU under assessment.			
6.1.3. The FME shall complete landscape-level environmental impact assessments in which the cumulative effects of forest operations are considered.			
6.1.4. The FMP and management activities are			

appropriately modified based upon the results of the environmental impact assessments conducted under Indicators 6.1.1 – 6.1.3.			
6.1.5 For FMUs 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:			
C6.2. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.2.1. Using the best information available and the results of field surveys, the FME shall identify the potential presence of rare, threatened or endangered (RTE) species (see Appendix 3) and their habitats within the FMU (e.g., nesting and feeding areas).			
6.2.2. The FME shall establish, appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operation, conservation zones and/or other adequate protection measures for RTE species and their habitats. These conservation zones and other protection measures shall be described in the FMP.			
6.2.3. The FME shall demarcate RTE conservation zones on maps, and when it does not interfere with conservation objectives, in the field. These zones shall			

be respected in forest management activities.			
6.2.4. The FME shall not harvest species that are included in Appendix I of CITES (also applicable to SLIMF) .			
6.2.5. The FME shall have adequate control over, monitor and minimize illegal or unauthorized hunting, fishing, trapping, harvesting of NTFPs or the collecting of RTE species (also applicable to SLIMF) .	<p><i>Examples may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fences are installed to control grazing when appropriate;</i> • <i>Established hunting or gathering seasons are respected in order to allow for reproduction.</i> 		
<i>For FMU's meeting SLIMF requirements, only 6.2.5, 6.2.6, and the following indicator(s) of this criterion apply; the following indicator(s) are not to be used for assessing non-SLIMF operations:</i>			
6.2.6. Where information exists on RTE species and their habitats, the FME uses this information to map and protect these resources.			
C6.3. Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Forest regeneration and succession. Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity. Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem. 			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.3.1. Subject to the scale of operations, the forest is managed so as to maintain a full range of successional stages at distributions within the range of natural variability.			
6.3.2 The FMP incorporates principles of landscape and ecosystem-based planning; the FMP contains goals pertaining to biological diversity for the range of			

spatial scales from genetic diversity to ecosystem diversity.			
6.3.3. Harvesting prescriptions maintain, enhance or restore natural forest composition; management is aimed at maintaining all naturally occurring species.			
6.3.4. Harvesting is designed and laid out, over time and space, with consideration of the types, sizes and frequency of natural disturbances and connectivity of wildlife habitats.			
6.3.5. Silvicultural treatments are designed to encourage regeneration, and in natural forests are designed to take advantage of natural regeneration, through measures such as retention of seed trees and timing of harvests. Regeneration after harvests is timely and successful; young stands, either planted or naturally established, are well-stocked with desired species.			
C6.4 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.4.1. The FME compiles and reviews information on representative samples of existing ecosystems protected within the regional landscape, both within and outside of the FMU.	<i>Verifiers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Information on regional protected areas, such as national parks is reviewed and analyzed in the management plan.</i> 		
6.4.2. Where deficiencies	<i>Verifiers:</i>		

(i.e., opportunities to protect and restore the extent of certain representative sample ecosystems) exist within the landscape, the FME takes actions to contribute to the regional network.	<i>The FME documents and takes measures to prevent adverse effects to protected areas.</i>		
6.4.3. Representative sample areas identified within the FMU are delineated on maps and measures for their restoration or protection in their natural state are included in the FMP and implemented in the field.			
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:			
6.4.4. Representative samples of ecosystems are identified and recorded on maps. If existing representative samples of ecosystems are already adequately protected on other private or public land within the region then no additional samples need to be identified and protected.			
6.4.5 Representative sample areas are excluded from the harvest area; management activities undertaken within representative sample areas serve to maintain its natural state.			
C6.5. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.5.1. The FM contains written guidelines for the			

<p>protection of water resources (e.g., stream courses and adjoining riparian areas, wetlands, seeps and springs) found within the FMU, minimization of soil erosion and damage to forest vegetation as a result of site disturbing activities.</p>			
<p>6.5.2. Prior to conducting site disturbing activities, the FME shall prepare maps and/or work plans of sufficient scale and detail to identify primary and secondary roads, skid trails, landings, large drainage structures, watercourse crossings, buffer zones, and conservation areas.</p>			
<p>6.5.3. Training on the protection guidelines under 6.5.1 is given to all FME staff and contractors; the FME and its contractors demonstrate a working knowledge of the protection guidelines from 6.5.1 and implement them in day-to-day operations.</p>			
<p>6.5.4. Site level plans contain specific provisions to protect water courses by specifying wetland, water source and streamside protection zones in which harvesting and other disturbance is prohibited.</p>			
<p>6.5.5. The FME shall follow documented guidelines for road construction, maintenance and closure; road surfaces are well drained, culverts are large enough to accommodate peak flow, and water bars are appropriately installed.</p>			

6.5.6 The FME does not log areas with extremely unstable slopes or at high risk of landslides and avoids inappropriate site disturbing activities in these areas.			
C6.6. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.6.1. Forest managers shall employ silvicultural systems, integrated pest management and other pest and vegetation control strategies that result in the least adverse environmental impact; chemicals are only used when non-chemical management has been proven ineffective or cost-prohibitive.	Verifiers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silvicultural prescriptions are selected and designed to minimize the dependence on chemical pesticides. • The FMU can demonstrate evidence of reduction or elimination of the use of chemical pesticides over time. 		
6.6.2. If the FME uses chemical pesticides, the FME and its contractors shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a complete list of chemical pesticides used; • Maintain records of all pesticides used, including the name of the product, active ingredient(s), location and method of application, total quantity applied, and the dates of application; • Comply with all safety regulations during the transport, manipulation, application, and storage of chemical pesticides; 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where required by law, field personnel shall be properly licensed to apply chemical pesticides; • Use appropriate equipment and gear to assure safe application; • Provide adequate supervision and training to personnel and contractors related to the transport, storage, manipulation, and application of chemical pesticides. 			
<p>6.6.3. The FME shall not use highly hazardous chemical pesticides as defined by the FSC (FSC-POL-30-601), those prohibited in the country, pesticides classified as Type 1A or 1B by the World Health Organization (WHO) or pesticides composed of hydrocarbons or chlorine. Exceptions are made when the FSC has permitted a formal derogation to the FME in the applicable territory. In such cases, the FME shall follow the terms of the approved derogation.</p>			
<p>C6.7. 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.</p>			
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>Verifiers, Examples, and Notes</p>	<p>Evaluation Team Notes</p>	<p>Conformance (C, NC or NA)</p>
<p>6.7.1. Chemical, container, liquid and solid waste shall be disposed of off-site in an environmentally sound and legal manner, whether from forest operations or processing facilities.</p>			
<p>6.7.2. The FME shall have contingency plans and procedures for prevention</p>			

and cleanup following spills or other accidents involving chemical pesticides, oils, fuels, and other chemicals.			
6.7.3. There are on-site facilities for secure collection of waste, including oil and fuel.			
C6.8. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.8.1. There shall be no use (defined as commercial use as well as for research purposes) of genetically modified organisms within the FMU.			
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.			
C6.9. The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.9.1. Exotic species shall not be introduced into the FMU or onto new sites within the FMU unless there is convincing evidence available that the species will not become invasive or have other adverse ecological impacts at the local level.			
6.9.2. Exotic species use follows documented guidelines for controlling and monitoring off-site regeneration.			
6.9.3. In areas where			

invasive exotic plants are problematic, the FME develops and implements appropriate control measures.			
C6.10. Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
6.10.1. FME shall not convert forests to plantations or non- forest land uses, except where the conversion meets the conditions of 6.10.2 – 6.10.4 below.			
6.10.2. If conversion occurs, the area affected shall not exceed 0.5% of the area of the FMU in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% of the area of the FMU.			
6.10.3. If conversion occurs, the FME shall demonstrate that any conversion produces clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation benefits across the FMU.			

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.**

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
7.1.1. Appropriate to the scale, and complexity of operations, there shall be a written FMP for the FMU that addresses the subjects and components enumerated in this criterion, above, as well as provisions for protection against forest pests and diseases, illegal settlement and harvesting, hunting and fishing policies, and safeguarding of archaeological sites.			
7.1.2. The FMP contains both long term goals and objectives as well as short and near term tactical direction.			
7.1.3. FMPs or related annual operating or harvesting plans are available to staff and implemented in the forest.			
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:			
7.1.4. A written FMP exists and is implemented. The FMP includes at least the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the objectives of management; 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a description of the forest; • how the objectives will be met, harvesting methods and silviculture (clear cuts, selective cuts, thinnings) to ensure sustainability; • sustainable harvest limits (which must be consistent with FSC criteria 5.6) • plans for monitoring forest growth; • environmental/ social impacts of the plan; • conservation of rare species and any high conservation values; • maps of the forest, showing protected areas, planned management and land ownership; • Duration of the plan. 			
C7.2. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
7.2.1. The FMP 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 shall incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific or technical information (e.g., silvicultural, environmental, social, and economic conditions) in the revision or adjustment of the FMP, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.			
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:			
7.2.3 The FMP is revised and updated at regular intervals, the frequency of which is appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.			
C7.3. Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
7.3.1. Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, there is a documented protocol by which forest workers (including subcontractors and their workers, day labourers and self-employed persons) are sufficiently qualified and trained to implement their tasks effectively and safely.			
7.3.2. Records are maintained as to each forest worker's training.			
7.3.3. There is a demonstrable track record of compliance with and implementation of the FMP.			
7.3.4 Forest workers are supervised by qualified managers who ensure they implement their tasks effectively and safely, in line with the objectives of the FMP.			
For FMU's meeting SLIMF requirements, only the following indicator(s) apply:			
7.3.5. Evidence of formal or informal training of forest workers to ensure proper implementation of the FMP shall exist.			

C7.4. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
7.4.1. Interested stakeholders are readily able to obtain a public summary of the FMP, which provides information on the primary elements of the FMP as appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, including those enumerated in criterion 7.1, in a language local to the area of the FMU.			
7.4.2. 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. These indicators cannot be used to evaluate non-SLIMF operations:			
7.4.3 Interested stakeholders are readily able to obtain a public summary of the FMP, in a language local to the area.			
7.4.4 The FME shall update all public summaries at least one time during the period of validity of the forest management certificate (5 years).			

PRINCIPLE #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.

C8.1. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
8.1.1. Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, there are consistent and replicable written procedures for the periodic monitoring of forest conditions, management activities, FMP compliance and chain-of-custody.			
8.1.2. The frequency and intensity of monitoring shall be based on the scale and intensity of the operation, as well as the fragility of the resources to be managed.			
8.1.3 Forest managers have a demonstrated track record of implementing monitoring protocols which are consistent and replicable over time.			
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, FMP compliance and chain-of-custody is conducted.			
C8.2. Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Yield of all forest products harvested. b) Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest. c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna. d) Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations. e) Costs, productivity, and efficiency of forest management. 			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
8.2.1. Appropriate to the scale and intensity of			

<p>operations, the FME’s monitoring plan shall include protocols to periodically gather information on components a) – e) enumerated in this criterion, above.</p>			
<p>8.2.2. Written records shall be kept of the annual or periodic harvest levels of each commercial forest product, at levels of specificity appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations</p>	<p><i>Examples may include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Records of timber harvest volume by species;</i> • <i>Records of rubber collection or latex production by volume.</i> 		
<p>8.2.3. Monitoring is conducted to ensure that site specific plans are properly implemented, and that such plans are consistent with forest management objectives.</p>			
<p>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:</p>			
<p>8.2.4. Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, forest managers periodically gather information on components a) – e) enumerated in this criterion, above.</p>			
<p>8.2.5. Information necessary to judge progress towards management objectives is periodically collected and recorded. In all cases this will include at minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of all commercial forest products harvested, by species; • Environmental impacts 			

<p>of operations (as identified under Criteria 6.1);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threats to rare, threatened or endangered species and their habitat • High conservation values identified under Criteria 9.1 • Invasive exotic species 			
<p>C8.3. Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain of custody."</p>			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures to control and track products from the forest to the forest gate (including during transport, in logging decks or landings and processing centers controlled by the FMU, should these occur prior to the point of sale); • A description of the measures used to segregate certified forest products from non-certified products through marking, labels, or separate storage, until the point of sale, or the "forest gate." 			
<p>8.3.2. The FME shall consistently implement the COC procedures defined in indicator 8.3.1.</p>			
<p>8.3.3. All invoices and other documents related to the</p>			

sale of certified products shall include a description of the FSC product group and claim (e.g., wood chips, FSC 100%), and the FME's certificate code (e.g., SCS-FM/COC-XXXXXX).			
8.3.4 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 request documented approval from SCS prior to use.			
C8.4. The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
8.4.1. The FME shall demonstrate a commitment to adaptive management where information gathered during systematic monitoring is incorporated into revisions to the FMP, as well as revisions to its annexes, standard operating procedures or other planning documents (see Criterion 7.2).			
8.4.2. The evolution of the FMP over successive revisions demonstrates that the results of monitoring are being appropriately incorporated and used to implement new or modified procedures in the field.			
For FMU's meeting SLIMF requirements, only the following indicator(s) apply. These indicators cannot be used to evaluate non-SLIMF operations:			
8.4.3 The FME shall demonstrate a commitment			

to adaptive management where information gathered during systematic monitoring is incorporated into revisions to the FMP, as well as revisions to its annexes, standard operating procedures or other planning documents (see Criterion 7.2).			
C8.5. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
8.5.1. The FME shall make available a public summary of the results of periodic monitoring that addresses the indicators listed in criterion 8.2.1.			
8.5.2. The FME shall periodically update of the public summary of monitoring, as new information and/or results become available, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations.			
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 directly or indirectly affected by forest management activities (e.g., (neighbouring 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.

C9.1. 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.

Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
<p>9.1.1. The FME shall conduct an evaluation to identify High Conservation Value (HCV) attributes, (as described in the international HCVF toolkit), present in the FMU. This evaluation, at a minimum, shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation of regional or national conservation databases and maps; • Consultation of the first and third parts of the international HCVF toolkit ¹; • Consideration of forest inventory data and observations from field workers, contractors or consultants of the FME; • Interviews with biologists and scientific experts, indigenous/local communities and other stakeholders; • Identification and documentation of possible threats to HCVs. 			

¹ HCVF Toolkit: Guidance for High Conservation Value Forests assessment
http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/conservation/forests/tools/hcvf_toolkit/

<p>9.1.2. For non-SLIMF operations, the FME shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a written evaluation for HCVs that includes the elements of 9.1.1; • Provide an explanation for the HCVs identified and recommendations for the protection of these attributes; and • Demonstrate that actions are being taken to protect and/or reduce threats to HCVs as a result of the FME’s management activities. 			
<p><i>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:</i></p>			
<p>9.1.3. The FME shall consult environmental stakeholders, government officials or researchers to identify HCVFs. If HCVFs are present, the FME shall take all reasonable action to protect these values and/or reduce threats to them.</p>			
<p>C9.2. The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.</p>			
<p>Indicators</p>	<p>Verifiers, Examples, and Notes</p>	<p>Evaluation Team Notes</p>	<p>Conformance (C, NC or NA)</p>
<p>9.2.1. The results of stakeholder consultation related to HCVFs shall specify the conservation values that were identified, as well as the proposed strategies for their maintenance, enhancement or protection. Non-SLIMF FMEs shall document this</p>			

consultation.			
9.2.2. Non-SLIMF FMEs shall document HCVF consultation as per 9.2.1, and maintain a list of stakeholders contacted in relation to HCVF assessment.			
C9.3. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
9.3.1. The FME, in the FMP and its public summary, shall describe the conservation values of each area of HCV identified in the FME, as well as the actions taken to maintain and/or enhance these values.			
9.3.2. The FME shall update HCVF information in all public summaries with a frequency appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations; public summaries shall be updated at least one time during the period of validity of the forest management certificate (5 years).			
9.3.3. The FME shall provide evidence in the field that it takes measures to protect HCVFs, consistent with a precautionary approach.			
C9.4. Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
9.4.1. Appropriate to the scale of and intensity of operations, the FME shall have an annual monitoring program for collecting data			

sufficient to assess the effectiveness of management measures in maintaining and/or enhancing any conservation attributes identified in 9.1.			
9.4.2. The results of HCVF monitoring are used to modify HCVF management and protection policies, and are presented in the FMP summary.			

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.			
C10.1. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.1.1. Management objectives for silvicultural treatments, socioeconomic goals, and conservation and restoration of natural forests shall be described in the FMP.			
10.1.2. The FME shall demonstrate evidence of implementation of the objectives identified in 10.1.1 and their associated policies in forest management activities and/or administrative actions.			
C10.2. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance

	Notes		(C, NC or NA)
10.2.1. The spatial pattern of planted stands within the plantation mimics natural patterns found within the landscape.			
10.2.2. The FME demonstrates through management planning and on-site activities their commitment to protect, restore and conserve key areas of natural forest within the ownership.			
10.2.3. Streamside buffer zones are established, within which natural vegetative cover is maintained or established. Width of buffer zones meets or exceeds regional norms.			
10.2.4. Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, natural vegetative corridors are established for wildlife movement.			
10.2.5. The plantation design includes stands with a diversity of age classes and rotation periods.			
C10.3. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.3.1. A variety of species or provenances are employed in the planting program.			
10.3.2. Plantation management shall maintain and/or enhance landscape diversity by varying block size and configuration, species, genetic diversity,			

age class and structure.			
C10.4. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.4.1. Exotic tree species are planted only after an assessment of native species is conducted, and demonstrates that native species cannot achieve comparable performance levels.			
10.4.2. Periodic monitoring is conducted of the adaptability of exotic stands, as indicated by measured levels of mortality, disease and insect outbreaks.			
10.4.3. There shall be a clear justification for the choice of species and genotypes chosen for the plantation; selection of plantation species and provenances is based on documented trials that demonstrate their suitability to site conditions and management objectives.			
10.4.4. Information about the source of seed or planting stock is presented in the FMP.			
C10.5. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.5.1. The FME shall maintain and/or enhance all remnant natural			

ecosystems present within the FMU in accordance to Criterion 6.4.			
10.5.2. Restoration and conservation activities conducted within natural areas shall be consistent with Criterion 10.2.			
C10.6. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.6.1. Prescriptions for the establishment, tending and final harvest of planted stands are designed with consideration of soil health and productivity.			
10.6.2. 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.			
10.6.3. All stream courses within the operating area are identified on maps; stream courses and buffer and/or equipment exclusion zones are delineated in the field.			
10.6.4 The FMP contains policies and guidelines for soil maintenance and water quality protection.			
10.6.5 Where negative impacts to soil or water resources are identified, the FME shall take steps to reduce or eliminate such			

impacts.			
C10.7. 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.7.1. The FME shall demonstrate conformance to Criteria 6.6, 6.7 and 6.8.			
10.7.2. The FME, through its policies and actions, demonstrates a commitment to progressively lessen the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers.			
10.7.3. Appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations, the FME has a documented fire prevention and suppression plan.			
C10.8 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.8.1. Monitoring shall be conducted in accordance to Principle 8, and shall include monitoring of the social and environmental impacts of plantation forest management on and off the FMU.			
10.8.2 The FME implements measures to address any impacts identified as a			

result of monitoring.			
C10.9 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.			
Indicators	Verifiers, Examples, and Notes	Evaluation Team Notes	Conformance (C, NC or NA)
10.9.1. Accurate data is compiled on the first year of establishment of all plantation areas, including on any conversions since 1994.			
10.9.2. Areas converted from natural forest to plantation since November 1994 are not certified, except where the FME provides clear and sufficient evidence that it was not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion.			

ANNEX 1. NATIONAL AND LOCAL FOREST LAWS AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS OF LAO PDR

The Department of Forestry (DoF) is a division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR. The Department of Forestry's role is to ensure an effective and sustainable management and use of forest resources throughout the country.

Two agencies are responsible for implementation of CITES: the CITES Management Authority (in the Department of Forestry) is responsible for import permits, export permits and re-export certificates, and the Scientific Authority (NSTA) is responsible for providing advice to the CITES MA.

The Department of Forest Investigation (DOFI) is responsible for the development of a comprehensive compliance system to prevent, detect, and suppress forest crimes over all forest landscapes, resources and supply chains.

Forest management and conservation is governed by a set of three overarching laws and regulations: The Forestry Law of 2008, the Wildlife Law of 2007, and the Forest Strategy to the Year 2020 (2005). Complete copies of these policies and regulations can be accessed at: <http://dof.maf.gov.la/eng/et7.7.html>.

Forestry Law of 2008 (passed in 1996, amended 2005): First passed in 1996, the Forestry Law Governs management and utilization of forest resources at the national level and sets out the forest categories: Regeneration forest, Degraded forest, Protection forest, Conservation forest and Production forest. The law promotes the participation of people in forest management, protection and conservation, e.g. through provision of incentives. The law contains a provision for allocating degraded forests and forested land to individuals and organizations for management according to prescribed purposes. Logging is only permitted in production forests with management plans that involve community management, and is permitted according to quota system. A log export ban has been in effect since 1999.

Wildlife Law (2007): The Wildlife Law governs conservation, breeding and utilization of wildlife and aquatic animals. All wildlife in Lao PDR is the property of the state. The Wildlife and Aquatic law determines the principles, regulations and measures on wildlife and aquatic life to promote the sustainable regeneration and utilization of wildlife without harmful impact on natural resources or habitats and to restrict anthropogenic pressure on decreasing species and the extinction of wildlife by encouraging people as a whole to understand and recognize the significance, with enhancing the conscientious love, care and treatment of animals. Objectives include managing, monitoring, conserving, protecting, developing and utilizing wildlife and aquatic in a sustainable manner.

Forest Strategy to the Year 2020 (2005): The overall objective of the Forestry Strategy 2020 is to contribute to national socio-economic targets, to provide goods and services to the economy and the society, to reduce dependence and increase concrete efforts to sustainably manage the country's natural resources and to contribute to the implementation of the National Growth and Poverty

Eradication Strategy (NGPES). The FS 2020 is an official document to guide sustainable management and development of the forestry sector in line with national policies, strategies and priority programs for national socioeconomic development and environmental conservation, including the NGPES.

Decree on Sustainable Management of PFAs. (No.59/PM, Vientiane 22/5/2002): This Decree covered the identification, establishment, planning, management and harvesting of Production Forest Areas (PFA) and the key principles for monitoring the implementation of sustainable forest management on PFAs throughout Lao PDR. It further covered the duties and functions of relevant government agencies Department of Forestry, Lao PDR, (MAF, PAFO, and DAFO), local authorities and villagers in participatory management of PFAs.

Regulation on Establishment and Sustainable Management of Production Forests (No. 0204/MAF, Vientiane, 30/10/2003): Defines principles and procedures for establishing PFAs and instituting sustainable forest management “on PFAs throughout the country”. It refined the criteria for PFA selection given in Decree 59 and provided direction on both the preparation of PFA Management and operational plans and on important management activities within the PFA (boundary demarcation, timber harvesting, forest regeneration, biodiversity conservation and NTFP management). This regulation provided much more detailed direction for timber sales: PAFO is to coordinate the process with Commerce, Finance, FMU staff and VFCs, bidding shall be competitive and transparent, and a floor price will be established for the bidding. Benefit sharing after royalty payment shall be disbursed according to the Budget Law the following manner: 30% to the national budget as an additional royalty payment and the remaining 70% shared 20% to the forest development fund, 25 % to operational costs and 25% to village development accounts. The final sections of the regulation deal with internal monitoring and control, roles and responsibilities of participants, and incentives, enforcement penalties and conflict resolution.

Other relevant regulations and applied guidelines:

- MAF Regulation 535 on Management of Village Forests (2001)
- Prime Minister Decree, Ref. no. 59/PM, dated 22/05/2002, on Sustainable Production Forest Management
- PM 59, 22 May 2002: Decree of Prime Minister on Sustainable Forest Management
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Regulation, Ref. no. 0204, dated 03/10/2003 on establishment and sustainable production forest management
- Prime Minister Decree 59 on Sustainable Forest Management of Production Forest Areas (2003)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Regulation, Ref. no. 0173, dated 02/08/2005 on regeneration of natural forest
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Regulation, Ref. no. 0108, dated 20/04/2005 on natural forest inventory
- PO 47, 25 May 2005: Law on Customs & Decree
- Business and Enterprise Law (2005)

- Tax Law (2005)
- Order of Prime Minister, Ref No. 31/PM on increasing control in forest management, conservation, wood business and promoting the production of finished products in wood processing industry, 23/08/2006
- Prime Minister Decree, Ref. no. 27 PM, dated 08/02/2006, on Declaration of 8 national production forest areas in 4 province under SUFORD Project;
- Department of Forestry guideline, Ref. no. 2155, dated 04/11/2006 on Participatory natural forest inventory
- Department of Forestry guideline, Ref. no. 2156, dated 04/11/2006 on Production forest management planning
- Department of Forestry guideline, Ref. no. 2157, dated 04/11/2006 on Production forest harvesting practice
- Department of Forestry guideline, Ref. no. 2152, dated 04/11/2006 on village boundary demarcation in Production forest Areas
- Amended Labour Law, 2006
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Regulation, Ref. no. 0116, dated 17/05/2007 on timber scaling and grading
- Prime Minister Decree, Ref. no. 321PM, dated 06/09/2007, on Declaration of 29 national production forest areas in 8 provinces
- MAF 0174/AF 07, 6 September 2007: Instructions of the Minister to the Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry pertaining to the implementation of The Order of The Prime Minister, in relation to the enhancement of the restrictions on the management of forest and forestry business for FY 2007-2008 NO.30/PM, dated 17/08/2007
- Department of Forestry guideline, Ref. no. 1097, dated 04/7/2007 (revised 2010) on Chain of Custody (CoC) Control of transportation of timber harvested from production forest management areas Department of Forestry, Lao PDR
- Ministry of Industry and Commerce Regulation on timber trade at Station II No. 01976 of 01/11/2007
- Ministry of Industry and Commerce Annual Guideline of timber quota distribution (e.g. for fiscal year 2007-2008 No. 4704 of 24/12/2007)
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Regulation Ref. No0340/MAF dated 5 March 2008 on the Organization and Role of Forest Inspection Department
- Prime Minister Order 17 on Strengthening Forest Management (2008)
- Prime Minister Decree, Ref. no. 270PM, dated 30/12/2008 on Declaration of 14 national production forest areas in 5 provinces
- Ministry of Industry and Commerce Notice No. 0157, dated on 04/02/2008 on timber Business Activities, concerning domestic movement and export of timber, timber products and non-timber forest products

- Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC) Regulation 1415 on Form and Size of Wood Products (2008)
- MOIC Regulation 710 on Wood Fees for Small Logs (2008)
- MOIC Regulation 2056 on Wood Quota Allocation (2008)
- MOIC Regulation 359 on Timber Products and NTFP Transport and Export (2008)
- MOIC Regulation 1963 on Wood Sales (2008)
- MOIC Regulation 1601 on Transport of Logs, Wood Products and NTFP and Export (2008)
- PM 135, 25 May 2009: Decree of Prime Minister on State Land Lease or Concession
- MOF Guideline 0092, 13 January 2009: Guideline on the administration of revenue collection from sales proceeds of wood and non-timber forestry product
- MOIC Regulation 51 on Form and Size of Wood Products (2009)
- MOIC Regulation 719 on Wood Processing Factories (2009)
- MOIC Regulation 97 on Wood Fees at Field II (2009)
- MOIC Regulation 488 on Wood Quota Application (2009)
- MOF Guideline 92 on Revenue Collection of Sales from Wood and NTFP Products (2009)
- MAF Guideline 0962 on Chain of Custody (CoC) Control of Timber Harvesting & Transport in Production Forest (2010)
- MOIC Decision on the procedures regarding Chain-of-Custody in Timber Sales and Transport (2010)
- Prime Minister Order on timber harvesting and forestry business which is issued annually
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Order on implementation of the PM Order on timber harvesting and forestry business which is issued annually.
- National Land Management Authority (NLMA) No. 564
- PM Decree on Environmental Impact Assessment and Compensation
- Law on Petitions

ANNEX 2. LIST OF MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND ILO CONVENTIONS

Multilateral Environmental Agreements:

Lao PDR is party to the following multilateral environmental agreements, including conventions, protocols and regional agreements:

- Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) – accession in 2004;
- Convention on Biological Diversity – accepted in 1996;
- Convention on Combating Desertification – accepted in 1996;
- World Heritage Convention – ratified in 1987;
- The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer – accession in 1998;
- Agreement on The Cooperation for The Sustainable Development of The Mekong River Basin (Mekong Agreement) – signed in 1995;
- Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution – signed in 2002;
- Plant Protection Agreement for the South-East Asia and Pacific Region – signed in 1956;
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – ratified in 1995, Kyoto Protocol ratified in 2003;
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants – ratified in 2006.

International Labour Organisation Information:

A full list of ILO Conventions ratified by Lao People’s Democratic Republic can be accessed at: <http://webfusion.ilo.org/public/db/standards/normes/appl/>.

Laos has been a member of the ILO since 1964. The following nine conventions are ratified and in force:

- Night Work (Women) Convention, 1919 (No. 4)
- Night Work of Young Persons (Industry) Convention, 1919 (No. 6)
- White Lead (Painting) Convention, 1921 (No. 13)
- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)
- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) *Minimum age specified: 14 years*

- Tripartite Consultation (International Labour Standards) Convention, 1976 (No. 144)
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)

Of the eight Fundamental Conventions of the ILO, considered the fundamental principles and rights at work, Laos has ratified 5. Fundamental Conventions not yet ratified by Laos are:

- Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)

Safety and health in forestry work is an ILO code of practice. While not legally binding, it is global in scope, and provides guidance to protect workers from occupational safety and health hazards in forestry work and to prevent or reduce the incidence of illness or injury by providing practical guidelines. The document can be accessed here: http://www.ilo.org/safework/normative/codes/lang--en/docName--WCMS_107793/index.htm

ANNEX 3. LIST OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

For a database of endangered species in Laos, please visit the CITES species database and the IUCN Redlist on the internet for the most up to date information:

- <http://www.cites.org/eng/resources/species.html>
- <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

ANNEX 4. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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.

Large FME: A large FME is considered one that has an FMU or set of FMUs under the scope of the evaluation that are 10,000 ha or larger.

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 fulfil 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.