



Centralized National Risk Assessment for Latvia

FSC-CNRA-LV V1-1 EN

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Risk assessments that have been finalized for Latvia

Controlled Wood categories		Risk assessment completed?
1	Illegally harvested wood	YES
2	Wood harvested in violation of traditional and human rights	YES
3	Wood from forests where high conservation values are threatened by management activities	YES
4	Wood from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use	YES
5	Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted	YES

Risk designations in finalized risk assessments for Latvia

Indicator	Risk designation (including functional scale when relevant)
Controlled wood category 1: Illegally harvested wood	
1.1	Low risk
1.2	Low risk
1.3	Low risk
1.4	Low risk
1.5	N/A
1.6	Low Risk
1.7	Low risk
1.8	Low risk
1.9	Low risk
1.10	Low risk
1.11	Specified risk
1.12	Low risk
1.13	Low risk
1.14	N/A
1.15	N/A
1.16	Low risk
1.17	Low risk
1.18	Low risk
1.19	Low risk
1.20	Low risk
1.21	Low risk
Controlled wood category 2: Wood harvested in violation of traditional and human rights	
2.1	Low risk
2.2	Low risk
2.3	Low risk
Controlled wood category 3: Wood from forests where high conservation values are threatened by management activities	
3.0	Low risk
3.1	Low risk: State-owned forests, Other state managed forests Specified risk: Privately owned and municipal forests
3.2	Low risk
3.3	Low risk: State-owned forests, Other state managed forests Specified risk: Privately owned and municipal forests
3.4	Low risk
3.5	Low risk
3.6	Low risk: State-owned forests, Other state managed forests Specified risk: Privately owned and municipal forests
Controlled wood category 4: Wood from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use	
4.1	Low risk

Controlled wood category 5: Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted	
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5.1	Low risk
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Risk assessment

Controlled wood category 1: Illegally harvested wood

Overview

The definition of forest, forest types and functions are provided in the Latvian national Law on Forests. According to Law on Forests the land use type 'forest' defined as ecosystem dominated by trees in all stages of its development and land covered by forest, land under forest infrastructure facilities, as well as adjacent overflowing clearings, marshes and glades.

The total forest cover is 3.32 million hectares what constitute 51% of whole territory of Latvia (https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/01/06/16/Publiskais_parskats_2016.pdf). The largest portion (49%) of the forest area in the Republic of Latvia – 1.48 million hectares – is owned by the State. Private owners (natural persons) manage 35% of Latvian forests, with 14% owned by legal entities (legal persons). Municipalities have a 2% share in total forest land ownership. The State-owned company AS "Latvijas valsts meži" manages 1590 thousand hectares of forest land, of which forests constitute 1400 thousand hectares.

According to the data of the State Forest Register data (as of 31 December 2014), 2193.8 thousand ha or 71.8% of the forest area are commercial forests which are subjected to the legal regulations governing general forest management and its application. However, 862.8 thousand ha or 28.2% of the total forest area are composed of various protected territories, which are subjected to special management conditions. Most of the territories subjected to the special conditions are national level specially protected nature areas (hereinafter – SPNA), including, the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve, protection zones for environmental and natural resources, and micro-reserves. It should be pointed out that the conditions in respect to forest management in these protected areas are very different regionally: from the prohibition of forestry in the strict and regulated nature reserves or micro-reserves to open wood extraction in the North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve or other neutral zones of the SPNAs. Depending on the permissible forestry activity or restriction degree in respect to the conditions of final felling, the SFR data are divided into 6 groups by producing the following results which characterize the overall economic activity restrictions in forests: 1) forestry prohibited – 3.3% of the forests 2) prohibited thinning from a certain age of the trees and final felling – 2.3% of the forests 3) final felling prohibited – 1.2% of the forests; 4) clear felling prohibited – 6.9% of the forests; 5) none of the aforementioned prohibitions, but the territory is located in any of the protected areas – 14.5% of the forests 6) commercial forests outside of the protected areas - 71.8% of the forests. The same data grouped by the permissible applications of the forest provides the following overview: In 93.2% of the forests there are no restrictions in respect to forest management with an aim to extract wood; in 3.5% of the forests some certain thinning work is allowed until the trees have reached an age, which is followed by a wood extraction prohibition; in 3.3% of the forests any kind of wood extraction is prohibited for the purpose of nature conservation, except for those carried out as a part of specific species or habitat protection measures or within the framework of other specific activities (http://for-rest.daba.gov.lv/upload/File/GRAM_16_sugu_biotopu_apsaimn_mezos_EN.pdf).

Harvesting is regulated by the Law on Forests and the subsidiary normative regulations. In accordance with the Law on Forests, a Forest Management Plan must be prepared by each forest owner for each forest property, covering a period of 20 years. No felling activities (except sanitary felling) may be carried out

without a valid Forest Management Plan. In the development of the Forest Management Plan the forest owner must address the following principles: 1) steady and sustainable use of timber resources; 2) preservation of forest productivity and value; 3) forestry regulatory requirements.

Harvesting permits are issued by the State Forest Service, based on information contained in the Forest Management Plan. The control of compliance with the Law on Forests as well as Forest Management Plans is the responsibility of the State Forest Service. At a local level, compliance is ensured by regional State Forest Service offices. The State Forest Service and Latvian State Forestry Research Institute “Silava” carries out monitoring – at a national level – of timber harvesting and forest resources.

Following sources have been used; “World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicator” and Transparency International Corruption Perception Index, and referred to under “sources of Information” for each applicable sub-category.

The remaining sources were not found to be relevant for the legality risk assessment for Latvia. Latvia scores 57 on the CPI in 2016. Latvia scores 64 on the WB governance indicator for control of corruption, and this score is showing an increasing trend, which is why corruption in the forest sector is not considered a major issue.

Sources of legal timber in Latvia

Forest classification type	Permit/license type	Main license requirements (forest management plan, harvest plan or similar?)	Clarification
State forests, production forests	Harvesting Permit (Ciršanas apliecinājums)	Forest Management Plan	Waybills must contain information on wood origin and reference to harvesting permit (permit no.)
Private Forests, production forests	Harvesting Permit (Ciršanas apliecinājums)	Forest Management Plan	Harvesting permit, waybills must contain information on wood origin (loading place) and reference to harvesting permit (permit no.)
State or private owned forests in protected territories/conservation areas	Harvesting Permit (Ciršanas apliecinājums)	Management plan for protected territory, Forest Management Plan	Harvesting permit, waybills must contain information on wood origin (loading place) and reference to harvesting permit (permit no.)
State forests, production forests	Harvesting Permit (Ciršanas apliecinājums)	Forest Management Plan	Waybills must contain information on wood origin and reference to harvesting permit (permit no.)

Risk assessment

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
Legal rights to harvest			
1.1 Land tenure and management rights	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p><u>Laws</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Latvian Civil Code (28.01.1937) - Law on Land Reform in Rural Areas of the Republic of Latvia (21.11.1990) - Law on the Privatization of Land in Rural Areas (01.09.1992) - Law on Agrarian Land Reform in the Republic of Latvia (13.06.1990) - Law on Completion of Land Reform in Rural Areas of the Republic of Latvia (30.10.1997) - Land Register Law (22.12.1937) - Real Estate Cadastre Law (01.01.2006) - Law on Procedure for Registering the Real Estate in the Land Register (06.03.1997) - Law on Land Ownership Right of the State and the Local Governments and their Securing in the Land Registry (29.03.1995) - Law on Restoration of Ownership Rights On Land Occupied by Specially Protected Land Objects (14.09.1995) - Law on Compensation for Restrictions on Economic Activities in Protected Areas (01.06.2013) - Melioration Law (01.14.2010) - Protection Belt Law (11.10.2009) - Law on Forests (24.02.2000) 	<p>Legislation of the Republic of Latvia: http://www.likumi.lv</p> <p>Attitudes towards corruption Latvian April 2014 - Public opinion survey: http://www.knab.gov.lv/uploads/free/knab_lf_aptauja_2014.pdf</p> <p>Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index http://www.transparency.org/country#LVA</p> <p>Laws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=225418 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=72849 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=74241+H1 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=76206 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=45729 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=60460 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=124247 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=42284 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=34595 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=36974 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=256138 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=203996 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=42348 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=2825 <p>Normative regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=144278 	<p>Low risk</p> <p>The land property registration process in Latvia is regulated by several laws and regulations. Land tenure rights can be officially registered in the Land Register only if a natural person or legal entity provides relevant documents confirming the legal ownership rights. Normally these include identification documents such as passport, ID card, company registration documents, sales/purchase contracts, court decisions or other documents proving the legal right to own property.</p> <p>There is no evidence available to indicate that land rights have been issued in violation of these regulations. There is no evidence to suggest corruption has been associated with the process of issuing land tenure and management rights.</p> <p>The latest survey (April 2014) concerning the perception of corruption in Latvia, organized by the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB), shows that the State Land Service and the Land Register institution are among the ten State institutions most trusted by the general public (i.e. the institution is considered "fair" or "rather fair" in terms of corruption).</p> <p>Considering this and the continuously increasing score of the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (CPI=57 in 2016) over the last 5 years, the risk is considered as low.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p><u>Normative regulations:</u> - Cabinet Regulation No. 776 "Order of Expropriation of State Forest Land" (19.09.2006)</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>The State Land Service, a subordinated institution to the Ministry of Justice</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Land Register Certificate (Zemesgrāmatas apliecība)</p> <p>Personal identification documents</p> <p>Company Registration License</p> <p>Certificate of Self-employed or Certificate of Operator</p>		
1.2 Concession licenses	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>N/A. Concession licenses are not used in forest management in the Republic of Latvia</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>N/A</p>	N/A	<p>Low risk</p> <p>Forest concessions in state forests are no longer practiced in Latvia, however there are few concession contracts still in force, expiring in coming years. In the beginning of nineties State Forest Service practiced establishing so-called Long-term Logging Contracts (LLC), a rudimentary form of concession contract in State forests. The duration of Long-term Logging contracts was set for 10-20 years. Logging contracts initially entailed providing logging services only for the State Forest Service, but later were amended with additional requirements for other forestry</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>N/A</p>		<p>works, such as forest regeneration, thinning etc. Long-term Logging contracts required parties to provide harvesting works for 50% of harvesting works quantities and the other half the harvester was allowed to sell in the market as a compensation. In late 90ties issuing new Long-term Logging contracts were suspended due to inconsistency of this practice to national legislation requirements.</p> <p>Two principal contrarities include: 1) price for service was administratively fixed in normative legislation; 2) LLC envisage forestry works are conducted based on barter deals that is inconsistent to a number of national legislation acts ranging from accountancy, tax to labour legislation. Newly established Joint-stock company Latvijas Valsts meži took over all Long-term Logging Contracts with all binding conditions in 1999. Due to administratively set prices in the LLC, the company suffered losses from implementation of detrimental contracts in market conditions.</p> <p>As a result, Cabinet of Ministers Order Nr. 508 as of 12 August, 2003 was adopted and established VAS LVM in year 2004 not to enter into new Long-term logging contracts, as well as new contracts for the purchase of felling areas for 2004 on the basis of Long-term logging contracts that have ended in 2002 and 2003 or the renewed logging contracts of 2001.</p> <p>There is no information on registered municipal or church forest concessions in the country.</p>
1.3 Management and harvesting planning	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p><u>Laws:</u> - Law on Forests (24.02.2000)</p>	<p>Website of the Ministry of Agriculture: www.vmd.gov.lv</p> <p>Attitudes towards corruption Latvian April 2014 - Public opinion survey: http://www.knab.gov.lv/uploads/free/knab_if_aptauja</p>	<p>Low risk</p> <p>A valid Forest Management Plan is required for each forest property (cadaster unit). No forest management activities can be carried out without a valid Forest Management Plan. Forest Management Plans can be</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>- The State Forest Service Law (25.11.1999)</p> <p>Normative Acts:</p> <p>- Cabinet Regulation No. 384 "Regulations regarding Forest Inventory and Information Flow in the State Register of Forests" (21.06.2016)</p> <p>- Cabinet Regulation No. 935 "On Procedures for Tree Felling in Forest Lands" (18.12.2012)</p> <p>- Cabinet Regulation No. 309 "On Tree Felling in Non-forest Lands" (18.12.2012)</p> <p>- Cabinet Regulation No. 936 "Nature Protection Regulations in Forest Management" (18.12.2012)</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture, State Forest Service</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Forest Management Plan</p> <p>Harvesting permit</p>	<p>2014.pdf</p> <p>Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index http://www.transparency.org/country#LVA</p> <p>Laws:</p> <p>- http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=2825</p> <p>- http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=14594</p> <p>Normative Acts:</p> <p>- http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=255162</p> <p>- http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=253760</p> <p>- http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=247350</p> <p>- http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=253758</p>	<p>prepared by approved forest inventory experts; both natural and legal persons and a list of approved experts is publicly available. The content and quality of Forest Management Plans prepared by experts is routinely checked by a legal authority such as officers within the regional State Forest Service office under whose jurisdiction the particular forest property falls. Experts are obliged to adhere to certain quality criteria.</p> <p>Forest Management Plans must be reviewed once every 20 years. Forest Management Plans are not publicly available and third parties do not have access to them. The Forest Management Plan includes spatial data, plans and stand maps that include information on harvesting areas.</p> <p>The control of the compliance with the Forest Act is generally under the responsibility of State Forest Service. On a local level, compliance is checked by regional offices of the State Forest Service. Frequent auditing and verification of Forest Management Plans and taxation data is carried out by the State Forest Service experts.</p> <p>The current system of oversight of the regional offices by the State Forest Service provides a good mechanism to minimize corruption in the preparation of Forest Management Plans. Cases of low quality Forest Management Plans impacted by corruption or low quality taxation work that have negative effects on forest management and harvesting planning are not widespread due to the robust quality control system.</p> <p>The latest survey (April 2014) concerning the perception of corruption in Latvia, organized by the Corruption Prevention and Combating Bureau (KNAB), shows that</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
			<p>the State Land Service and the Land Register institution are among the ten State institutions most trusted by the general public (i.e. the institution is considered "fair" or "rather fair" in terms of corruption).</p> <p>There is a positive trend regarding bribery of public officials. As evidenced by the mentioned 2014 survey on corruption prevalence, the number of citizens willing to bribe public officials declined substantially: if in 2007 25% of the respondents rejected the idea of bribing an official for any purpose, this figure had risen to 40.2% in 2014. (OECD, 2017)</p> <p>Considering this and the continuously rising score of the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index for Latvia over the last 5 years (49 in 2012, 53 in 2013, 55 in 2014, 55 in 2015, 57 in 2016), the risk is considered as low.</p>
1.4 Harvesting permits	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p><u>Applicable Laws:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law on Forests (24.02.2000) - The State Forest Service Law (25.11.1999) - Law On Inventory of Trees and Round Timber (16.12.2004) <p><u>Normative regulations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Regulation No. 935 "On Procedures for Tree Felling in Forest Lands" (18.12.2012) - Cabinet Regulation No. 309 "On Tree Felling in Non-forest Lands" (18.12.2012) 	<p>Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index http://www.transparency.org/country#LVA</p> <p>Bureau of irregularities criticized the "Latvian State Forests" official: http://m.focus.lv/latvija/112/knab-par-parkapumiem-izteicis-aizradijumu-latvijas-valsts-mezu-amatpersonai</p> <p>National Integrity System Assessment of Latvia: http://issuu.com/transparencyinternational/docs/2011_nis_latvia_en?e=2496456/2548351#search and in Latvian http://issuu.com/transparencyinternational/docs/2011_nislatvia_lv?e=2496456/3306430</p> <p>PĀRSKATS PAR KORUPCIJU UN</p>	<p>Low risk</p> <p>Prior to performing logging activities, every forest owner must obtain a harvesting permit. The institution responsible for issuing harvesting permits is the State Forest Service. A harvesting permit is issued by a professional forestry official (a forester) in accordance with the requirements of the relevant forest legislation. The principal requirement for obtaining a harvesting permit is that the forest owner has a valid Forest Management Plan, including a full forest inventory. Prior to issuing a harvesting permit, the State Forest Service specialists randomly check whether the situation in relation to the forest property conforms to the legislation requirements. A felling permit is not issued in 1% of cases of application.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>- Cabinet Regulation No. 384 "Regulations regarding Forest Inventory and Information Flow in the State Register of Forests" (21.06.2016)</p> <p>- Cabinet Regulation No.647 "Procedure for Forest Stand Evaluation" (25.06.2009)</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture, State Forest Service</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Forest Management Plan;</p> <p>Harvesting permit</p>	<p>PRETKORUPCIJAS POLITIKU LATVIJĀ, 2012: http://providus.lv/upload_file/Korupcijas%20C_Nr_10.pdf</p> <p>State Forest Service statistical reports:</p> <p>2016: https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/01/06/16/Publiskais_parskats_2016.pdf</p> <p>2015: https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/00/84/06/Publiskais_parskats_2015.pdf</p> <p>2014: https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/00/61/87/VMD_PUBLISKAIS_PARSKATS_2014.pdf</p> <p>2013: https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/00/43/07/VMD_PUBLISKAIS_PARSKATS_2013.pdf</p> <p>2012: https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/00/24/98/VMD_PUBLISKAIS_PARSKATS_2012.pdf</p> <p>2011: https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/00/21/05/VMD_PUBLISKAIS_PARSKATS_2011.pdf</p> <p>2010:</p>	<p>A harvesting permit is not required for certain types of felling works, i.e. pre-commercial thinning, cutting of dead and windfall trees, maintenance of forest clearings etc. There has been a significant effort to implement tighter controls over illegal logging in Latvia. The number of cases of illegally harvested wood was reduced from 2000–3000 per year in the period 2000 to 2005, to around 400 cases in the years following 2005, with some illegal logging still occurring. The number of illegal logging cases has been stable over the past six years (2010–2016), ranging from 322–663 cases per year, with an extreme of 663 cases in 2014. In 2016, 434 cases of illegal logging were detected in both State and private forests, corresponding to 8869 m³ of illegally logged wood. The volume of illegally harvested wood ranges from 8.9 thousand to 20.6 thousand m³ per year. The share of illegally felled wood in 2016 was similar in private and public forests. Judicial statistics for the year 2016 provide the details of the persons who have been convicted by the Criminal Law Article 109 "Illegal felling and damaging of trees". According to the statistics, in four cases people were convicted of illegal tree felling and damage.</p> <p>According to statistical data provided by the State Forest Service, the share of known illegally logged wood in Latvia ranges from 0.08%–0.17% of the total felled timber volume over the last 6 year period (2010-2016). The ratio has been relatively stable, although the latest available data for the years 2015 and 2016 show a slight decrease in volume of illegally logged wood.</p> <p>The risk of corruption of forestry officials is minimized through implementation of control over the issued harvesting permits and control of completed forestry works. Considering the current score on the Corruption</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
		<p>https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/00/21/04/VMD_PUBLISKAIS_PARSKATS_2010.pdf</p> <p>Applicable Laws: - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=2825 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=14594 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=98597</p> <p>Normative regulations: - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=253760 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=247350 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=255162; - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=194226</p>	<p>Perception Index (CPI=57) and the continuously increasing score of the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index for Latvia over the last 5 years (49 in 2012, 53 in 2013, 55 in 2015, 57 in 2016), the very low volume of illegally harvested timber, and lack of reports of corruption in the State Forest Service, the risk is considered as low.</p>
Taxes and fees			
1.5 Payment of royalties and harvesting fees	Applicable laws and regulations N/A. There are no forest harvesting-specific fees such as royalties, stumpage fees and other volume-based fees in the Republic of Latvia. There are also no fees based on quantities, qualities and species. Legal Authority N/A Legally required documents or records N/A	N/A	N/A
1.6 Value added	Applicable laws and regulations	State Revenue Service: www.vid.gov.lv	Low Risk

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
taxes and other sales taxes	<p><u>Laws:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law on Taxes and Fees (02.02.1995) - Law on Value Added Tax (29.11.2012) - Administrative Procedure Law (01.02.2004) <p><u>Normative legislation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Regulation No. 17 "Application of Requirements of Law on Value Added Tax and Specific Requirements for Payment and Administering of Value Added Tax" (03.01.2013) - Cabinet Regulation No. 40 "Regulations on Declaring of the Value Added Tax" (15.01.2013) - Cabinet Regulation No. 237 "Declaration of Transactions in Cash" (10.04.2007) - Cabinet Regulation No. 178 "Procedures for Application of Tax Relief Determined in International Agreements for Prevention of Double Taxation and Tax Evasion" (30.04.2001) - Cabinet Regulation No. 149 "Procedures for Crediting the State Budget Current Payable Taxes and Overdue Tax Payments" (18.04.2000) - Cabinet Regulation No. 103 "Procedure for Transfer of Taxes, Stamp Duties and Other Compulsory Payments to the State Budget" (18.04.1995) - Cabinet Regulation No. 82 "Provisions 	<p>Shadow Economy Index in Baltic States 2009–2016. Stockholm School of Economics Riga Sustainable Business Centre: http://www.sseriga.edu/files/content/sseriga_enuekon_omikasindekss_2009_2016.pdf</p> <p>http://www.sseriga.edu/en/centres/csb/shadow-economy-index-for-baltics/</p> <p>State Revenue service thematic review of the forestry sector: https://www.vid.gov.lv/sites/default/files/meza_nozares_apskats%202014.pdf</p> <p>Laws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=33946 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=253451 <p>Normative legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=254172 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=254279 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=155755 	<p>The Value Added Tax (VAT) legislation specifies the rights, obligations and liability of tax authorities and taxable persons, as well as setting out the procedures for tax proceedings.</p> <p>Value added tax (VAT) must be paid by all persons (both natural and legal) having annual turnover from their business higher than 50,000 EUR per annum. As of 2018 the reduced VAT registration threshold 40 000 EUR per annum is in force. According to statistical data (2015) from the State Revenue Service (Valsts ieņēmumu dienests), forestry sector accounts for 4.5% of all taxpayers – commercial entities – legal and individual persons whose primary business is forestry or wood processing industry related. 26% of commercial entities working in the forestry sector are Value Added Tax payers. (State Revenue Service, 2015)</p> <p>According to State Revenue Service data 2194 natural and legal persons - forest owners (NACE2 code 02 - forestry) out of 135 thousand private forest owners (data source: "Privāto mežu apsaimniekošanas un meža īpašumu konsolidācijas un kooperācijas procesa monitorings", MRPI Silava - https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/ck/files/ZM/mezhi/MAF/PARS_KATS_Privato_mezu_apsaimniekosana_Silava.pdf) are VAT payers. Thus, the share of VAT payers in the private forest owners constitute 1.6%.</p> <p>The VAT is one of main sources of government revenue. Latvia is ranked in top 5 EU countries (EU 27) regarding the share of revenues from collection of VAT. The EU commissioned study on VAT gaps (Together legal - policy gap - and illegal deals) in EU member states shows that Latvia had a very high VAT gap in the midst of economic crisis (2010-2011), but since then the gap is gradually decreasing and a downward trend is exhibited.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>on state fees for forestry and hunting, game activities” (11.02.2014)</p> <p>- Cabinet Regulation No. 1514 “Procedure for registering a taxpayer applying for a refund of value added tax in another Member State of the European Union and the procedure for the refund of value added tax to a taxable person established in another Member State of the European Union” (01.01.2014);</p> <p>- Cabinet Regulation No. 1507 “Procedure for the refund of value added tax to a taxable person registered in a third country or a third territory” (01.01.2014)</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>State Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Statement from the State Revenue Service for the payment of taxes</p> <p>Online VAT Payers Register http://www6.vid.gov.lv/VID_PDB/PVN</p> <p>Tax debt online registers: - The State Revenue Service:</p>		<p>Forestry sector in the country is in advantageous situation with regard to minimization of risk of VAT laundering because of specific measures that have been introduced to avoid the evasion of VAT tax in timber trade business. The specific situation in Latvia is that reverse VAT payment mechanism has been introduced and is effective since 1999. Requirements of EU Directive 2006/112/EC paragraph 395 outline a number of measures targeted at avoiding the VAT tax evasion and VAT laundering. Special tax application arrangement in timber and timber product supplies, namely, the reverse VAT payment mechanism is in force for roundwood, sawnwood and co-product sales and services related to the preparation of timber (including surveying, measuring, evaluation, cutting, trimming and stacking of standing trees and roundwood etc). Reverse VAT charge mechanism has also been applied to sales of wood chips and sawdust as of 2016. Starting from 2018 reverse VAT have been introduced for construction materials. Therefore, reverse VAT covers almost all timber products. Reverse VAT in practice means that supplier of products or services issues a tax invoice to the recipient in which the value of products or services is indicated excluding tax. A recipient pays the value of products or services to the supplier and the amount of VAT to the state on behalf of supplier. Reverse VAT charge mechanism in forestry sector is considered as an effective mean to reduce VAT evasion in the view of tax administration authorities and various stakeholders (forest managers, timber processing industry, wood product traders). According to State Revenue Service VAT laundering in forest sector is low. In 2014, there were 78 forest sector taxpayers (2.2% of all taxpayers who submitted VAT</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	http://www6.vid.gov.lv/VID_PDB/NPAR - Lursoft register: http://www.lursoft.lv		declarations) that included partners with features of fictitious companies in their declarations of input tax for VAT. This results in unjustified increase of input tax and the amount of VAT refunded from the budget but the trend is downward from 20.71 million EUR in 2011 (17.63 million EUR in 2012, 13.27 million EUR in 2013) to 3.16 million EUR in 2014 which is 0.1% of all the amount included in declarations as an input tax by forest sector taxpayers. Additional argument to be considered as factor for risk minimization, is control over the measurement of roundwood by industry acknowledged independent 3rd party institution in wood surveying, although, this excludes small primary wood processing facilities. Given the above mentioned, the risk for this indicator is evaluated as low.
1.7 Income and profit taxes	Applicable laws and regulations <u>Laws:</u> - Law On Corporate Income Tax (09.02.1995, 28.07.2017, amendments 01.01.2018) - Law On Personal Income Tax (11.05.1993) - Law on Taxes and Fees (02.02.1995) - Administrative Procedure Law (01.02.2004) <u>Normative Acts:</u> - Cabinet Regulation No. 981 "Regulations On Declaration of Taxation Period for Income Tax and Calculation of Advance Payment" (20.12.2011) - Cabinet Regulation No. 556 "Application of Norms of Law On	State Revenue Service: www.vid.gov.lv Shadow Economy Index in Baltic States 2009–2016. Stockholm School of Economics Riga Sustainable Business Centre: http://www.sseriga.edu/files/content/sseriga_enuekon_omikasindekss_2009_2016.pdf http://www.sseriga.edu/en/centres/csb/shadow-economy-index-for-baltics/ State Forest Service statistical reports: 2016: https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/01/06/16/Publiskais_parskats_2016.pdf 2015: https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/00/84/06/Publiskais_parskats2015.pdf	Low risk Legislation related to corporate and personal profit taxes is in place. The legislation specifies rights, obligations and liability of tax authorities and taxable persons, as well as procedures for tax proceedings. Institutional framework has been established with centralized responsible institution – the State Revenue Service (Valsts ieņēmumu dienests). Payment of income and profit taxes is closely related to the share of the shadow economy in Latvia. Recent studies show that the shadow economy in Latvia amounts to one-fifth of the total economy. According to the latest study (Shadow Economy Index in Baltic States 2009–2016, Stockholm School of Economics in Riga Sustainable Business Centre) the shadow economy index in Latvia accounted for 20.3% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2016. The index of shadow economy has been decreasing over the last six years, i.e. from 38.1% at the height of the economic crisis in 2010 to 20.3% in 2016.

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Corporate Income Tax" (04.07.2006) - Cabinet Regulation No. 568 "Regulation On Personal Income Tax Declaration and Order of Filling the Declaration" (21.08.2012) - Cabinet Regulation No. 899 "Application of Norms of Law On Personal Income Tax" (21.09.2010, amendments 30.08.2013) - Cabinet Regulation No. 677 "Regulation On Declaration of Personal Income Tax" (25.08.2008, amendments 06.12.2011) - Cabinet Regulation No. 573 "Procedure for Transfer of Personal Income Taxes, Overdue Payments and Penalties into the State Budget" (29.06.2004) - Cabinet Regulation No. 676 "Regulations on the amount of the untaxed minimum wage and calculation of tax relief for Personal Income Tax" (01.01.2018); - Cabinet Regulation No. 780 "Regulations on the supplementary declaration of income, revenues, cash and other provisions, property and changes in their value forms and the procedure by which the State Revenue Service, on the basis of calculation, determines the taxable income of a tax payer person's income" (27.09.2006) - Cabinet Regulation No. 390 "Procedure for the State Revenue Service to provide</p>	<p>2014: https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/00/61/87/VMD_PUBLISKAIS_PARSKATS_2014.pdf</p> <p>2013: https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/00/43/07/VMD_PUBLISKAIS_PARSKATS_2013.pdf</p> <p>2012: https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/00/24/98/VMD_PUBLISKAIS_PARSKATS_2012.pdf</p> <p>2011: https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/00/21/05/VMD_PUBLISKAIS_PARSKATS_2011.pdf</p> <p>2010: https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/00/21/04/VMD_PUBLISKAIS_PARSKATS_2010.pdf</p> <p>OECD data on tax revenues http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/91b75873-en</p> <p>Laws: - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=34094 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=56880</p>	<p>Other studies also show similar trends of substantial positive changes (i.e. reducing of shadow economy for almost a half in size). Source: Shadow Economies around the World: New Results for 158 Countries over 1991-2015 by Leandro Medina and Friedrich Schneider - http://www.econ.jku.at/members/Schneider/files/publications/2017/JointPaper_LeandroMedina_158countries.pdf. The authors of the study (Shadow Economy Index in Baltic States 2009–2016, Stockholm School of Economics in Riga Sustainable Business Centre) on the shadow economy and the State Revenue Service consider the following priority sectors of economy, characterized with highest share of shadow economy: construction, retail, wholesale, public transport and services sector. Forestry sector is not considered among the riskiest sectors, though. The main driving forces behind the shadow economy is profit omission and (income) tax avoidance ('envelope wages'), which remain major problems in the view of the authors of this survey.</p> <p>Income tax (applicable to natural persons - forest owners) Since 2010 natural persons - forest owners are liable to pay effective income tax of 5% (logs) or 7,5% (standing timber) of the amount received when timber is sold by a natural person to a legal entity. The income tax is paid by the legal person purchasing the roundwood. If wood is sold by an individual entrepreneur of a timber sales business, then income tax is paid by that person once a year through the income declaration process. The income tax declaration is coordinated by the State Revenue Service. One quarter of income tax is deducted for forest regeneration purposes, in case the forest owner sells the standing wood. In the case of a forest owner selling their own harvested timber, up to 50% of income</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>local governments with information on personal income tax payments” (18.11.2000);</p> <p>- Cabinet Regulations No. 93 “Provisions on Information to be Included in the Income Tax Declaration” (17.02.2018)</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>State Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Statement from the State Revenue Service for the payment of taxes</p>		<p>tax is deducted from the revenue for forest regeneration, timber preparation and sales expenses. Once a year, forest owners are required to provide information to the State Forest Service regarding their commercial operations, including timber production and sales. This information is verified by the State Revenue Service. Tax reform in 2010 is considered as contributing factor in reducing evasion of income tax in private forest sector as the income tax revenues had been increasing since the end of 2000s with growing value of transactions in the timber market.</p> <p>The total value of timber transactions is 141 million EUR (in 2014) (source: the State Revenue Service). Low level of income tax evasion level in forestry sector can be supported by the analysis of timber sales data in state forests compared to private forest sector. The analysis of sales data shows the standardised value of timber in state forests and private owned forests does not differ substantially. In particular, the comparison of the value of standing timber in 2014 in state forests was 32.2 EUR/m³ and 34.9 EUR/m³ in private forests (Source: analysis by Latvian Forest Industry Federation based on State Revenue Service and State Forest Service data).</p> <p>Profit tax (applicable to legal persons)</p> <p>Recent changes in tax legislation introduced a new approach in the tax payment process, aiming at reducing profit tax laundering.</p> <p>Starting from 2018, profit tax in Latvia applies to dividends and non-commercial activities but does not apply to reinvested income. Such experience was brought to Latvia from Estonia, where this type of tax payment has significantly reduced the risk of avoiding the profit tax payments (http://www.riseba.lv/sites/default/files/inline-files/UIN_book_block_09.02.2017_Cover.pdf).</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
			<p>There is still a possibility for income tax laundering in timber sales for small businesses and between natural persons, where timber has been illegally harvested or sold without declaring. However, very low Personal Income Tax rates are discouraging such incentives and the volume of timber sales between natural persons is low compared to the overall scale of logging and timber sales, and it is likely to include mostly smaller companies in terms of turnover and thus amount of unpaid taxes is therefore small. Larger companies are controlled more often and are subject to additional auditing requirement.</p> <p>The official statistics of illegally harvested wood show the share of illegally harvested wood is negligible. According to statistical data provided by the State Forest Service, the share of known illegally logged wood in Latvia ranges from 0.08%–0.18% of the total felled timber volume over the last 6 year period (2010–2016). The ratio has been relatively stable, and the latest available data for 2016 shows even a slight decrease in the known volume of illegally logged wood.</p> <p>In addition to this, there are already mechanisms elaborated and implemented to combat income tax evasion in the forestry sector, namely, there is a relatively low threshold of Personal Income Tax; and exclusion of Personal Income Tax from timber sales revenues that are invested in forest regeneration. 7.5% and 5% effective rates of Personal Income Tax for private forest owners are considered reasonably low to be a motive for fraud in the view of interviewed stakeholders. These measures in the view of stakeholders representing forestry and timber processing sector and state authorities provide a reasonable incentive for forest owners to pay taxes.</p> <p>An additional argument to be considered as factor for risk minimization, is control over the surveying of roundwood</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
			<p>by an industry-acknowledged independent 3rd party institution.</p> <p>Income tax from salaries The overall scale of the shadow economy in the country and the “envelope wage” (income and social tax evasion) issue is highly relevant according to the authors of the study (Shadow Economy Index in Baltic States 2009–2016, Stockholm School of Economics in Riga Sustainable Business Centre). The situation is similar with neighbouring countries (Estonia, Lithuania) where the risk designation for this indicator is low. Outcomes of shadow economy study shows personal income and social tax evasion rates in Baltic countries are similar. Envelope wages in 2016 in all three Baltic countries are also at a relatively similar level (in the range of 15.4%-18.1% of wages). At the height of economic crisis Latvia was in worst situation among Baltic countries with the share of envelope wages reaching as high as 35% (Shadow Economy Index in Baltic States 2009–2016, Stockholm School of Economics in Riga Sustainable Business Centre), but since the 2012 the differences have gradually leveled out due to reducing tax evasion rate in Latvia. Tax revenue statistics shows instant increase in collected taxes (total Tax revenues) since the height of economic crisis in 2010. Specifically, collected revenues of income, profits and capital gains taxes show growing trend both at corporate and individuals level since the height of economic crisis in 2010. (OECD data on tax revenues for Latvia, http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/taxation/data/revenue-statistics/latvia_91b75873-en). According to State Revenue Service information the number of employees receiving minimum wage has been decreasing since 2012.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
			<p>Wages in forest sector had been increasing instantly since the economic crisis in 2009 - 2012. Average salary in the forest sector had increased by 60% (538 EUR in 2009, 861 in 2017) during last 7 year period and reached the average salary in the country (source: State Revenue Service https://www.vid.gov.lv/lv/iekszemes-nodoklu-maksataju-darba-deveju-nodarbinato-darba-nemeju-menesa-videjie-darba-ienakumi).</p> <p>State Revenue Service data shows small companies and individual commersants are in group with highest risk in relation to personal income tax and social security tax evasion. The situation had improved with introduction of special tax system for small commercial entities (up to 5 workers, maximum turnover 40000 EUR) - microenterprise tax. Microenterprise tax is applied to the turnover of the company (9% effective rate until 2017, 15% effective rate after the year 2017) and comprise the income tax.</p> <p>There are 2200 registered microenterprises in forestry sector, covering most of small companies and individual commersants - contractors (logging companies, companies providing various forestry services - thinning works, forest regeneration works, forest inventory etc.).</p> <p>There is an assumption that part of those microenterprises have legalised the operation with help of microenterprise status.</p> <p>The government has launched a nation-wide, cross-sectoral program focusing on minimization of the share of shadow economy with aim of reaching average level of EU by 2020. The State Revenue Service had been implementing the measures to reduce the share of shadow economy scale since 2012. The State Revenue Service had initiated a number of amendments to tax legislation, to combat shadow economy. Among other measures there are special mechanisms envisaged to reduce income tax for small wages.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
			<p>The risk for this indicator is evaluated as low risk due to following considerations:</p> <p>1) existing surveys on shadow economy do evaluate level of shadow economy as well as level of the tax avoidance for main sectors of the Latvian economy. Shadow economy studies reveal and mention economy sectors characterized with highest share of shadow economy. Forestry and timber processing are not mentioned as economy sectors with high or very significant contribution to shadow economy;</p> <p>2) forestry sector is in advanced position compared to other sectors of economy with regard to minimizing tax avoidance because of several anti-tax avoidance mechanisms, effectively implemented already in tax legislation, reformed and extensive accounting requirements for timber in national legislation;</p> <p>3) The government has launched a nation-wide, cross-sectoral program focusing on minimization of the share of shadow economy with aim of reaching average level of EU by 2020. This includes microenterprise tax and no application of profit tax on reinvested income.</p>
Timber harvesting activities			
1.8 Timber harvesting regulations	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p><u>Applicable Laws:</u> - Law on Forests (24.02.2000)</p> <p><u>Normative regulations:</u> - Cabinet Regulation No. 935 "On Procedures for Tree Felling in Forest Lands" (18.12.2012) - Cabinet Regulation No. 309 "On Tree Felling in Non-forest Lands" (18.12.2012) - Cabinet Regulation No. 936 "Nature</p>	<p>State Forest Service statistical reports: www.vmd.gov.lv</p> <p>Applicable Laws: - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=2825</p> <p>Normative regulations: - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=253760 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=247350 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=253758 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=255162</p>	<p>Low risk</p> <p>The principal legal acts that regulate timber harvesting are the Law on Forests and subsequent Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 935 "On Procedures for tree felling in forest lands". The Regulations outline the requirements for the minimum rotation age and diameter for final felling depending on tree species and forest growth type; and the minimum basal area for intermediate felling, maximum area for clear-cut, requirements for clear-cut plot configuration and layout, sanitary felling, landscape felling and deforestation felling. The Regulations also provide requirements for nature protection: biodiversity trees,</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Protection Regulations in Forest Management" (18.12.2012) - Cabinet Regulation No. 384 "Regulations regarding Forest Inventory and Information Flow in the State Register of Forests" (21.06.2016)</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>State Forest Service, Ministry of Agriculture</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Felling Permit - Harvesting Works Contract - Technological map - Harvesting Works Acceptance Act 		<p>deadwood, preservation of regrowth and local undergrowth tree and bush species, admixture of deciduous species, and situations when the clear-cut felling method is prohibited. Regulations articulate procedures for plot preparation for felling and procedures for the issuing of harvesting permits.</p> <p>The State Forest Service periodically controls forest operations on felling sites and completed logging sites. There is no information on substantial violations of the applicable legislation such as would constitute for Specified risk.</p>
1.9 Protected sites and species	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p><u>Laws:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental Protection Law (02.11.2006) - Law on Forests (24.02.2000) - Law on Specially Protected Nature Territories (02.03.1993) - Law on the Conservation of Species and Biotopes (16.03.2000) - Law on Compensation for Restrictions on Economic Activities in Protected Areas (04.04.2013) - Animal Protection Law (09.12.1999) - Law on International Plant Protection 	<p>Ministry of Agriculture: www.vmd.gov.lv</p> <p>Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia: www.vidm.gov.lv</p> <p>State Forest Service statistical reports (2010–2013): http://www.vmd.gov.lv/valsts-meza-dienests/statiskas-lapas/publikacijas-un-statistika/publiskais-parskats?nid=1048#jump</p> <p>Web Tool of Article 17 of Biogeographical Assessments of Conservation Status of Species and Habitats under Article 17 of the EU Habitats Directive:</p>	<p>Low risk</p> <p>There is an extensive network of protected areas in the Republic of Latvia. In total there are 683 nature protected areas and objects, including large scale protected areas such as Biosphere Reserves (one area), National Parks (four areas), Nature parks (42 areas), Landscape Protected Areas (nine areas), sea protected territories (seven areas) and small scale areas such as National Nature Reserves (four areas), National Reserves (261 areas), National Nature Monuments (355 objects). For protection of individual species or habitats outside protected areas, micro reserves are established. The State Forest Service is the responsible institution for establishing micro reserves in all forests irrespective of</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Convention (05.06.2003) - Law on Rio de Janeiro Convention on Biological Diversity (31.08.1995, amendments 08.09.1995) - Law on Convention for the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats, Bern, 1979 (17.12.1996, amendments 03.01.1997) - Law on Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, Paris, 1972 (17.02.1997, amendments 26.02.1997) - Law on International Plant Protection Convention (05.06.2003) - Law on European Landscape Convention (29.03.2007)</p> <p><u>Normative Acts:</u> - Cabinet Regulation No. 936 "Nature Protection Regulations in Forest Management" (18.12.2012) - Cabinet Regulation No. 507 "Regulation on Nature Protection Board" (02.06.2009) - Cabinet Regulation No. 264 "General Regulations on Protection and Use of Specially Protected Nature Territories" (16.03.2010) - Cabinet Regulation No. 396 "Regulation Regarding the List of Specially Protected Species and Specially Protected Species of Limited Use" (14.11.2000) - Cabinet Regulation No. 421 "Regulation Regarding the List of</p>	<p>http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/habitat/report/?period=3&group=Forests&country=LV&region=</p> <p>Laws: - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=147917 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=2825 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=59994 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=3941 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=256138</p> <p>Normative Acts: - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=253758 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=193117 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=207283 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=12821 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=13405 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=253746 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=155227 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=155228 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=177511 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=177513 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=155223 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=76604 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=22697 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=20122 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=20123 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=20124 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=5773 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=179511</p>	<p>ownership type. A total of 2307 microreserves with a total area of 41 thousand ha was in place in 2016. Ninety-three percent of microreserves are established in state forests, with 7% in private forests. 88% of microreserves are established for protection of bird habitats, the rest accounting for protection of biotopes (habitats), endangered plant species, lichens, moss, fungi and invertebrates.</p> <p>Requirements for nature conservation in protected areas is provided in the Management Plan of the protected area. The Management Plan document is approved by Nature Conservation authorities: Ministry of Environment, administrators of protected areas (National parks), Nature Conservation Agency (Dabas aizsardzības pārvalde) and its regional offices. After approval of the Management Plan for a particular territory, nature conservation requirements are incorporated into a specific normative legislation document: Management Rules for a particular protected territory, which is binding on forest owners within the protected area. Microreserves are established based on an application by the forest owner or a third person and reviewed and approved by the State Forest Service.</p> <p>No detailed statistics on illegal logging in protected territories is available. The State Forest Service compiles statistics on total cases of illegal logging irrespective of forest protection status. Information from the Court Decision Register (available at http://www.tiesas.lv/nolemumi) show that there was 1 convicting criminal case proceeding for illegal logging in protected areas in 2016. The total volume of illegally logged timber amounts to less than 2 m3. This represents 0.5% of 434 total illegal logging cases identified by the State Forest Service in year 2016. According to</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Specially Protected Habitats” (05.12.2000)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Regulation No. 940 “Procedure for establishment, management and protection status of micro reserves and their buffer zones” (18.12.2012) - Cabinet Regulation No. 211 “Regulation on The List of Bird Species Subject to Special Habitat Protection Measures to Ensure the Survival and Reproduction in Population Area” (27.03.2007, amendments 31.03.2007) - Cabinet Regulation No. 212 "Regulation on The List of Bird Species Not Covered by The Prohibited Acts" (27.03.2007) - Cabinet Regulation No .468 “List of Invasive Alien Plant Species” (30.06.2008) - Cabinet Regulation No. 467 “Regulations Regarding Restriction of the Distribution of Invasive Alien Plant Species” (30.06.2008) - Cabinet Regulation No. 213 “Regulation Regarding Criteria for Assessing Impact Significance of the Damage to the Specially Protected Species or Specially Protected Habitats” (27.03.2007) - Cabinet Regulation No. 69 “Regulation on Protected Landscape Areas” (23.02.1999) - Cabinet Regulation No. 83 “Regulation on Nature Parks” (09.03.1999) - Cabinet Regulation No. 212 		<p>information from the State Forest Service, a total of 576 requests to initiate criminal or administrative proceedings against violation of forest legislation were initiated by the State Forest Service officials. The statistics clearly does not reveal all cases of illegal logging, also it does not reflect initiated criminal proceedings. However, the statistics show that volumes of illegally logged wood in protected areas are small relative to the total volume of illegally harvested wood. The scale of the issue is small and thus the risk level is considered low.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>“Regulation on Nature Reserves (Sequel 1)” (15.06.1999) - Cabinet Regulation No. 212 “Regulation on Nature Reserves (Sequel 2)” (15.06.1999) - Cabinet Regulation No. 212 “Regulation on Nature Reserves (Sequel 3)” (15.06.1999) - Cabinet Regulation No. 131 “Regulation on Protected Dendrological Plantations” (20.03.2001) - Cabinet Regulation No. 559 “Regulations Regarding Restricting the Spread of the Invasive Plant Species – Heracleum sosnowskyi Manden” (14.07.2008)</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>State Forest Service, Ministry of Agriculture</p> <p>Nature Conservation Agency, Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>- Management plan for protected territory - Forest Management Plan - Application for establishing the micro reserve and inventory form</p>		

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	- Decision on establishing the micro reserve		
1.10 Environmental requirements	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p><u>Applicable Laws:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law on Forests (24.02.2000) - Law on the Conservation of Species and Biotopes (16.03.2000) - Protection Belt Law (05.02.1997) <p><u>Normative Acts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Regulation No. 936 "Nature Protection Regulations in Forest Management" (18.12.2012) - Cabinet Regulation No. 507 "Regulation on Nature Protection Board" (02.06.2009) - Cabinet Regulation No. 284 "Method of Determining Protection Belts for Waterbeds and Watercourses" (04.08.1998) - Cabinet Regulation No. 457 "Method of Establishing Protection Belts along Railways" (15.12.1998) - Cabinet Regulation No. 162 "Method of Establishing Protection Belts for Roads" (10.04.2001) - Cabinet Regulation No. 63 "Method of Establishing Forest Protection Belt around Urban Centres" (04.02.2003) - Cabinet Regulation No. 93 "Protection of Hydropower Station's Hydro Technical Structure Safety Measuring Devices and Method of Establishing Protection Belts" 	<p>Nature Conservation Agency: www.daba.gov.lv</p> <p>Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia: www.vidm.gov.lv</p> <p>- State Forest Service statistical reports (2010–2016): http://www.vmd.gov.lv/valsts-meza-dienests/statiskas-lapas/publikacijas-un-statistika/publiskais-parskats?nid=1048#jump</p> <p>Applicable Laws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=2825 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=3941 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=42348 	<p>Low risk</p> <p>Environmental requirements applicable to forestry are listed in Forestry and Nature Conservation laws and related normative legal acts. The State Forest Service and Nature Protection Board are institutions responsible for controlling of fulfilment of these laws. The main environmental issues reported by controlling institutions are forest soil damage, damage by game, uncontrolled waste dumps.</p> <p>The State Forest Service periodically controls the implementation of legislation targeting protection of natural values, objects and protected areas. Annual reports show that identified violations of environmental protection regulations in forest management comprise a minor share of total cases. Environmental violations comprise 5% of the total number of violations of forestry-related legislation (up to 36 cases per year in the last five years). There is a trend of decreasing number of cases of violation of environmental requirements in the last 4 years, i.e. 52, 50, 30 and 20 cases in the period from 2013 - 2016.</p> <p>Based on the reports produced by the above authorities, it is evident that there is no identified systematic and/or large-scale non-compliance with legally required environmental protection measures to an extent that threatens the forest resources or other environmental values. The magnitude of environmental issues in forestry is considered small scale and is not considered as specified risk.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>(25.02.2003) - Cabinet Regulation No. 392 "Method of Establishing Protection Belts (Protection Zones) for Cultural Heritage" (15.07.2003) - Cabinet Regulation No. 43 "Method of Determining Protection Belt around Water Sources" (20.01.2004) - Cabinet Regulation No. 86 "Method of Determining Protection Belt for Coast of The Baltic Sea and The Riga Gulf" (17.02.2004) - Cabinet Regulation No. 982 "Methodology for Determination of Power Infrastructure Protection Belts" (05.12.2006) - Cabinet Regulation No. 131 "Method of Establishing Protection Belts Around Dams" (20.02.2007) - Cabinet Regulation No. 406 "Methodology for the Determination of Surface Water Body Protection Zones" (03.06.2008) - Cabinet Regulation No. 502 "Method of Establishing Protection Belts around Cemeteries" (29.12.1998) - Cabinet Regulation No. 1312 "Regulation on Restricted Operations in Protection Belt Around National Defense Facilities" (10.11.2009) - Cabinet Regulation No. 85 "Procedure for Determining Type and Extent of Compensation for Damages, Calculation of Losses Related to Installation of Walking Routes and - Retractions of</p>		

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Property Rights in Protection Belt of The Baltic Sea and The Riga Gulf" (26.01.2010) - Cabinet Regulation No. 258 "Regulation on Method of Establishing The Operational Protective Zone around The Drainage Structures and Devices in Agricultural Land and Forest Land" (02.05.2012) - Cabinet Regulation No. 508 "Regulation on Protection Belts and Their Width around National Defense Facilities" (27.06.2006) - Cabinet Regulation No. 599 "Method of Establishing Security Protection Belts along The Railways Carrying Oil, Oil Products and Hazardous Chemicals and Products" (18.07.2006)</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>State Forest Service, Ministry of Agriculture</p> <p>Nature Conservation Agency, Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technological map; - Harvesting permit; - Forest Management Plan 		

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
1.11 Health and safety	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p><u>Laws:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Labour Protection Law (20.06.2001) - The Labour Law (20.06.2001) - Plant Protection Law (17.12.1998) <p><u>Normative Acts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Regulation No. 310 “Labour Protection Requirements in Forestry” (02.05.2012) - Cabinet Regulation No. 372 “Labour Protection Requirements When Using Personal Protective Equipment” (20.08.2002) - Cabinet Regulation No. 189 “Labour Protection Requirements when coming into Contact with Biological Substances” (21.05.2002) - Cabinet Regulation No. 378 “Procedures on Calculation, Financing and Disbursement of Work Injury Compensation” (23.08.2001) - Cabinet Regulation No. 66 “Labour Protection Requirements for Protection of Employees from the Risk Caused by the Noise of the Work Environment” (04.02.2003) - Cabinet Regulation No. 284 “Labour Protection Requirements for the Protection of Employees from the Risk Caused by Vibration in the Work Environment” (13.04.2004) - Cabinet Regulation No. 325 “Labour 	<p>State Labour Inspectorate statistical data: http://www.vdi.gov.lv/lv/par-mums/parskati</p> <p>Eurostat data: http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Health_and_safety_at_work_statistics</p> <p>Work Conditions and Risks in Latvia, 2012–2013 (http://stradavesels.lv/Uploads/2014/07/18/Work_conditions_and_risks_in_Latvia_2012_2013.pdf)</p> <p>Laws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=26020 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=26019 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=51662 <p>Normative Acts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=247351 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=65619 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=53426 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=87137 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=157382 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=164271 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=196653 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=214608 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=181871 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=214922 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=65158 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=69282 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=98770 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=241853 	<p>Specified risk</p> <p>The Labour Protection Law provides the legal framework for the occupational health and safety system in Latvia. This includes the rights and obligations of an employer and an employee in creating and ensuring a working environment that is safe for health; the system governing occupational health and safety in organizations; and the procedures relating to challenges and liability for violation of occupational health and safety requirements. Implementation of occupational health and safety legislation is monitored and controlled by the State Labour Inspectorate which collects data on work-related accidents and regularly monitors and reports occupational health and safety compliance statistics relating to companies in different sectors of the economy.</p> <p>According to State Labour Inspectorate data, the wood harvesting and silviculture sector (further referred as forestry sector), which is relevant to the scope of the risk assessment with 20–25 accidents per year ranks in the top 20. As per statistical data, timber harvesting and silviculture sector accounts for 6–7 major injuries per year in average. In year 2015 there were three lethal injuries, two in 2016. In absolute terms, the timber harvesting and silviculture sector accounts for 1-2% of all registered injuries in the workplace.</p> <p>According to the study by the NGO – Employers Confederation of Latvia (Employers Confederation of Latvia, “TNS Latvia Ltd.” and Institute for Occupational Safety and Environmental Health of Rīga Stradiņš University - RSU DDVVI. Work Conditions and Risks in Latvia, 2012-2013) the main issues related to the implementation of the occupational health and safety</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Protection Requirements when Coming in Contact with Chemical Substances at Workplaces” (15.05.2007)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Regulation No. 660 <p>“Procedures for the Performance of Internal Supervision of the Work Environment” (02.10.2007)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Regulation No. 950 <p>“Procedures for Investigation and Registration of Accidents at Work” (25.08.2009)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Regulation No. 359 “Labour Protection Requirements in Workplaces” (28.04.2009) - Cabinet Regulation No. 713 <p>“Regulations Regarding Procedure for Providing Training on First Aid and on Minimum of Medical Materials in First Aid Kits” (03.08.2010)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Regulation No. 803 “Labour Protection Requirements in Contact With Carcinogenic Substances in the Workplace” (10.03.2009) - Cabinet Regulation No. 749 <p>”Regulations Regarding Training in Labour Protection Matters” (10.08.2010)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Regulation No. 344 “Labour Protection Requirements, when Moving Heavy Loads” (06.08.2002) - Cabinet Regulation No. 526 “Labour Protection Requirements when using Work Equipment and Working at a Height” (09.12.2002) - Cabinet Regulation No. 1064 <p>“Procedures for Classification, Labeling</p>		<p>legislation in the forestry, agriculture and fisheries sector companies are the following: companies lack trained occupational health and safety specialists (39% of verified companies); companies do not undertake physical and chemical measurements of risk factors (49% of cases); work equipment is not safely used and maintained; employees do not use the personal protective equipment (PPE) provided, suggesting lack of supervision by employer; and employees do not take the compulsory medical examination (40% of cases).</p> <p>Authors of the survey note the relatively few occupational environment measurements at workplace in the forestry sector companies. In the view of the authors of the study, it could be linked to low perception of significance of quality of occupation environment by employers. It is also suggested that the industry is not fully aware of the importance of occupational environment measurements, as well as preventive measures to be taken (including mandatory health checks) in the context of occupational risk assessment. Self-employment is mentioned as contributing risk factor since self-employed persons are considered being at higher risk with regard to not following OH&S legal requirements compared with other type of entrepreneurship forms.</p> <p>It is concluded, that with regard to the number of accidents at the workplace, the forestry sector is still regarded as a priority sector. It is recommended that the State Labour Inspectorate should carry out regular thematic checks in the forestry sector.</p> <p>Eurostat data on accidents per 1000 forestry workers in Latvia is less than 2 (accidents per 1000 workers), which is significantly lower than the average in other EU countries and slightly better than in the other Baltic</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>and Packaging of Plant Protection Products" (28.12.2004) - Cabinet Regulation No. 950 "On Using and Handling of Plant Protection Products" (13.12.2011)</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>State Labour Inspectorate, Ministry of Welfare</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Occupational Health and Safety Plan - Occupational Health and Safety Risk Assessment at Workplace; - Occupational Health and Safety instructions and Procedures; - Worker H&S instruction records; - Health check records; - Records of OHS measurements; - License (Nodarbinātā apliecība) issued by contractor to persons working in the forest; - Worker qualification documents (trimmer, chainsaw operator, tractor and self-propelled forest machinery driving license etc.) 		<p>countries. Employers' Confederation of Latvia in their report "Work Conditions and Risks in Latvia, 2012–2013" link the low rate of accidents to accident under-reporting. Companies in the forestry sector are very likely underreporting minor accidents happening in the workplaces, since the number of minor accidents is not correlating with the number of serious accidents, thus the total number of accidents should be higher than reported.</p> <p>Also the consulted stakeholders raised a hypothesis that the substantial difference between the Baltic countries and the European Union may be explained by under-reporting of accidents, resulting in incapacity of work for less than 7 days. The hypothesis can be explained by comparing the respective Eurostat data. Regardless of that the accident rates (resulting of incapacity of work for more than 7 days) are lower in the Baltic countries and in particular - in Latvia, compared to the other EU countries.</p> <p>Available official (Eurostat data on non-fatal accidents at work (http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-datasets/-/hsw_n2_01); fatal accidents at work (http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-datasets/-/hsw_n2_02); employment by sex, age and detailed economic activity (http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-datasets/-/lfsa_egan22d)) data shows accident ratio in the forestry sector is similar to the average accident ratio in the country (all sectors). This can be considered a good indication, given that forestry is considered as an industry with high risk of accidents. It is also assumed increasing mechanization of forestry works and decreasing share of manual labour over the last years has contributed significantly to reduction of number of accidents at work. The assumption is supported by the fact that no cases of fatal accidents or heavy injuries related to mechanised</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
			<p>forestry works were revealed from public summaries of State Labour Inspectorate reports from 2014 to 2018. All registered heavy and fatal accidents in forestry works were associated with manual labour.</p> <p>Arguments in favour of “low risk” include the fact of increasing mechanization of harvesting works, i.e. majority of harvesting works are carried out with forestry machinery. In particular, up to 80% of harvesting works are carried out by mechanical means (timber harvesting and forwarding machinery). But taking into consideration outcomes of the forestry sector company survey and opinion of OH&S experts, the risk level cannot be designated uniformly “low risk” for all operations in the forestry sector as the situation may vary significantly among the companies working in the forestry sector. For example, OH&S records for self-employed persons (or employees of microenterprises) involved in forest harvesting and thinning works may differ significantly compared to professional harvesting companies. Heavy and fatal accidents are associated with manual labour in harvesting and thinning works primarily.</p> <p>Based on the information above the risk for this indicator is evaluated as “specified risk”.</p>
1.12 Legal employment	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p><u>Laws:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Labour Law (20.06.2001) - Law on State Social Insurance (01.10.1997) - Law on Compulsory Social Insurance in respect of Accidents at Work and Occupational Health (11.02.1995) <p><u>Ratified International Labour</u></p>	<p>State Labour Inspectorate statistical data: http://www.vdi.gov.lv/lv/par-mums/parskati/</p> <p>Shadow Economy Index in Baltic States 2009–2013. Stockholm School of Economics Riga Sustainable Business Centre: http://www.sseriga.edu/files/content/sseriga_enuekonomikasindekss_2009_2012.pdf</p> <p>Labor Inspectorate report 2013: http://www.vdi.gov.lv/files/parskats_2013.pdf</p>	<p>Low risk</p> <p>The Labour Law sets an obligation for the employer and employee to enter into a written contract of employment prior to commencement of work. With a contract of employment the employee undertakes to perform specific work, subject to specified working procedures and orders of the employer, while the employer undertakes to pay the agreed remuneration and to ensure fair and safe working conditions that are not harmful to health. A signed employment contract is the basis for obligatory social</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p><u>Organization (ILO) Conventions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law on ILO Conventions No. 81, 129, 144, 154, 155, 158, 173 (15.06.1994) - ILO C100 Equal Remuneration Convention (1993.01.27) - ILO C87 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Conventions (1993.01.27) - ILO C98 Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention (1993.01.27) - ILO C138 Minimum Age Convention (2007.06.02) - ILO C182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (2007.06.02) - ILO C29 Forced Labour Convention (2007.06.02) <p><u>Normative Acts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Regulation No. 10 “Regulations regarding Work in which Employment of Children from the Age of 13 is permitted” (08.01.2002) - Cabinet Regulation No. 206 “Regulations regarding Work in which Employment of Adolescents is prohibited and Exceptions when Employment in such Work is Permitted in Connection with Vocational Training of the Adolescent” (28.05.2002) - Cabinet Regulation No. 665 “Regulation Regarding Minimum Monthly Wage and the Minimum Hourly Wage” (30.11.2010, amendments 27.08.2013) - Cabinet Regulations No. 50 	<p>Work Conditions and Risks in Latvia, 2012–2013 (http://stradavesels.lv/Uploads/2014/07/18/Work_conditions_and_risks_in_Latvia_2012_2013.pdf)</p> <p>Laws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=26019 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=45466 <p>Ratified International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=57421 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=71606 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=171016 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=171016 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=209219 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=132859 <p>Normative Acts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=57347 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=62644 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=259405 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=21903 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=53426 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=101364&search=on - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=66827 	<p>security payments. In addition to signed contracts, employees working in forestry sector companies are obliged to have an Employee License/Card (Nodarbinātā apliecība) issued by the contractor. The Employee License/Card must be present on site in the forest as a proof of legal employment.</p> <p>Official statistics from the State Labour Inspectorate do not provide information on cases of illegal employment in the forestry sector. The statistics are available for the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors combined. Agriculture and fisheries sectors are often mentioned as risk sectors related to illegal employment.</p> <p>According to information from the State Labour Inspectorate, cases of illegal employment in all three sectors combined have decreased in past 4-5 years, and a downward trend is exhibited. According to statistical data there were 248 revealed cases of illegal employment in 2013, 247 in 2014 and 185 and 157 cases in 2015 and 2016 accordingly. That makes around 0.8% of total employees in agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector.</p> <p>The Labor Inspectorate reports in the last thematic review: “It is evident that unregistered employment within its classical meaning tend to decline”. It is indicative of the fact that still more companies operating up to now in the “shadow economy” started fully or partly formalize employment legal relations as laid down in the regulation included in regulatory enactments (Labor Inspectorate report 2016).</p> <p>The World Bank's assessment shows that illegal employment is falling in the private sector. In year 2009 the share of illegal labour was 9%, and 4% in 2014.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>“Procedures for Calculation and Allocation of Insurance Compensation for Compulsory Social Insurance in Respect of Accidents at Work and Occupational Diseases” (16.02.1999., amendments 22.07.2011) - Cabinet Regulation No. 378 “Procedures On Calculation, Financing and Disbursement of Work Injury Compensation” (23.08.2001, amendments 06.01.2007) - Cabinet Regulation No. 99 “Regulations regarding the Types of Commercial Activities in which an Employer shall Involve a Competent Authority ” (08.02.2005, amendments 01.01.2010) - Cabinet Regulation No. 427 “Procedures for the Election of Trusted Representatives and the Activities Thereof” (17.09.2002)</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>State Labour Inspectorate, Ministry of Welfare</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>- License (Nodarbinātā apliecība) issued by contractor to persons working in the forest (must be present at site); - worker qualification documents (trimmer, chainsaw operator, tractor and</p>		<p>(source: Conference “Tax Forum 2016” organized by the Ministry of Finance).</p> <p>There are 2200 registered microenterprises in forestry sector, covering most of small companies and individual commersants - contractors (logging companies, companies providing various forestry services - thinning works, forest regeneration works, forest inventory etc.), which have legalised the operation with help of microenterprise status.</p> <p>The official data from State authorities and surveys of non-government organizations does not provide grounds for justifying the risk as ‘specified’, thus the risk level for this indicator is designated as ‘low risk’.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	self-propelled forest machinery driving license etc.)		
Third parties' rights			
1.13 Customary rights	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p><u>Laws:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Latvian Civil Code (28.01.1937) - Law on Forests (24.02.2000) - Hunting Law (08.07.2003) <p><u>Normative Acts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Regulation No. 421 "Hunting Regulations" (22.07.2014) - Cabinet Regulation No. 889 "Terms of deforestation compensation criteria for determining and calculating the reimbursement arrangements" (18.12.2012) <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>State Forest Service, Ministry of Agriculture</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Hunting agreement/ contract concluded between user of hunting rights and the land owner</p>	<p>State Forest Service statistical reports (2010–2016): http://www.vmd.gov.lv/valsts-meza-dienests/statiskas-lapas/publikacijas-un-statistika/publiskais-parskats?nid=1048#jump</p> <p><u>Laws:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=225418 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=2825 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=77455 <p><u>Normative Acts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=267976 	<p>Low risk</p> <p>The Law on Forests allows free access to the forest, as well as free movement in the forest unless it is explicitly prohibited by the owner. According to the legislation, people are allowed to be in private forest and in State forest to pick berries and other non-timber products (except in strict nature reserves). To camp or make a fire in the forest, additional permission is necessary from the land owner.</p> <p>Regarding hunting rights, associations of hunters need to obtain a hunting agreement for the forest property, with the forest owner. The hunting agreement outlines principal rights and obligations of hunters with regard to game management within the particular forest property.</p> <p>The applicable legislation (the Hunting Law) is generally followed, but there are some exceptional cases of small-scale violations, such as game enclosures; however the magnitude does not constitute specified risk.</p> <p>The State Forest Service controls the implementation of the Hunting Law and compiles statistics on hunting-related cases of violation. Statistical data show that there are about 117–160 cases of violation of game law and hunting regulations from 2012 till 2016. It has to be acknowledged however that the majority of violations are related to violations of the hunting regulations per se. Identified cases of illegal hunting are relatively small.</p> <p>No information is available on cases of violation of other customary rights such as rights to use non-timber forest resources. Given the facts above, the risk level for this indicator is assessed as low.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
1.14 Free prior and informed consent	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>N/A</p>	N/A	N/A
1.15 Indigenous peoples rights	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p>N/A. There are no indigenous people as defined in UN definitions in Latvia.</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>N/A</p>	N/A	N/A
Trade and transport			
1.16 Classification of species, quantities, qualities	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p><u>Laws:</u></p> <p>- Law on Inventory of Trees and Round Timber (16.12.2004)</p> <p><u>Normative Acts:</u></p> <p>- Cabinet Regulation No. 744 "On</p>	<p>Laws:</p> <p>- http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=98597</p> <p>Normative Acts:</p> <p>- http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=166033</p>	<p>Low risk</p> <p>There is legislation in place that specifies the requirements for roundwood measurement and accounting. Normative regulations specify procedures for roundwood tracking at temporary storage sites, as well as roundwood accounting and the requirements for supporting documentation. Regulations also specify requirements for roundwood</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Accounting of Timber and Roundwood" (06.11.2007)</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State Forest Service, Ministry of Agriculture - State Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Timber measurement act</p>		<p>tracking at permanent storage locations and requirements for relevant supporting documents. The Regulations also specify requirements for roundwood measurement and operators working in roundwood measurement field. Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 744 requires the application of Latvian National Standard LVS 82:2003 "Roundwood measurement" in roundwood measurement and volumetric operations in the Republic of Latvia.</p> <p>The largest wood processing companies in Latvia use independent 3rd party wood surveyor services, thus minimizing the issue of corruption in roundwood measurement and accounting. It is considered a substantial mean in corruption prevention and risk minimization.</p> <p>There is no information on substantial violations of the applicable legislation such as would constitute specified risk.</p>
1.17 Trade and transport	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p><u>Laws:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Law on Carriage by Road (23.08.1995) - Law on Carriage by Railroad (21.12.2000) - Law on Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) (19.05.1956, amendments 14.04.1994) - Law on Additional Protocol to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) Concerning the Electronic Consignment Note (17.12.2009) 	<p>Laws:</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=36720</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=1192</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=57846</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=202993</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=33946</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=74479</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=73839</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=68183</p>	<p>Low risk</p> <p>The legislation specifies requirements for transport documents. Each truck transporting domestic wood must have the delivery note that describes the origin and quantity of the material transported and details of consigner and consignee.</p> <p>If timber is transported to/from abroad by road then according to the Convention on the Contract for the International Carriage of Goods by Road (CMR) the waybill must be present. In the case of sea transport, relevant sea shipping documentation (Bill of Lading), as required by international maritime law, must be present.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>- Law on Taxes and Fees (02.02.1995)</p> <p><u>Normative Acts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 225 "Procedure for Combined Commercial Cargo Transport, A combined Multimodality or with a Hired Vehicle, as well as Requirements for Intermodal Cargo Documents" (29.04.2003) - Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 158 "Regulations on Railroad cargo delivery" (08.04.2003) - Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 506 "Rules for acceptance of goods by rail" (04.11.2002) - Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 533 "Terms of lading filling procedure for rail freight" (18.12.2001) - Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 70 "Rail freight terms" (04.02.2003) - Cabinet Regulation No. 17 "Application of Requirements of Law On Value Added Tax and Specific Requirements for Payment and Administering of Value Added Tax" (03.01.2013) <p>Legal Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State Customs Office, Ministry of Finance - State Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance 	<p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=71052</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=254172</p>	<p>Road Police routinely check transport documentation and verify the weight of the load on the road. Inspections are frequent and function effectively. There is no information on substantial violation of the applicable legislation such that would constitute specified risk.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Delivery notes, transport documents: waybills, Carriage of Goods by Road (CMRs), Bill of Lading etc.</p>		
1.18 Offshore trading and transfer pricing	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p><u>Laws:</u> - Law on Corporate Income Tax (09.02.1995) (http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=34094); - Law on Personal Income Tax (11.05.1993) (http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=56880)</p> <p><u>Normative Acts:</u> - Cabinet Regulations No. 276 "On Low or Zero Tax Countries and Territories" (26.06.2001) (http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=25839); - Cabinet Regulation No. 556 "Application of Norms of Law On Corporate Income Tax" (04.07.2006) (http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=139741)</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>State Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p>	<p>Tax information exchange portal: http://www.eoi-tax.org/jurisdictions/LV#default</p> <p>International transfer pricing 2012 – Report by PriceWaterhouseCoopers: http://download.pwc.com/ie/pubs/2012_international_transfer_pricing.pdf</p> <p>International transfer pricing rules, Latvia: http://www.pwc.com/gx/en/international-transfer-pricing/assets/latvia.pdf</p> <p>Peer Review Report, Phase 1: Legal and Regulatory Framework – Latvia http://www.eoi-tax.org/jurisdictions/LV#latest</p> <p>Global transfer pricing review, Latvia: http://www.kpmg.com/Global/en/IssuesAndInsights/ArticlesPublications/Documents/gtps-2012/latvia.pdf</p> <p><u>Laws:</u> - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=34094 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=56880</p> <p><u>Normative Acts:</u> - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=25839 - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=139741</p>	<p>Low risk</p> <p>The adoption of the Latvian Corporate Income Tax (CIT) Act in 1995 established a requirement that transactions with related parties comply with the arm's-length principle. Since then, the development of transfer pricing law has been relatively slow. However, recently the Latvian State Revenue Service (SRS) has started to actively tackle the transfer pricing issue and a set of supporting regulations has been developed.</p> <p>Latvia became OECD member in 2016. Latvia has exchange of information relationships with 92 jurisdictions through 57 Double Taxation Conventions (DTCs), two Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs) and one multilateral mechanism, and is a signatory to the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters.</p> <p>The Law on Corporate Income Tax regulates offshore trading in Latvia. There is a list of offshore countries specified by the Cabinet of Minister Regulations No. 276 "On Low or Zero Tax Countries and Territories" (26.06.2001). Different legislation taxation rules apply to companies registered in offshore countries.</p> <p>The requirements for the Transfer Pricing documentation set in the Transfer Pricing Rules are based on Transfer</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>Latvian law currently does not require Latvian companies to have appropriate transfer pricing documentation, in place that provides a reasonable calculation of prices applied to related party transactions.</p> <p>On a tax audit, however, the SRS may demand transfer pricing documentation or other documents showing that the company's transfer prices are arm's length. In that case, the taxpayer is expected to provide appropriate transfer pricing documentation within 10-30 days after receiving a request from the SRS.</p>		<p>Pricing Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and Tax Administrations prepared by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. The regulations of the Transfer Pricing documentation in the European Union are laid down in the Code of Conduct on Transfer Pricing Documentation for Associated Enterprises in the European Union approved by the Council of the European Union.</p> <p>Law enforcement related to offshore trade and transfer pricing is regulated and monitored by the State Revenue Service. There is no evidence that Offshore Trading and Transfer Pricing pose a specified risk in Latvia. The SRS has established a separate central team specializing in transfer pricing issues.</p> <p>If regional tax auditors face a difficult transfer pricing issue or if their decision is appealed, then they may seek assistance from the central transfer pricing team. In the last few years there have been some court cases dealing with disputes between taxpayers and the SRS relating to transfer pricing issues. Based on the increasing number of transfer pricing investigations over the past year, the number of cases brought before the court is expected to increase. In the absence of developed transfer pricing auditing practices, there is no particular industry or transaction having any larger transfer pricing risk than others, qualifying for exemption, or governed by stricter rules than others.</p> <p>Based on the available information, this indicator is assessed as low risk.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
1.19 Custom regulations	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p><u>Laws:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Customs Law (18.03.2004) - Plant Protection Law (17.12.1998) <p><u>Normative Acts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet of Minister Regulations No. 370 "Terms of Customs Pre-clearance operations" (09.05.2005) - Cabinet Regulations No. 1048 "Regarding a Simplified Declaration and Local Clearance, Status of the Authorized Consignor and Authorized Consignee, Single Authorization and Certificate of the Authorized Merchant" (16.11.2010) - Cabinet Regulations No. 333 "Regulations Regarding a Single European Union Economic Operator Registration and Identification Number" (6.04.2010) - Cabinet Regulations No. 556 "Regulation concerning the handling, transfer and storage process wastages" (14.08.2007) - Cabinet Regulations No. 218 "Regulations regarding Plant Quarantine" (30.03.2004), <p>Legal Authority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - State Customs Office, Ministry of Finance 	<p>Laws:</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=86611</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=51662</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=134802</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=221563</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=207786</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=163727</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=87577</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=86611</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=51662</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=134802</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=221563</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=207786</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=163727</p> <p>http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=87577</p>	<p>Low risk</p> <p>Custom legislation covering areas such as roundwood export, product classification (codes, quantities, qualities and species) is in place as specified in Customs Law and respective normative acts.</p> <p>The Custom authority of The Republic of Latvia has enforced strict customs control at different levels, including sample checks of product classification, product value evaluations and product country of origin evaluations. Latvia is following EU regulations on import product classification.</p> <p>There is no information available to indicate that there is a specified risk in this indicator.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>- State Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Customs documents</p> <p>Phytosanitary certificate</p>		
1.20 CITES	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p><u>Laws:</u></p> <p>- Law "On 1973 Washington Convention On International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" (17.12.1996) (http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=41732)</p> <p><u>Normative Acts:</u></p> <p>- Cabinet Regulation No.133 "Procedure for International Trade with Endangered Wild Animal and Plant Species (06.04.1999) (http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=23405);</p> <p>- Cabinet Regulation No. 1139 "Procedures On Storage, Registration, Keeping in Captivity, Labeling, Trade and Issuing of Certificates for Wild Species Endangered by the International Trade" (06.10.2009) (http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=198890);</p> <p>- Cabinet Regulations No. 1019 "Regulations governing permissions and certificate issuing state fees, fee</p>	<p>Laws:</p> <p>- (http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=41732)</p> <p>Normative Acts:</p> <p>- http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=23405</p> <p>- http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=198890</p> <p>- http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=150402</p> <p>http://www.eoi-tax.org/jurisdictions/CZ#default</p>	<p>Low risk</p> <p>The Republic of Latvia has signed and ratified the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (The Washington Convention, 1973). In addition to the CITES Convention, trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora is regulated by a number of EU directives that extend the scope of species within the European Union.</p> <p>Nature Conservation Agency and Customs are institutions responsible for implementation of CITES Convention requirements. Both institutions check import and export of endangered species under the CITES Convention including timber products from protected species. CITES permits are required only when crossing the external borders of the European Union. A special certificate is required when transporting particularly endangered species among the EU countries, in addition to legal origin certificate. These certificates, as well as CITES permits, are issued by the Nature Conservation Agency.</p> <p>No serious violations of CITES and corresponding EU level Directive requirements in relation to import and export of endangered species has been reported by the</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>payment arrangements and incentives for the 1973 Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora" (19.12.2006) (http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=150402)</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>Nature Conservation Agency, Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>CITES import and export permits, CITES import declaration</p>		<p>Nature Conservation Agency, thus scaling the risk level as low.</p>
Diligence/due care procedures			
<p>1.21 Legislation requiring due diligence/due care procedures</p>	<p>Applicable laws and regulations</p> <p><u>Laws:</u> - The State Forest Service Law (25.11.1999) (http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=14594) - Customs Law (05.07.2016)</p> <p><u>Normative Acts:</u> - Cabinet Regulations No. 449 "The Statutes of the State Forest Service" (30.07.2013) (http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=258672)</p> <p><u>Binding EU legislation:</u></p>	<p>Laws: - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=14594</p> <p>Normative Acts: - http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=258672</p> <p>WWF Government Barometer: http://barometer.wwf.org.uk/what_we_do/government_barometer/scores_by_country/country_answers.cfm?country=Latvia</p>	<p>Low risk</p> <p>Legislation requiring due diligence/due care procedures, including, e.g., due diligence/due care systems, declaration obligations, and/or the keeping of trade related documents, in Latvia as part of EU it is required by EUTR. Implementation of the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) (Regulation) was initiated in January 2014. Through the Regulation, the Competent Authority (CA) – the State Forest Service, a subordinated institution under the Ministry of Agriculture – has been designated as required by the Regulation. The CA has developed its risk assessment procedures and control system, as well as working on awareness building within the industry. In August 2014, operator verification has been initiated.</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>- Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2010 laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market;</p> <p>- Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 363/2012 of 23 February 2012 on the procedural rules for the recognition and withdrawal of recognition of monitoring organizations as provided for in Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market;</p> <p>- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 607/2012 of 6 July 2012 on the detailed rules concerning the due diligence system and the frequency and nature of the checks on monitoring organizations as provided for in Regulation (EU) No 995/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the obligations of operators who place timber and timber products on the market.</p> <p>Legal Authority</p> <p>The State Forest Service, Ministry of Agriculture</p>		<p>The risk of illegal tropical wood entering the EU market through Latvia is low because of scale, i.e. imported volumes are small and most of the wood is imported via other EU countries. There is some risk of illegal wood entering from neighboring non-EU countries – the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation. Most timber imported from these countries is sourced by FSC-certified companies whose chain-of-custody systems and wood sourcing are regularly verified by independent certification institutions. Therefore the risk of sourcing illegally harvested wood within the framework of the EU144 Timber Regulation is considered low.</p> <p>Legislation regarding penalties and confiscation, covering all timber products as provided in the EUTR, is in place since 1st July 2015, while effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties covering domestic production has been in place long before EUTR.</p> <p>Timber resource production in Latvia is carried out in accordance with the procedures stipulated in law. Timber harvesting is based on felling confirmation (cutting permit) system. Felling confirmation specifies the type of harvest and is issued to a forest owner by the State Forest Service. Plus, once a year, the law requires forest owners or legal administrators to provide information to the State Forest Service regarding their commercial operations, including timber production and sales, which is also checked by the State Revenue Service. Furthermore, there is a law and regulations on the inventory of trees and round timber for regulating the procedures for record keeping in all stages of round timber circulation. According to the Latvian Competent Authority, the requirements of the EU TR are stipulated into the existing Latvian laws. The legislation addresses both provisions of the EUTR with regard to the prohibition and the due</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
	<p>The Customs administration, The Finance and Customs police.</p> <p>Legally required documents or records</p> <p>Due diligence system, valid registry with the required information and documentation confirming wood origin</p>		<p>diligence requirements. Accordingly, based on Latvia's national legislation, checks are carried out to verify the origin of timber, along with accounting transactions. In this way, for domestic production the requirements of EU Timber Regulation are met. Non-compliance with forest regulations, including illegal timber harvesting or transactions, can be punished with criminal sanctions laid down in State legislation, including criminal liability, fines and/or a prison sentence for negligence and acting against the law. The penalties and sanctions are considered to be robust, which is one of the reasons for the trends towards a reduction in illegal timber harvesting in Latvia over the past 15 years. Furthermore, the CA is constantly working on improvements of their audit system on locally harvested timber, which is based on risk analysis and includes large number of staff and large number of on-site visits and inspections.</p> <p>The CA is empowered to act, with a member of staff having been trained and dedicated specifically to EUTR. The CA is collaborating with other Member States' Competent Authorities on risk assessment, equal enforcement and other issues. In Latvia, the CA cooperates with the State Revenue Service (Customs and Tax Control Departments), the Nature Conservation Agency, which is a CITES supervisory institution, and, when needed, other authorities. Information on all operators, placing timber and timber products on the market, is available to the CA.</p> <p>Specific training events about the EUTR for operators have not been carried out by the CA, but information has been clarified at meetings of the Latvian Forest Owners' Association and Latvian Forest Industry Federation. Quality information has been provided and explained at seminars organized by monitoring organizations for individual merchants. The CA has a section on its website</p>

Indicator	Applicable laws and regulations, legal Authority, & legally required documents or records	Sources of Information	Risk designation and determination
			<p>dedicated to the EUTR, it has developed guidelines for the operators, and it publishes information in timber industry magazines, as well as, in accordance with the EUTR, gives guidance to the operators on an individual basis.</p> <p>This indicator has been assessed as low risk.</p>

Recommended control measures

Indicator	Recommended control measures
1.11 Health and safety	<p>Verifiers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All safety and health regulations shall be followed and all required safety equipment shall be used. - Occupational health and safety requirements shall be observed by all personnel involved in harvesting activities. - Interviews with staff and contractors shall confirm that legally required protection equipment is required/provided by the organization and the staff demonstrate knowledge of Health and Safety requirements in logging works. <p>CONTROL MEASURES</p> <p>1. Can the products be traced back to the supplier (or subsupplier) responsible for harvesting operations?</p> <p>1.1 If yes, go to 2. 1.2 If no, the products cannot be sourced.</p> <p>2. Does the supplier have a recognized third party certification system covering health and safety procedures, OHSAS (ISO18001) or equal requirements, or contractor certification?</p> <p>2.1 If yes, the wood can be accepted as controlled material 2.2 If no, go to 3</p> <p>3. Has the wood been supplied by the private forest owner in the amount not exceeding 150m3 per year?</p> <p>3.1. If yes, the wood can be accepted as controlled material upon health and safety requirements included in the timber supply agreement; 3.2. If no, go to 4</p> <p>4. Does the supplier (or subsuppliers) agree to observe legally required health and safety requirements and audits by a representative of the organization?</p> <p>4.1 If yes: go to 5. and 6. 4.2 If no: The material cannot be sourced as controlled material</p> <p>5. Supplier auditing based on sampling and risk assessment is carried out for harvesting organized by suppliers (or subsuppliers):</p> <p>5.1. Risk is considered to be lower (fewer audits are necessary) for:</p> <p>5.1.1. the logging companies with valid contracts with FSC FM/CoC certified operation</p>

Indicator	Recommended control measures
	<p>5.1.2. the logging companies use forest machinery for harvesting works in final felling and/or intermediate fellings</p> <p>5.2. Risk is considered to be higher (audits are carried out more often) for final felling and/or intermediate felling done by chainsaws</p> <p>6. Does audit of ongoing operational site(s) confirm that staff have all legally required personal protection equipment and the staff demonstrate knowledge of Health and Safety requirements in logging works?</p> <p>6.1 If yes, the material can be sourced as controlled material.</p> <p>6.2 If no, the material cannot be sourced as controlled material until the corrective actions (to fulfill the requirements of 6.) have been implemented and confirmed by repeated audit in case of major non-conformances or sufficient evidence in case of minor non-conformances.</p>

Controlled wood category 2: Wood harvested in violation of traditional and human rights

Risk assessment

Indicator	Sources of Information	Functional scale	Risk designation and determination
2.1. The forest sector is not associated with violent armed conflict, including that which threatens national or regional security and/or linked to military control.	See detailed analysis below.	No functional scale	<p>Low risk</p> <p>All low risk thresholds are met (1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) and there is no other evidence of 'specified' risk. None of the specified risk thresholds are met.</p>
2.2. Labour rights are respected including rights as specified in ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at work.	See detailed analysis below.	No functional scale	<p>Low risk</p> <p>Low risk thresholds 10 and 12 apply. None of the specified risk thresholds are met.</p>
2.3. The rights of Indigenous and Traditional Peoples are upheld.	See detailed analysis below.	No functional scale	<p>Low risk</p> <p>Low risk thresholds 16 and 21 are met. There are no Indigenous Peoples or traditional peoples in Latvia, and no evidence challenges the low risk designation.</p>

Recommended control measures

N/A

Detailed analysis

Sources of information	Evidence	Scale of risk assessment	Risk indication ¹
Context (the following are indicators that help to contextualize the information from other sources) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Searching for data on: level of corruption, governance, lawlessness, fragility of the State, freedom of journalism, freedom of speech, peace, human rights, armed or violent conflicts by or in the country, etc. 			
World Bank: Worldwide Governance Indicators - the WGI report aggregate and individual governance indicators for 215 countries (most recently for 1996–2012), for six dimensions of governance: Voice and Accountability; Political Stability and Absence of Violence; Government Effectiveness; Regulatory Quality; Rule of Law; Control of Corruption http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#home	http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#reports (click on table view tab and select Country) In 2013 (latest available year) Latvia scores between 64.1 and 80.4 on the percentile rank among all countries for all six dimensions (the scores range from 0 (lowest) to 100 (highest rank) with higher values corresponding to better outcomes).	Country	
World Bank Harmonized List of Fragile Situations:	http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTLICUS/Resources/511777-1269623894864/Fragile_Situations_List_FY11_%28Oct_19_2010%29.pdf Latvia does not feature on this list.	Country	
Committee to Protect Journalists: Impunity Index CPJ's Impunity Index calculates the number of unsolved journalist murders as a percentage of each country's population. For this index, CPJ examined journalist murders that occurred between January 1, 2004, and December 31, 2013, and that remain unsolved. Only those nations with five or more unsolved cases are included on this index. http://cpj.org/reports/2014/04/impunity-index-getting-away-with-murder.php	http://cpj.org/reports/2014/04/impunity-index-getting-away-with-murder.php Latvia does not feature on this list. https://cpj.org/2012/03/latvian-journalist-assaulted-in-riga.php#more "Latvian journalist assaulted in Riga. New York, March 30, 2012--Authorities must conduct a thorough and effective investigation into the attack on the publisher of a Latvian news website that had run a number of sensitive stories, the Committee to Protect Journalists said today. At least two unidentified assailants attacked Leonids Jakobsons, owner of the independent news website Kompromat, in the stairwell of his apartment building in Riga, the capital, (..) on Thursday, local and international press reported. Jakobsons, who was attacked with a knife, was hospitalized with multiple bruises on his head and a three-inch-long cut on his cheek, but is now stable, the independent regional news website Delfi reported. Jakobsons told local journalists he believes the attack was connected to his work , but could not say which of his articles may have provoked it, news reports said. Delfi reported that Riga police had opened an investigation into the attack and were considering journalism as a motive."	Country	
Carleton University: Country Indicators for Foreign Policy: the Failed and Fragile States project of Carleton University examines	http://www4.carleton.ca/cifp/app/serve.php/1419.pdf Latvia scores 'medium-low' on the State fragility map 2011.	Country	

¹ A risk indication is provided for each source analyzed, except in the first part that addresses the general country context as that is not a risk indicator. A cumulative risk assessment for each risk indicator is provided in the row with the conclusion on each risk indicator, based on all the sources analyzed and evidence found.

state fragility using a combination of structural data and current event monitoring http://www4.carleton.ca/cifp/ffs.htm			
Human Rights Watch: http://www.hrw.org	http://www.hrw.org/world-report/2014/country-chapters/ The HRW World Report 2014 does not have a country chapter for Latvia. The HRW website has a few news items on Latvia most of them about gay rights and other LGBT issues .	Country	
US AID: www.usaid.gov Search on website for [country] + 'human rights' 'conflicts' 'conflict timber' For Africa and Asia also use: http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pnact462.pdf	http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1863/EE_2013_CSOSI_FullReport.pdf CSO Sustainability Index for Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Latvia's score in 2012 on this index is 2.7, which is categorized as "Sustainability Enhanced". "Latvia and Slovenia both noted improvements in their overall levels of sustainability in 2013 while Hungary and Slovakia both noted deterioration. In Latvia, CSOs made progress in five out of seven dimensions of sustainability—legal environment, financial viability, advocacy, infrastructure, and public image. The greatest improvement was noted in advocacy , as CSOSI panel concluded "it is impossible for the government to do anything without engaging CSOs." No other information found on specified risks after searching Latvia + 'human rights' 'conflicts' 'timber conflicts'	Country	
Global Witness: www.globalwitness.org Search on website for [country] + 'human rights' 'conflicts' 'conflict timber'	No information found on this website after searching for Latvia.	Country	
WWF report: Failing the Forests; Europe's illegal timber trade. (2005) http://www.wwf.se/source.php/1120070/FailingForests.pdf	This report estimated in 2007 that in Latvia 0.4 of the total 1.5 million cubic metres RWE volume timber imports from six given regions was illegal. "The Baltic States – Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – acceded to the EU during 2004. They are the only supplying countries that are both covered in detail by this report and are Member States of the EU. They are included not least to indicate the scale of probable trade in illegal timber between EU countries (including that which derives from forest within the EU). These three countries' timber and paper sectors account for a substantial share in their GDP and exports. Consequently, minimising illegal timber exports could have a substantial and beneficial impact on their economy (and governance). Activities that contribute to the trade in illegal timber in the region include tax fraud, weak enforcement capacity and unsuitable legislation. It is noted that this report is written seven (7) years ago.	Country	
http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/about_forests/deforestation/forest_illegal_logging/	Posted in 2004 – provides background on forestry sector in Latvia: "Demonstration farms in Latvia are helping to provide expertise and direction for environmentally responsible forestry . The model areas have been established as part of the WWF and IKEA cooperation on Forest Projects. One of the biggest land reforms in Europe's history has quietly been taking place in former communist countries — posing big challenges for people and nature. After the state gave	Country	

	<p>back much of its territory to the people over the last few years, Latvia's 160,000 new forest owners are now responsible for looking after one million hectares of forests, nearly half of Latvia's total forest estate.</p> <p>Most of the new forest owners however have neither a forestry background nor any natural or resource management experience. They are now faced with the challenge to learn to manage their forests. The future of Latvia's unique nature is largely in their hands and will depend on their vision — whether long-term management decisions for sustainable forestry will prevail over short-term economic gains.</p> <p>Within this context WWF has created model areas to demonstrate — together with experienced Latvian forest owners — how these forests can be managed in an environmentally friendly way while providing economic benefits for the owners.”</p>		
<p>Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index http://cpi.transparency.org/cpi2013/results/</p>	<p>Latvia scores 53 points on the Corruption Perceptions Index 2013 on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). Latvia ranks 49 out of 177 with rank nr. 1 being the most clean country.</p>	Country	
<p>Chattam House Illegal Logging Indicators Country Report Card http://www.illegal-logging.info</p>	<p>http://www.illegal-logging.info/content/how-much-illegal-timber-gets-uk Posted in 31 July 2014: “Yesterday the commission published a scorecard of the progress European nations had made on implementing protections against the trade of illegally logged timber. It identified a number of countries dragging their heels. This creates gaps through which illegal timber can be surreptitiously traded within the EU. This exposes countries like Britain despite their compliance with the three major safeguards against required under the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) - designation of competent authorities, adoption of penalties and checks on companies' compliance. The commission said the results showed “a mixed picture with regard to the implementation of the regulation across the EU. To be effective, the legislation needs to be applied in full in an efficient and effective way, but there is still room for improvement in a number of member states”. Spain, Poland, Hungary and Malta were the worst offenders, having fulfilled none of their obligations. While Italy, France, Romania, Greece, Latvia, Slovenia, Croatia and Luxembourg were also identified as problems. (See below the information from the European Commission's scorecard.)</p>	Country	
<p>Amnesty International Annual Report: The state of the world's human rights -information on key human rights issues, including: freedom of expression; international justice; corporate accountability; the death penalty; and reproductive rights</p>	<p>http://files.amnesty.org/air13/AmnestyInternational_AnnualReport2013_complete_en.pdf Latvia (pgs 156, 157): “Hate crime legislation did not protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people, disabled people, or victims of gender-based hate crimes. Criminal law punished incitement to hatred based solely on racial, ethnic or religious motives. Only racist motives were regarded as aggravating circumstances. In June, the fourth annual Baltic Pride march took place in Riga with over 600 participants and in a climate of co-operation with police. Members of parliament and the Minister of Foreign Affairs attended the event. Over 300,000 people – about one-sixth of the population, mostly of Russian origin – remained stateless according to UNHCR, the UN refugee agency, although the authorities regarded them as “non-citizens” with greater protection and access to rights than stateless people under the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the</p>	Country	

	<p>1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. They were excluded from political rights.“ (...) “The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance published its fourth report on Latvia in February. The Commission’s recommendations included: the closure of any remaining special classes for Roma children and their integration into mainstream classes; the automatic granting of citizenship to children born of “non-citizen” parents after Latvia’s independence in 1991; and the reconsideration of the policy on state language to ensure that an obligation to use it applies only in clear cases of legitimate public interest.“</p>		
	<p>Comments from FSC Network Partner on the above content from the Amnesty International Annual: From “Over 300,000 people..“ till end of the quotes: “Latvia was illegally occupied and annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940. (It is documented in numerous documents including “Case of Ždanoka v. Latvia” in European Court of Human Rights [Source: http://hudoc.echr.coe.int/sites/eng/pages/search.aspx?i=001-72794#_ftnref14], see Section A. “The historical context and the background to the case” Paragraph 12., 13.) All former citizens of Latvia and their descendants were granted citizenship after Latvia regained its independence in 1991. All other inhabitants of Latvia were given status of non-citizens (to be correct: “former citizens of the USSR without the citizenship of the Republic of Latvia or any other country”). Non-citizens may receive citizenship of Latvia by following Provisions for Naturalization defined in the Citizenship Law of the Republic of Latvia [Source: http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=57512 in Latvian or http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/Citizenship_Law.doc in English]. Regardless of that non-citizens or, to formulate it correctly, people arriving in Latvia during Soviet occupation completely disrespected Hague Convention and Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Geneva, 12 August 1949), particularly Article 49 [https://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=77068F12B8857C4DC12563CD0051BDB0].”</p>	Country	
Freedom House http://www.freedomhouse.org/	<p>http://www.freedomhouse.org/country/latvia#.VD4usPmSzGg The status of Latvia on the Freedom in the World index 2014 is ‘free’. The rating is 2.0 (with 1.0 being the highest rank and 6.0 the lowest). http://www.freedomhouse.org/report-types/freedom-net#.VD4wzfmSzGg ‘No data’ for Latvia in the Freedom of the Net report 2013. http://www.freedomhouse.org/report-types/freedom-press#.VD4xPvmSzGg The status of Latvia in the Freedom of the Press Report 2013 is ‘free’.</p>	Country	
Reporters without Borders: Press Freedom Index	<p>2013: http://en.rsf.org/spip.php?page=classement&id_rubrique=1054 Latvia ranks nr. 39 out of 179 with a score of 22,89 on the 2013 World Press Freedom Index, which is the lowest of the Baltic States but is 11 ranks higher than the previous report. http://en.rsf.org/report-latvia.115.html The website categorizes the press freedom in Latvia to be in a “good situation”.</p>	Country	
Fund for Peace - Failed States Index of Highest Alert - the Fund for Peace is a US-based non-profit research and educational organization that works to prevent violent conflict and promote security. The Failed States Index is an annual ranking, first	<p>http://ffp.statesindex.org/ Latvia is ranked 142 out of 178 countries on the failed states index. (nr 1 being the most failed state). This ranks Latvia (on the low side) in the category ‘stable’.</p>	Country	

<p>published in 2005, of 177 nations based on their levels of stability and capacity http://www.fundforpeace.org/global/?q=cr-10-99-fs In 2014 the FFP changed the name of the Failed State Index to the Fragile State Index: http://ffp.statesindex.org/rankings-2013-sortable</p>			
<p>The Global Peace Index. Published by the Institute for Economics & Peace, This index is the world's leading measure of national peacefulness. It ranks 162 nations according to their absence of violence. It's made up of 23 indicators, ranging from a nation's level of military expenditure to its relations with neighbouring countries and the level of respect for human rights. Source: The Guardian: http://economicsandpeace.org/research/iep-indices-data/global-peace-index</p>	<p>http://www.visionofhumanity.org/#/page/indexes/global-peace-index http://www.visionofhumanity.org/sites/default/files/2014%20GPI%20MAP.pdf The state of peace in Latvia is categorized 'High' with Latvia ranking 39 out of 162 countries with a score of 1.745</p>	Country	
<p>Additional sources of information (These sources were partly found by Googling the terms '[country]', 'timber', 'conflict', 'illegal logging')</p>	<p>Evidence</p>	<p>Scale of risk assessment</p>	<p>Risk indication</p>
<p>Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia</p>	<p>http://www.tiesibsargs.lv/files/content/vestules/EDSO_TS_vestule_2013_dec_ENG.pdf Re: Respect for the Rights of Non-Citizens in the Republic of Latvia; 5 December 2013 „The Ombudsman points out in particular that the exact term “former citizens of the USSR without the citizenship of the Republic of Latvia or any other country” should be used to denote the status of the citizens of former USSR, instead of the widely used term “non-citizens” that has caused a number of misunderstanding among the international institutions regarding the status and scope of rights of such group of persons. The former citizens of the USSR without the citizenship of the Republic of Latvia or any other country (holders of the status of non-citizens) widely enjoy in the fundamental rights guaranteed by Chapter 8 of the Satversme (Constitution) of the Republic of Latvia and the international human rights instruments. There are only two exceptions regarding the right to freely pursue career in the professions that involve the exercising of governmental and judicial authority where the requirement for citizenship of the Republic of Latvia is legitimately applied, and regarding the right to vote and to be elected to the municipalities and the Saeima (Parliament) of the Republic of Latvia, since according to the political decision of the State the right to voting is only granted to the citizens of the Republic of Latvia. The above-mentioned exceptions also correspond with the political rights to vote and be elected, and to engage in public service, as stipulated in Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.“ (..) “Taking into consideration the inability of politicians of the Republic of Latvia to clarify the given issues, the actual residents of the Republic of Latvia who have the status of non-citizens lack motivation to naturalization and obtaining the citizenship of the Republic of Latvia because they enjoy the benefits inherent to the status of non-citizen and those promised by the organizations that pursue the aim of splitting the society of Latvia.“ http://www.tiesibsargs.lv/files/content/english/Opinion_Legal%20status%20of%20non-citizens.pdf Re: Legal status of non-citizens; 8 December 2011. „The legal status of non-citizens is not unique, though even it is not regulated in the international legal acts, since it follows the model of German Federal Republic based on the Law of 25 April 1951 on Stateless Aliens. A number of citizens of the Republic of Latvia enjoyed such legal status in Germany during the post-war period until restoring</p>		

	<p>of sovereignty of the Republic of Latvia. Similar laws are also applicable elsewhere in Europe: in France, the United Kingdom, Spain and other countries.</p> <p>The different legal ties of citizens and non-citizens with the Republic of Latvia determine the different scope of rights (the right to election; the right to hold offices in public service, etc.). The principle of equality permits and even requires different treatment of individuals in different conditions. Therefore, the different scope of rights granted to citizens and non-citizens of the Republic of Latvia may not be qualified as discriminating."</p>		
European Commission: Assessment of the scale of implementation of EU Timber Regulation in 28 Member States	<p>http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/pdf/scoreboard.pdf</p> <p>Three steps of implementation of the regulation are distinguished: 'Competent Authorities', 'Penalties' and 'Checks'.</p> <p>Latvia scores 'the obligation is fulfilled' (highest of 3 categories) for 'Competent Authorities', and 'Checks' but scores 'the obligation is in a process of fulfillment' (medium score) for 'Penalties'.</p>	Country	
The New York Times	<p>http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/24/world/europe/latvias-tensions-with-russians-at-home-persist-in-shadow-of-ukraine.html</p> <p>23 August 2014. "RIGA, Latvia — History has bequeathed this Baltic port capital much beauty, captured in elegant Art Nouveau buildings or the Gothic church steeples that stud the windswept skyline. But it has also left a nasty ethnic rift that has persisted despite Latvia's absorption into NATO, the European Union and the euro currency, and which has now deepened with the crisis in Ukraine.</p> <p>In this nation of two million, about one-third of the residents speak only or primarily Russian. Many — but not all — are people whose families arrived during the decades of Soviet rule here. Ever since Latvia declared independence in 1991, many of these Russian speakers have been in limbo, as noncitizens squeezed out of political life, largely unable to vote, hold office or even serve in the fire brigade.</p> <p>Those who refuse to acquire proficient skill speaking Latvian do not get citizenship. In the coming October elections, unless the government decides to issue special voting cards, about 283,000 will, once again, not cast ballots."</p>	Country	
BBC News	<p>http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-26720549</p> <p>26 March 2014. "Crimea crisis sharpens Latvia ethnic tensions. By Damien McGuinness. BBC News, Riga."</p> <p>"A mournful procession of about 1,500 Latvians winds its way through Riga's medieval Old Town singing traditional Latvian songs.</p> <p>Elderly World War Two veterans lead the crowd. And many of the participants are carrying flowers to lay at the Freedom Monument, Latvia's symbol of national independence.</p> <p>They have come here to commemorate those who died defending Latvia against the Soviet Union in the war. But with Russian troops now in nearby Ukraine, many in the Baltics are alarmed that history may be about to repeat itself.</p> <p>"If Ukraine falls, then Russian ambitions won't stop with this. I believe we will be next in Russia's list of actions," said one young man who had come to take part in the procession.</p> <p>"It shows the attitude of Russia - how it goes into another country very easily and acts in an aggressive manner," said another. "</p>	Country	
American.edu/ted	<p>http://www1.american.edu/ted/latviaoil.htm#r7</p> <p>"The dispute between Latvia and Russia involves more than the economic issues associated with the oil exports. The decrease of the oil supplies from Russia is closely associated with the human rights issues. This research will take a closer look at those issues."</p>	Country	
FAO Forestry Department	<p>http://www.fao.org/docrep/003/x6823e/x6823e05.htm</p> <p>Title: A macroeconomic survey of the forestry sector in Latvia (Date unknown)</p> <p>"General Concepts</p>	Country	

	<p>Management of Latvia's natural resources necessarily commences with an agreement upon objectives for their development.</p> <p>The public sector organizational restructuring being investigated and developed by the ROL/FAO project, and its consequences for both public and private forest sectors, represents a major departure from past approaches. It implies a scale of activities and scope for changes that clearly eclipse past efforts.</p> <p>One of the features of this project is to improve both public and private sector participation in this process – to minimize potential stakeholder conflicts and promote high levels of "ownership" in project outputs. The composition of steering committees and working groups is predicated on this goal. Examples of groups between which potential divergence of objectives could occur include, i) timber development & wildlife conservation, ii) public forest management & private land holders, iii) short term licenses & long term tenure holders and, iv) different geographic areas or user groups.</p> <p>Natural resource development objectives cannot be finalized without reference to other natural resource sectors as well – both in public and private sectors. The overall project recognizes this and is examining its consequences in both its legislation and macroeconomic components – some of the latter being introduced in this report.</p> <p>Specific objectives, the implementation of which may directly influence Latvia's forest sector development paths and eventual economic potential, include:</p> <p>redistribution of earlier confiscated and collectivized land, timber allocation policy and mechanisms, private forest management regulations, state Forest Service capacity and jurisdiction, and non-Forest Service natural resource legislation (agriculture, environment, rural development, etc.)."</p> <p>(..)</p> <p>"Improving forest sector performance through project efforts is motivated by increasing the sector's contribution to Latvia's national economy and social welfare. Comparisons of social welfare within and amongst countries is usually accomplished by reference to such indicators as employment, GDP, income levels, literacy rates, life expectancy and many others. Social welfare is also correlated to a large number of other indicators more indirectly Worldwide, there exist dramatic examples of where the potential for forest sector contributions to national economic development has been usurped by a small group of elites or even single individuals. However, forest sector development has featured prominently as a major contributor to development in many countries. This is the case in Latvia where wood and wood products accounted for just over 32% of the country's foreign exchange earnings for 1997 (MOE, 1998, p31). The relative impact of this sector – at least for the period indicated – is clear."</p>		
Greenpeace	<p>http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/MultimediaFiles/Live/FullReport/6759.pdf</p> <p>"In addition, illegal logging is a serious problem in Russia and some Central and Eastern European countries, including Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia and Estonia."</p>	Country	
Information obtained from FSC Network Partner: Info on illegal logging			
<p>Conclusion on country context:</p> <p>Latvia scores good on almost all indicators reviewed in this section on the country context, such as in relation to press freedom, peace, governance and absence of corruption. A few issues are reported mainly in relation to LGBT rights and the rights of the Russian minority.</p> <p>Latvia is also reported as a source of illegal timber, although new (EU) regulations and policies are in place to combat illegal logging.</p> <p>The ongoing tension between Latvia and Russia is part of a geo-political dynamics that is of high concern to, at least, whole Europe for a long time, but certainly since the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine. It is an obvious issue to be aware of as part of the wider country context because if this conflict escalates it could have an impact on the stability of the country. At this moment this is not considered to be a real threat.</p>		Country	

Indicator 2.1. The forest sector is not associated with violent armed conflict, including that which threatens national or regional security and/or linked to military control.			
Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the country covered by a UN security ban on exporting timber? Is the country covered by any other international ban on timber export? Are there individuals or entities involved in the forest sector that are facing UN sanctions? 			
Compendium of United Nations Security Council Sanctions Lists http://www.un.org/sc/committees/list_compend.shtml	There is no UN Security Council ban on timber exports from Latvia. Latvia is not covered by any other international ban on timber export. There are no individuals or entities involved in the forest sector in Latvia that are facing UN sanctions.	Country	Low
US AID: www.usaid.gov			
Global Witness: www.globalwitness.org			
Information obtained from FSC Network Partner	There is no UN Security Council export ban in the country. [Source used: Global Witness: www.globalwitness.org] The country is not associated with or designated as source of conflict timber according to latest available research. [Source used: Conflict Timber: Dimensions of the Problem in Asia and Africa Volume I Synthesis Report www.usaid.gov]	Country	Low
Guidance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is the country a source of conflict timber? If so, is it at the country level or only an issue in specific regions? If so – which regions? Is the conflict timber related to specific entities? If so, which entities or types of entities? 			
www.usaid.gov http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pnact462.pdf Conflict Timber is defined by US AID as: - conflict financed or sustained through the harvest and sale of timber (Type 1), - conflict emerging as a result of competition over timber or other forest resources (Type 2) Also check overlap with indicator 2.3	No information on conflict timber related to Latvia found on the website of USAID. Latvia does not feature in this report.	Country	Low
www.globalwitness.org/campaigns/environment/forests	Latvia does not feature on this website.	Country	Low
Human Rights Watch: http://www.hrw.org/	No information on conflict timber related to Latvia found on this website.	Country	Low
World Resources Institute: Governance of Forests Initiative Indicator Framework (Version 1) http://pdf.wri.org/working_papers/gfi_tenure_indicators_sep09.pdf	This work resulted in a publication: Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance: A user's guide to a diagnostic tool (available on this page) published by PROFOR in June 2012. This tool has not yet been applied to Latvia. No information on conflict timber related to Latvia found on the profor.info website.	Country	Low

Now: PROFOR http://www.profor.info/node/1998			
Amnesty International Annual Report: The state of the world's human rights - information on key human rights issues, including: freedom of expression; international justice; corporate accountability; the death penalty; and reproductive rights http://www.amnesty.org/en/annual-report/2011 ; http://amnesty.org/en/annual-report/2013/	http://amnesty.org/en/annual-report/2013/ No domestic armed conflicts nor conflict timber are reported.	Country	Low
World Bank: Worldwide Governance Indicators - the WGIs report aggregate and individual governance indicators for 213 economies (most recently for 1996–2012), for six dimensions of governance: Voice and Accountability; Political Stability and Absence of Violence; Government Effectiveness; Regulatory Quality; Rule of Law; Control of Corruption http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/index.aspx#home Use indicator 'Political stability and Absence of violence' specific for indicator 2.1	In 2012 (latest available year) Latvia scores on the indicator political stability and absence of violence place 65.4 on the percentile rank among all countries (ranges from 0 (lowest) to 100 (highest) rank) with higher values corresponding to better outcomes.	Country	Low
Greenpeace: www.greenpeace.org Search for 'conflict timber [country]'	No information on conflict timber related to Latvia found.	Country	Low
CIFOR: http://www.cifor.org/ ; http://www.cifor.org/publications/Corporate/FactSheet/forests_conflict.htm	Latvia is not mentioned in this fact sheet.	Country	Low
Google the terms '[country]' and one of following terms or in combination 'conflict timber', 'illegal logging'	No other information found on Latvia related to conflict timber.	Country	Low
Information obtained from FSC Network Partner			
Conclusion on indicator 2.1: No information was found on conflict timber in or from Latvia. The following low risk thresholds apply:		Country	Low

<p>(1) The area under assessment is not a source of conflict timber²; AND (2) The country is not covered by a UN security ban on exporting timber; AND (3) The country is not covered by any other international ban on timber export; AND (4) Operators in the area under assessment are not involved in conflict timber supply/trade; AND (5) Other available evidence does not challenge 'low risk' designation.</p>			
<p>Indicator 2.2. Labour rights are respected including rights as specified in ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at work.</p> <p>Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are the social rights covered by the relevant legislation and enforced in the country or area concerned? (refer to category 1) • Are rights like freedom of association and collective bargaining upheld? • Is there evidence confirming absence of compulsory and/or forced labour? • Is there evidence confirming absence of discrimination in respect of employment and/or occupation, and/or gender? • Is there evidence confirming absence of child labour? • Is the country signatory to the relevant ILO Conventions? • Is there evidence that any groups (including women) feel adequately protected related to the rights mentioned above? • Are any violations of labour rights limited to specific sectors? 			
<p>general sources from FSC-PRO-60-002a V1-0 EN</p>	<p>information found and specific sources</p>	<p>scale of risk assessment</p>	<p>risk indication</p>
<p>Status of ratification of fundamental ILO conventions: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=1000:11001:0::NO:: or use: ILO Core Conventions Database: http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/docs/declworld.htm C29 Forced Labour Convention, 1930 C87 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 C98 Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 C100 Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 C105 Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 C111 Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 C138 Minimum Age Convention, 1973</p>	<p>Latvia has ratified all eight fundamental labour conventions of the ILO.</p> <p>Outcome category 1 not available.</p>	<p>Country</p>	<p>Low risk</p>

² “Conflict timber” limited to include “timber that has been traded at some point in the chain of custody by armed groups, be they rebel factions or regular soldiers, or by a civilian administration involved in armed conflict or its representatives, either to perpetuate conflict or take advantage of conflict situations for personal gain - conflict timber is not necessarily illegal.

C182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999			
Ratification as such should be checked under Category 1. In Cat. 2 we take that outcome into consideration. Refer to it.			
ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work. Country reports. http://www.ilo.org/declaration/lang-en/index.htm Source of several reports. Search for 'racial discrimination', 'child labour', 'forced labour', 'gender equality', 'freedom of association'	http://www.ilo.org/ifpdial/information-resources/national-labour-law-profiles/WCMS_158912/lang-en/index.htm "The concept of equality and the principle of equal rights is one of the most substantial parts of the legal system of Latvia. Section 91 of the Satversme stipulates that all human beings in Latvia are equal before the law and the courts. Human rights are exercised without discrimination of any kind. " (..) "The Satversme ensures universal prohibition of discrimination of any kind without naming possible grounds of such discrimination. Section 7 of the Labour Law list the grounds for discrimination leaving an open end of the enumeration. It provides that equality has to be ensured irrespective of a person's race, skin colour, gender, age, disability, religion, political or other conviction, ethnic or social origin, property, marital status or other circumstances. The list also contains "other circumstances" such as sexual orientation in order to avoid any possible omissions, etc."	Country	Low risk
ILO Child Labour Country Dashboard: http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/Regionsandcountries/lang-en/index.htm	Latvia does not feature in the Child Labour Country Dashboard.	Country	Low risk
Global March Against Child Labour: http://www.globalmarch.org/	No information found on child labour in Latvia.		
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Committee on Rights of the Child: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CRC/Pages/CRCIndex.aspx	http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRC%2fC%2fLVA%2f3-4&Lang=en <i>Consolidated (Third, Fourth and Fifth) Periodic Report of the Republic of Latvia on Implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 1989, in the Republic of Latvia for the period; 1 January 2004 – 30 June 2012</i> No mentioning of child labour in Latvia.	Country	Low risk
ILO Helpdesk for Business on International Labour Standards: http://www.ilo.org/empent/areas/business-helpdesk/lang-en/index.htm	No reference to Latvia found.	Country	Low risk
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cedaw/pages/cedawindex.aspx (Use the link to 'Key documents' on the left hand side. Go to "observations" and search for country.) (Refer to CW Cat. 1) Or: Right top select country click on CEDAW treaty, click on latest reporting period and select concluding observations	No reference to Latvia found.	Country	Low risk
Human Rights Watch: http://www.hrw.org/	No specific information found on Latvia related to any of the rights issues in this indicator.	Country	Low risk

Child Labour Index 2014 produced by Maplecroft. http://maplecroft.com/portfolio/new-analysis/2013/10/15/child-labour-risks-increase-china-and-russia-most-progress-shown-south-america-maplecroft-index/	Latvia scores 'low risk' on the Child Labour Index 2014.	Country	Low risk
http://www.verite.org/Commodities/Timber (useful, specific on timber)	"According to the U.S. Department of Labor (2010), timber is produced with forced labor in Peru, Brazil and Myanmar (Burma)." Latvia not mentioned.	Country	Low risk
The ITUC Global Rights Index ranks 139 countries against 97 internationally recognised indicators to assess where workers' rights are best protected, in law and in practice. The Survey provides information on violations of the rights to freedom of association, collective bargaining and strike as defined by ILO Conventions, in particular ILO Convention Nos. 87 and 98 as well as jurisprudence developed by the ILO supervisory mechanisms. http://www.ituc-csi.org/new-ituc-global-rights-index-the?lang=en	http://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/survey_ra_2014_eng_v2.pdf Latvia is classified in the category 2 – Repeated violation of rights with a score between 9-17. "Countries with a rating 2 have slightly weaker collective labour rights than those with the rating 1. Certain rights have come under the repeated attack by governments and/or companies and have undermined the struggle for better working conditions."	Country	Low risk
Google the terms '[country]' and one of following terms 'violation of labour rights', 'child labour', 'forced labour', 'slave labour', 'discrimination', 'gender gap labour', 'violation of labour union rights' 'violation of freedom of association and collective bargaining'	http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/economies/#economy=LVA Global Gender Gap Report 2014; World Economic Forum Latvia ranks 15 (out of 142 countries) with a score of 0.769 (0.00 = inequality, 1.00 = equality)	Country	Low risk
Additional general sources	Additional specific sources		
Information obtained from FSC Network Partner	No evidence of child labor or violation of ILO fundamental principles on a remarkable scale is known to occur. [Source: Global Child labor trends 2000 to 2004. ILO (International Labour Office) http://www.ilo.org/ipecinfo/product/viewProduct.do:?productId=2299]	Country	Low risk
Conclusion on Indicator 2.2: No evidence is found of child labor or other violations of ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights. The following low risk thresholds apply:		Country	Low risk

(10) Applicable legislation for the area under assessment covers the key principles recognized in the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at work (which are recognized as: freedom of association and right to collective bargaining; elimination of forced and compulsory labour; eliminations of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation; and effective abolition of child labour), AND the risk assessment for relevant indicators of Category 1 confirms enforcement of applicable legislation ('low risk');
AND
(12) Other available evidence do not challenge 'low risk' designation.

Indicator 2.3. The rights of Indigenous and Traditional Peoples are upheld.

Guidance:

- Are there Indigenous Peoples (IP), and/or Traditional Peoples (TP) present in the area under assessment?
- Are the regulations included in the ILO Convention 169 and is UNDRIP enforced in the area concerned? (refer to category 1)
- Is there evidence of violations of legal and customary rights of IP/TP?
- Are there any conflicts of substantial magnitude [footnote 6] pertaining to the rights of Indigenous and/or Traditional Peoples and/or local communities with traditional rights?
- Are there any recognized laws and/or regulations and/or processes in place to resolve conflicts of substantial magnitude pertaining to TP or IP rights and/or communities with traditional rights?
- What evidence can demonstrate the enforcement of the laws and regulations identified above? (refer to category 1)
- Is the conflict resolution broadly accepted by affected stakeholders as being fair and equitable?

general sources from FSC-PRO-60-002a V1-0 EN	information found and specific sources	scale of risk assessment	risk indication
ILO Core Conventions Database http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/docs/declw_orld.htm - ILO Convention 169	Latvia has not ratified ILO Convention 169	Country	Specified risk if IPs/TPs in country
Survival International: http://www.survivalinternational.org/	No results on this website when searching for 'Latvia', 'Livonian' or 'Liv/s' indicating the existence of indigenous peoples.	Country	Low risk
Human Rights Watch: http://www.hrw.org/	No significant results on this website when searching for 'Latvia', 'Livonian' or 'Liv/s' indicating the existence of indigenous peoples.	Country	Low risk
Amnesty International http://amnesty.org	No evidence of IPs in Latvia found on this website when searching for 'Latvia', 'Livonian' or 'Liv/s' indicating the existence of indigenous peoples.	Country	Low risk
The Indigenous World http://www.iwgia.org/regions	No results on this website when searching for 'Latvia', 'Livonian' or 'Liv/s' indicating the existence of indigenous peoples. Also, Latvia is not in one of the regions that are displayed on the IWGIA website as regions with IPs.	Country	Low risk
United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples http://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/ipeoples/sr_indigenouspeoples/pages/sripeoplesindex.aspx	http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Minorities/IPMS_NEWSLETTER_7.pdf "Statements: On 22 February, the IE (Independent Expert; W. Richert) encouraged the Government of Latvia to ensure its protection of the rights of the Russian speaking minority and engage in a process of meaningful dialogue following a referendum on 18 February which rejected a proposal to recognize Russian as a second official State language." The Russian speaking minority are no indigenous people. No other results on this website when searching for 'Latvia', 'Livonian' or 'Liv/s' indicating the existence of indigenous peoples.	Country	Low risk

<p>UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Documentation.aspx</p>	<p>http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G11/105/31/PDF/G1110531.pdf?OpenElement "The present report is a summary of 6 stakeholders' submissions to the universal periodic review." By Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. 2–13 May 2011. Does not contain information in IPs/TPs.</p> <p>http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G11/106/95/PDF/G1110695.pdf?OpenElement National report: Latvia; 2-13 May 2011. Does not mention IPs/TPs</p>	Country	Low risk
<p>UN Human Rights Committee http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CCPR/Pages/CCPRIndex.aspx http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/CERDIndex.aspx search for country Also check: UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/CERDIndex.aspx</p>	<p>http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CCPR/Pages/CCPRIndex.aspx http://indicators.ohchr.org/ http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/CERD/Pages/CERDIndex.aspx No information found on IPs/TPs.</p>	Country	Low risk
<p>Intercontinental Cry http://intercontinentalcry.org/</p>	<p>http://www.scribd.com/doc/216154458/Indigenous-Struggles-2013 Latvia does not feature in this report.</p> <p>http://intercontinentalcry.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Indigenous-Struggles-2012.pdf</p>	Country	Low risk
<p>Forest Peoples Programme: www.forestpeoples.org FPP's focus is on Africa, Asia/Pacific and South and Central America.</p>	<p>No information found on Latvia on this website.</p>	Country	Low risk
<p>Society for Threatened Peoples: http://www.gfbv.de/index.php?change_lang=english</p>	<p>http://www.gfbv.de/pressemit.php?id=490&highlight=latvia "In Memory of Lennart Meri: Meri was a great European man: Small nationalities and minorities have lost a brave advocate. Göttingen, March 15, 2006 In Lennart Meri smaller European nationalities lose a generous friend and a brave advocate of their human and minority rights, as Tilman Zülch, President of the Society for Threatened Peoples International, points out. He praised the deceased former President of Estonia as a "great European man, who distinguished himself by his enormous sensibility towards the fate of marginalised and threatened minorities". Meri himself had been deported to Siberia under the Stalin regime as a result of standing up for the independence of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania; nations that were then under Soviet rule. He acknowledged the contribution of the Baltic Germans to the culture of his country and did not turn away in the face of the agony experienced by German displaced persons." No information found on IPs/TPs in Latvia.</p>	Country	Low risk
<p>Regional human rights courts and commissions: - Inter-American Court of Human Rights http://www.corteidh.or.cr/index.php/en - Inter-American Commission on Human Rights http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/</p>	<p>http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Research_report_cultural_rights_ENG.pdf "26. Linguistic rights in a political or institutional context have also been vindicated before the Court. For instance, in Podkolzina v. Latvia (no. 46726/99, ECHR 2002-II), the Court dealt with the striking of a candidate – member of the Russian-speaking minority – from a list for parliamentary elections, due to insufficient knowledge of the official language. The Court found a violation of Article 3 of Protocol No. 1 (right</p>	Country	Low risk

http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/indigenous/ - African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights - African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights - European Court of Human Rights	to free elections) (..)” No mentioning of (issues with) IPs/TPs in Latvia on website of ECHR.		
Data provided by National Indigenous Peoples', Traditional Peoples organizations;	No information found on IPs/TPs in Latvia.	Country	Low risk
Data provided by Governmental institutions in charge of Indigenous Peoples affairs;	Not applicable. See data from other governmental institutions below.	Country	Low risk
Data provided by National NGOs; NGO documentation of cases of IP and TP conflicts (historic or ongoing);	Minority Rights Group http://www.minorityrights.org/?lid=4963 In the country profile for Latvia: “Livs (also referred to as Livonians), alongside Latvians, are considered an indigenous people of Latvia. During the Soviet era a ban on access and fishing in coastal areas accelerated the assimilation of Livs. In their ethnic territory on the Baltic shores of the Talsi and Ventspils districts (an area with a Liv majority before the Second World War), there were less than 100 Livs by the 1990s. The Latvian authorities designated part of this area Livöd Randa (Liv Coast), hoping to renew and develop the traditional Liv way of life. Only a small number of Livs, almost all elderly, still know their native language.” “Like the other two Baltic states, Latvia was occupied by the Red Army as a result of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and was incorporated into the Soviet Union in August 1940. Soviet legislation and judiciary were introduced with retroactive effect, resulting in the deportation of tens of thousands of individuals. A resistance movement against Soviet control continued for several years after the Second World War. By 1953, about 120,000 people had been killed, imprisoned or deported to labour camps in Siberia. The policy of intensive industrialization, combined with deliberate Russification, resulted in the influx of some 750,000 eastern Slav immigrants into Latvia. The proportion of indigenous Latvians in the country declined from 77 per cent in 1935 to 52 per cent in 1989.”	Livonian homeland	Low risk
National land bureau tenure records, maps, titles and registration (Google)	No information on territories of IPs found. See below for “Where have Livs (Livonians) lived?”	Country	Low risk
Relevant census data	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Livonian_people Wikipedia presents data from: Provisional results of the 2011 Population and Housing Census: “In 2011, there were 250 people who claimed Livonian ethnicity in Latvia.”	Country	Low risk
- Evidence of participation in decision making; (See info on implementing ILO 169 and protests against new laws) - Evidence of IPs refusing to participate (e.g. on the basis of an unfair process,	See information below on Livonians being part of Latvian society and system and the attempts of Livonians to organize (mainly around cultural activities).	Country	Low risk

etc.); (See info on implementing ILO 169 and protests against new laws)			
National/regional records of claims on lands, negotiations in progress or concluded etc.	<p>http://voiceofrussia.com/2012_06_25/79228994/ 25 June 2012. "The Latvian authorities will not return property to its previous owners, either Russian, or Jewish, Voice of Russia experts say. A return of property to its original owners would mean that the government admits pursuing anti-Russian policies over the past few decades and that its recent policies of rehabilitation of the Nazi ideology will have to face criticism." "The Jewish community was the first to demand restitution of property that belonged to the Jews before the war and is currently owned by the state. The Russian community followed suit by making similar claims. More than one dozen public buildings in Latvia historically belonged to Russians. The exact number will be clear after an inventory check, President of the Russian Society of Latvia Yevgeny Altukhov says." (..) "In addition to Russians and Jews, there are other nationalities that lost their property after 1940 and can make restitution claims now. These include Belorussians, Ukrainians, and even Baltic Germans."</p> <p>No information found of claims on land with Livonians or (other) IPs/TPs.</p>	Country	Low risk
	<p>Comments from FSC Network Partner on the above article:</p> <p>This article is contains "tendentious and misleading information".</p> <p>"The very last paragraph of this article names different nationalities but "forgets" to mention that also Latvians (and Livonians) lost their property because of its nationalization done during Soviet occupation. But focusing on the matter, the article in general is completely misleading. First of all, because the process of returning property to their legitimate owners (or their descendants) started in March 19, 1991 by issuing the Law on Free development and cultural autonomy rights of Latvian national and ethnic groups [Source: http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=65772]. Ruta Marjaša and other representatives of Jewish Cultural Society of Latvia participated in this process. The Law on Return of Buildings to the Rightful Owners [Source: http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=70828] was issued in the end of 1991 and the Law on Restitution of property to religious organizations [Source: http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=65537] was issued in 1992. Additionally there was the Law on Retuning of Real Estate to the Academic Life-Organizations issued in 1996 [Source: http://likumi.lv/ta/id/41487-par-nekustamo-ipasumu-atdosanu-akademiskajam-muza-organizacijam]. Natans Barkāns, the rabbi of Riga Jewish Congregation, as well as Esfīra Rapiņa (Head of Jewish community) actively participated in restitution of ownership rights of Jewish religious and community properties. The list of heir for each particular property and possibilities to restore ownership was done together with these people in Supreme Council's Commissions. As the very first the building in Skolas street 6 (in Riga) was granted to Jewish Cultural Society of Latvia in the beginning of 1990-ies, and there were three buildings retrieved in Daugavpils with the help of City Council. There was a pre-war building retrieved by congregation on Kungu street in Liepāja. Bikur Holim – a medical care association – was reestablished in 1992 and Riga City Council returned a pre-war hospital to the association, but the former women's hospital building was granted to its affiliate – the charity association. The government committed to support and finance Jewish religious education and Jewish community's efforts to explore their history. Besides already existing Simons Dubnov's High School there was Hasidim Elementary School (Habad Lubavič) opened in 1995. There was Judaistic Study Centre found in University of Latvia in 1998. In 2001 the museum "Jews in Latvia" was accredited and funding granted."</p>	Country	Low risk

	<p>“Approach mentioned in the the article currently included in the CNRA draft started in 2003 when this issue was brought up by completely new organization (established in 2003) - Council of the Jewish Communities in Latvia. This organization questioned application of Civil Law in the case of Jewish property. The main issue is that differing from Vilnius county (nowadays in Lithuania) where united organization (Central Jewish Council) was established there was no united Jewish community in Latvia. There was a spectrum of broad political, religious and public organizations with conservative religious association “Agudat Israel” and religious Zionist “Mizrahi” in the right wing, with Jewish National Democratic Party in the center and with the party “The Youth of Zion” and Jewish-Latvian Marxist workers' party “Bund” in the left wing. Many public organizations represented different views too. Jewish youth organization “Betar” was preparing youth for armed struggle to recover the land of Israel and to establish a Jewish national State, and for further work in the re-established fatherland. Communists were gathering in the Jewish workers' centre for culture and education “Arbeterheim”. But Jewish society that united liberators of Latvia began operations in 1928. The society educated Jewish youth in the spirit of Latvian patriotism and propagated military traditions of the Jewish people. There were two educational systems with Central organization of Jewish schools (where Yiddish was used) and Teachers' Zionist association (where Hebrew was used). There were also Jewish Scouts and student organizations.”</p> <p>“Mentioned and also other significant facts can be found in the publication by Leo Dribins, Armands Gūtmanis and Margers Vestermanis called “LATVIA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY: HISTORY, TRAGEDY, REVIVAL” [Source: http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/ministry/publications/4299/#1-36] included in the list along with other publications on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia [Source: http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/ministry/publications/].</p>		
Cases of IP and TP conflicts (historic or ongoing).) Data about land use conflicts, and disputes (historical / outstanding grievances and legal disputes)	No data found on any recent IP or TP conflicts.	Country	Low risk
Social Responsibility Contracts (<i>Cahier des Charges</i>) established according to FPIC (Free Prior Informed Consent) principles where available	N/A	Country	Low risk
<p>Google the terms '[country]' and one of following terms 'indigenous peoples organizations', 'traditional peoples organizations', 'land registration office', 'land office', 'indigenous peoples', 'traditional peoples', '[name of IPs]', 'indigenous peoples+conflict', 'indigenous peoples+land rights'</p>	<p>Preamble of the Constitution of The Republic of Latvia (Preamble added with changes in 2014). (translation by Imants Kruze, FSC Latvia): http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=57980</p> <p>“Latvia is a democratic, legal, socially responsible and national state, based on respect and freedom of the person, recognizes and protects the fundamental human rights and respect for national minorities. The people of Latvia protect its sovereignty, independence, territory, unity and democratic Latvian state.</p> <p>The identity of Latvia in the European cultural space since ancient times is formed from Latvian and Liv traditions, Latvian life wisdom, Latvian language, human and Christian values. Loyalty to Latvia, Latvian language as the only state language, freedom, equality, solidarity, honesty, justice, virtue of work and family as basis of a cohesive society. Everyone takes good care of themselves, their closest ones and the common good for society by acting responsibly towards others, future generations, environment and nature.”</p> <p>Preamble of the Repatriation Law of Latvia: http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/Repatriation_Law.doc</p> <p>“Latvia is the only ethnic territory in the world inhabited by Latvians and Liivs. Due to their advantageous geographical location Latvians and Liivs have always been subject to the attacks and assimilation tendencies of</p>	Livonian homeland	Specified risk on distinct language

	<p>other peoples. The gravest genocide was during the period of communist terror by the USSR when hundreds of thousands of innocent people were deported to various death camps. After the Second World War many Latvians and Liivs went into exile to the West. All this has led to a situation where Latvians may become a minority in their own homeland, but the Liivs have already become a minority. Now when independent Latvia has been restored, the Republic of Latvia supports the reunion of the Latvian people and invites Latvians and Liivs who have a sense of belonging to Latvia to return to their ethnic homeland.”</p> <p>Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Livonian_people “The Livonians or Liivs are the indigenous inhabitants of Livonia, a large part of what is today northwestern Latvia and southwestern Estonia [Source: Minahan, James (2000). One Europe, Many Nations. ISBN 978-0-313-30984-7] They spoke the Uralic Livonian language, a language which was closely related to Estonian and Finnish. The last person to have learned Livonian as a mother tongue died in 2013 [Source: Tuisk, Tuuli: "Quantity in Livonian", Congressus XI. Internationalis Fenno-Ugristarum, Piliscsaba, Aug. 10, 2010]. As of 2010, there were approximately 30 people who had learned it as a second language. Historical, social and economic factors, together with an ethnically dispersed population, have resulted in the decline of the Livonian population, with only a small group surviving in the 21st century. In 2011, there were 250 people who claimed Livonian ethnicity in Latvia.” [Source: Provisional results of the 2011 Population and Housing Census]</p> <p>“Prehistory The linguistic ancestors of modern Livonians may have lived on the eastern shores of the Baltic Sea around the Gulf of Riga as early as 1800 B.C.”</p> <p>[..] “Repression by the Soviet Union In the Soviet era, the Livonians were hard-hit by repressive measures from Moscow. For one thing, they were not allowed to sail far enough from shore to continue their fishery. For another, like the Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians, large numbers of them were deported to Siberia between 1945 and 1952, with a clear peak in 1949, when agriculture was collectivised in the Baltic states. Also, in 1955 a Soviet military base was constructed in the middle of the Livonian Coast. To accomplish this, some Livonians were forcibly relocated to villages farther from the coast. Subsequently, the western villages of the Livonian Coast had to be almost completely evacuated when the Soviet Union made its Baltic coastline (its western border) a "closed border area" where no one was allowed to live. Livonian culture was repressed during the Soviet period. For example, the Livonian Society was banned and the Livonian Community Centre expropriated and given to others. Within the Latvian SSR, the Livonians were not recognised as a separate ethnic group.”</p> <p>“Modern situation It was not until early 1970 that Livonian singers were allowed to found a choir named "Līvlist" ("The Livonians") in the western Latvian city of Ventspils. The 1980s, Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of glasnost and perestroika opened the Iron Curtain, bringing change. In 1986, the Livonian Cultural Society was founded. It was later renamed the Livonian Union (Livonian: Līvōd It). After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Latvia became once again an independent country. In this new nation, Livonians were finally recognised as an indigenous ethnic minority, whose language and culture must be protected and advanced. All rights and possessions which had been taken away from them during the Soviet era</p>	<p>Livonian homeland</p> <p>Livonian homeland</p> <p>Livonian homeland</p>	<p>Specified risk on historical continuity</p> <p>Specified risk on historical continuity</p> <p>Specified risk on historical continuity</p>
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	<p>were now returned to them. For example, the old Livonian Community Centre in Mazirbe (Irē) was given back and transformed into a historical museum, called the House of the Livonian People. Also, the Livonian language was reintroduced in the elementary schools in Riga, Staicele, Ventspils, Dundaga and Kolka.</p> <p>Furthermore, on February 4, 1992, the Latvian government created a cultural historic protected territory called Līvōd rānda - the Livonian Coast - which included all twelve of the Livonian villages: Lūžņa (Livonian: Lūž), Miķeļtornis (Pizā), Lielirbe (Īra), Jaunciems (Ūžkilā), Sīkrags (Sīkrōg), Mazirbe (Irē), Košrags (Kuoštrōg), Pitrags (Pitrōg), Saunags (Sānag), Vaide (Vaid), Kolka (Kūolka), and Melsils (Mustānum). The Latvian government discourages settlement of ethnic Latvians and other non-Livonians in this area and prohibits alterations to historic village sites. Also, it is prohibited for anyone to start a hotel, restaurant, or other public establishment which might adversely influence the Livonian culture or draw outsiders into the area.[Source: The State Institution Livod Randa]</p> <p>Today, many Latvians claim to have some Livonian ancestry. However, there are only 176 people in Latvia who identify themselves as Livonian. According to data from 1995, the Livonian language was spoken by no more than 30 people, of whom only nine were native speakers. An article published by the Foundation for Endangered Languages in 2007 stated that there were only 182 registered Livonians and a mere six native speakers. "The last Livonian", who had learned the Livonian language as a part of an unbroken chain of Livonian generations, was Viktor Berthold (b. 1921). He was buried on 28 February 2009 in the Livonian village of Kolka in Courland."</p> <p>"The Livonian Dāvis Stalts was elected into the Latvian parliament, the Saeima in 2011."</p> <p>The Turaida Museum Reserve: http://www.turaida-muzejs.lv/exhibitions/the-gauja-livs-in-the-cultural-history-of-latvia/?lang=en</p> <p>"The Gauja Livs in Latvia`s Cultural History"</p> <p>"Livs (Livonians) are one of indigenous people of Latvia with ancient and rich culture. Livs language belongs to Finno-ugrian language family and it is one of the Baltic-Finnic languages.</p> <p>In the 6th-7th millennium B.C. the ancestors of Livs and other Finno-ugrians lived in the southern part of the Urals and spoke Uralic language. In the course of time from the parent language branched off Samoyedic and Finno-ugric languages ethnic groups of Finno-ugrians in ca. 3400 – 3300 inhabited vast area in the northeast of Europe and reached also the territory of present-day Latvia. In the areas inhabited by these ethnic groups in the 3rd millennium B.C. formed Ugric, Permian-Finnic, Volga-Finnic, Saami and Baltic-Finnic language groups.</p> <p>In the 9th-10th century A.D. the Livs inhabited lower reaches of the River Daugava. Around the 11th century culture of Livs reached its flourishing on the banks of the Gauja River – in Turaida, Sigulda and Krimulda area.</p> <p>The Livs, which inhabited Gauja River area were named – The Gauja Livs. The inhabited area by Gauja Livs in the end of the 12th century covered ca. 1000 m2 and was divided into castle districts, which were governed by the elders, living in the fortified wooden strongholds. Right there worked also merchants and craftsmen, however, majority of inhabitants lived in villages. Life and work of the Livs went on according to nature. The main branches of economy were crop-growing and cattle-breeding. Relevant was also bee-keeping, because honey was used as sweet stuff and medicament.</p> <p>Finds on the archaeological site of the Gauja Livs testify about highly developed craft. One of the most ancient was backsmith`s work. Liv blacksmiths knew how to obtain and melt metal and work with it. Iron was obtained from the ore of local marshes, but silver, copper and tin were imported by merchants. Especially remarkable were works of Liv jewelers from bronze and silver.</p> <p>The Livs made divine the world of nature – there were holy trees, springs, stones, caves and hills. Millenniums old Finno-ugrian mythical notinos found their reflection in the following pendants: water birds, horses, teeth of bears and other forest animals, usually worn by Liv women and children.</p>	<p>Livonian homeland</p> <p>Livonian homeland</p>	<p>Specified risk on language and culture</p> <p>Specified risk on historical continuity</p>
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The first catholic missionaries in the lands of Livs arrived with German merchants at the turn of the 13th century. [...] Local rulers lost their power, wooden stronghold of the Livs in Turaida and other places in Latvia were destroyed.

In the course of time the number of the Gauja Livs substantially decreased. **Starting with the 16th and 17th century the Livs together with Baltic peoples – the Cours, Selonians, Latgallians and Semigallians became part of Latvian people.** Nowadays about the Gauja Livs remind us artefacts and place-names in the places inhabited by Livs, as well as ornaments and composition of colours in the national costumes of Turaida Region and patterns of mittens and bedspreads.”

Public organization “Līvõ kultūr sidām” (the name is in Liv language which could mean “Liv Culture Group”):

<http://www.livones.net/44atbildes/?raksts=8695>

“12/12/2011: Who are Livs?

Livs are a Baltic Finn nation that has lived for ages in the present territory of Latvia. Livs are the indigenous people of Latvia, who little by little, have mixed with Latvians.

Where have Livs lived?

According to the dates from archaeological excavations, chronicles and documents during 10th –13th century Livs inhabited wide territories of the present Latvia – the area of Kurzeme to the North from Abava river, the Vidzeme coastline and inland, lower of Gauja river, as well as the lower part of Daugava river. For the longest time **Livs stayed in Northern Kurzeme – along the coastline of the Baltic sea in an approximately 60 km long and 2–5 km wide belt between Ovīši and Ģipka, where there were 12 Livs villages.** In the middle of the 19th century Livs could also be met in **Northern Vidzeme around Svētciems.**

Have Livs had their own country, flag and anthem?

Livs have never had their own country, but on the lands inhabited by Livs there have been castles and rulers, for example, information has remained about the Turaida Livs leader Kaupo and Ako from Mārtiņsala. Livs have their own anthem and flag.”

The website does not give evidence of a self-identification of the Livonians as indigenous peoples, of a strong link of Livonians to territories or surrounding natural resources, of a distinct social, economic or political system, nor a distinct culture or belief.

Minahan, James (2000). One Europe, Many Nations. ISBN 978-0-313-30984-7. Viewed on:

http://books.google.nl/books?id=NwvoM-ZFoAgC&pg=PA424&dq=Livonians&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=Livonians&f=false

“The Livonian homeland lies on the eastern shore of the Baltic Sea around the gulf of Riga in Latvia and Estonia.

In Latvia the region is included in the historic regions of Kurzeme on the western shore of the Gulf of Riga and western Viszeme on the eastern shore of the gulf. In Estonia the Livonian homeland includes the coastal region south of the city of Parnu. Much of the region is lowland swamps and forests, which helped to **protect the isolated Livonian communities.**

Livonia has no official status, although a small part of the Livonian homeland, approximately a fifty-mile-long strip of land in extreme north-western Latvia was officially designated the Livonian Coast special region. The Livonian capital and major cultural center is Mazirbe.“ [...]

“The Livonians are a Finno-Ugric people related to the Estonians and Finns, although culturally they are close to the Latvians. [...] The total number of Livonians in the region is uncertain, as most Livonians have traditionally registered as ethnic Latvians or Estonians. Officially, only those who still speak the Livonian language are counted

	<p>as ethnic Livonians. [...] Like their Latvian and Estonian neighbours, the Livonians are mostly Protestant Lutherans.”</p> <p>“The Livonian nation, considered assimilated by the Soviet authorities since the 1960s, has reemerged since the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the independence of Latvia and Estonia. Although only a small number are able to speak the Livonian language, the traditional Livonian cultural traits and customs remain in integral part of the regional culture.”</p> <p>“The Livonian language is a Balto-Finnic language related to Estonian and Finnish, formerly spoken in two distinct dialects, Western Livonian in Kurzeme and Eastern Livonian in Vidzeme. The western dialect, also called Raandalist, is spoken on a daily basis by less than 50 people and is used by between 400 and 1,000 frequently, although an estimated 1,700 in eight villages was of Kolka in Kurzeme have some knowledge of it. Eastern Livonian became extinct in the late nineteenth century. [...]”</p> <p>“The Livonians claim to have inhabited their present homeland for over 5,000 years.” [...]</p> <p>“The disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the subsequent independence of Latvia and Estonia begin the modern reculturation of the Livonians. Overseas Livonians supported the revival with monetary and cultural aid. The Livonian Cultural Society, later renamed the Livonian Union, was founded in Latvia, where the Livonian language was again taught in area schools. Famous singing choirs, based in Riga and Ventpils, developed as the spiritual centers of the reviving Livonian nation.”</p> <p>“Young Livonians, in order to safeguard the future of their nation, began to learn the language and to sing the Livonian choirs. On 4 February 1991 the Latvian government approved the creation of a special cultural region, the Livonian Coast, in a territory about fifty miles long, on the extreme northwestern shore of Latvia, which is inhabited by the last speakers of the Livonian language. [...]</p>	Livonian homeland	Specified risk on distinct social, economic or political system
Additional general sources for 2.3	Additional specific sources	scale of risk assessment	risk indication
Latvian FSC Standard_20130920_EN	<p>“Descendants of Latvians (Couronians, Semigallians, Selonians and Latgalians) and Livonians who keep cultural and/or religious traditions of their ancestors are considered as indigenous people in Latvia. So far there are no groups of indigenous people or their representatives identified or reported to the SDG. It is impossible to distinguish any lands or territories in their possession, as these people are part of Latvian people and their prevalence is not characteristic to any specific territory but they are spread all over the country.”</p>	Country	Low risk
Information obtained from FSC Network Partner	<p>[Regarding processes in place to resolve conflicts:] „The legal system in the country is generally considered fair and efficient in resolving conflicts pertaining to traditional rights including use rights, cultural interests or traditional cultural identity. Based on review of international sources and reports it can be concluded that conflicts or violation of traditional rights of substantial magnitude is not a significant problem in the country.</p> <p>If the owner is not specified, justified, then one can go in the woods (forest law)</p> <p>Nature Conservation Rules - cultural heritage preserved</p> <p>The Law defines the rights (civil law), what recourse or judicial action to indicate a breach of the right.</p>	Country	Low risk

	<p>[Regarding violations of ILO Convention 169:] Violation of ILO Convention 169 and the rights of Indigenous and Tribal people is not known to be a problem in the country based on international sources and reports.</p> <p>Latvian FSC standard development working group has found that there is no indigenous Latvian territory (within the meaning of the FSC definition used)."</p>		
<p>Conclusion on Indicator 2.3: Russian other (ethnic) minorities cannot be considered as indigenous people. The only minority that could be considered indigenous people conform the FSC definition are the Livonians. The following evidence was found or not found in the light of the FSC definition of indigenous people: Evidence was found for: - Historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies: Livonians live continuously on the same land (Livonians homeland) since more than 2,000 years. - Distinct language: Livonian is a distinct language. There are people still speaking this language. - Form non-dominant group of society: Latvian are the dominant group of the society in Latvia. Some evidence was found for: - A distinct culture: Evidence shows that Livonians have had a distinct culture in the past. Nowadays, evidence shows that this distinctions is almost not existent anymore. No evidence found for: - A self-identification of the Livonians as indigenous peoples: No evidence that Livonians as a group or as a people identify themselves as indigenous people. - A strong link of Livonians to territories or surrounding natural resources: No evidence that Livonians as a group or as a people have this link to territories or natural resources. - A distinct social, economic or political system: No evidence that nowadays distinct systems exists. No evidence that Livonians as a group or as a people maintain any such system. - A distinct belief: No evidence that nowadays a distinct belief exists. In conclusion, Livonians cannot be identified as indigenous peoples in Latvia.</p> <p>Therefore the following 'low risk' thresholds apply to Latvia: (16) There is no evidence leading to a conclusion of presence of indigenous and/or traditional peoples in the area under assessment; AND (21) Other available evidence do not challenge 'low risk' designation.</p>		Country	Low risk

Controlled wood category 3: Wood from forests in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities

Overview

Latvia's terrestrial environment is a part of the Boreal biogeographical region of the European Union (EU) and is located between the boreal and the temperate broadleaf forest zones. Latvia's forests have undergone substantial changes over the past century. At the turn of the 20th century, the demand for wood for building materials and various everyday products rapidly increased. This 'wood' rush resulted in a decrease of forest cover to approximately 20% of the land territory of Latvia in the early 20th Century.

During the first phase of Latvia's independence (early 1920s), forestry was one of the main pillars of the national economy. Intensive extraction and production of timber only began to diminish in the late 1930s. After World War II, forest encroachment on abandoned farmland resulted in the increase of Latvia's forest cover and this trend continued until the restoration of Latvia's independence in 1991. A second wave of increased forest area occurred during the next decade due to the collapse of Soviet farming system when agricultural activity was ceased on a significant amount of land. Additionally, Latvia's increased forest area can also be attributed to other targeted afforestation initiatives. Today the forest area in Latvia covers close to 3.4 million hectares of land or 52% of the country's terrestrial territory.

'**State-owned forests**' in Latvia represent close to 1.6 million hectares (ha), 48% of the total forest area. The stock listed state owned forest company, AS Latvijas Valsts Meži ((LVM) established in 1999), manages 94% of the state forest area and which is both FSC and PEFC certified. The remaining 6% of state forests are managed by various governmental departments including Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Environmental and other state institutions. From this point forward the latter group will be termed '**other state managed forests**'.

Approximately 144,000 private forest owners manage 32% of the total forest area in Latvia. The average forest area owned by an individual private forest owner is small; approximately 92% of private forests owners hold no more than 20 hectares (ha) of land. The remaining 20% of the forest area is managed by private legal entities and municipalities.³ From this point forward the termed '**privately owned and municipal forests**' will represent all the private owners in Latvia, i.e., individuals, legal entities and municipalities.

The system of nature, environmental and cultural protection in Latvia is mainly regulated by the following laws (for a comprehensive overview please also see Category 1.9 on all relevant laws governing Protected sites and species):

- Specially Protected Nature Territories (1993)
- Law on the Conservation of Species and Biotopes (2000);
- Protection Zone Law (1997)

³ To date, seven certificates have been issued to privately owned and municipal forest owners, covering in total 130,694.21 hectares of forests in Latvia.

- Protection of Cultural Monuments (1992)
- Law on Forests (2000) and other relevant subordinated regulations.

In general, legislation on nature conservation in Latvia corresponds to the requirements of the EU Directives (i.e., EU Habitats Directive and Birds Directive), CBD and other conventions. According to legislation, 236 animal species, 426 plant species and 62 fungi species are included in Latvia's list of specially protected species; however, 22 animal and plant species are included in the list of specially protected species with exploitation limits. Overall, 2.7% of known Latvian terrestrial species are included in the list of specially protected species. There are also 86 habitat types protected in Latvia.

Latvia ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity on 13th March 1996. According to its 5th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014) Latvia is rated as having medium progress against almost all the Aichi Biodiversity Targets including Target 11⁴ with the Terrestrial Natura 2000 sites cover ca. 12 % of the country's area; marine Natura 2000 sites cover ca.34 % of the coastal marine area of Latvia and ca.1% of exclusive economic zone of Latvia.'

There are over 680 Specially Protected Nature Territories (SPNT) established in Latvia covering 11.5% from the country's terrestrial territory. There is a network of 333 Natura 2000 sites in Latvia of which 385,987 ha (49% of total Natura 2000 area) are found within forests and are a part of the SPNT. According to national legislation, all Natura 2000 territories have legal protection status. Natura 2000 management plans are being prepared with conservation objectives at an average rate of 30 per year and approximately 126 have been established at the time of writing this risk assessment (January 2016). Areas that do not yet have a management plan are managed according to general legislative requirements for protection of nature conservation areas.

The Law on *Protection of Species and Habitats* also supports establishing micro-reserves to protect small-scale biologically valuable areas and rare and/or disperse species and/or habitats outside of protected territories. The State Forest Service is the responsible institution for establishing micro-reserves in all forests irrespective of ownership type. Micro-reserves are under strict protection, i.e., forest management is prohibited in micro-reserves and only habitat management activities improving quality of the site are allowed. Micro-reserves are established based on an application by the forest owner or a third person and reviewed and approved by the State Forest Service. The status of micro-reserve can be revised during a routine forest inventory. As of 2015, there were 2,228 micro-reserves covering an area approximately just over 40,592 ha with 91% and 9% managed by state and private forest owners accordingly.

Aggregations of semi-natural forest parcels with high biodiversity value concentrations mostly corresponding to EU Protected Habitats (i.e., habitats corresponding with EU Habitats Directive) and/or Woodland Key Habitats (WKH) are designated as protected territories under Natura 2000. However, it is estimated that high conservation value areas such as WKHs, EU protected habitats and habitats maintaining populations of specially protected species remain outside Natura 2000 protected areas. Furthermore, it is estimated a significant proportion of potential WKHs have not been surveyed; particularly in private owners' forests. Lastly, it is worth noting also that restrictions on forest management are variable under the EU protected habitats umbrella; whereas

⁴ Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

forest management is strictly prohibited in WKHs designated as micro-reserves in Latvia (only habitat management activities improving quality of the site are exemption).

Restrictions or limitations are defined by legislation related not only to nature conservation but also legislation on restrictions within environmental and natural resources protection zones, exploitation protection zones, sanitary protection zones, security protection zones as well other protection zones (SFS statistics and also see Category 1.9). Restrictions or limitation measures vary from prohibiting any management activities within nature reserves, nature reserve zones of national parks, micro-reserves, specially protected forest compartments to restricting the type of harvest management within specific protected forest categories e.g., prohibition of clear-cuts or final felling.

According to data obtained from State Register of Forests (SRF) administrated by State Forest Service the forest areas in Latvia have some limitations for forest management include:

- Of all Latvian forests 71.8% are commercial forests with 14.5% containing protection territories (e.g., landscape protection zone or neutral zone within North Vidzeme Biosphere Reserve); 16.7% of private forests contain protection territories;
- More than 50% of municipal forests are within protected areas, mainly buffer-zones for nature protection and specifically protected nature territories.
- 3.3% of forest area has prohibited forestry activity;
- 6.9% prohibition of clearcut;
- 2.3% prohibition of commercial thinning;
- 1.2% prohibition of final felling.

The 2010 publication *'Protected habitats of Community Importance in Latvia. Identification Manual'* (an updated 2013 edition is now available), produced by experts coordinated by NGO Latvian Fund for Nature and financed by the Ministry of Environment, specifies the criteria and method for EU Habitat classification and mapping. This manual facilitated the development of a unified approach on how to survey habitat inventory. The task of systematically surveying and mapping of the EU habitat types within state-owned, as well as private forest owners and municipalities, is planned to be conducted in 2016 – 2020 according to manual above (at the time of writing this report the survey had not yet started in 2016 but is due to start in 2017). The habitat and species inventory and mapping will be coordinated by, and the responsibility of, the Nature Conservation Agency (to ensure implementation of unified nature protection policy in Latvia). Note during 1999 – 2005 state forests and other state forests were surveyed for WKHs which is important data for detecting HCV occurrence and risks especially associated with HCV 3.

Experts consulted

	Name	Organization	Area of expertise (category/sub-category)
1.	Sandra Ikauniece	Nature Conservation Agency (Public institution)	Forest habitat expert
2.	Viesturs Larmanis	Latvian Fund for Nature (NGO)	Expert, biologist
3.	Janis Rozitis	Pasaules Dabas fonds (NGO)	Forest policy expert
4.	Viesturs Kerus	Latvian Ornithological Society (NGO)	Ornithology expert, forest policy expert

Risk assessment

Indicator	Sources of Information	HCV occurrence and threat assessment	Functional scale	Risk designation and determination
3.0	1-4, 6, 9-17, 19-23	<p><u>HCV occurrence data assessment</u></p> <p>Forests in Latvia have not been fully examined for high conservation values (HCV) occurrence, although major HCVs have been identified and Latvia's most biologically important large forest areas are designated as protected areas on a national or EU level. The majority of forest ecosystem research is based on the level of habitats or species.</p> <p>During 1999 – 2005 state forests and other state forests were surveyed for WKHs. There are plans in coming years to carry out a comprehensive EU protected habitat inventory, as well as WKH inventory in private forests, in all of Latvia's forests. There are major data gaps on HCV in private forest owners and municipalities because of absence of data surveys conducted within these source types.</p> <p>For the current assessment HCV are identified as follows: HCV 1 – all areas containing protected species including: - Bird species listed in Bird Directive; - Species listed in Habitat Directive Annex II; - Species strictly protected on national level; via proxy areas such as strict nature reserves, nature reserves and nature reserve zones of national parks, as well as other strictly protected sites like micro-reserves - Species protected on national level. Like above via proxies like micro-reserves - WKH – proxy data for RTE habitats</p>	Country	<p>Low risk</p> <p>Thresholds (1) and (2) are met: Data available are sufficient for determining HCV presence within the area under assessment; AND Data available are sufficient for assessing threats to HCVs caused by forest management activities.</p>

		<p>HCV 2 – large woodland territories: Ramsar sites, Natura 2000 sites, forests in strict nature reserves, biosphere reserves, nature reserves, national parks, nature parks and protected landscape areas.</p> <p>HCV 3 – The ecosystems classified within Natura 2000 sites, EU protected habitats (Habitats and Birds Directive), Woodland Key Habitats (WKH) as well as other strictly protected sites like micro-reserves.</p> <p>HCV 4 – Ecosystem protection forests and protection forests.</p> <p>HCV 5 – Not present in Latvia.</p> <p>HCV 6 – Forest and parks with and or next to cultural values. Areas for mushroom and berry picking that are culturally and economically important for local communities.</p> <p><u>Threat assessment data assessment</u></p> <p>No country specific HCV assessment has been carried out for Latvia. The FSC HCV definition is not used in the country and there is no agreement amongst stakeholders how to integrate HCV concept to important conservation area schemes.</p> <p>Currently, state-owned forests managed by LVM are FSC and PEFC certified and under FSC certification required to identify and maintain HCVs under Principle 9 thus the forest management threats to HCVs under FSC certification are considered Low risk.</p> <p>For all other forest managed areas the knowledge of the application of relevant laws and regulations as stated in the context are well known based on in-country observation and experience corroborated by in-country expert review. Thus the knowledge of potential or known threats to HCV from forest management is good and is considered Low risk.</p> <p>In conclusion, the data available are sufficient for determining HCV presence within the area under assessment; and data available are sufficient for assessing threats to HCVs caused by forest management activities and this indicator is considered Low risk.</p>		
3.1 HCV 1	1, 6, 13, 15, 19, 21, 22	<p><u>HCV occurrence</u></p> <p>HCV 1 –all areas containing protected species including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bird species listed in Bird Directive; -Species listed in Habitat Directive Annex II; -Species strictly protected on national level; micro-reserves -Species protected on national level. - WKH – proxy data for RTE habitats 	<p>State-owned forests</p> <p>Other state managed forests</p> <p>Privately owned and municipal forests</p>	<p>Low risk –</p> <p>State-owned forests</p> <p>Other state managed forests</p> <p>Threshold (7) is met: HCV 1 is identified and/or its</p>

	<p>The current level of information on biodiversity is sufficient to identify most places where large concentrations of RTE species that need protection are located; including their temporal and/or seasonal habitats. Overall, significant sites and territories of RTE species (i.e., Habitat Directive Annex II nationally significant species and species strictly protected and generally protected on national level) are well protected under national legislation (e.g. including through micro-reserves).</p> <p>Mature and overmature stands are important habitats of RTE species, particularly bird, lichen, moss and invertebrate species. The lack of suitable (mature and overmature) trees and tree stands is considered substantial negative factor impacting RTE bird nesting as well as populations of invertebrates, lichens and moss, including RTE species. The age of trees used for nesting by most of RTE bird species typically, exceed the tree harvesting (rotation) age hence forestry activities may have an impact on the population of RTE species. This is particularly the case with private owned forests where there are less mature and over-mature aged stands compared to state owned forests.</p> <p>Bird species listed in the EU Bird Directive annexes, are strictly protected on the national level through nature protection legislation.</p> <p>However, 28 forest bird species that are identified on Latvia's list of specially protected species, 3 of those species still lack sufficient means of protection, e.g., species require a strict level of protection within its habitat where forest management is strictly prohibited. In summary, a total 22 (21%) of Latvia's forest bird species are considered endangered, 7 species of those do not have protection status under Latvia's nature protection legislation and a further two species listed as specially protected are lacking sufficient protection means (status evaluation of 2013 by Latvian Ornithological Society, V. Kerus).</p> <p>Threat assessment</p> <p>Overall, national legislation and conservation measures provide adequate conservation safeguards for significant sites and territories of RTE species; however, outside of protected territories defining significant forestry restrictions (e.g., strict nature reserves, nature reserves and nature reserve zones of national parks, as well as other strictly protected sites, etc.) it is common that either there is insufficient implementation of the required legislation and/or because the occurrence of RTE species is unknown within privately owned forests and thus RTE species are not well protected by forest management activities.</p> <p>Bird population monitoring data shows substantial decrease in populations of two Bird's Directive Annex I species – Hazel grouse (<i>Bonasia bonasia</i> L.) and Black woodpecker</p>	<p>occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats from management activities.</p> <p>Specified risk –</p> <p>Privately owned and municipal forests</p> <p>Threshold (8) is met: HCV 1 is identified and/or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment and it is threatened by management activities.</p>
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	<p>(<i>Dryocopus Martius L.</i>) over the last decade. Negative trends in populations of mentioned species has been observed already before in previous bird monitoring cycles. Both hazel grouse and black woodpecker conservation status in Latvia is regarded as unfavorable in view of nature experts. Hazel grouse and black woodpecker are settler bird species, so the decrease in population cannot be linked to quality of species habitats outside the country and other external factors, as may be the case of migratory bird species.</p> <p>Furthermore, negative trends in population has been observed for 7 forest bird species. These include: lesser spotted woodpecker (<i>Dendrocopus minor L.</i>), whose population has been decreasing since 2009. Populations of species which currently does not have any protection status in Latvian nature protection legislation, i.e. Turtle dove (<i>Streptopelia turtur L.</i>), Tree pipit (<i>Anthus trivialis L.</i>), chiffchaff (<i>Phylloscopus collybita Wieill.</i>), willow warbler (<i>Phylloscopus trochilus L.</i>), marsh tit (<i>Parus palustris L.</i>) and common crossbill (<i>Loxia curvirostra L.</i>) has shown decreasing trend in last years. Hazel grouse, black woodpecker and marsh tit are species whose population data is used for calculation of Forest Bird Index. In the view of experts, decreasing populations of mentioned species indicate on deteriorating biological diversity in forest ecosystems (Monitoring report of 2014, Latvian Ornithological Society, Auniņš et al, 2014).</p> <p>Information on RTE species protected territories, nesting sites and habitats (recognized and protected by relevant legislation) is cross checked during the processing for issuing felling permits against limitations of forest management activities held in the State Register of Forests (SRF) administrated by State Forest Service. However, given a number of important habitat sites, e.g., the nesting areas of a number of species included in the Bird's Directive Annex I, are not identified within the State Register of Forests this can result in forest management activities threatening the conservation status of many species through habitat removal and fragmentation including in seasonal and temporal habitats of RTE species. Based on habitat trends of RTE bird species it is likely that the RTE bird species in Latvia that do not have sufficient protection in forests/stands in mature or over mature stands.</p> <p>Even though the main concentrations of biologically valuable habitats and RTE species are known, problems in protecting RTE species remain in relation to incomplete information on location of nesting sites of these species. Only a part of them are known and are under sufficient protection regime. For example, less than half of black stork (<i>Ciconia Nigra L.</i>) nesting sites are known and protected, and even less is known for other RTE bird species.</p>		
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		<p>Conversely, there is a high level of compliance with national conservation regulations by other state forests managers and thus the risk of forest management activities threatening RTE species under their management is low.</p> <p>In 1999 – 2005 state forests and other state forests were surveyed for WKHs which is important data for detecting HCV occurrence and have led these forest managers to overall manage the risks accordingly.</p> <p>State-owned forests managed by LVM are FSC certified and under FSC certification required to identify and maintain HCVs under Principle 9 thus the forest management threats to HCVs under FSC certification are considered Low risk.</p> <p>Additionally, the Latvian 5th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014), the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia rated Latvia as having medium progress against the almost all the Aichi Biodiversity Targets including Target 11. Only the progress for Target 1 was rated low, and there was no evaluation for Target 10.</p> <p>In conclusion, HCV 1 is identified, and its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment. It is considered to be Specified risk for privately owned and municipal forests due to the fact many of the private forest lands have not been surveyed for biological/HCV. Thus there is a specified risk of forest management activities potentially threatening RTE species of national significance in Latvia. It is considered Low risk for state owned forests and other state managed forests due to the low likelihood of forest management activities threatening HCV 1 values.</p>		
3.2 HCV 2	3, 4, 9, 13, 20, 23	<p><u>HCV occurrence</u></p> <p>HCV 2 – Landscape-level ecosystems, Ramsar sites, Natura 2000 sites, forests in strict nature reserves, biosphere reserves, nature reserves, national parks, nature parks and protected landscape areas.</p> <p>Historical land use and forestry practices have resulted in that the majority of present forests in Latvia are semi-natural ecosystems with small insertions of close to natural forests stands. No landscape-scale natural forests with viable populations of most naturally occurring species exist in the country. Some of the large forest areas with important biodiversity values include forests in specially protected nature territories, e.g. national parks, landscape protection areas and biosphere reserve. All these forests are managed under specially designated legislation – general or individual regulations on</p>	Country	<p>Low risk</p> <p>Threshold (11) is met: HCV 2 is identified and/or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats caused by management activities.</p>

		<p>protection and use of protected territory (Regulations adopted by Government) or there are nature management plans that contain provisions related to forest management.</p> <p><u>Threat assessment</u> Currently there is no evidence that remaining important large scale forests are located within forest management areas and are impacted by forestry practices. A majority of the important landscape level ecosystems are designated as nature conservation areas at the national level. The risk for this category is considered low due to the strong legal framework adequately conserving the existing network of nature protected territories in Latvia. Please also see the risk assessment and low risk designation of Category 1.9. Protected sites and species.</p> <p>In conclusion, there is HCV 2 identified in the area under assessment but it is effectively protected and not subject to threats caused by management activities.</p>		
3.3 HCV 3	2, 13, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23	<p><u>HCV occurrence</u> The ecosystems classified within Natura 2000 sites, EU protected habitats (Habitats and Birds Directive), Woodland Key Habitats are nationally/regionally systematized ecosystems that are considered HCV 3.</p> <p>The Natura 2000 sites (333 sites) – 49% or 385,987 hectares of Natura 2000 terrestrial sites are located in forests. It is estimated that habitats of EU importance are mapped and assessed on approximately 10% of the territory of Latvia, just over 6,000 km², and are contained mostly within Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Currently in Latvia there are almost no primary forests, most of the remaining relatively small areas of old-growth forests⁵ are under strict protection included in strict nature reserves or strict reserve zones of other nature protection territories. Natura 2000 sites overlap with national protected areas and are protected on national and EU level.</p> <p>Semi-natural forest parcels with high biodiversity are identified as Woodland key habitats (WKH) and EU protected habitats. Aggregations of WKHs and EU protected habitats are designated in national protected territories – nature reserves, national parks, landscape protection areas as well as under Natura 2000 sites. However, there are areas of potential WKHs and EU protected habitats outside protected areas within all forest areas</p>	<p>State-owned forests</p> <p>Other state managed forests</p> <p>Privately owned and municipal forests</p>	<p>Low risk –</p> <p>State -owned forests</p> <p>Other state managed forests</p> <p>Threshold (15) is met: HCV 3 is identified and/or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats caused by management activities.</p> <p>Specified risk –</p>

⁵ Only 15,000 hectares of forestland in 2010 remained completely untouched by human processes. This can be described as a fully natural forest ecosystem with a completely natural process of development, but this applies to just 0.5% of all forestland in the country. (2)

	<p>- forests owned by private owners and municipalities as well as state and other state owned forests.</p> <p>The WKH inventory in state-owned forests (state and other state owned forests) started in 1999 and as of 2005, the total forest area inventoried in state forests exceeded 1.5 million ha. Of this area WKH accounted for 44,450 ha with another 14,380 ha for potential WKH areas.</p> <p>A full scale comprehensive WKH inventory in private and municipality forests has not been conducted to date. In 2003, the State Forest Service started an inventory assessment in these forest management areas to assess areas falling under the protection category “specially protected forest compartment”. Depending on the results of the assessment the protection status was either cancelled or a micro-reserve was established. This process continued until 2005, but the report is not publicly available. Based on the observations of the drafters of the current report, the survey covered only a minor part of private and municipality forests and mainly reviewed existing protected areas in these forests. WKH experts’ (24) estimate there is approximately 6-7% of privately owned forest area that are potentially WKHs. This opinion should be considered in the context that WKH represent approximately 3.5% of the state forest area, therefore the expert’s estimation of the potential area of WKH in private forests may be an overestimation.</p> <p>At present, forest owners/managers protect WKHs on a voluntary basis. Other means to provide a legal protection of WKHs is under the micro-reserve legislative protection measure (see the context section for more details).</p> <p><u>Threat assessment</u></p> <p>Forests areas belonging to Natura 2000 sites should be managed according to specially designated legislation – general or individual regulations on protection and use of protected territory (Regulations adopted by the Latvian Government see context for more background information) and subsequently, both forest management and nature management plans. Currently, not all Natura 2000 sites have nature management plans. According to statistical data from the Nature Conservation Agency all 42 Nature Parks, 4 National Parks, 9 Protected Landscape Areas, 4 strict nature reserves have nature management plans elaborated. But only about 60% of Natura 2000 territories – specially protected territories – Nature Reserves (261 in total) have nature management plans in place. Therefore, some parts are managed according to general legislative requirements for the protection of nature conservation areas. Problematic areas in relation to threats to forests and other areas with high conservation values are nature values in WKH and EU</p>	<p>Privately owned and municipal forests</p> <p>Threshold (17) is met: HCV 3 is identified and/or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment and it is threatened by forest management activities</p>
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	<p>protected habitats mostly within private owned and municipality owned forest territories; however, in some cases nature values in WKH and EU protected habitats are threatened within State owned and managed forests as well.</p> <p>In some cases, WKHs have a certain level of protection, because they fall within Natura 2000 sites, or are voluntarily protected by forest managers that have implemented forest certification schemes. However, majority of WHKs and EU protected habitats located in private forests do not have any protection. There is no detailed information on WKHs and EU protected habitats in privately owned and municipal forests because, as mentioned above, no full inventory and mapping of high conservation value habitats has occurred.</p> <p>According to the Article 17 Habitats Directive's report based on the assessment period of 2007-2012 published in 2013, all 9 of the forest habitat types in Latvia have an unfavourable to bad conservation status. The assessment of conservation status based on assessment years 2000-2006 reported in 2007 was rather optimistic based on partial data and extrapolation mainly due to lack of data. Since then, the situation in Latvia has changed starting with the economic crisis in 2008 when the annual wood harvest amounts were considerably increased (related to the government's decision to increase the amount of timber harvested from state-owned forests in 2009 and 2010 by two million cubic metres).</p> <p>In the Latvian 5th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014), the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia rated Latvia as having medium progress against almost all the Aichi Biodiversity Targets including Target 11. Only the progress for Target 1 was rated low and there was no evaluation for Target 10.</p> <p>State-owned forests managed by LVM are FSC certified and under FSC certification required to identify and maintain HCVs under Principle 9 thus the forest management threats to HCVs under FSC certification are considered Low risk. As for other major state forests, WKH and EU protected habitats overlap with Natura 2000 sites. Overall, the major other state forests managers are conserving the Natura 2000 sites well and in accordance with the relevant national legislative safeguards.</p> <p>Requirements to protect WKH and EU protected habitats are not covered by current forestry and environmental legislation. In fact, private, legal entity and municipality forest owners/managers as well as logging companies lack or have insufficient knowledge to identify and protect WKHs and EU protected habitats. Therefore, there is Specified risk</p>		
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		<p>that WKH and EU protected habitats (Natura 2000 etc.) are destroyed or damaged through fragmentation during harvesting operations within privately owned and municipal forests.</p> <p>In conclusion, HCV 3 is identified and/or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment and it is threatened by forest management activities within privately owned and municipal forests.</p>		
3.4 HCV 4	13, 21	<p><u>HCV occurrence</u> National legislation contains provisions for protecting forests that are vital in protection of water, e.g. the coastal protection zone along the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Riga, protection belts along rivers and lakes and in protection zones around mires. Drinking water quality is the responsibility of each respective municipality supervised by the Health Inspectorate of Latvia under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Latvia. Freshwater quality monitoring is the responsibility of the State Limited Liability Company "Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre" under the Ministry of Environment.</p> <p>Special regulations under the Protection Zone Law (1997) and Law on Forests (2000) and other subordinate regulations restrict the types of forest management, i.e., limiting certain felling techniques that can be used, to prevent decline of a forest ability to provide critical ecosystem services. These regulations are legally binding for all types of forest owners in Latvia.</p> <p><u>Threat assessment</u> The risk for this indicator is considered low due to the overall high level of compliance with the robust legal framework aimed at protection of ecosystem services through key environmental and forestry related legislation by forest management operations. See indicator 1.10 for further explanation on the evidence and low number of infringements on the relevant regulations linked to HCV 4.</p> <p>Furthermore, State-owned forests managed by LVM are FSC certified and under FSC certification required to identify and maintain HCVs under Principle 9. Thus, the forest management threats to HCV 4 under FSC certification are considered another reason for the Low risk.</p> <p>In conclusion, HCV 4 is identified and/or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats caused by management activities.</p>	Country	<p>Low risk</p> <p>Threshold (21) is met: HCV 4 is identified and/or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats caused by management activities.</p>

3.5 HCV 5	13, 21	<p><u>HCV occurrence</u> There are no indigenous people living in Latvia and no communities reliant on forest resources/sites to meet their basic fundamental needs.</p> <p><u>Threat assessment</u> There is no HCV 5 identified and its occurrence is unlikely in the area under assessment.</p>	Country	<p>Low risk</p> <p>Threshold (23) applies: There is no HCV 5 identified and its occurrence is unlikely in the area under assessment.</p>
3.6 HCV 6	34, 37	<p><u>HCV occurrence</u> Forest hosting or adjacent to places or objects of significant cultural heritage, e.g., manor parks, urban forests, forests of the important historical sites, sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of national cultural, archaeological or historical significance.</p> <p>There are numerous cultural areas connected with forests and trees including forests that are located inside cities, manor parks and/or housed within important historical sites that can be considered HCV 6.</p> <p>Cultural monuments (cultural and historical heritage sites) are under supervision of State Inspection for Heritage Protection under the Ministry of Culture. A database on identifying nationally significant cultural heritage objects is available and these HCV 6 values are preserved by the law on Protection of Cultural Heritage. Forest areas with restrictions and limitations related to preservation of cultural monuments are also registered in the State Register of Forests (managed by State Forest Service).</p> <p>If a cultural heritage object or site is identified a felling permit will not be issued. Additionally, historical places are preserved through buffer zones regulated by the Protection Zone Law (1997). Furthermore, any significant sites that have been identified and are protected within forests managed by other state forests managers.</p> <p>Urban forests and parks are managed by respective municipalities/local governments.</p> <p>Other HCV 6 values are related to recreation and, mushroom and berries picking. These activities are important for many people for leisure or a source of supplemental income and are considered nationally of critical cultural and economic importance for the traditional cultures of local communities. It was estimated that the total value of the non-timber forest products (mostly berries, mushrooms and medicine plants) collected from Latvia's forests in 2010 was EUR 138 million and 87% of those products were for self-use by local communities. There is no specific data (mapping and evaluation) on territories that are regularly used as sources of non-timber forest products and thus</p>	<p>State-owned forests</p> <p>Other state managed forests</p> <p>Privately owned and municipal forests</p>	<p>Low risk –</p> <p>State-owned forests</p> <p>Other state managed forests</p> <p>Threshold (29) : HCV 6 is identified and/or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment, but it is effectively protected from threats caused by management activities.</p> <p>Specified risk –</p> <p>Privately owned and municipal forests.</p> <p>Threshold (30) is met: HCV 6 is identified and/or its occurrence is likely in the area under assessment and it is threatened by management activities.</p>

	<p>those territories are not taken in to consideration during planning of forest management (except within FSC certified areas).</p> <p><u>Threat assessment</u></p> <p>There are numerous historical manor parks and dendrological planted pathways that have been abandoned and subsumed by heritage forests/stands that could be potentially considered sites of national and/or local level cultural, archaeological or historical significance, particularly in private forest areas. Additionally, these sites may occur on forest lands or overgrown agriculture lands that may or may not have forest land status and on other agriculture and other land use types.</p> <p>These heritage forests/stands also referred as 'noble forests' are composed of local deciduous tree species such as pedunculate Oak (<i>Quercus robur L.</i>), Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior L.</i>), Elm (wych Elm (<i>Ulmus glabra Huds.</i>), small-leaved Elm (<i>Ulmus minor Mill.</i>), Siberian Elm (<i>Ulmus pumilla L.</i>), European White-elm (<i>Ulmus laevis Pall.</i>), lime/linden (<i>Tilia spp.</i>), and, mostly in the South Western part of the country (SW of Kurzeme region), also Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica L.</i>) and Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus L.</i>). In some instances, these sites can be found under as other non-local (exotic) deciduous tree species. The aforementioned forest stands and dendrological planted pathways are usually more than 100-150 years old, attributed to Baltic German manor culture. However, there is limited information compiled and registered on such potential areas/sites and thus the status of these potential cultural and historically valuable sites may be unknown if they have not already been captured within the Ministry of Culture's nationally significant cultural heritage objects database.</p> <p>Under the law of Protection of Cultural Heritage, a forest management operation/owner is required to stop its management activities if a cultural heritage site has been discovered and report the discovery to the relevant Ministry of Culture agency. Action to determine its historical and cultural significance and subsequent protection measures are to be conducted swiftly by the relevant Ministry of Culture authority, e.g., within approximately 5 days. However, from discussions with in-country cultural experts there is a low level of compliance with this regulation by private forest owners. Local NGO stakeholder feedback raised the concern they were aware of some cases of cutting or partial cutting of trees with a valid Felling Permit issued by the State Forest Service in private owned forests with potential HCV 6 cultural heritage values. The general concern of the stakeholders is linked to the frequent observed unwillingness of private forest owners to communicate/notify authorities about objects of cultural heritage in their forests requiring protection according to the law due to fears of imposing restrictions for tree harvesting.</p>		
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		<p>Therefore, there is a risk of destruction of cultural values by forest management activities if the sites are not identified and/or identified and not reported.</p> <p>Regarding other HCV 6 values (NFTPs): The right to free access to the state and municipal forests are guaranteed under the Constitution of Republic of Latvia (Satversme), the Civil Code of the Republic of Latvia, the Law on Forests (section 5) and other legal acts.</p> <p>Most forest owners (both state and private) allow public access for berries and mushroom picking except for within strictly protected nature reserves. Restricted public access can be imposed by forest owners according to the conditions outlined under the Law on Forests (2000) Section 4</p> <p>Furthermore, State-owned forests managed by LVM are FSC certified and under FSC certification required to identify and maintain HCVs under Principle 9 thus the forest management threats to HCVs under FSC certification are considered Low risk. As for other state forests there is a general observation that the government bodies are compliant with the relevant regulations and no stakeholder feedback was provided that objected to this general observation. Other state forests are also considered Low risk.</p> <p>In conclusion, HCV 6 occurrence is likely in the area under assessment and it is threatened by management activities in privately owned and municipal forests.</p>		
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Recommended control measures

Indicator	Recommended control measures
3.0	N/A
3.1 HCV 1	Evidence that before harvesting takes place private forest owners and municipalities managing mature to over mature stands with trees with greater than 80 centimeters diameter at breast height, harvesting plans have been checked with experts such as the Latvian Ornithological Society and confirmation that habitat of RTE birds that lack sufficient regulatory protection are not threatened.
3.2 HCV 2	N/A
3.3 HCV 3	<p>The specified risk is assigned for this indicator in relation to protection of Woodland Key Habitats in private forests against negative impacts of forestry activities. The proposed controlled measures include an option to use any available information resources to check if the input material is not originating from WKH area using following algorithm:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can the products be traced back to the logging site in forest? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 If yes, go to 2. 1.2 If no, the products cannot be sourced. 2. Is the wood feedstock originating from the region (or group of properties) where EU habitat and/or WKH inventory (mapping and evaluation) has been carried out? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 If yes, go to 4.

	<p>2.2 If no, go to 3.</p> <p>3. Has the supplier - signed agreement and committed not to supply wood from WKH areas?</p> <p>3.1 If yes, go to 3</p> <p>3.2 If no, go to 4</p> <p>4. Has the supplier provided additional information such as forest inventory data, survey data or expert opinion and/or WKH data from the State Register of Forests proving that feedstock is not originating from mature or over mature forest stands having potential WHK values?</p> <p>4.1 If yes: the products can be sourced.</p> <p>4.2 If no: the feedstock cannot be sourced.</p> <p>5. Does the logging company agree to sign agreement and committed not to supply wood from WKH?</p> <p>5.1 If yes, go to 3.</p> <p>5.2 If no, the products cannot be sourced.</p>
3.4 HCV 4	N/A
3.5 HCV 5	N/A
3.6 HCV 6	Private forest owners and municipalities managing heritage forest land (defined as forests or forest stands composed of local deciduous tree species such as pedunculated Oak (<i>Quercus robur L.</i>), Ash (<i>Fraxinus excelsior L.</i>), Elm (wych Elm (<i>Ulmus glabra Huds.</i>), small-leaved Elm (<i>Ulmus minor Mill.</i>), Siberian Elm (<i>Ulmus pumilla L.</i>), European White-elm (<i>Ulmus laevis Pall.</i>), lime/linden (<i>Tilia spp.</i>), also Beech (<i>Fagus sylvatica L.</i>) and Hornbeam (<i>Carpinus betulus L.</i>) that are 100 – 150 years old in the South Western part of the Kurzeme region should surveyed their forest area to confirm they have not found any evidence of a cultural heritage site according to the law of Protection of Cultural Heritage. Potential buyers and/or the Private forest owners and municipalities should then verify and cross check the survey evidence with the Ministry of Culture agency to confirm the site (s) do not host historical manor parks of national significance.

Information sources

No.	Source of information	Relevant HCV category and indicator
1	Available outcomes of consultation with local experts and stakeholders	3.0, HCV 1
2	BALTI Group, (2011). <i>Latvia's Forest During 20 Years of Independence</i> [online]. Text is based on information provided by the Forest Department of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia. Available at: https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/ck/files/ZM/mezhi/buklets/MN_20_EN.pdf	HCV 3
3	Intactforests.org (2017). <i>World's Intact Forest Landscapes, 2000 - 2013</i> [online]. Available at: http://www.intactforests.org/world.map.html	HCV 2
4	Bryant, D., Nielsen, D., Tangle, L. (1997). <i>The last frontier forests</i> [online]. Ecosystems & Economies on the edge. World Resources Institute - Frontier Forests Initiative. Available at: pdf.wri.org/lastfrontierforests.pdf	HCV 2
5	Convention on Biological Diversity (N.Y.) <i>Country profile Latvia</i> [online]. Available at: https://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/?country=lv	Context
6	daba.gov.lv (2014). <i>Protected nature areas of Latvia</i> [online]. Available at: http://www.daba.gov.lv/public/eng/protected_areas/	Context, HCV 1

7	lvm.lv (N.Y.). <i>PEFC Certification</i> [online]. Available at: http://www.lvm.lv/en/sabiedribai-en/certification/pefc-certification	Context
8	Ministry of Agriculture Republic of Latvia (2017). <i>State forest service</i> [online]. Available at: http://www.vmd.gov.lv/en/valsts-meza-dienests/statiskas-lapas/about-us?nid=631#jump	Context
9	Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia (2014). <i>5th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity</i> [online]. Available at: https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/lv/lv-nr-05-en.pdf	Context, HCV 2
10	Latvia's State Forests (N.Y), PEFC Certification. Available: http://www.lvm.lv/en/sabiedribai-en/certification/pefc-ertification	Context 3.0
11	Ministry of Culture Latvia (2017). <i>State inspection for heritage protection</i> [online]. Available at: http://www.mantojums.lv/?cat=700&lang=en	HCV 6
12	Forest Stewardship Council (2017). <i>FSC public search home</i> [online]. Available at: http://info.fsc.org/	Context, 3.0
13	<p>Nature Conservation Agency: www.daba.gov.lv</p> <p>Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia: www.varam.gov.lv</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Agriculture (2017). <i>State Forest Service statistical reports (2013–2015)</i> [online]. Available at: http://www.vmd.gov.lv/valsts-meza-dienests/statiskas-lapas/publikacijas-un-statistika/statistikas-parskati?nid=1810#jump - Ministry of Agriculture (2017). <i>State Forest Service statistics from State Register of Forests (2001-2015)</i> [online]. Available at: http://www.vmd.gov.lv/valsts-meza-dienests/statiskas-lapas/publikacijas-un-statistika/meza-statistikas-cd?nid=1809#jump <p>Applicable Laws and Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - likumi.lv (2017) <i>Forests Law LV</i> [online]. Available at: http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=2825 (EN www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/Law_on_Forests.doc) - likumi.lv (2016) <i>Law on the Conservation of Species and Biotopes LV</i> http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=3941 (EN www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/Law_on_the_Conservation_of_Species_and_Biotopes.doc) - likumi.lv (2004) <i>Regulations on Specially Protected Species LV</i> [online]. Available at: http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=12821 - likumi.lv (2016) <i>Protection Zone Law LV</i> [online]. Available at: http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=42348 (EN www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/Protection_Zone_Law_.doc) - likumi.lv (2014) <i>Law on Specially Protected Nature Territories LV</i> [online]. Available at: http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=59994 (EN http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/On_Specially_Protected_Nature_Territories.doc) - likumi.lv (2017) <i>Regulations on Protection and Use of Specially Protected Nature Territories LV</i> [online]. Available at: http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=207283 	HCV 1, HCV 2, HCV 3, HCV 4, HCV 5

	(EN http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_264 - Regulations on Protection and Use of Specially Protected Nature Territories.doc)	
14	Ministry of Culture Latvia (2017). <i>State inspection for heritage protection</i> [online]. Available at: http://www.mantojums.lv/?cat=700&lang=en	HCV 6
15	Lists of specially protected species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - biodiv.daba.gov.lv (2014). <i>Threatened and protected species and habitats in Latvia</i> [online]. Available at: http://biodiv.daba.gov.lv/cooperation/foI288846 - latvijas.daba.lv (N.Y.). <i>Latvian threatened and protected vascular plants</i> [online]. Available at: http://latvijas.daba.lv/aizsardziba/saraksti/aizsargajamie_augi.shtml - latvijas.daba.lv (N.Y.). <i>Latvian threatened and protected birds</i> [online]. Available at: http://latvijas.daba.lv/aizsardziba/saraksti/aizsargajamie_putni.shtml - latvijas.daba.lv (N.Y.). <i>Latvian threatened and protected mammals</i> [online]. Available at: http://latvijas.daba.lv/aizsardziba/saraksti/aizsargajamie_ziditaji.shtml - latvijas.daba.lv (N.Y.). <i>Latvian threatened and protected fish</i> [online]. Available at: http://latvijas.daba.lv/aizsardziba/saraksti/aizsargajamas_zivis.shtml 	Context, HCV 1, HCV 3
16	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia (2009). <i>Environmental Policy Strategy 2009-2015</i> [online]. Available at: Environmental Policy Strategy 2009–2015 Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development (N.Y.). <i>Environmental Policy Strategy 2014-2015</i> [online]. Available at: http://varam.gov.lv/lat/pol/ppd/vid/?doc=17913	Context, HCV 2, HCV 3, HCV 4
17	Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Latvia (N.Y.). <i>National Program for Biodiversity</i> [online]. Available at: http://www.varam.gov.lv/lat/publ/politikas_planosanas_dokumenti/?doc=5388	Context, HCV 2, HCV 3, HCV 4
18	Ministry of Agriculture (1998). <i>The National Forestry Policy</i> [online]. Available at: https://www.zm.gov.lv/mezi/statiskas-lapas/nozares-strategijas-politikas-dokumenti/latvijas-meza-politika?nid=328#jump	Context
19	biodiv.daba.gov.lv (2014). <i>Report on Article 17 of the Habitats Directive</i> [online]. First 2001-2006 and Second 2007-2012 Report. Available at: http://biodiv.daba.gov.lv/foI302307/foI454010	HCV 1, HCV 2, HCV 3
20	nat-programme.daba.gov.lv (N.Y.). <i>Format for a Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000, Latvia</i> [online]. Available at: http://nat-programme.daba.gov.lv/upload/File/midterm/1_Midterm_JJatnieks_270215.pdf	HCV 2, HCV 3
21	Ministry of Agriculture (N.Y.). <i>Forest Sector Strategy 2015-2020</i> [online]. Available at: https://www.zm.gov.lv/mezi/statiskas-lapas/meza-un-saistito-nozaru-attistibas-pamatnostadnes-2015-2020-gadam?id=6501#jump	Context, HCV 1, HCV 3, HCV 4, HCV 5
22	zm.gov.lv (2014). <i>Latvian Forest Sector in Facts and Figures</i> [online]. Available at: https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/ck/files/ZM/mezhi/buklets/Latvian_Forest_Sector_in_Facts_and_Figures2014.pdf	Context, HCV 1, HCV 2, HCV 3
23	Ministry of Agriculture (2005). <i>Management of Woodland Key Habitats in Latvia</i> [online]. Available at: http://www.vmd.gov.lv/en/valsts-meza-dienests/statiskas-lapas/nature-conservation/woodland-key-habitats?nid=648#jump	HCV 2, HCV 3
24	How protected are the specially protected forest habitats in Latvia? Latvian Nature Fund, Viesturs Larmanis, 2009 <i>Cik aizsargāti ir īpaši aizsargājami meža biotopi Latvijā?, Latvijas Dabas fonds, Viesturs Lārmanis, 2009</i>	HCV 3

Controlled wood category 4: Wood from forests being converted to plantations or non-forest use

Risk assessment

Indicator	Source of information	Functional scale	Risk designation and determination
4.1	<p>Laws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Territory Development Planning Law (01.12.2011) - Meža likums (24.02.2000) - Agriculture and Rural Development Law (07.04.2004) - Protection Zone Law. (05.02.1997); - Law of Gauja National park (03.06.2009); - Latvian Administrative Violation Code (01.07.1985); - The Latvian Supreme Court case law summary regarding territorial planning, construction and environmental issues (2008-2012), issued in 2013. - Loss compensations is determined in Latvian Administrative Violation Code (01.07.1985) <p>Normative Acts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 402 "Requirements for documents for planning regional territorial planning documents" (16.07.2013) - Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 240 "General planning, use and building regulations" (21.05.2013) - Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 711 "Regulations on municipalities planning documents" (16.10.2012) - Cabinet Regulation No. 889 (published in 18 December 2012). "Terms of deforestation compensation criteria for determining and calculating the reimbursement arrangements" - Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 118 "Procedure for forest land conversion into agricultural land and permit issuing" (08.03.2013); - Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No.325 "On restoration of specifically protected habitats and habitats of specifically protected species in the forest" <p>Other Sources:</p> <p>FAO (2014). Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015. Country Report: Latvia. Rome. Available online: http://www.fao.org/3/a-az256e.pdf. Last accessed 14 July 2017.</p>	-	<p>Assessment based on legality</p> <p>Content of the law: 'The conversion of forest land into other land use categories is regulated by the existing legal territory planning and forestry framework. The conversion of forest land into other land use categories is prohibited in protected nature territories and buffer zones and belts: reserves, protected forests, forests of protective zones in State parks and other forests categories mentioned in the Forest Law.</p> <p>The conversion of forest land into other categories is allowed only in a few exceptional cases: if deforestation is necessary for construction, mining, establishing agricultural land; and restoration of specially protected habitat. The conversion may take place if the person initiating conversion has been issued an administrative act which allows those activities, and the person pays the State compensation for adverse effects associated with deforestation. The owner of the land is obliged to pay the state compensation for deforested land, if the land use type in National Cadaster Information System is established as forest. The compensation includes fees: 1) for loss of carbon dioxide sequestration</p>

	<p>State Forest Service Statistical reports (2010–2015): http://www.vmd.gov.lv/valsts-meza-dienests/statiskas-lapas/publikacijas-un-statistika/meza-statistikas-cd?nid=1809</p> <p>State Forest Service (2015). Annual Report: http://www.vmd.gov.lv/valsts-meza-dienests/statiskas-lapas/publikacijas-un-statistika/publiskais-parskats?nid=1808#jump</p> <p>Latvian State Forest Service, 2017. Annual Report 2016. Available: https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/01/06/16/Publiskais_parskats_2016.pdf, accessed 21 July 2017.</p> <p>Mongabay.com, 2006. <i>Statistics – Deforestation – Latvia</i>. Available online: http://rainforests.mongabay.com/deforestation/archive/Latvia.htm, accessed 6 February 2017.</p> <p>Latvian Ministry of Agriculture, 2015. <i>Information on LULUCF actions in Latvia</i>. Available online: https://www.zm.gov.lv/public/files/CMS_Static_Page_Doc/00/00/00/63/47/LULUCFactionplan_LATVIA_529_2013_EU_Art10_27062015_25MB.pdf</p> <p>Dr Metodi Sotirov, 2014. Sustainable management of biodiversity, South Caucasus - Final Report - A Policy And Institutional Analysis Of Forest Sector Reforms in Central and Eastern Europe on Behalf of GIZ - Working Paper 67/2014. Available online: http://biodivers-southcaucasus.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/WP-67-Forest-Sector-Reform-Eng-Reform.pdf, accessed 27 April 2017.</p>	<p>potential; 2) for the loss of biodiversity; 3) for degradation of environmental and natural resource protection and sanitary functions.</p> <p>The legal authorities are 'State Forest Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Nature Protection Board, Ministry of Environment Protection and Regional Development</p> <p>According to the Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No.325 (dated 18 June 2013) "On restoration of specifically protected habitats and habitats of specifically protected species in the forest" clause 11, the Nature Conservation Agency (hereinafter - Agency) is the competent authority for issuing deforestation permits in cases it is necessary to restore specifically protected habitats and habitats of specifically protected species in the forest. So far, the Agency hasn't issued such permits. In 2014 the Agency itself has implemented deforestation in the total area of 21.18 hectares in the Gauja National Park and in the total area of 11.28 hectares in Ķemeri National Park on the state lands which are under the possession of Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development. As a result of this deforestation, the forest after was transformed into grasslands and meadows. The aim was to reestablish grassland habitats even in cases when initially those were very wet lands. Those are either wooded grasslands or</p>
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			<p>periodically flooded grasslands that transformed due to prolonged abandonment and were recorded in the documents as forest land.</p> <p>The Agency believes that deforestation carried out in accordance with requirements of the Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No.325 (dated 18 June 2013) do not pose any risks in sourcing of controlled wood. The Agency also states that currently, from a regulatory compliance perspective, in Latvia the risks associated with forest conversion to plantations or non-forest lands are relatively small (FSC International Stakeholder Consultation, 2017).</p> <p>Is the law enforced?</p> <p>Category 1 of this risk assessment finds low risk for applicable indicators, demonstrating good enforcement of relevant laws.</p> <p>The 2016 State Forest Services annual report states that ‘during the reporting year [2015], the Service received 732 requests for the calculation of the deforestation compensation, which resulted in the payment of 602,662.26 EUR for damage caused to the forest environment during the deforestation process. Deforestation is planned for both construction and extraction of minerals, as well as for the installation of agricultural land in the forest.’</p>
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		<p>The State Forest Service periodically controls the application of forestry and territorial planning regulations related to deforestation and compiles statistics. Statistical data show that there are 19 (2012), 23 (2013), 24 (2014), 32 (2015) and 16 (2016) administrative cases involving violation of forestry law regarding deforestation. (State Forest Service statistical reports (2012–2015)). In 2016, the State Forest Service identified 853 cases of violations of regulatory enactments regulating forest management <i>in total</i>, of which 440 protocols were submitted for initiation of criminal proceedings and 413 administrative violations protocols were drawn up. Therefore, the 16 cases brought for “unauthorized deforestation” represent 1.8 per cent of cases brought. The Forest Services recovered EUR 18 364 for unauthorized felling which amounted to 1.4 % of the revenue for these services.</p> <p>As there were 16 infringements found whereas 732 lawful incidents of deforestation took place, the 2.4 per cent unlawful deforestation in terms of incidents does not indicate a widespread or systemic issue. There is no data available to compare the area of lawful versus unlawful deforestation, therefore a comparison on this level cannot be made.</p> <p>According to stakeholder consultation, ‘the position of Latvian courts is very strict regarding forest land conversion</p>
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		<p>to the other use of land. No broad interpretations of the law that could allow private subjects to convert forest land without special permits is allowed.'</p> <p>Is it possible to conclude that the spatial threshold can be met by assessing the enforcement of legislation?</p> <p>No, the applicable legislation is not sufficient to assess this indicator with the legally-based thresholds. The law does not prohibit conversion to the outcomes in the indicator. Conversion is allowed in limited circumstances with compensation payments being made.</p> <p>Assessment based on spatial data</p> <p>According to Sotirov (2014), in Latvia “the most controversial forestry practice in place has been the clear cutting of forests in both state and private forests which has led to largescale forest fragmentation and huge empty patches on forest lands”.</p> <p>However, spatial data indicate that forest conversion is still below the thresholds of this indicator. According to Mongabay (2006), between 1990 and 2005, Latvia gained 6.0% of its forest cover, or around 166,000 hectares. The Latvian Ministry of Agriculture states that the forest area in Latvia has gone from 3.17 million hectares in 1990 (49%) to 3.33</p>
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		<p>million hectares in 2012 (51.54%). That report states that most of the land use changes during this period 'occur due to the conversion of forest land to settlements or cropland, conversion of cropland to grassland and conversion of grassland to forest land' (see pages 10-11).</p> <p>Increasing demand for agricultural land may also be perceived as a potential driver for forest conversion, however, according to the Latvian Ministry of Agriculture (2015), there are large areas of abandoned former agricultural land in Latvia that will be used preferentially for this agricultural expansion.</p> <p>Violations typically are of small magnitude ranging from a few felled trees along a construction site to deforestation of a small area and subsequent transformation into building, ponding or other land use types (State Forest Service statistical reports (2010–2013)). There is no information on large-scale illegal transformation of forest land.</p> <p>The spatial data provided by FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment 2015 for Latvia also support a low risk designation.</p> <p>Risk Designation: Low risk Thresholds (1) and (3) are met: Thresholds provided in the indicator are not exceeded; AND Other available evidence do not challenge a 'low risk' designation.</p>
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Recommended control measures

N/A

Controlled wood category 5: Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted

Risk assessment

Indicator	Sources of information	Functional scale	Risk designation and determination
5.1	<p>http://lv.biosafetyclearinghouse.net State Forest Research Institute "Silava"</p> <p>National Programme on Biological Diversity (http://www.varam.gov.lv/files/text/biol_daudzveid_nac_progr.doc)</p> <p>Laws: Law on Circulation of Genetically Modified Organisms (19.12.2007) (http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=167400)</p> <p>Normative Regulations: Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 159 (26.03.2013) "On Forest Reproductive Material" (http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=256258) - Paragraph 4 "Requirements for marketing and use of the reproductive material (including genetically modified material), procedures and protocols related to prohibition of the sale of the reproductive material." Preliminary review of biotechnology in forestry, including genetic modification, 2004 (http://www.fao.org/docrep/008/ae574e/ae574e00.htm) State Forest Research Institute "Silava". Law on Circulation of Genetically Modified Organisms (19.12.2007) (http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=167400)</p>	N/A	<p>LOW RISK</p> <p><i>(1) GMO use is illegal according to applicable legislation of the area under assessment AND the risk assessment for relevant indicators of Category 1 confirms that applicable legislation is enforced.</i></p> <p>Use of genetically modified reproductive material for commercial use is not banned in Latvia according to Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 159 "On Forest Reproductive Material".</p> <p>The National Programme on Biological Diversity outlines the principal aims and objectives related to the use of genetically modified organisms in forestry. In particular, the Programme calls for "Promoting conservation of Latvian forest genetic resources. (13.8.3)" and "Avoiding the use of genetically modified trees" (13.8.4).</p> <p>The main legal acts related to the use of GM trees in Latvia are as follows: The Law on Environment Protection, The Law on Circulation of GMO, and Regulation on Forest Reproductive Material. The Law on Circulation of GMO establishes the principal areas of activities involving genetically modified organisms and products, state management and regulation. The Law outlines the rights, duties and responsibilities of genetically modified organism and product users. The Law applies to all natural and legal persons who are importing, placing on the market, using, and deliberately releasing GMO into the environment, as well those involved in testing, researching and other activities involving genetically modified organisms and products.</p> <p><i>(2) There is no commercial use of GMO (tree) species in the area under assessment,</i></p> <p>According to the latest available FAO study, commercial use of GM trees is not practiced in the country.</p> <p>No licenses have been issued for the use of GMO trees. The State Plant Protection Agency, responsible for management of registration of seeds/reproductive material where to every registered seed shall be provided information. There are no genetically modified seeds included in this register, nor are there any natural or legal persons cultivating genetically modified organisms in Latvia according to the register data.</p> <p><i>(3) Other available evidence does not challenge 'low risk' designation.</i></p>

	<p>Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 159 (26.03.2013) "On Forest Reproductive Material" (http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=256258) The register of genetically modified crop growers (http://www.vaad.gov.lv/sakums/registri/genetiski-modificetie-organismi/genetiski-modificeto-kulturaugu-audzetaju-registrs.aspx)</p> <p>Other sources: Preliminary review of biotechnology in forestry, including genetic modification", 2004 http://www.fao.org/docrep/008/ae574e/ae574e00.htm</p> <p>Latvia on the brink of complete ban of GMO products, By Vladislav Vorotnikov, 2012: http://www.saynotogmos.org/ud2012/index.php/2012/01/06/latvia-gmo-ban/</p>		<p>There is no evidence of or facts provided by the responsible institutions regarding unknown or suspected use of GM trees in the country. In Latvia the communalities can decide on the use of GMO, and many have decided against the use.</p> <p>According to information from the Latvian Forest Research Institute, genetically modified seeds of woody plants are not being bred in the country and there is no capacity to breed or produce genetically modified seeds of woody plants.</p> <p>Development of genetically modified seeds or plantings is not envisaged in the near future according to information from the Institute.</p> <p>According to the Law on GMO Circulation, all natural and legal persons wishing to engage in the activities involving the use of genetically modified organisms must be given an authorization. There has been no application submitted nor authorization issued concerning the use of GM trees in Latvia. Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 159 (26.03.2013) "On Forest Reproductive Material" outlines the principal requirements for reproductive material, including genetically modified reproductive material, source certification and registration, and certification and registration procedure.</p> <p>The State authorities responsible for control of the use of GMO do not possess any information nor evidence of unauthorized or commercial use of GM trees in Latvia.</p>
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Recommended control measures

N/A