Woodmark
SLIMF[1]
Generic Standard and Checklist

Adapted for:	Solomon Islands
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Version:	1.0

1 - SLIMF – Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests

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Woodmark Generic SLIMF Standard
SLIMF – Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests

Scope
The Woodmark SLIMF Generic standard has been designed for use worldwide in FSC® forest management evaluations where there is no existing FSC accredited SLIMF standard AND where the forest area under evaluation meets FSC SLIMF eligibility criteria. (See below).

Purpose
This standard has been developed to comply with FSC-STD-20-002 Structure and content of Forest Stewardship Standards section 4; FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria; and FSC-GUI-60-100 Guidance on the Interpretation of FSC Principles and Criteria for Small and Low Intensity Managed Forest Operations. It is derived from the Woodmark Generic Standard and Checklist as accredited by FSC and is designed to facilitate the evaluation of forest areas that meet FSC SLIMF eligibility criteria. (See below). The Woodmark SLIMF Generic Standard is designed to be used as a stand alone document with the Woodmark Generic Standard available for use as a reference.

Development Process
Between 2002 and 2004 FSC developed its approach to improving access to FSC certification for owners of small forest areas. This included the establishment of a SLIMF technical working group, widespread consultation, development of discussion and guidance documents, field trials, and concluded with the establishment of standard requirements and eligibility criteria. In parallel the UK UKWAS (United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard) standards group supported by DFiD (Department for International Development) field tested alternative approaches to certification for owners of small woodlands. Woodmark was actively engaged in both these processes, and developed both streamlined procedures and evaluation standard checklists as part its contribution to this development process. This standard is the based on the outcome of these development processes.

Structure
This standard is derived from the Woodmark Generic Standard as accredited by FSC. The Woodmark Generic Standard is used as the basis for forest management evaluations worldwide and is adapted for use in local conditions according to FSC-STD-20-003 and is updated from time to time in response to FSC policy changes. The Woodmark SLIMF Generic standard is an adaptation of the full Generic standard with adaptation for use appropriate to the scale and intensity of management of small or low intensity managed forests (SLIMF).

There are two key aspects to this adaptation.

1) Indicators have been developed that are specific to SLIMF situations according to FSC-STD-20-002 section 4 and incorporating elements of FSC-GUI-60-100 Guidance on the interpretation of FSC Principles and Criteria for SLIMF. (i.e. FSC Criteria 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 9.1, 10.5 and 10.8).
2) Indicators have been grouped according to the verification process and means of verification. i.e. where several indicators may be met through the same verification process – indicators have been grouped together.

The structure is therefore designed to assist a streamlined assessment process in keeping with the scale and intensity of SLIMF operations.

Use of the standard
The standard is intended as a supporting document in SLIMF assessments. In the field the standard will generally be used in the form of a checklist incorporated into the Woodmark report template. This will generally show indicators only.

In the event that evaluation relates to a country where there is an existing accredited national standard including SLIMF indicators this will be used or the indicators may be incorporated into the Woodmark checklist. In the event that an evaluation is planned where there is an existing Woodmark Generic Standard adapted for local use, the adapted standard will be reviewed and the Woodmark Generic SLIMF standard will be adapted based on this. In the event that there is no nationally accredited standard, and no Woodmark Generic Standard adapted for local use, Woodmark will adapt the Woodmark SLIMF Generic standard based on FSC-STD-20-003.

During an evaluation, the checklist derived from the adapted SLIMF standard will be used, and observations recorded against each SLIMF indicator/verifier. In order to maintain efficiency and ensure that audit procedures are in keeping with the scale and intensity of the operation, brief observations will be preferred.

Observations are required for all indicators under sections 1 to 10 for all forest areas. The sections in Annexes 1 to 4 need only be completed if the specific forest type or activity is applicable to the forest area under evaluation.

Scoring
During an evaluation each SLIMF indicator is scored as either being met (Y/√) or not met (N/X).

In the event that an indicator is not met a non-compliance is identified and a corrective action given. Non compliance against an individual indicator will normally be treated as a Minor non-compliance. In the event that there is non compliance against all indicators in one sub - section (e.g. 1a, or 1b, or 2a or 3a etc…) this will normally be treated as a Major non-compliance.

.FSC-STD-20-002 clause 4.3

4 Scale and intensity of forest management[1]

4.1 The standard shall be cost effective and practical for use in small-scale and low intensity forest management units.

4.2 Small and/or low intensity managed forests may be made exempt from some indicators which are applicable to other forests, and/or alternative indicators may be developed for application to small and/or low intensity managed forests. In such cases this shall be clearly indicated in the standard.

EXAMPLE:
Criterion

Indicator 4.1.1a (applicable to FMUs more than 200ha in area):

Means of verification:

Indicator 4.1.1b (applicable to FMUs less than 200ha in area):

Means of verification:

4.3 Alternative indicators and associated means of verification (as described in paragraph 4.2 above) may be developed for any criterion, but shall be developed for at least the following FSC Criteria which require special provision when applied to small and/or low intensity managed forests: FSC Criteria 6.1, 6.2, 6.4, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 9.1, 10.5 and 10.8.

4.4 The standard shall include clear guidance as to the category of forest management units to which any exemptions or alternative indicators apply.

NOTE 9: Standards may identify the forest management units that are eligible for modified indicators or means of verification by simple size classifications (e.g. 'applicable to FMUs less than 200 ha') or by proxies for size or intensity (e.g. 'applicable to woodlot licensees', 'applicable to operations harvesting less than x cubic metres per year).

[1] Additional guidance is being prepared by the FSC International Center to facilitate the development of standards applicable to small and low intensity managed forests.

FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria

1 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria

1.1 A forest management unit shall qualify as a 'SLIMF' if it is either a 'small' forest management unit (as defined in this standard) OR managed at 'low intensity' forest management unit (as defined in this standard).

2 'Small' forest management units

2.1 Forest management units may be recognised as SLIMF units in the country concerned when they are less than 100 ha. in area or when they meet the requirements specified in 2.2 below.

2.2 Forest Management Units of up to 1000 ha. in area may be recognised as 'small' when this is supported by the FSC-accredited national initiative for the country concerned, or in countries in which there is no FSC-accredited national initiative when this has the demonstrated broad support of national stakeholders in the country concerned. Annex 1 to this standard provides the definitive list of countries for which the definition of small is larger than 100 ha.

2.3 Forest Management Units larger than 1000ha in area shall not qualify as 'small' forest management units.

3 Low intensity forest management units

3.1 Forest management units may also be recognised as SLIMF units when:

a) the rate of harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment (MAI)[2] within the total production forest area of the unit, AND

b) EITHER the annual harvest from the total production forest area is less than than 5000 cubic metres,

c) OR the *average* annual harvest from the total production forest is less than 5000 m3 / year during the period of validity of the certificate as verified by harvest reports and surveillance audits.

FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria Version 1-0 Addendum

This document provides an up to date list of countries for which the SLIMF eligibility criteria differ from those specified for international use in FSC-STD-01-003 SLIMF Eligibility Criteria Version 1-0.

1. List of countries for which definition of 'small' is greater than 100 ha.

Country national threshold for 'small'

Country new threshold approved	Proposed by and date	
USA 1000 ha.	FSC-US	5th February 2004
Canada 1000 ha.	FSC-Canada	29th June 2004
South Africa 600 ha	Certification Body	May 2005
Denmark 1000 ha	FSC Denmark	October 2005

FSC-GUI-60-100
Guidance on the Interpretation of FSC Principles and Criteria for Small and Low Intensity Managed Forest Operations[3]

Note: this document establishes the precedent of combining criteria where means of verification are essentially the same.

[2] Where FMU-specific MAI estimates are unavailable or impractical regional estimates of growth rates for specific forest types may be used.

[3] Based in part on a consultants report commissioned by FSC. *Developing standards appropriate to small and low intensity managed forests* (2002) by S. Higman, H. Scrase, P. Dam and F. Aguilar.

WOODMARK GENERIC SLIMF STANDARD

1 Land use

1a Tenure

FSC Criterion	SLIMF Indicator	Means of verificatoin
2.1.1 2.1.2	Legal ownership or tenure can be proved and is not subject to dispute. A map is available clearly showing legal boundaries.	The name and legal status of the entity managing the forest is stated.
2.1.4	Communities have clear, credible and officially recognised evidence, endorsed by the communities themselves, of collective ownership and control of the lands they customarily own or otherwise occupy and use.	Discussion with managers and communities Maps and other land records.

1b Local involvement/control

2.2.1 2.2.2 2.2.3 3.1.1 3.1.2 3.1.3 3.1.4 3.2.4	Legal and customary rights of indigenous people and local communities shall be respected: • The manager is aware of indigenous and traditional peoples (including migratory groups) living in the vicinity of the management area • The communities concerned have identified themselves as indigenous or tribal • All legal or customary tenure or use rights are documented and mapped. • All legal or customary tenure or use rights are respected • The manager is aware of all claims to tenure or use rights to the forest resource. • Forest management operations do not take place in these areas without free and informed consent local/indigenous communities. • Forest mangers provide local communities control over forest operations to the extent necessary to protect their rights and resources • Traditional access for subsistence uses and traditional activities is granted.	Discussion with managers and communities Maps and documentation Evidence of consultation and relevant consents
2.3.4	Forest manager provide access to forest resources for local communities without legal or customary land rights with access to forest resources, where such access does not prejudice the	Discussion with managers and communities

	achievement of management objectives.	
3.4.1 3.4.2 3.4.3	Where traditional knowledge (e.g. regarding the use of forest species or management systems) is applied in forest operations, local communities are informed and fairly compensated for such applications.	Discussion with managers and communities Records of payments
4.1.1 4.1.3 4.1.4	Local and forest dependant people have equal access to employment and training opportunities. Workers are not discriminated in hiring, advancement, dismissal, remuneration and employment related social security Wages or income of self-employed or contractors are at least as high as those in comparable occupations in the same region and in no case lower than the established minimum wage.	Discussion with managers and communities

1c Disputes

2.3.1 4.5.1 4.5.4	Mechanisms exist for resolution of grievances exist including: • disputes between the forest managers and the local community over tenure claims and use rights • mechanisms to resolve conflicts through consultation aiming at achieving agreement or consent, avoiding damage to property, resources, rights, and livelihoods	Discussion with managers and communities
2.3.2 2.3.5	Mechanisms for dispute resolution are respected in the event of any dispute between local communities and forest managers regarding tenure claims and use rights.	There is no evidence of any unresolved dispute of substantial magnitude.
2.3.3	Management policy and operational procedures exist which require that, in case of a dispute or disagreement between the local community and the forest managers concerning land rights, forestry operations which prejudice the future enjoyment of such rights by the community are halted until the dispute is resolved.	Documented policy and procedure

4.5.2 4.5.3	Mechanisms exist for providing fair compensation: • where legal or customary rights, property, resources or livelihoods have been damaged • for inadvertent damage to indigenous and traditional resources	Compensation is determined by the communities themselves.

2 Compliance with legislation and guidelines

2a Commitment

1.6.1	Forest managers must provide a statement declaring their long-term commitment to comply with FSC Principles and Criteria.	Signed commitment
2.1.3	Land is dedicated to long term forest management.	Management planning assumes more than one rotation
1.6.2	Forest managers shall declare any areas under their control but not included within the scope of the certification evaluation	Discussion with managers

2b Legislation

1.1.1, 1.4.1	There are no substantiated outstanding claims of non-compliance with national and local laws and administrative requirements related to forest management. (Conflicts between laws, regulations and the FSC Principles and Criteria should be identified).	No evidence of non-compliance Discussion with forest managers demonstrates understanding of laws
1.1.2, 1.1.3	There is compliance with the spirit of any relevant codes of practice, guidelines or agreements.	Forest managers demonstrate awareness of relevant codes of practice, guidelines or agreements.
1.3.1, 1.3.5 1.3.6 1.3.7	Forest managers implement appropriate controls to ensure that provisions of the International agreements applicable to the region are respected, including: • Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). • ITTA • Convention on Biological Diversity	Discussion with managers and workers Sales documents

1.3.2, 1.3.3 1.3.4 4.3.1, 4.3.2	Applicable ILO conventions are respected, especially • the freedom of association and protection of the right to organise and bargain collectively (conventions 87 and 98) • no child labour is used, national minimum age provisions are adhered to • there is no forced labour or debt bondage Note that implementation of the following ILO conventions is a minimum requirement for certification : 29, 87, 97, 98, 100, 105, 111, 131, 138, 141, 142, 143, 155, 169, 182, ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forest Work, Recommendation 135, Minimum Wage Fixing Recommendation, 1970.	Discussion with managers and workers.

2c Illegal activities

1.5.1, 1.5.2, 1.5.3	Systems to monitor and prevent unauthorised activities are in place including illegal settlement and harvesting.	Managers have taken reasonable measures to stop such activities

3 Assessment of impacts

3a Social impact

4.4.1 4.4.2 4.4.3	Managers shall complete an evaluation of social impact appropriate to the size and intensity of the operations and incorporate results into management decisions. This shall include: • Identification of affected groups • Ongoing consultation with affected groups to identification of the main impacts of the operation • Specification of measures to ameliorate identified negative impacts.	
3.2.1 3.2.2 3.2.3	Forest management shall not threaten or diminish the resources or tenure rights of indigenous people shall be protected during forest operations: • shared boundaries must be physically demarcated under the supervision of the community	Discussion with managers and communities Documented procedures

	before operations start • the forest manager must be aware of potential threats to these resources (e.g. disturbance to water resources and wildlife). • systems must be in place to modify management prescriptions to prevent damage to such resources	Field observations
3.3.1 3.3.3 3.3.4 3.3.5	Sites of archaeological, religious, historical or other cultural sensitivity shall be protected: Systems shall be in place to identify and map such sites in co-ordination with local/indigenous people Systems shall be in place to identify and protect such sites during operations (e.g. harvesting, road building) Plans for the protection or management of such sites are subject to the full and informed consent of appropriate representatives of indigenous peoples	Maps Documented procedures Discussions with managers and workers Discussions with communities
8.2.6	There are meetings with representatives of local communities, at which any concerns regarding the impacts (social or environmental) are recorded.	Documented procedures Monitoring data

3b Environmental impact

6.1.1 6.1.2 7.1.15	Managers shall provide an evaluation of potential environmental impact of planned activity and seeks to minimize impacts. The evaluation shall take account of landscape level considerations and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments are implemented	Discussion with forest managers Management plan Records of results of assessment Field observation
6.2.1 6.2.2 6.2.3	Rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g. nesting and feeding areas) are safeguarded by: • Assessing the likely presence of these species/habitats • Identifying such areas on maps • Identifying management prescriptions to protect these areas	Discussion with forest managers Maps Management planning documentation
5.5.1	Forest managers are aware of the down stream uses of water from the forest watershed and	Discussion with forest managers

5.5.2	fisheries above, in and below the forest watershed	
6.2.10 6.2.11	Forest managers have systems for controlling hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting of animals or plants. Systems are in place to prevent hunting or trapping of protected species.	Discussion with forest managers
9.1.2 9.1.3	Forest managers are able to provide a definition of High Conservation Value Forest for their region. Forest managers have assessed whether High Conservation Value Forests is present in the area under their control.	Discussion with forest managers See Annex 1 if HCVF may be present

4 Management planning

4a Description of the resource

7.1.2, 7.1.3, 7.1.4, 7.1.5, 7.1.7 7.1.8 7.1.9 7.1.17 7.1.18	Clear maps (or other relevant documentation appropriate to the scale and intensity of the operation) to show the following are available: • description of the land use and ownership status of the area under management control • the physical aspects of the management area (e.g. topography, soils, geology, and water resources), • description of the socio-economic context for management • description of the forest resource base including protected areas • a brief summary of previous use including areas that have been harvested in the past • any areas under management control which are excluded from harvesting, for whatever reasons.	Maps or other relevant documentation

4b Management plan

7.1.1 7.1.19	The management planning documentation includes: • a clear statement of the objectives of forest management • outline plans for the medium (e.g. 5 – 20 years) and long (e.g. 20+ years) term	Management planning documentation Maps

	• planned management activities in the short term (e.g. first five years)	
7.4.1	A summary of management activities is available to all interested parties, within the accepted norms of commercial confidentiality.	Available information Note this may include information on monitoring section 8 - 8.5.1
7.2.1, 8.4.1	The management plan is revised on a regular basis and incorporates the results of monitoring.	Management plan up to date Manager demonstrate awareness of results of monitoring/other sources of information.

4c Forest design and conservation zones

6.2.5 6.2.7 6.2.8 6.2.9 6.4.1	At least 10% of the management area is designated as a conservation zone, identified on maps, and managed with biodiversity as a major objective. The location of these zones shall: • includes examples of identified conservation features and habitat within the forest area protected in their natural state • maximise their contribution to the maintenance or enhancement of biodiversity • allow movement of key plant and animal species between conservation areas (e.g. by locating conservation zones along streamsides, up slopes and across ridges)	Maps Management planning documentation Field observation
6.2.4 6.2.6	At least half of this area (i.e. 5% of the total forest area) is designated as a protected area, identified on maps, and is protected from full commercial harvesting. This shall include any areas of special regional importance for biodiversity.	Maps Management planning documentation Field observation
6.10.1	Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion: a)entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit; and b)does not occur on high conservation value forest areas; and c)will enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation benefits across the forest management unit.	Management planning documentation Field observation

4d Fire

7.1.14 10.7.2	The need for fire management and control has been properly evaluated. In fireprone areas, or those in which fire is an integral feature of the ecology of the forest, there is an adequate fire management plan.	Discussions with manager Documented procedures

4e Budget

1.2.1, 8.2.8	There are clear accounts for the forest enterprise. Forest managers can provide evidence that applicable fees, royalties, taxes and other applicable charges have been paid.	Records of income and costs.
5.1.1 5.1.2 5.1.4 5.1.5 8.2.8	There is a work plan budget showing expected costs and revenues for at least the current financial year that shall: • be based on the expected rate of harvest of forest products and reasonable expectations of product value • specify costs associated with implementation of the social and environmental commitments. • incorporate stumpage, royalties or rents as required.	Budget

5 Forest production

5a Silviculture and growth and yield

5.6.1 6.3.1, 7.1.10 7.1.11 7.1.12	Silvicultural system The silvicultural system on which management is based is clearly stated and justified in terms of the ecology of the forest. Management prescriptions describe the relevant procedures, for example: • selection criteria of trees for felling; • method of marking trees or area selected for felling • identification and marking of trees to be retained for future extraction, as seed sources, or to	Management planning documentation Operational manuals Discussion with forest manager

	maintain biodiversity; • method of ensuring regeneration. The management plan and supporting documents shall provide rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection	
5.6.2 5.6.3 5.6.4 5.6.5 8.2.2	Growth and yield The expected level of harvesting on an annual basis, and in the long term (over more than one rotation) is clearly justified in terms of the permanently sustainable yield. All assumptions regarding regeneration, growth, abundance, quality and size distribution of the main commercial species are explicit, and in line with the best available data for the locality. Expected harvesting does not exceed local or regional expectations of sustainable yield.	Management planning documentation Operational manuals Growth models, information on regeneration of commercial species or programme to collect information for future management.
7.1.6	Inventory There is an evaluation of the timber resource (inventory), sufficient in detail and rigour to justify the planned harvesting for the full rotation, and to demonstrate convincingly that yields will be permanently sustainable in successive rotations.	Inventory data
6.3.5 6.3.6	Species and genetic diversity Management of the forest area as a whole is designed to ensure that the full complement of tree species regenerates successfully in the forest area over the duration of the rotation. Selective felling and thinning regimes are designed to maintain genotypic diversity.	Management planning documentation Operational manuals Discussion with forest manager
6.9.1 6.9.2 6.9.3	All use of exotic species is documented and justified. 6.9.2 Exotic species used are monitored to evaluate potential adverse ecological impacts. 6.9.3 In the event that adverse ecological impacts are identified control actions are implemented.	Management planning documentation Operational manuals Discussion with forest manager
6.8.3	No GMOs are used.	Management planning documentation

		Operational manuals Discussion with forest manager
6.3.2 6.3.3 6.3.4	Coupe size Forestry operations must, if appropriate to the silvicultural system, aim for a mixture of compartments differing in size, shape, species, and age structure, in harmony with the landscape and commensurate with the natural dynamics of the forest type under consideration. Systems which use small clearfell areas and selective felling have been considered	Management planning documentation Operational manuals Discussion with forest manager

5b Production diversity and local use

5.4.1 5.4.2	Managers are aware of the range of the forest's potential products and services (including 'lesser known' timber species, Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) and opportunities for forest recreation) and their importance to the local economy.	Discussion with managers
5.4.3 5.4.4	Managers have assessed the possibility of utilisation of forest services, lesser known species and NTFPs on their own account or by local enterprises and encourage the utilisation of lesser known species and NTFPs by local enterprises where this does not jeopardise other management objectives.	Discussions with mangers
5.2.1	Forest managers make a proportion of their production available to local enterprises, such as small-scale industries and processing operations, unless there is an over-riding reason preventing this.	Discussions with manger and local people Sales records

6 Forest operations

6a Harvesting

6.3.7	Biodiversity is routinely maintained by the retention of marginal habitats e.g. streamside vegetation, vegetation on rocky outcrops, swamps and heaths.	Management planning documentation Operational manuals

		Discussion with forest manager Field observation
6.3.8	Standing and fallen dead wood habitats are retained.	As above
5.3.1 6.5.6 6.5.7 6.5.8 6.5.9 6.5.10 6.5.11	Harvesting and extraction procedures minimise forest damage: • Protected areas are physically demarcated, at least temporarily, before any forest operations start on near by land • Buffer zones in which harvesting does not take place are established around all permanent watercourses • Harvesting machinery must not enter streams except at designated and designed stream crossings • Harvesting minimises damage to residual trees and regeneration • Lop and top may not be pushed into streams • Extraction is stopped when soils are saturated • The use of brash mats is specified, where appropriate	As above No excessive damage to residual stands
10.6.2	Plans and procedures for reforestation after harvesting are designed to minimise exposure of bare soil, and to ensure that trees are re-established as rapidly as possible.	As above
5.3.2	Timber is extracted and processed promptly after felling.	Discussion with forest manager Field observation

6b Roads and other mechanical disturbance

6.5.1 6.5.2 6.5.4 6.5.5	The following norms for the design and building and maintenance of roads and other mechanical disturbance are followed: • New roads are planned in advance on topographical maps showing existing streams • Roads are fitted to the topography so that a minimum of alterations to the natural features will occur • Wherever possible roads are located on natural benches, ridges and flatter slopes • Road construction in steep, narrow valleys, slip–prone or other unstable areas, natural	Written policies and procedures Field observation

	drainage channels and streamsides is minimised • Roads are not aligned through environmentally sensitive areas • Embankments and cuttings are stabilised to resist erosion • New roads are not constructed in streambeds (existing roads in streambeds are closed and replacements are constructed). • Stream crossings are planned before operations begin and shown on relevant maps • The number of stream crossings is minimised • Stream crossings are at right angles to the stream • Valley bottom roads and tracks are kept as far back from the stream as possible • Drains and culverts are designed to minimise erosion so they do not obstruct the migration of fish, create fast water velocities or stream beds unsuitable for fish • Drains do not drain into natural watercourses. Where this is unavoidable, regularly emptied silt traps are installed.	

6c Machinery

5.3.1 5.3.3 6.5.12	New harvesting and processing machinery is selected taking into account the need to minimise damage to soils, residual trees and regeneration and timber waste	Evaluation of recent purchases

6d Waste and pollution

6.7.1 6.7.2 6.7.3 6.7.4	Waste (chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic) is disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner. Disposal does not take place in watercourses or lakes or by burying.	Discussion with manager There is no evidence of waste left in the forest.
6.6.10	Fuel tanks and stores are located so that spillages from damage, defects or refuelling will not enter watercourses.	Site inspection

7 Training and health and safety

7a Training

4.2.3 6.5.3 6.5.13 7.3.1 7.3.2 7.3.3	All workers (including managers and supervisors) receive training relevant to their tasks and responsibilities. Training shall include: • safety issues, appropriate to the tasks of workers and the equipment used. • environmental protection (e.g. protection of water resources and prevention of erosion) and emergency procedures (e.g. pollution mitigation procedures)	Training records Discussions with workers

7b Health and safety

4.2.1	Managers are familiar with relevant health and safety guidelines and regulations.	Accessible copies of relevant documents Discussion with mangers
4.2.2	Managers have assessed the risk to workers of particular tasks and equipment, and take all reasonable measures to reduce or eliminate such risks.	Risk assessments carried out
4.2.4 4.2.5	Workers are provided with safety equipment, appropriate to the tasks of workers and the equipment used. Managers take reasonable measures to ensure that workers use any safety equipment that is provided.	Discussions with manager and workers Safety equipment in use.
4.2.6	Managers implement an accident reporting system that includes all work related accidents and deaths of employees, their causes, corrective action taken to prevent similar accidents in future.	Records
4.2.7	There are assured compensation benefits in case of accidents.	Documented protocol
4.2.8	Health and safety measures comply with national minimum requirements and ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry.	No evidence of non-compliance
4.2.9	Where workers stay in camps, conditions for accommodation and nutrition comply at least	Field observation

	with ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry	

8 Monitoring

8.1.1 8.1.2 8.1.3	There is a system for monitoring the impacts of forest operations appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Procedures are consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison and assessment of change.	Monitoring procedure Management plan Managers field notes/records Discussion with manager
7.1.13 8.2.5 8.2.1 8.2.3 8.2.4 8.2.7	Monitoring shall include: • Yields of all forest products harvested • Forest regeneration and growth. • The condition of the forest (post harvest stand condition, presence of pests, diseases, evidence of soil compaction, erosion etc) • The effects of forestry operations on plant and animal species, including aquatic habitats • Evidence of deterioration or disturbance of conservation areas (see 6.2) • Information related to environmental impacts e.g. water quality and flow and fish and wildlife populations.	Monitoring data Discussion with forest manager
8.1.4	Monitoring records are maintained in a well-ordered, up-to-date and accessible form.	Records
8.5.1	The results of the monitoring programmes are made available to all interested parties on request (within the accepted norms of commercial confidentiality, on request).	Available information Note this may be combined with public management plan 4b (7.1.1)

9 Chain of custody

8.3.1	Forest products that are sold as certified are readily identifiable as originating from the evaluated forest.	Physical marking of the timber A system of paper control Daily or weekly production records.
8.3.2	The forest management enterprise maintains control of the chain of custody of the timber up to the point of sale.	Documented procedure Felling/extraction/haulage records
8.3.3	Invoices issued for certified timber sales specify: • The source of the certified timber • the date of sale • the quantity of certified timber sold • the specifications (species, dimensions, quality) of certified timber sold • the point at which the buyer shall take control of the chain of custody of the certified timber • certificate code Invoices correspond to details on delivery documents	Invoices

10 Norms relating to specific forest types and management regimes

Does the management area contain High Conservation Value Forests[4]?	**Annex 1**
Does the management area contain plantations?	**Annex 2**
Are synthetic chemicals used?	**Annex 3**
Are biological control agents used?	**Annex 4**

Annexes

Annex 1 High Conservation Value Forests

9.1.3	Managers have assessed their forest for high conservation value attributes[1]. Areas identified as High Conservation Value Forests are marked on maps.	Maps Assessment/management plan
9.2.1	Forest managers should consult with relevant stakeholders on the identification of High Conservation Values and management options for any High Conservation attributes identified.	Discussion with forest manager Consultation results
9.3.1 9.3.2 9.3.3	Specific protection measures are detailed and implemented for identified High Conservation Value areas and/or attributes. The identified protection measures adopt a precautionary approach.	Management planning documentation Operational manuals

[4] **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 co-operation with such local communities).

The certification inspectors will place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and the options for their maintenance

	The identified protection measures are included in the publicly available management plan.	Discussion with forest manager Field observation
9.4.1	A programme of at least annual monitoring, appropriate to the size and vulnerability of the conservation attributes, is documented and implemented.	Monitoring programme and records

Annex 2 Plantations

10.1.1 10.1.2	Natural forest conservation and restoration are explicitly included within the objectives of plantation management. Strategies and procedures for achieving these objectives are effectively implemented.	Management planning documentation
10.2.1	Plantation management is designed to maintain or enhance characteristics of adjacent natural forest	Management planning documentation
10.2.2	There are documented policies and procedures which ensure that:: - a mosaic of stand ages and rotations are created and maintained; - wildlife corridors are provided; - where there are corridors of natural vegetation by streamsides or in gullies these are protected from planting and harvesting operations, and developed into streamside reserved areas;	Documented policies and procedures
10.2.3	Both general siting and internal design of plantations are in harmony with the landscape of the area.	Management planning documentation Field observations
10.3.1 10.3.2 10.3.3	Management planning includes evaluation of economic, ecological and social stability. Management promotes diversity of plantation size and distribution in the landscape. Management makes provision for:	Plantation design Species composition Age class distribution

10.3.4	• the use of a variety of tree species and provenances or other plants. • age and structural diversity of plantation in the landscape.	Range of products
10.4.1	There is a clear justification for the choice of species and genotypes chosen.	Discussion with managers
10.4.2 10.4.3 10.8.1	Where an exotic species has been selected: • The use of an exotic species must be explicitly justified • It must not be invasive. • There is no large scale planting of species that have not been shown to be appropriate to the site on the basis of local trials or experience	Documented justification and assessment
10.5.1 10.5.2	At least 10% of the area of the management area must be managed to enhance its natural characteristics and with biodiversity as a major objective.	See 4c
10.6.1 10.6.3	Means to protect soils are explicitly detailed in management plans or supporting documents	There is no evidence of site degradation in the field.
10.7.1 10.7.3	There is an integrated pest management strategy. This shall incorporate measures to control or eradicate exotic invasive plants.	Discussion with manager. Documented strategy
10.7.4	There is a strategy to minimise the use of chemical pesticides and fertilisers in plantations and nurseries.	Discussion with manager. Documented strategy
10.8.2	Plantations are not established on sites of important or sensitive ecosystems; areas of high or unique biological diversity; planned conservation or protection areas or where there are possible adverse effects on an important water catchment area.	Management planning documentation
10.9.1	The plantation is not established on land converted from natural forest after November 1st 1994 (but see 6.10 and 10.9), unless there is clear evidence that the current owner(s) and manager(s) were not directly or indirectly responsible for the conversion.	Evidence of previous land use

Annex 3 Chemicals

6.6.1	Documented pest, disease and weed control strategies are available.	Documented strategy
6.6.2	Procedures are in place to record all use of synthetic chemicals by the forest management enterprise Records of chemical use include: a) Name of the product b) Location of the site treated; c) Area of the site treated; d) Method of application; e) Date chemical use started; f) Date chemical use finished; g) Total quantity of the chemical used;	Records
6.6.3 6.6.4	Chemicals are only used when absolutely necessary to achieve defined management aims where there is no known non-chemical alternative not entailing excessive cost.	Discussion with manager
6.6.5	A procedure is in place to record the most appropriate non-chemical alternative that was considered and rejected prior to use of the synthetic chemical, together with the justification for use of the chemical rather than the non-chemical alternative.	Records
6.6.6 10.6.1	Chemicals are used only in minimum effective quantities, with strict observation of controls and regulations.	Records
6.6.7 6.6.8 6.6.9	The use or storage of chemical chemicals prohibited by FSC (see FSC-POL-20-602) on certified units is prohibited unless a derogation has been approved by FSC.	Documents Site inspection

6.6.9	Training and relevant equipment are provided to all operators.	Training records and equipment availability
6.6.11	All equipment for the transport, storage and application of chemicals must be maintained in a safe and leakproof condition.	Site inspection
6.6.12	Application of chemicals within 10m of watercourses and 30m around reservoirs and lakes is prohibited.	Documented procedure
6.6.13	Application if heavy rain is expected, during wet weather, on frozen snow–covered ground or ground which has baked dry during a drought is prohibited.	Documented procedure
6.6.14	Soaking of seedlings treated with chemicals in drains or watercourses prior to planting is prohibited.	Documented procedure

Annex 4 Biological control

6.8.1	There is a procedure in place for the documentation and monitoring of all use of biological control agents.	Documented procedure
6.8.2	Biological control agents are used only when absolutely necessary to achieve defined management aims as part of integrated pest management system (use of naturally occurring organisms is permitted).	Documented strategy