

Kosovo FSC Standard Development Group

FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD FOR THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO



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FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD FOR THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

Final version

Version 3.2

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an independent, not for profit, non-government organization established to support environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

FSC's vision is where the world's forests meet the social, ecological, and economic rights and needs of the present generation without compromising those of future generations

Contents

1.	Introduction to the Kosovo Standard:	4
1.1.	Descriptive statement of FSC:	4
1.2.	Purpose and description of the standard:	5
1.2.1.	Purpose	5
1.2.2.	Description of the standard	5
1.3.	Scope:	5
1.4.	Background information on the standard setting process	5
1.5.	Version of the standard.....	6
1.5.1	Statement of the responsible parties that oversaw the development of the standard	6
1.6.	Context	7
1.6.1	General description of the geographical area covered by the standard.....	7
1.6.2	List of members of the committee that prepared the standard:	7
1.6.3	List of key consultants and advisors who assisted the committee:	8
1.6.4.	Associated documentation referenced in the standard. (This would include FSC documents, other FSC-accredited forest stewardship standards, legislation, and other relevant documents):	8
1.6.5	Terms and definitions (those which are crucial to the standard and are not defined in the FSC Principles and Criteria):	9
2.	SLIMF definitions in Kosovo FSC standard	17
3.	Definition of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) in Kosovo and additional explanation of Principle 9:	18
4.	List of abbreviations.....	19
5.	Annex to a forest stewardship standard	21
	A list of the national and local forest laws and administrative requirements which apply in Kosovo:	21
	A list of the multilateral environmental agreements and conventions that Kosovo has ratified and the ILO Conventions listed in FSC-POL-30-401 FSC and the ILO Conventions which must be complied with in all FSC certified forests:.....	22
	A list of or reference to official lists of, endangered species in Kosovo	23
6.	Indicators and notes	25
7.	FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD FOR THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO.....	27

1. Introduction to the Kosovo Standard:

The forests in Kosovo is the important national resource that covers 464 800 ha of the country and is important source of direct or indirect revenue for local population employed in forestry and wood industry. Even though it is important for the country, the quality of forests and forest management cannot be assessed as a good one. The situation is caused by strong population pressure on the resource, years of inadequate practice, lack of effective management structures, funds and investment into forestry. The chronic problem of Kosovo forests is the negative impact of illegal cutting and, according to estimates, some 40% of public forest lands and 29% of private forest lands has been subject to uncontrolled or illegal harvesting activities. The situation is most critical in coniferous forest where the entire existence of large forest areas is put at risk if no strong and immediate actions are taken. With a raw material base that is of insufficient quality, it cannot be expected that the wood industry (labor intensive industry) will develop and become competitive in the international market. The situation is aggravated by the fact that most of the neighboring countries have certified some or all their forests, making it even more difficult for Kosovo to make a competitive edge. Furthermore, the environmental considerations related to forests are rather weak, although Kosovo has quite rich biodiversity.

Following discussion on different policy levels, the decision was made that the quality of forest management in Kosovo could greatly benefit by the introduction of forest certification into their planning and operative activities.

1.1. Descriptive statement of FSC:

FSC is an independent, non-governmental, not for profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests.

It provides standard setting, trademark assurance and accreditation services for companies and organizations interested in responsible forestry. Products carrying the FSC label are independently certified to assure consumers that they come from forests that are managed to meet the social, economic and ecological needs of present and future generations. FSC maintains representation in about 58 countries.

FSC certification rewards forest managers for managing their forests the FSC way following the highest social and environmental criteria there are. In some instances rewards can be in the form of price premiums. But increasingly, FSC certification is rewarded with improved access to environmentally sensitive markets. Also, more and more governments and leading businesses specify FSC certified materials in their purchasing programs

Becoming FSC certified means that you are supporting responsible forest management as you have to comply with strict internationally recognized standard of good forestry practice.

With its market orientation, FSC certification helps to address, in a sustainable way, certain issues that cannot be supported by inefficient legislation and administrative structures. In order to remain certified, forest managers must comply with good management practices, maintain them and improve them over the time.

Forests provide us with clean water, fresh air, and help combat global warming. They also provide food, medicine and important natural resources, such as timber and paper. If managed responsibly, forests and plantations benefit forest people and the global community.

However, in some countries as much as 80% of the timber is harvested illegally. This often involves violation of human rights and felling of protected forests.

For further information on FSC, please visit: www.fsc.org

1.2. Purpose and description of the standard:

1.2.1. Purpose

This standard sets out the required elements against which FSC accredited Certification Bodies shall evaluate forest management practices within the Republic of Kosovo within the scope of forests defined in 1.3.

The FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship provide an internationally recognized standard for responsible forest management. However, any international standard for forest management needs to be adapted at the regional or national level in order to reflect the diverse legal, social and geographical conditions of forests in different parts of the world. The FSC Principles and Criteria therefore require the addition of indicators that are adapted to regional or national conditions in order to be implemented at the forest management unit (FMU) level. The FSC Principles and Criteria together with a set of such indicators accredited by FSC constitute an FSC Forest Stewardship Standard.

1.2.2. Description of the standard

The FSC standard for the Republic of Kosovo was organized following the structure, content and hierarchy prescribed in FSC-STD-20-002 (V3-0) EN *Structure and content of Forest Stewardship Standards*. It is laid out in the form of table for easy separation of different indicators. FSC principles are given in large print, criteria are in bold print and indicators are in normal script. Indicators are developed according to FSC-GUI-60-004 (Version 1-0) *Draft 1.0 EN FSC Forest Stewardship Standards: Structure, Content and Suggested Indicators*, with the help of national standards from neighboring countries (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro) and experience of the experts. SDG developed the verifiers for each indicator and added a note, where necessary (SLIMF, etc.). All text was harmonised to be appropriate for the local situation.

1.3. Scope:

This standard is applicable to all forest operations seeking FSC certification within Kosovo. The standard applies to all forest types to be found in Kosovo and in all types of ownerships.

1.4. Background information on the standard setting process

The decision was made that the FSC Kosovo Standard Development Group would be formed in order to introduce FSC certification in Kosovo forestry. The project was fully supported by USAID-KPEP program.

Kosovo Standard Development Group was established on April 29 2009 following the FSC-IC recommendations. The main criteria for selection of people working in SDG were:

- Expert knowledge and/or experience of issues within the standards; under consideration in Kosovo;
- Up-to-date knowledge and experience of FSC's systems and procedures;
- Representation of points of view from the corresponding FSC chamber, and the points of view of small, medium and large enterprises affected by the standard in Kosovo;
- Understanding of the potential impact of the standard on affected stakeholders in Kosovo;
- Understanding of and support for FSC's mission and vision;

Ability to review and comment on documents submitted in the working language(s) established for the Standards Development Group.

Standard Development Group elected the chair of the group with no voting rights. Hysen Shabanaj from USAID- Kosovo Private Enterprise Program (KPEP) was elected to this duty unanimously, because he is regarded as a person with greatest knowledge on FSC forest certification in Kosovo.

The group has also accepted Ratko Matošević, USAID- Kosovo Private Enterprise Program (KPEP) international forestry advisor to assist in facilitation of the group in the development process.

The group has also accepted the proposed list of organizations to be included into Consultative forum that would participate in a public consultation process and agreed on a Work plan and Terms of reference.

SDG has officially applied to FSC, to become a registered standard development group in July 2009. The FSC specialist Richard Robertson has paid the visit to Kosovo in September 2009, he has given additional training and officially informed the Kosovo SDG that they are approved by FSC and can continue the development process.

1.5. Version of the standard

This standard has undergone number of drafts before its completion. We list here the key versions with the dates of their preparation:

First draft (Version 1.)	October 2009
Second draft (Version 2.0)	February 2010
Forest tested draft (Version 2.1)	June 2010
Pre-approval draft (Version 3.0)	September 2010
Final Version	June 29, 2012

Since FSC principles and Criteria are currently under revision (June 2011), this standard will be revised after the final version of P&C is accepted.

1.5.1 Statement of the responsible parties that oversaw the development of the standard

The Consultative Forum for development of Kosovo standard was formed and it included individuals and/or organizations reflecting the full range of stakeholders affected by the standard(s) under development. Their identification was a part of previous activities aimed to introduction of FSC Forest certification. We believe that they represent all major stakeholders related to forest management in Kosovo covering all interests affected by forest management.

They have all been consulted in the process of development of Kosovo FSC standard.

The whole project was fully supported and funded by USAID/KPEP implemented by Booz/Allan/Hamilton. This program was responsible for meeting the deadlines and all deliveries of the project. It has also given invaluable help in supplying all facilities necessary for the successful work of SDG.

1.6. Context

1.6.1 General description of the geographical area covered by the standard

This standard is applicable to all forests within the Republic of Kosovo, included of forest types and ownerships. All FSC forest certifications to be carried out in Kosovo will have to use this standard for auditing purposes,

1.6.2 List of members of the committee that prepared the standard:

From the initial group of 18 people with previous experience, good understanding and initial training on requirements FSC, adhering to the rules of balanced proportion of different interests in forest management, the group has self-elected 9 people to act as a Kosovo FSC Standard Development Group. The members of Kosovo SDG are:

Environmental	Economic	Social
Name: Elez Krasniqi (president of the chamber)	Name: Hajrush Kurtaj (president of the chamber)	Name: Naim Ramadani (president of the chamber)
Organization: University of Prishtine	Organization: SNV Netherlands Development Organisation	Organization: Association of Forest Engineers and Technicians Kosovo
Name: Naser Bresa	Name: Bekim Topalli	Name: Bashkim Gashi
Organization: Educational, Training and Scientific Research Centre "Ozoni" Prizren	Organization: Ministry for Agriculture Forestry and Rural Development - Kosovo Forest Agency –KFA Ferizaj Office	Organization: Private Forest Owner Association "Pyjet e Kosovës" Qiflak Rahovec
Name: Agron Millaku (replaced by Miradije Gërguri)	Name: Saša Vukadinović	Name: Njazi Tershnajku
Organization: Ministry for Environmental and Spatial Planning Pristine	Organization: Socially owned Enterprise "Hrast" Leposavić	Organization: Hunting Federation of Kosovo - Pristine

1.6.3 List of key consultants and advisors who assisted the committee:

Hysen Shabanaj, USAID/KPEP forestry specialist, Chair of SDG
Ratko Matosevic, USAID/KPEP international forestry advisor
Oliviu Iorgu, Soil Association Woodmark auditor (field testing)
FSC facilitation and corrections:
Richard Robertson, Policy and Standards Unit
Gordian Fanso, Policy and Standards Unit

1.6.4. Associated documentation referenced in the standard. (This would include FSC documents, other FSC-accredited forest stewardship standards, legislation, and other relevant documents):

The list of FSC documents used

Following FSC documents were used during the process of development of Kosovo FSC standard. The same documents can be used for any future reference. In any future revision of the standard, this list will be updated with the latest versions and any new document that may be developed in the meantime.

2. References:

FSC-STD-60-006 (Version 1-0) EN Process Requirements for the Development and Maintenance of Forest Stewardship Standards
FSC-STD-20-002 Structure and content of Forest Stewardship Standards
FSC-GUI-60-004 (Version 1-0) Draft 1.0 EN FSC Forest Stewardship Standards: Structure, Content and Suggested Indicators
FSC-STD-20-003 Local adaptation of generic Forest Stewardship Standards
FSC-PRO-01-001 The development and approval of FSC International Standards (version 2-0)
FSC-PRO-60-006 The development and approval of FSC Forest Stewardship Standards (In Draft)
ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards (2004)
FSC STD 01 001 V4 0 EN FSC Principles and Criteria
FSC-STD-60-006 Procedure for the development of Forest Stewardship Standards
FSC STD 20 002 V2 1 EN Structure and Content Forest Stewardship Standards
FSC STD 01 003 V1 0 EN SLIMF Eligibility Criteria
FSC STD 01 003a EN SLIMF eligibility criteria addendum 2008 02 13
FSC-GUI-60-100 Guidance on the interpretation of the FSC Principles and Criteria to take account of scale and intensity
FSC-GUI-20-200 EN FSC Guidelines for Certification Bodies 2005
FSC POL 30 401 EN FSC certification and ILO Conventions 2002
FSC POL 20 002 EN Partial Certification 2000
FSC Guidance Document FSC-GUI-30-004: FSC Principles 2 and 3: Guidance on Interpretation
FSC GUI 30 001 V2 0 EN FSC Pesticides Policy Guidance 2007
FSC GUI 30 001a V1 0 EN Approved derogations for use of pesticides 2008 01 21
FSC POL 30 001 EN FSC Pesticides policy 2005
FSC PRO 01 004 V2 1 EN Processing pesticide derogation applications
FSC POL 30 602 EN FSC GMO Policy 2000
FSC ADV 30 602 EN Conversion of plantation to non forest land 2004 03 29
FSC ADV 30 901 EN Interpretation of Criterion 9 2 2003 04 28
FSC ADV 31 001 EN Interpretation of C10 9 2002 12 03
Draft version of FSC national standards for Bosnia and Herzegovina, 21. 06. 2006.
National FSC standard for certification and forest management, Montenegro, 3rd draft June 2006
Croatian national standard for FSC forest certification 2nd draft, Sept 2003

1.6.5 Terms and definitions (those which are crucial to the standard and are not defined in the FSC Principles and Criteria):

Accreditation Decision

A decision made whether to grant, continue, extend, reduce, suspend, restore, withdraw or refuse FSC Accreditation of a CAB or to take disciplinary measures (adapted from ISO/IEC 17011:2004 (E))

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-005 v1-0

Biological diversity

The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. (See Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992)

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Biological diversity values

The intrinsic, ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its components; (See Convention on Biological Diversity, 1992)

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Biological control agents

Living organisms used to eliminate or regulate the population of other living organisms.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Chain of custody

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Certificate

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Chemicals

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) (also referred to as Certification Body) Body that performs conformity assessment services and that can be the object of accreditation (adapted from ISO/IEC 17011:2004 (E)).

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-005 V1-0

Consensus

General agreement, characterized by the absence of sustained opposition to substantial issues by any important part of the concerned interests and by a process that involves seeking to take into account the views of all parties concerned and to reconcile any conflicting arguments (adapted from ISO/IEC Guide 2:1991).

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-005 V1-0

Credit account

A record kept by a certified organization operating a credit system which lists entries and withdrawals of volume credits for the purpose of selling products with FSC claims.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Credit system

A Chain of Custody system applied at the product group level which allows a proportion of outputs to be sold with a credit claim corresponding to the quantity of FSC and post-consumer inputs. Considering the applicable conversion factor(s), FSC and post-consumer inputs can be accumulated as FSC credit on a credit account.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Criterion (pl. Criteria)

A means of judging whether or not a Principle (of forest stewardship) has been fulfilled.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Critical control points

Places or situations in the supply chain where materials from uncertified/uncontrolled sources could enter or where certified/controlled materials could leave the system.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Customary rights

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Dispute: Umbrella term for any of the following:

Appeal: request by a party subject to a decision for reconsideration of any adverse decision made by the FSC with regard to the FSC Certification Scheme and/ or the FSC Accreditation Program (adapted from ISO/IEC 17011:2004 (E)).

(Informal) Complaint: initial expression of dissatisfaction by any person or organization, to FSC, relating to the activities of the FSC Certification Scheme and/ or the FSC Accreditation program (adapted from ISO/IEC 17011:2004 (E)).

Formal Complaint: formal expression of dissatisfaction by any person or organization, to FSC, relating to the activities of the FSC Certification Scheme and/ or the FSC Accreditation program, where a response is expected (adapted from ISO/IEC 17011:2004 (E)).

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-005 V1-0

District

Generic geographical definition within a country, which has similar features and similar risk for controlled wood categories and from which wood is sourced. It can be a county, locality or watershed, and is normally a sub-set of an eco-region.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Ecoregion

A large area of land or water that contains a geographically distinct assemblage of natural communities that:

- (a) Share a large majority of their species and ecological dynamics;
- (b) Share similar environmental conditions, and;

(c) Interact ecologically in ways that are critical for their long-term persistence.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-005 V2-1

Ecosystem

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Endangered species

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Exotic species

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Forest integrity

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Forest management/ manager

The people responsible for the operational management of the forest resource and of the enterprise, as well as the management system and structure, and the planning and field operations

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Forest Management Enterprise (FME)

Company or operation responsible for forest management

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-012 V1-1

Forest Management Unit (FMU)

A clearly defined forest area with mapped boundaries, managed by a single managerial body to a set of explicit objectives which are expressed in a self-contained multi-year management plan

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Forest Stewardship Standard

The normative document which specifies the requirements with which a forest management enterprise must conform in order to obtain certification

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-002 V2-1

FSC accredited Certification Body

CAB which is appointed by the FSC AC to undertake FSC certification audits of applicants for the FSC Certification Scheme and the surveillance of certified Forest Management Enterprises and Forest Product Enterprises against the Certification Requirements.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-005 V1-0

FSC certified product

FSC certified material that is eligible to carry an FSC label and to be promoted with the FSC trademarks.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

FSC Controlled Wood

Virgin wood or wood fiber which has been verified as having a low probability of including wood from any of the following categories: a) Illegally harvested wood; b) Wood harvested in violation of traditional and civil rights; c) Wood harvested in forests in which high conservation values are threatened by management activities; d) Wood harvested in forests being converted from natural and semi natural forest to plantations or non-forest use; e) Wood from forests in which genetically modified trees are planted.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-012 V1-1

FSC Forest Stewardship Standard

The FSC Principles and Criteria together with the addition of indicators that are adapted to regional (trans-national, supra-national), national and/or sub-national conditions in order to be implemented at the forest management unit (FMU) level

FSC Source: FSC-STD-60-006 V1-2

FSC Pure material

FSC-certified virgin material originating in FSC-certified forests or plantations that has not been mixed with material of another material category throughout the supply chain

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

FSC Mixed material

FSC-certified virgin material based on input from FSC-certified, controlled and/or reclaimed sources, and supplied with a percentage claim or credit claim.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

FSC Recycled material

FSC-certified reclaimed material based on exclusive input from reclaimed sources, and supplied with a percentage claim or credit claim.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)

Biological organisms which have been induced by various means to consist of genetic structural changes

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Illegally harvested wood

Wood that has been harvested in violation of any and all laws applicable to harvesting in that location or jurisdiction including the acquisition of the harvesting rights from the rightful owner; the harvesting methods used and the payment of all relevant fees and royalties.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-012 V1-1

Indicator

A quantitative or qualitative variable which can be measured or described, and which provides a means of judging whether a forest management unit complies with the requirements of an FSC Criterion.

Indicators and the associated thresholds thereby define the requirements for responsible forest management at the level of the forest management unit and are the primary basis of forest evaluation.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-002 V2-1

Indigenous peoples

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF)

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

- a) forest areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant :
 - concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia);
 - and/or*
 - large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- b) forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.
- c) forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).
- d) forest areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health) and/or critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Landscape

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Landscape level requirements

Requirements of the applicable Forest Stewardship Standard that are implemented at the level of the group entity in a forest management group (e.g. protection of representative samples of ecosystems, protection of high conservation values).

FSC Source: FSC-STD-30-005 V1-0

Local laws

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Long term

The time-scale of the forest owner or manager as manifested by the objectives of the management plan,

the rate of harvesting, and the commitment to maintain permanent forest cover. The length of time involved will vary according to the context and ecological conditions, and will be a function of how long it takes a given ecosystem to recover its natural structure and composition following harvesting or disturbance, or to produce mature or primary conditions.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Means of verification

A potential source of information or evidence that allows an auditor to evaluate compliance with an indicator.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-002 V2-1

Multiple FMU certification

A certification for which the scope includes more than one forest management unit (FMU) managed by the same forest management enterprise.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-012 V1-1

Multi-site organization

An organisation that has an identified central office and a network of at least two sites. Products from these sites or from identified sets of sites covered by a multi-site certificate must be substantially of the same kind, and must be produced or handled according to fundamentally the same methods and procedures.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Native species

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Natural cycles

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Natural Forest

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Non-compliance

Any failure to meet the threshold requirement(s) of an indicator.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-002 V2-1

Non-timber forest products

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

The Organization:

The person or entity holding or applying for certification and therefore responsible for demonstrating compliance with the requirements upon which FSC certification is based.

Origin

Forest area where the trees for the wood or fibre were harvested

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Other forest types

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Percentage system

A Chain of Custody system applied at the product group level which allows all outputs to be sold with a percentage claim that corresponds to the proportion of FSC and post-consumer input over a certain period in time.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Pest

Organisms, which are harmful or perceived as harmful and as prejudicing the achievement of management goals. Some pests, especially introduced exotics, may also pose serious ecological threats, and suppression may be recommended. They include animal pests, plant weeds, pathogenic fungi and other micro-organisms.

FSC Source: FSC-POL-30-001

Pesticide

Any substance or preparation prepared or used in protecting plants or wood or other plant products from pests; in controlling pests; or in rendering such pests harmless. (This definition includes insecticides, rodenticides, acaricides, molluscicides, larvacides, fungicides and herbicides).

FSC Source: FSC-POL-30-001

Plantation

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Post-consumer reclaimed material

Material that is reclaimed from a consumer or commercial product that has been used for its intended purpose by individuals, households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Precautionary approach

Tool for the implementation of the precautionary principle.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Pre-consumer reclaimed material

Material that is reclaimed from a process of secondary manufacture or further downstream industry, in which the material has not been intentionally produced, is unfit for end use and not capable of being re-used on-site in the same manufacturing process that generated it.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Primary manufacturing

Any processing that transforms roundwood into materials other than roundwood. For chip and fibre products, primary manufacturing includes the pulp mill as well as the paper mill stage.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Principle

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Procedure

A specified way to carry out an activity or process. Procedures can be documented or not.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Product group

A product or group of products specified by the organization, which share basic input and output characteristics and thus can be combined for the purpose of FSC Chain of Custody control, percentage calculations and labelling according to the FSC material categories: FSC Pure, FSC Mixed, FSC Recycled or FSC Controlled Wood.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Product type

A general description of outputs based on a categorization or classification system. Examples of product types according to the FSC product classification are: 'logs of coniferous wood', 'wood charcoal', 'chemical wood pulp', 'garden furniture', or 'particle board'.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Reclaimed material

Material that demonstrably would have otherwise been disposed of as waste or used for energy recovery, but has instead been collected and reclaimed as input material, in lieu of virgin material, for re-use, recycling, re-milling in a manufacturing process or other commercial application.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Resource Management Unit (RMU)

Set of FMUs managed by the same managerial body (e.g. the same resource manager).

FSC Source: FSC-STD-30-005 V1-0

Resource Manager

Person or organization that has been given the responsibilities by forest owners for the utilization of their forest resources, including operational planning and harvesting operations.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-30-005 V1-0

Salvaged wood

Wood that has been felled for reasons other than obtaining its lumber, or which was felled for its lumber and subsequently lost or abandoned. Examples include lake/river salvage (logs/timber that sank to the bottom of a river or lake while being transported), wood from orchard clearance, wood from road clearance and urban harvested wood.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Silviculture

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Site (in the context of chain of custody) A single functional unit of an organisation or a combination of units situated at one locality, which is geographically distinct from other units of the same organisation or the associated network.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-003 V1-0

SLIMF (small or low intensity managed forest)

A forest management unit which meets specific FSC requirements related to size and/or intensity.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-012 V1-1

Stakeholder

Any individual or group whose interests are affected by the way in which a forest is managed.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-30-010 V2-0

Succession

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Supplier

Individual, company or other legal entity providing goods or services to a Chain of Custody operation.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-20-011 V1-1

Tenure

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Threatened species

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

FSC Source: FSC-STD-01-001

Transfer system

A Chain of Custody system applied at the product group level, which allows outputs to be sold with an FSC claim that is identical to the material category and, if applicable, the associated percentage claim or credit claim with the lowest FSC or post-consumer input per input volume.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-0

Use rights

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

Very limited portion

The area affected shall not exceed 0.5% of the area of the FMU in any one year, nor affect a total of more than 5% of the area of the FMU.

FSC Source: FSC-STD-30-010 V2-0

2. SLIMF definitions in Kosovo FSC standard

FSC has introduced the concept of Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMF) with the intention to reduce the costs of certifications and to recognize the fact of reduced ability of small and low income generation forests to provide the same level of documented procedures as it would be the case with large enterprises. On the other hand, the potential environmental and social impacts of small enterprises and those enterprises which are managed at low levels of harvesting are relatively low. In order to respect this

fact, evaluation of such SLIMF forests is done using streamlined certification procedures, with reduced requirements.

The situation in Kosovo is such that the biggest forest holding is in state hands, making them the mostly likely candidate for FSC certification. The private forest holding is very fragmented, with numerous small owners, less likely to embrace FSC certification requirements. Notwithstanding that fact, the group has decided to discuss the SLIMF eligibility criteria for the Republic of Kosovo. Given the distribution of ownership of Kosovo forests the group has decided to go along the FSC recommended thresholds and defines SLIMF as forests:

- Smaller than 100 ha,
- The rate of harvesting is less than 20% of the mean annual increment and
- Annual harvest from the total production forest area is less than 5000 cubic meters

With these thresholds given, the certification body will make a final decision whether the forest area to be evaluated falls into SLIMF category. This standard has added SLIMF considerations in the column designated to notes and remarks. Any reduced requirements for certain indicator will be written in the notes box and if no remark is given, the provisions of the indicator are valid for both SLIMF and 'non-SLIMF', i.e. 'normal' forests.

3. Definition of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) in Kosovo and additional explanation of Principle 9:

Every forest has some environmental and social value. The values it contains may include rare species, recreational sites or resources harvested by local residents. Where these values are considered to be of outstanding significance or critical importance, the forest can be defined as a High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF).

Although the Forest Stewardship Council provides the generic definition of HCVs, it is not easy to interpret this global definition in different forest types, locations and in different social circumstances and therefore, each country defines their own types of forests having some exceptional values that need special protection.

The HCV concept was originally developed by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) to help define forest areas of outstanding and critical importance - High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF). HCVF guidelines appeared in 1999 in Principle 9 of the FSC's Principles and Criteria of Forest Stewardship, which form the basis for all FSC forest management standards and certification. Under Principle 9, forest managers are required to identify any High Conservation Values that occur within their individual forest management units, to manage them in order to maintain or enhance the values identified, and to monitor the success of this management.

The key to using the HCV approach is the identification of the High Conservation Values (HCVs), which cover the range of conservation priorities shared by a wide range of stakeholder groups, and include social values as well as ecological values. It is these values that are important and need to be protected. A High Conservation Value area is simply the area where these values are found, or, more precisely, the area that needs to be appropriately managed in order to maintain or enhance the identified values. Identifying the areas where these values occur is therefore the essential first step in developing appropriate management for them.

Based on the definition originally developed by the Forest Stewardship Council for certification of forest ecosystems, there six main types of HCV areas:

- HCV1. Areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia);

HCV2. Globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape-level areas where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance;

HCV3. Areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems;

HCV4. Areas that provide basic ecosystem services in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control);

HCV5. Areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).

HCV6. Areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities);

The HCV process usually comprises three key steps:

Identification of the HCVs based on an analysis of existing information and the collection of additional information where necessary to fill gaps.

Management of the HCV area in order to maintain or enhance the identified values; Identifying an HCV area and its management regime involves:

Establishment of an appropriate **monitoring** regime to ensure that the management practices are effective in their aim of maintaining or enhancing the HCVs.

The assessment process should be knowledge-based, using all relevant scientific data and local knowledge. It must ensure that relevant stakeholders are consulted and their views or the information they provide is incorporated into the process and it should be open and transparent including peer reviews of findings and public reporting of outcomes.

The usual way of undertaking these tasks is to develop the set of national criteria in document called HCVF Toolkit. This document is used as a basis for actual identification and other steps in HCVF process.

It is usually a lengthy process and, unfortunately, the project scope does not allow the time and expertise needed for all the steps necessary for this process. Therefore, SDG recommends that in further development HCV forests this initial definitions and methodology should be consulted. SDG for Kosovo will support any future initiative to assess HCVF and will promote this idea with different stakeholders.

4. List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full name
AAC	Annual Allowable Cut
CAP	Common Agriculture Policy of EU
CF	Consultative forum
CITES	Convention On International Trade In Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna
DF	Department of Forestry
EU	European Union
FMU	Forest Management Unit
HCVF	High Conservation Value Forests
ILO	International Labour Organization
KFA	Kosovo Forestry Agency
KPEP	Kosovo Private Enterprise Program
MAFRD	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
MESP	Ministry for Environmental and Spatial Planning
MEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
NFP	National Forest Programme

NFPS	National Forest Policy and Strategy
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
REC	Regional Environmental Centre
SDG	Standard Development Group
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SME	Small Medium Enterprises
SOE	Socially Owned Enterprises
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environmental and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
UNFF	United Nations Forum of Forests
UNMIK	United Nations Mission in Kosovo
USAID	United State Agency for International Development

5. Annex to a forest stewardship standard

A list of the national and local forest laws and administrative requirements which apply in Kosovo:

Forestry

Ligjet e miratuara në Kuvendin e Kosovës dhe të shpallura nga PSSP i OKB-së në

1. Ligji për Pyjet e Kosovës, Nr. 2003/3 të dt. 20 Mars 2003
2. Ligji për ndryshimin dhe plotësimin e Ligjit Nr. 2003/3 për Pyjet e Kosovës Nr. 2004/29 të dt. 14 Tetor 2004
3. Ligji Nr.03/L-153 për ndryshimin dhe plotësimin e Ligjit Nr.2003/3 për Pyjet e Kosovës. Dekretin e Presidentit të Republikës së Kosovës Nr. DL. 011-2010, dt.12.03.2010 (Gazeta Zyrtare Nr.34).

Aktet nënligjore të miratuara në lëmin e pylltarisë:

1. Udhëzim Administrativ Nr. 07/2003 të dt. 17.12.2003 për themelimi, përgjegjësitë, funksionet dhe organizimin e Agjencisë Pyjore të Kosovës.
2. Udhëzim Administrativ MA-Nr. 02/2005 të dt. 04.03.2005 për përgjegjësitë dhe obligimet e rojeve të pyjeve,
3. Udhëzim Administrativ MA. Nr. 6/2005 të dt. 23.03.2005 për regjistrimin, licencimin e prodhuesve të materialit fidanor pyjor dhe fidanëve të bimëve dekorative drunore
4. Udhëzim Administrativ MA – Nr 12/2005 të dt. 16.05.2005 për caktimin e çmimeve - taksave për shfrytëzimin e produkteve pyjore- drunore, jo drunore dhe për shërbime profesionale - teknike.
5. Udhëzim Administrativ MA-Nr. 15/2005 të dt. 20.04.2005 për ndryshimin dhe plotësimin e Udhëzimit Administrativ Nr. 07/2003 të dt. 17.12/2003 për themelimin, përgjegjësitë, funksionet dhe organizimin e Agjencisë Pyjore të Kosovës.
6. Udhëzim Administrativ MA-Nr.23/2005 të dt. 10.11.2005 për dhënien e lejeve profesionale.
7. Udhëzimi Administrativ MA-Nr.25/2005 të dt.28.12.2005 për shitjen e trungjeve pyjore dhe asortimenteve drusore.
8. Udhëzim Administrativ MA-Nr.29/2005 të dt. 29.12.2005 zgjedhja, damkimi, shënimi i asortimenteve drusore, fletë përcjellëseve dhe rendi pyjor.
9. Udhëzim Administrativ MA. Nr. 03/2006 të dt. 03.05.2006 për Autorizimet dhe Kompetencat e Inspektionit Pyjor dhe Procedurat e Nxjerrjes së Vendimeve.
10. Udhëzim Administrativ MA-NR. 12/2006 të dt. 04.05.2006 për përmbajtjen dhe mënyrën e hartimit të planeve menaxhuese me pyjet në Kosovë.
11. Udhëzim Administrativ MA-Nr.15/2006 të dt. 19.10.2006 për standardet dhe kushtet për Licencimin e përpunuesve të produkteve drunore.
12. Udhëzim Administrativ MA-NR-11/2007 të dt.14.09.2007 për sezonën e gjuetisë;
13. Udhëzim Administrativ MA-NR-15/2007 të dt. 01.08.2007 për ndryshim dhe plotësim të Udhëzimit Administrativ MA-NR.25/2005 për shitjen e trungjeve pyjore dhe asortimenteve drusore.
14. Udhëzim Administrativ MA-NR.16/2007 të dt. 01.08.2007 për ndryshim dhe plotësim të Udhëzimit Administrativ MA-NR.12/2005 për caktimin e çmimeve – taksave për shfrytëzimin e produkteve pyjore-drunore, jo drunore dhe për shërbime profesionale – teknike.
15. Udhëzim Administrativ MA-NR.22/2007 të dt. 29.11.2007 për mbrojtjen e pyjeve nga zjarri
16. Udhëzim Administrativ MA-NR.30/2007 të dt. 17.12.2007 për plotësimin dhe ndryshimin e Udhëzimit Administrativ nr.07/2003 i dt. 17.12.2003 për Themelimin, Përgjegjësitë dhe organizimin e Agjencisë Pyjore të Kosovës.
17. Udhëzim Administrativ Nr.01/2008 për shërbimin e rojës së gjuetisë të dt. 03.03.2008.

18. Udhëzim Administrativ Nr.02/2008 përdorimi i armëve dhe municionit të përshtatshëm për gjueti të dt. 03.03.2008.
19. Udhëzim Administrativ Nr. 03/2008 për përcaktimin e kriterëve dhe procedurave për dhënien e licencave për kryerjen e punimeve në pyje dhe toka pyjore të dt. 06.03.2008
20. Udhëzim Administrativ Nr.04/2008 për kultivimin, grumbullimin, qarkullimin dhe shfrytëzimin e produkteve pyjore jodrusore të dt. 06.03.2008.
21. Udhëzim Administrativ Nr.10/2008 për trofetë e kafshëve të egra të dt. 21.03.2008.
22. Udhëzim Administrativ Nr.23/2008, dt. 09.06.2008 për licencimin e subjekteve juridike për planifikime dhe projektme në fushën e pylltarisë.
23. Udhëzim Administrativ Nr.33/2008, për ndryshimin dhe plotësimin e Udhëzimit Administrativ Nr. 29/2005, zgjedhja, dëmkimi, shënjimi, i asortimenteve drusore fletëpërcjelljet dhe rendi, dt. 22.12.2008.
24. Udhëzim Administrativ Nr. 05/2009, për ndryshimin dhe plotësimin e Udhëzimit Administrativ Nr. 25/2005, Për shitjen e trungjeve pyjore dhe asortimenteve drusore,
25. Udhëzim Administrativ Nr.06/2009, për dhënien në menaxhim të vendgjuetive të përbashkëta.
26. Udhëzim Administrativ Nr.12/2009 Dëmet nga kafshët e egra në kafshë të egra, dt.19.08.2009.
27. Udhëzim Administrativ Nr. 14/2009, shërbimi profesional për zbatimin e planeve menaxhuese në vendgjueti dhe programeve zhvillimore të gjuetisë, dt. 29.12.2009.
28. Udhëzimi Administrativ Nr.05/2010 për mbrojtjen e pyjeve, përgjegjësitë dhe obligimet e rojës së pyllit, dt.28.06.2010.
29. Udhëzimi Administrativ Nr.06/2010 për mënyrën dhe procedurat e shitjes së trungjeve pyjore dhe asortimenteve drusore nga pyjet publike, dt. 28.06.2010
30. Udhëzimi Administrativ Nr.07/2010 procedurat e dhënies së lejeve për prerje, dt. 28.06.2010.
31. Udhëzim Administrativ Nr.08/2010 për ndryshimin dhe plotësimin e Udhëzimit Administrativ MA-NR.30/2007 të datës 17.12.2007 për themelimin, përgjegjësitë, funksionet dhe organizimin e Agjencisë Pyjore të Kosovës, dt.07.07.2010.

Nature protection

Ligjet nga MMPH_ja qe nderilidhen me qeshtje te pyjeve:

- Ligji i mjedist Nr. 03/L-025 i datës 19.03.2009, i datës 19.03.2009
- Ligji për Vlerësimin e Ndikimit ne Mjedis, Nr. 03 /L-214, i datës 14.10.2010 GZRK Nr. 83 date 29.10.2010
- Ligji i ujerave Nr.2004/24 i datës 14.10.2004
- Ligji i planifikimit hapësinor Nr. 14/2003 i datës 03.07.2003,
- Udhëzimi administrativ per zona te veçanta te mbrojtura Nr.11/2007 i datës 04.09.2007
- Ligji për mbrojtjen e natyrës 03/L-233 GZRK Nr. 85 i datës 09.11.2010
- Ligji për Parkun Nacional "Mali Sharr" 13/86
- Ligji për vlerësimin e ndikimit strategjik nr. 03/ L-230 , GZRK Nr. 83 i datës 29.10.2010
- Strategjia e Kosovës për Mjedis 2005-15 dhe Plani për Veprim ne Mjedis 2006-2010

A list of the multilateral environmental agreements and conventions that Kosovo has ratified and the ILO Conventions listed in FSC-POL-30-401 FSC and the ILO Conventions which must be complied with in all FSC certified forests:

Multilateral environmental agreements and conventions that Kosovo has ratified

Republic of Kosovo on declaration of its independence has vowed to take over all international obligations arising from international agreements. The support in for this in point 9 of the Declaration of Independence and the Article 145 of the Constitution of Republic of Kosovo. This gives Kosovo the legal basis to be party to the conventions and other acts signed by the former SFR Yugoslavia, given the fact that Kosovo has been constitutive element of the federation, and that comes from the Constitution of 1974.

Since Kosovo is still not a member of the international organizations like UN, EC and ILO and for that reason, it has not signed yet the conventions usually referred in FSC requirements.

The main international conventions that need to be respected as a FSC requirements are:

CITES – www.cites.org

ILO – www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdisp1.htm

ITTA - www.itta.com

Convention on Biological Diversity - www.biodiv.org/biosafety/protocol.asp

FSC-POL-30-401 FSC and the ILO Conventions lists the ILO Conventions which must be complied with in all FSC certified forests, irrespective of whether the government of the country concerned signed the applicable convention.

In countries which have not yet revised the national laws, or which have not yet ratified certain conventions, there may be contradictions between the provisions of ILO conventions and the provisions of national laws and regulations. Each case will be resolved case-by-case on its merits by the responsible parties, including certification bodies, national initiatives and FSC staff.

ILO Conventions listed in FSC-POL-30-401 FSC and the ILO Conventions which must be complied with in all FSC certified forests:

- 29 Forced Labour Convention, 1930.
- 87 Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Conventions, 1948.
- 97 Migration for Employment (Revised) Convention, 1949.
- 98 Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949.
- 100 Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951.
- 105 Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957.
- 111 Discrimination (Occupation and Employment) Convention, 1958.
- 131 Minimum Wage Fixing Convention, 1970.
- 138 Minimum Age Convention, 1973.
- 141 Rural Workers' Organizations Convention, 1975.
- 142 Human Resources Development Convention, 1975.
- 143 Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention. 1975
- 155 Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981.
- 169 Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989.
- 182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999.

ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Forestry Work (ILO 1998)

Recommendation 135 Minimum Wage Fixing Recommendation, 1970

Conventions number 29, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138 and 182 are Core Standards covered by the 1998 ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its Follow-up. ILO member states are expected to promote and realize these principles, even if they have not ratified the Conventions. The ILO Code of Practice is not a legal instrument, but it provides authoritative guidance on forest work.

A list of or reference to official lists of, endangered species in Kosovo

1. STRATEGJIA DHE PLANI I VEPRIMIT PËR BIODIVERSITET PËR KOSOVË (2010-2020)

2. Flora e Kosovës është e përfaqësuar edhe me lloje me areal të ngushtë, që konsiderohen si lloje bimore të rralla dhe të rrezikuara. Ekziston një listë e ngushtë e llojeve bimore të rralla dhe të rrezikuara, Kosova ende nuk e ka të përgatitur

Listën e Kuqe të llojeve.

1) *Taxus baccata* L. /Tisi/Common Yew /

2) *Quercus trojana* Webb./Qarraziu/ Macedonian Oak/

- 3) *Ulmus campestris* L. /Vidhi i rëndomtë / Elm/
- 4) *Acer heldreichii* Orph./Panja e Heldrahit/ Balkan's Maple/
- 5) *Forsythia europea* Degen et Bald./Boshtra e Evropës/European Forsythia/
- 6) *Wulfenia carinthiaca* Jack./Vulfenie e Karintisë / -----/
- 7) *Tulipa scardica* Bornm. /Tulipani i Sharrit / Tulip/
- 8) *Trollius europaeus* L./Trolli evropian/European Globeflower/
- 9) *Lilium albanicum* Gris./Zambaku shqiptar /Albanian lily/
- 10) *Dianthus scardicus* Wetst./Karafil i Sharrit / Pink/
- 11) *Fritillaria graeca* Boiss. et Sprun. /Fritillare greke/Greek Fritillary/
- 12) *Narcissus poeticus* L. /Selikali poetic, Lulëdemiçare /Poet's Narcissus/
- 13) *Rumex balcanicus* Roth. /Lepjeta e ballkanit/ Balkan's Sorrel/
- 14) *Ilex aquifolium* L. /Ashja / Holly/
- 15) *Daphne blagayana* Freyer. /Xerxelja e Blagajt/Blagayan's Daphne/
- 16) *Ramonda serbica* Panc. /Ramonda e serbisë / Serbian Ramonda/
- 17) *Paeonia decora* G. Anders. /Bozhure shtegëtare, Lulëgjaku/Scarlet Paeony /
- 18) *Paeonia corallina* Retz. /Bozhure mashkull /Coral Paeony/
- 19) *Waldesteinia geoides* Willd. /Valdesteinia / -----/
- 20) *Polygala doerfleri* Hayek /Poligala e Dorflerit/
- 21) *Paramoltkia doerfleri* Wettst. /Paramoltkia e Dorflerit / -----/
- 22) *Dioscorea balcanica* Koshan. /Grosha e egër/Balkan's Yams/
- 23) *Rhododendron ferrugineum* L. /Rododendroni / Alpenrose/
- 24) *Gentiana lutea* L. /Genciana, Sanëza e verdhë / Great Yellow Gentian/

6. Indicators and notes

Notes on interpretation of indicators

The structure of the standard closely follows the structure FSC Principles and criteria and indicators hierarchy, as defined in FSC-STD-20-002. However, some of the FSC principles are not applicable to Kosovo situation and therefore additional justification was given for not developing indicators for these criteria.

The standard includes indicators, verifiers and notes. It was decided not to develop separate indicators for SLIMF, when the forest audited meets the criteria for SLIMF, as mentioned in the text above, some indicators contain the notes to show if provisions are not applicable for SLIMF. In that sense, the notes are normative part of the standard. This means that in for the rest of the indicators without SLIMF applicability notes, Certification Bodies are advised to apply to all sizes of forest.

Principle 3 clarification

According to the definition by United Nations, there are no indigenous people on territory of the Republic of Kosovo. Therefore, Principle 3 cannot be applied. (See Glossary for UN working definition). Some of the aspects related to this principle have been considered under the principles 2, 4 and 9.

Principle 10 explanation

According to the FSC definition, plantations are forest areas lacking most of the principle characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems. They are artificially created stands used for intensive production of wood mass with use of agro-technical and silvicultural measures.

This definition lists key elements of non-natural origin of forests and a lack of natural features with additional remark of intensive production of wood.

The main global issue was whether plantations can be FSC certified at all, because of their non-natural character. FSC has defended this approach by saying that plantations can be valuable source of timber, they provide benefits in terms of carbon sequestration and are valuable for reduction of pressure on natural forests.

Much temperate forestry has planted forests where some of the main elements of this definition are missing, mainly intensive agro-technical measures. Kosovo has planted some areas of non-native forests, mainly to afforest previously bare lands. Such forests are known as „conifer cultures“, where as term “plantations” is used for intensively managed forests where the trees are planted in rows and sometimes other crops were cultivated between the rows (e.g. corn).

There is no exact data on the total area under artificially raised forests, but it is estimated that it amounts to roughly 5000 ha. Most of these “cultures” were established before 1975, and new establishments after that year were much lower.

The main objectives of establishments of conifer cultures in Kosovo were:

- afforestation of the bare land suitable for forestry production
- erosion control
- wind breaks
- amelioration of the heavily degraded coppiced forests and scrubs

The species used for afforestation were:

- *Pinus nigra* (native)
- *Pinus sylvestris* (native)

- Picea abies (native)
- Robinia pseudoaccacia (non-native)
- Pseudotsuga menziesii (non-native)
- Pinus strobus (non-native)
- Larix sp. (non-native)

Some of the species are native to the country and were selected because of better suitability as pioneer species, especially on bare land, where survival rate of seedlings is of key importance. With the exception of heavily degraded forests, no native forests were converted to plantations. The planting of seedling was not carried out in strict rows and therefore these forests do not have the artificial look of plantations. Only trained forester can actually recognize that these forests were raised artificially.

There are no or very little agro-technical measures applied and the main objective of these forests is to prepare the soil for the future introduction of native species, the process already happening naturally.

Furthermore, during the process of revision of FSC Principles and Criteria, Principle 10 is going to be revised so to lose the strict application to plantations only.

Given the limited area of “cultures” (plantations), the lack of intensive agro-technical measures, their near-to-nature character and current development, Kosovo SDG has decided that FSC Principle 10 is not applicable to Kosovo forests and will not be developed.

Group certification provisions

FSC group certification allows a group of forest owners to join together and share certification costs among the group members. This dramatically reduces the cost for each forest owner. The number of group members is not limited but the group has to be managed effectively and function according to FSC rules.

If there is an intention to create and run FSC group scheme (e.g. association of a small forest owners) in Kosovo in the future, this should be done in conformity with FSC group standards procedures defined in:
FSC-STD-30-005 (V1-0) EN FSC standard for group entities in forest management groups
FSC-STD-20-007 (V3-0) EN Forest management evaluations

Standard development group for Kosovo will not define any country specific provisions for group certification but will support any effort to expand the number of possible candidates if they decide to use this cost-effective option for becoming FSC certified.

7. FOREST STEWARDSHIP STANDARD FOR THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

FSC Principle 1: Compliance with laws and FSC principles.

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

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

Indicator 1.1.1

The forest manager shall respect all forest management related laws and by-laws.

Verifiers:

1. Consultations with the authorities responsible for controlling law enforcement related to forest management at all administrative levels.
2. Discussion with other stakeholders.
3. Discussion with the forest manager.

SDG-Notes:

See Annex A: List of legislation relevant to forest management

Indicator 1.1.2

The organization shall be legally registered in accordance with applicable administrative requirements, and has copies of all the documentation required for such registration.

Verifiers:

1. Copies of registration documentation.
2. Discussion with other stakeholders.
3. Discussion with the forest manager.

SDG-Notes:

See Annex: List of legislation relevant to forest management

Indicator 1.1.3

The forest manager shall have copies (physical or electronic) of the texts of relevant legislative and regulatory requirements, including at least those referenced in the applicable FSC standard. And shall demonstrate awareness of all applicable laws, by-laws and administrative requirements in Kosovo.

Verifiers:

1. Evidence of Forest manager's files of legislation in Kosovo related to forest management.
2. Discussion with the forest manager.
3. Discussion with employees

Indicator 1.1.4

The forest manager shall have a system of informing its personnel about any updates in legislation.

Verifiers:

1. Evidence of Forest manager's files of legislation in Kosovo related to forest management.
2. Discussion with the forest manager.
3. Discussion with employees

Indicator 1.1.5

The forest manager shall demonstrate that it has procedures in place to ensure that contractors and others responsible for forestry operations comply with applicable legal requirements in forestry.

Verifiers:

1. Evidence of Forest manager's files of contracts and tender documents.
2. Discussion with the forest manager.
3. Discussion with contractors.

SDG-Notes:

Note: Refer to Annex for a list current legal requirements

Indicator 1.1.6

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

Note: Exceptions to this Indicator may be considered in line with the requirements of Criterion 1.4.

Verifiers:

1. Evidence of Forest manager's files and contact with stakeholders.
2. Discussion with the forest manager.
3. Discussion with stakeholders

FSC Criterion C1.2 All applicable and legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes and other charges shall be paid.

Indicator 1.2.1

The forest manager shall demonstrate that all fees, royalties, taxes and other charges, at all levels are paid on the regular basis.

Verifiers:

1. No evidence of non-payment
2. Discussion with the forest manager.
3. Written evidence (financial audit reports, receipts, contracts, tenders, accounts)
4. List of applicable certificates

SDG-Notes:

See lists of all applicable taxes and fees in Kosovo for forest managers and contractors

Indicator 1.2.2.

The forest manager shall ensure that the requirements of this Criterion are also met by contractors and others managing forestry operations on the property.

Verifiers:

1. No evidence of non-payment
2. Discussion with the private contractors.
3. Contractor's tender documentation

SDG-Notes:

See lists of all applicable taxes and fees in Kosovo for forest managers and contractors

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

Indicator 1.3.1

There shall be no substantiated evidence of any non-compliance by the forest organisation with the applicable requirements of any international agreements listed in the Kosovo FSC standard and any new relevant international agreement relevant for FSC certification.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager.
2. Discussion with stakeholders.
3. Consultation with authorities responsible for international agreements.

SDG-Notes:

See Appendix + Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

See 1.1.6 above for cases of non-compliance

Indicator 1.3.2

Forest managers shall be aware of the national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in the country in which they operate, and shall demonstrate how the management of the land for which they are responsible contributes to these national obligations.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager.
2. Discussion with stakeholders.

Indicator 1.3.3

The forest management organization shall list of all locally occurring species that are listed by CITES.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager.

2. Documents

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

Indicator 1.4.1

Any case where a conflict between national legislation and FSC P&C is identified, it will be well documented and evidence should be given on how to resolve the conflict.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager.
2. The report on potential conflicts.
3. Evidence on resolution

Indicator 1.4.2

In the event of any conflict being identified, the forest manager shall consult with the body responsible for interpretation of the FSC standard and/or with the relevant authority responsible for interpreting legal requirements, or any other affected party in an attempt to resolve the conflict.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager.
2. The report on potential conflicts.
3. Evidence on resolution

Indicator 1.4.3

A certificate shall not be issued unless the evidence presented in relation to Indicator 1.4.2 demonstrates that the conflict has been resolved, thus avoiding non-compliance with laws, regulations and FSC standards.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager.
2. The report on potential conflicts.
3. Evidence on resolution

Indicator 1.4.4

The organization shall document the results of any attempt to resolve the conflict mentioned in 1.4.2, including written evidence of any government, certification body or FSC National Office formal interpretations, approvals, designations, authorizations, exceptions/ exemptions from requirements, which might allow the conflict to be resolved

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager.
2. The report on potential conflicts.
3. Evidence on resolution

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

Indicator 1.5.1

The forest manager shall protect the forest through the forest guard services or by other means and take all the necessary measures to prevent illegal use and other unauthorized activities.

Verifiers:

1. Systems for protection documented and there is no evidence of any ongoing unauthorized activities
2. Discussion with the forest manager
3. Consultation with forest guards/forest inspection service
4. Field visit

Indicator 1.5.2

Measures shall be taken when illegal activities are detected. Depending on the nature of the activity such measures may include:

- Reporting the activity to an appropriate authority;
- Disciplinary action or fines in the case that staff were involved;
- Working with the appropriate authorities, and always within the law, to control the unauthorized activity;
- Working with local communities and/or authorities to resolve underlying grievances leading to illegal or unauthorised activity;
- Pursuing legal action (e.g. prosecution) if necessary.

Verifiers:

1. Systems for protection documented and there is no evidence of any ongoing unauthorised activities
2. Discussion with the forest manager
3. Consultation with forest guards/forest inspection service
4. Field visit

Indicator 1.5.3

The organisation shall maintain a record of all detected instances of illegal harvesting and other unauthorized activities within its management area, and of any subsequent actions taken to control the illegal activity.

Verifiers:

1. Records of unauthorised activities
2. Discussion with the forest manager

SDG-Notes:

Note: Not applicable to SLIMF

Indicator 1.5.4

The forest manager shall have a system of monitoring of effectiveness of forest guards work

Verifiers:

1. Records of monitoring activities
2. Discussion with the forest manager

Indicator 1.5.5

Forest managers shall have agreements in discussion with local communities for their help in identifying and/or preventing illegal or unauthorized activities.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with local community representatives
2. Discussion with the forest manager

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

Indicator 1.6.1

The organisation shall have a publicly available policy endorsed by the owner/most senior management of the certificate holder, explicitly stating a long-term commitment to forest management practices consistent with the FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship.

Verifiers:

1. Declaration signed by the manager

SDG-Notes:

Note: Not applicable to SLIMF

Indicator 1.6.2

A program shall be in place to inform staff about the content of the FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship and the long-term management implications of adherence.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with local foresters
2. Records and documents about distribution of information to all units of the organisation (coordination directorates).

SDG-Notes:

Note: Not applicable to SLIMF

Indicator 1.6.3.

The forest manager shall disclose information on all forest areas over which (s) he has some degree of management responsibility (see FSC policy on Partial Certification), and there is no substantive evidence that the management of this land conflicts with the requirements of standards for FSC Controlled Wood (FSC-STD-30-010)

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with local foresters
2. Records

SDG-Notes:

Note: Not applicable to SLIMF

FSC Principle 2: Tenure and use rights and responsibilities

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

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

Indicator 2.1.1

The name and legal status of the entity managing the forest shall be stated.

Verifiers:

1. Documents, registrations, laws, contracts.

Indicator 2.1.2

The forest manager shall demonstrate the right to use the forest and forestland concerned and/or permissions needed to implement forest management which shall be compatible with long-term compliance with the requirements of the FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship.

Verifiers:

1. Written evidence (contracts, lease agreements)

Indicator 2.1.3

There shall be documentation (including associated maps), which clearly identifies the ownership of all the lands and forests under evaluation, and this is not subject to dispute.

Verifiers:

1. Written evidence (registry records, contracts, land registry, maps)

Indicator 2.1.4

The forest manager shall document and respect legal or customary tenure or use rights of local communities. These rights will be respected in forest management planning and clearly marked on the map.

Verifiers:

1. Written evidence of legal or customary tenure or use rights

2. Consultation with the local communities
3. Forest management plans,
4. Maps

C2.2 Local communities with legal or customary tenure or use rights shall maintain control, to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources, over forest operations unless they delegate control with free and informed consent to other agencies.

Indicator 2.2.1

Where forest operations occur on lands on which local communities have legal or customary tenure or use rights, the organization shall demonstrate the communities in question have EITHER:

Maintained clear and direct control over forest operations to the extent necessary to protect their rights or resources;

OR: have delegated such control with free and informed consent to other agencies or the organization

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (procedure for consultation with local communities, agreements, records of stakeholders, forest management plan)
3. Consultation with the local communities

Indicator 2.2.2

The forest manager shall involve the representatives of all local communities with legal and customary tenure or use rights in the planning process of forest management and control of forest operations.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (procedure for consultation with local communities, agreements, records of stakeholders, forest management plan)
3. Consultation with the local communities

Indicator 2.2.3

The forest manager ensures to local population free access to the forests, provided it is not impacting the stability of the ecosystem and it is not against the legal regulations. Under the same conditions, local community shall have a right of controlled and legal collection of firewood coming from pre-commercial cleaning and thinning operations of young stands.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Consultation with the local communities

Indicator 2.2.4

The forest manager ensures the right of the local community to use the non – timber forest products for their own use and to graze cattle in accordance with applicable legislation.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Consultation with the local communities
3. Documents

Indicator 2.2.5

The forest manager shall identify the all stakeholders in the area of evaluation and identify agreed customary practices/rights of the local communities that could be related to or take place inside the managed forest, involving some or all of its resources.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Consultation with the local communities

C2.3 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed to resolve disputes over tenure claims and use rights. The circumstances and status of any outstanding disputes will be explicitly considered in the certification evaluation. Disputes of substantial magnitude involving a significant number of interests will normally disqualify an operation from being certified.

Indicator 2.3.1

The forest manager shall have procedures to resolve disputes over tenure and use rights.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (policies, instructions)
3. Discussion with the local communities
4. Maps of areas under dispute
5. Records on cases of disputes

Indicator 2.3.2

All disputes shall be documented including records of all steps that have been undertaken in order to resolve t

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (policies, instructions)
3. Discussion with the local communities
4. Maps of areas under dispute
5. Records on cases of disputes

Indicator 2.3.3

In any case of dispute relating to tenure claims or use rights the organisation shall resolve the

dispute using locally accepted mechanisms and/or institutions

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (policies, instructions)
3. Discussion with the local communities

Indicator 2.3.4

Forest managers shall have a system of compensation for any damage done to private property.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Discussion with the local communities
3. Records of compensation

Indicator 2.3.5

There shall be no outstanding disputes relating to tenure claims or forest use rights which are of a substantial magnitude and involve a significant number of interests.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Discussion with the local communities
3. Records of disputes

Indicator 2.3.6

The forest owner/ manager shall maintain and keeps records of regular contacts with locally recognized community representatives to identify, discuss and attempt to resolve any disputes in their early stages

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Discussion with the local communities
3. Records of regular contacts

Indicator 2.3.7

Dispute resolution procedures shall make provision for the requirement that where tenure or use rights of communities may be compromised, forest operations that are or may be the direct cause of the dispute shall not be initiated or shall be suspended until the dispute has been resolved.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Discussion with the local communities
3. Records of procedures

FSC Principle 3: Indigenous peoples' rights

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

This principle 3 is not applicable as there are no indigenous people on the territory of Kosovo. See the explanation in the introduction.

FSC Principle 4: Community relations and worker's rights

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

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

Indicator 4.1.1

Demonstrable efforts shall be made to employ, and/or if necessary provide training, for workers from local communities (including forest dependent people) before workers are sought from further afield.

Verifiers:

1. Personal files of employees
2. Example of job/service announcement
3. Discussions with the employees and local communities

Indicator 4.1.2

The forest manager shall provide continuous training and professional development of the employees.

Verifiers:

1. Training program
2. Written evidence
3. Discussion with the employees

Indicator 4.1.3

The forest manager shall allow the forests to be used for educational purposes wherever it has no direct impact on the forest ecosystem stability and other forest management objectives.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Consultation with the local communities
3. Records on educational events

Indicator 4.1.4

A training programme, developed in agreement with the local people shall be implemented and support provided to enable local people (including forest dependent people) to be employed by the organization.

NOTE: This does not mean training the whole community. This indicator is not applicable to SLIMF.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Consultation with the local communities
3. Records on training

Indicator 4.1.5

The organization shall participate in the local development and improvement of quality of life of local communities (e.g. investment in community infrastructure; clinics, nurseries, schools or recreational facilities etc.).

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Consultation with the local communities
3. Records of investment projects

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

Indicator 4.2.1

Forest managers, private contractors and workers shall have a working knowledge of national laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of employees and their families. Forest manager shall provide workers with a regular training in health and safety.

Verifiers:

1. Documented rules, directives and regulations related to health and safety of employees
2. Discussion with the forest manager
3. Discussion with the employees and trade union
4. Field visit

Indicator 4.2.2

The organisation shall provide employees with personal protective equipment appropriate to the tasks they have been assigned, based on the assessment of risks for the task.

Verifiers:

1. Personal files of employees
2. Discussion with the employees and contractors
3. Field visit

Indicator 4.2.3

The forest manager shall prohibit workers from working without the personal protective equipment that has been provided.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Field visit
3. Discussion with the employees
4. Consultation with representatives of trade union

Indicator 4.2.4

All tools, machines, and equipment, including personal protective equipment shall be in safe and serviceable condition.

Verifiers:

1. Tools and machines records
2. Discussion with the forest manager
3. Discussion with the employees

Indicator 4.2.5

All workers shall have had relevant training in safe working practice, including training in basic first aid and where required or appropriate hold the necessary skills certificates

Verifiers:

1. Written evidence
2. Discussion with the forest manager
3. Field visit

Indicator 4.2.6

The forest management organization shall provide first aid kits with up to date medical supplies.

Verifiers:

1. Written evidence
2. Discussion with the forest manager
3. Field visit

Indicator 4.2.7

The forest manager shall keep records on accidents, examine their causes and take corrective and preventive actions to avoid accidents in the future.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Discussion with the employees
3. Discussion with the representative of trade-union
4. Records

Indicator 4.2.8

There shall be provision for the safe transport of workers to and from their place of work, and within the forest management unit.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Discussion with the employees

3. Field visit

C4.3 The rights of workers to organize and voluntarily negotiate with their employers shall be guaranteed as outlined in Conventions 87 and 98 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Indicator 4.3.1

The forest manager shall ensure the employment conditions are in accordance with the national legal regulations.

Verifiers:

1. Written evidence (e.g. contracts with employees)
2. Discussion with the forest manager
3. Discussion with employees
4. Discussion with representatives of trade union

Indicator 4.3.2

The forest manager shall guarantee the right of workers to organise in line with ILO Convention 87 (right to organise and join trade unions)

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
3. Written evidence (contract with employees, memberships in trade union)
4. Discussion with representatives of trade union

SDG-Notes:

Not applicable to SLIMF

Indicator 4.3.3

The forest manager shall guarantee the rights of workers to organise and voluntarily negotiate with the employers in line with ILO Convention 98 (right to organise, negotiate and make collective agreements)

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Discussion with the representative of trade-union
3. Written evidence (contract with employees and collective agreements)

SDG-Notes :

Not applicable to SLIMF

C4.4 Management planning and operations shall incorporate the results of evaluations of social impact. Consultations shall be maintained with people and groups (both men and women) directly affected by management operations.

Indicator 4.4.1

The organisation shall identify and document the potential social impacts resulting from its

operations, in consultation with the people and groups who are directly affected.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Discussion with stakeholders
3. Written evidence (list of stakeholders, minutes from the discussions/consultations with the stakeholders, analysis of social impacts)

Indicator 4.4.2

The forest manager shall take the findings of social impacts assessment into account while preparing the forest management plans and operative plans wherever they have no direct impact on the forest ecosystem stability and other forest management objectives.

Verifiers:

1. Written evidence (forest management plan, measures taken based on social impact assessment and stakeholders comments and recommendations)
2. Consultation with stakeholders

Indicator 4.4.3

The forest management shall maintain regular and ongoing consultation with the people and groups (both men and women) who are directly affected by its operations in order to identify social impacts and the potential to avoid or reduce such impacts on an ongoing basis

Verifiers:

1. Records of regular consultation with stakeholders
2. Consultation with stakeholders

Indicator 4.4.4

The organization shall implement a formal social management system, endorsed by the top management, that includes at a minimum 1) an analysis of the current situation of employees, local communities and other directly impacted groups; 2) the identification in consultation with these groups, of social objectives to be reached; 3) a plan to reach these objectives; 4) a participatory monitoring system; 5) a mechanism to review achievements and adapt plans accordingly, thus providing a loop of continuous improvement

Note: Not applicable to SLIMF

Verifiers:

1. Records of social management system
2. Consultation with stakeholders

C4.5 Appropriate mechanisms shall be employed for resolving grievances and for providing fair compensation in the case of loss or damage affecting the legal or customary rights, property, resources, or livelihoods of local peoples. Measures shall be taken to avoid such loss or damage.

Indicator 4.5.1

Appropriate mechanisms exist; they are documented and are implemented for providing fair

compensation to local people where their legal or customary rights, property, resources or livelihoods have been damaged.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (minutes from the meetings)
3. Discussion with the local communities

Indicator 4.5.2

An employee shall be appointed with responsibility to review and attempt to resolve any grievances raised in relation to the forest organization, in accordance with the documented procedure.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (appointment of employee)
3. Discussion with the local communities

Note: Not applicable to SLIMF

Indicator 4.5.3

Where grievances are raised they shall be responded to promptly and fairly.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence

Indicator 4.5.4

The documented procedure in 4.5.1 shall include options for providing fair compensation in relation to any such loss or damage

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence

Indicator 4.5.5

In the event of any unresolved dispute the organization shall show that it has followed (or is following) its dispute resolution process in a good faith effort to resolve the dispute.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence

FSC Principle 5: Benefits from the forest

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

C5.1 Forest management should strive toward economic viability, while taking into account the full environmental, social, and operational costs of production, and ensuring the investments necessary to maintain the ecological productivity of the forest.

Indicator 5.1.1

There shall be a work plan and budget for the forest management organisation showing expected costs and revenues for at least the current financial year.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Annual budget

Indicator 5.1.2

The annual budget shall include costs for all significant activities and necessary investments (including the cost of meeting all social and environmental commitments in P4 and P6) identified or implied in the forest management plan and associated policies and planning documentation.

Verifiers:

1. Written evidence (annual financial plan)

Indicator 5.1.3

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

Verifiers:

1. Written evidence (financial result, annual financial plan)

Indicator 5.1.4

The management of the organization shall include all the financial instruments for carrying out and planning its activities, commensurate to its size, including a budget covering a 5 year period, renewed at least 2 years before its expiration.

Verifiers:

1. Written evidence (financial result, annual financial plan)

C5.2 Forest management and marketing operations should encourage the optimal use and local processing of the forest's diversity of products.

Indicator 5.2.1

The forest manager shall encourage local processing and production of the various forest products under the conditions of market economy.

Verifiers:

1. Written evidence (the list of customers, contracts, records of timber sales)
2. Discussion with the local customers and communities

Indicator 5.2.2

Where possible, the owner/ manager shall promote the development of markets for and sustainable harvesting of common, lesser known forest species and/or non-timber forest products.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with forest manager

C5.3 Forest management should minimize waste associated with harvesting and on-site processing operations and avoid damage to other forest resources.

Indicator 5.3.1

The forest manager shall undertake actions, methods and technologies in harvesting, on-site processing operations and transportation that minimize loss of and damage to remaining trees, surrounding stands and other forest resources.

Verifiers:

1. Written evidence (the list of executing projects, annual forest management plan, the list of the machinery purchased during the last 5 years)
2. Internal instructions
3. Field visit.

Indicator 5.3.2

The forest manager shall extract and process timber promptly after felling

Verifiers:

1. Written evidence (records on harvesting and transportation)
2. Field visit

Indicator 5.3.3

Removal of unused biomass shall be minimized; to an extent that ensures that a part of the branches and bark pieces remains in the forest as far as possible, and whole tree harvesting shall not practiced.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with forest manager
2. Field visit

C5.4 Forest management should strive to strengthen and diversify the local economy, avoiding dependence on a single forest product.

Indicator 5.4.1

The forest manager shall promote multiple uses of forests wherever it has no negative impact on the forest ecosystem stability and other forest management objectives.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager.
2. Forest management plan
3. Field visit

Indicator 5.4.2

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

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager.
2. Plan for non-timber products use
3. Implementation cases
4. Income from non-timber products

Indicator 5.4.3

The organization shall allow local people to have access to the forest, and to harvest forest products for their own or local commercial use, where this does not interfere with the social, financial or ecological objectives of management. The impact of such activities shall be controlled, documented and taken into account in the management plan.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager.
2. Discussion with local communities

Indicator 5.4.4

The organization shall have assessed the potential for the sustainable production of non-timber products from the forest area (e.g., fisheries values, botanical forest products, recreational opportunities, game/legal game.), and incorporated this within the forest management planning process.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager.

2. Discussion with local communities

C5.5 Forest management operations shall recognize, maintain, and, where appropriate, enhance the value of forest services and resources such as watersheds and fisheries.

Indicator 5.5.1

In collaboration with relevant institutions (research institutions, public authorities) the forest/manager owner shall identify social functions of the forest. The results of this review shall be integrated in forest management plan

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Records on collaboration with institutions
3. Identification of social functions
4. Forest management plan
5. Consultation with social stakeholders

SDG-Notes :

SLIMF: Forest management operations shall have no significant negative impact on the forest's services and resources (including, for example, municipal watersheds, upstream and downstream commercial and recreational fisheries, landscape quality, contributions to regional biodiversity, recreation and tourism) are recognised in the forest management plan for the organisation).

Indicator 5.5.2

The forest manager shall encourage recreational and protective functions of the forest where appropriate, in order to develop multiple use of forest resources.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Plan for recreational, eco-tourism, educational and conservation values of forests.
3. Evidence on implementation of the above plan

Indicator 5.5.3

The management plan (or equivalent documentation) shall specify appropriate measures to maintain and/or enhance the value of each identified forest service or resource such as game management, water resource management, and fishing.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with responsible authorities (ministries)
2. Forest management plan, executing projects
3. Field visit

Indicator 5.5.4

The communication between the forest manager, water management companies and hunter/fisherman associations shall be established in the context of forest management

planning and implementation of the plan in order to harmonise forest management activities with water resource management.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (minutes from the meetings, signed agreements)
3. Discussion with water management companies and hunter/fisherman associations

C5.6 The rate of harvest of forest products shall not exceed levels, which can be permanently sustained.

Indicator 5.6.1

The expected level of harvesting is clearly justified in terms of the permanently sustainable yield of the forest products on which the management plan is based.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plan
3. Forest inventory data

Indicator 5.6.2

Harvesting levels do not exceed the prescribed allowable cut.

Verifiers:

1. Inventory data
2. Harvesting records

Indicator 5.6.3

The organization shall have a clear methodology to determine the allowable cut.

Verifiers:

1. Inventory data from forest management plan

Indicator 5.6.4

The planned and actual extraction rate of the forest resource (Including NTFPs) shall not jeopardize the forest's productive potential nor its potential to maintain food supply for wildlife, its environmental, ecological and social services in the medium and long term.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plan

Indicator 5.6.5

The organization shall keep clear, accurate and up-to-date records of harvested volumes of all commercial timber species, and of the commercial harvest of any non-timber forest products.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Harvesting records

Indicator 5.6.6

Data on growth, regeneration and volumes harvested and/or thinned shall be reported regularly and analysed in comparison with predicted volumes and growth data.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plan
3. Harvesting records

Indicator 5.6.7

When stock levels and growth are not well known (e.g. for certain NTFP species) the forest operation shall use conservative harvesting levels.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plan

FSC Principle 6: Environmental Impact

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

C6.1 Assessment of environmental impacts shall be completed -- appropriate to the scale, intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources -- and adequately integrated into management systems. Assessments shall include landscape level considerations as well as the impacts of on-site processing facilities. Environmental impacts shall be assessed prior to commencement of site-disturbing operations.

Indicator 6.1.1

The forest manager shall complete environmental impact assessment of its management activities appropriate to the scale of operations and with regards to landscape, fragility of ecosystems.

Verifiers:

1. Assessment of environmental impacts
2. Forest management plan

SDG Notes:

SLIMF: The forest manager shall complete overall environmental impact assessment of its management activities once in a five year period.

Indicator 6.1.2

The organization shall complete and document an assessment of the environmental impacts of any processing facilities and forest management activities within the FMU under assessment

Verifiers:

1. Assessment of environmental impacts of on-site facilities
2. Forest management plan

Indicator 6.1.3

The assessments of environmental impact referred to in Indicators 6.1.1 and 6.1.2 shall include potential impacts of management infrastructure, logging camps, and workers' activities.

Verifiers:

1. Assessment of environmental impacts of on-site facilities
2. Forest management plan

SDG Notes:

SLIMF: The forest manager shall complete overall environmental impact assessment of its management activities once in a five year period.

Indicator 6.1.4

The forest manager shall complete environmental impact assessment prior to commencement of site-disturbing operations and include potential impacts relating to the extraction of forest products (e.g. the choice of equipment, impact of the transport network, impact on rivers in the case of fluvial extraction, etc), both within and outside the FMU.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Internal instructions
3. Written evidence (environmental impact assessment, tendering documentation)

SDG Notes:

SLIMF: Forest manager shall ensure that any forest operation is compared to the overall environmental impact assessment from 6.1.1.

Indicator 6.1.5

The assessments of impacts referred to in Indicators 6.1.1, 6.1.2 shall explicitly consider potential impacts on any High Conservation Values identified within the FMU.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. HCVF areas identified
3. Written evidence (environmental impact assessment, tendering documentation)

Indicator 6.1.6

The management plans and other relevant policies and procedures of the organization shall clearly identify the actions to be taken to mitigate or reduce the environmental impacts identified as a result of the assessments.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plan

Indicator 6.1.7

There shall be a procedure to review and evaluate potential environmental impacts and to record the specific actions taken to prevent or mitigate the impacts identified, on a site-by-site basis, prior to the commencement of site-disturbing operations.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Internal procedures
3. Written evidence (environmental impact assessment, tendering documentation)

Indicator 6.1.8

The results of the environmental impact assessment, also at a landscape level, shall be incorporated into management plans and tendering documentation before conducting the operations.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Internal instructions
3. Written evidence (environmental impact assessment, tendering documentation)

SDG Notes:

SLIMF: Forest manager shall ensure that any forest operation is compared to the overall environmental impact assessment from 6.1.1.

C6.2 Safeguards shall exist which protect rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats (e.g., nesting and feeding areas). Conservation zones and protection areas shall be established, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management and the uniqueness of the affected resources. Inappropriate hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting shall be controlled.

Indicator 6.2.1

The forest manager shall have up to date list and maps on the presence of rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitats in the area of the management.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Consultation with biology experts
3. Written evidence (inventories, maps, scientific studies)

4. Field visit

SDG Notes:

SLIMF: Forest manager shall have overall knowledge on rare, threatened and endangered species using the best available expertise and information.

Indicator 6.2.2

The management plans and other relevant policies and procedures of the organisation shall clearly identify actions that are taken to maintain or enhance the presence of rare, threatened or endangered species and their habitat within area of management

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plan, game management plan
3. Field visit
4. Protection programs

Indicator 6.2.3

Areas of special regional importance for biodiversity shall be identified on maps, and protected from harvesting and other site disturbance.

Verifiers:

1. Maps
2. Consultation with local biologists
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.2.4

Conservation zones and protection areas within which the conservation of biodiversity including rare threatened and endangered species and their habitats as the primary objective of management shall have been identified and marked on maps.

Verifiers:

1. Maps
2. Consultation with local biologists
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.2.5

Conservation zones and protection area shall have been selected to maximise their contribution to the conservation of biodiversity in relation to their size (for example through the creation of conservation corridors, protected wetland areas and consolidation of natural areas). The size and location of conservation zones shall be sufficient overall to ensure the continuing presence of rare, threatened or endangered species as listed, to protect existing examples of ecosystems in their natural state (see Criterion 6.4 where appropriate) and are not less than 10% of the area of the FMU under assessment.

Verifiers:

1. Forest management plan, maps
2. Field visit

SDG Notes:

SLIMF: Not applicable

Indicator 6.2.6

At least 5% of the area of the FMU under assessment shall be managed so as to retain it as or restore it to the condition of natural ecosystem forest if appropriate to the locale of the FMU. This area shall be included in the identified conservation zones

Verifiers:

1. Forest management plan, maps
2. Field visit

Indicator 6.2.7

The forest manager shall prevent and monitor unauthorised hunting or gathering of non-timber forest products in accordance with the legal regulations.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (documented procedure, official books of forest guards, contacts with police, other data on unauthorised activities)

SDG Notes

SLIMF: No guard service necessary

Indicator 6.2.8

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

C6.3 Ecological functions and values shall be maintained intact, enhanced, or restored, including:

- a) **Forest regeneration and succession.**
- b) **Genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity.**
- c) **Natural cycles that affect the productivity of the forest ecosystem.**

Indicator 6.3.1

The forest manager shall apply a forest management and silviculture system that is based on natural composition of tree species to encourage and take advantage of natural regeneration.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plan
3. Records on forest regeneration
4. Field visit

Indicator 6.3.2

Old, non-commercial trees; trees with special ecological value; standing dead trees; and dead fallen wood shall be systematically retained within the area of the FMU.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (forest management plan, policies)
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.3.3

Small-scale sites of high ecological value (e.g. nesting sites, small wetlands, ponds, small open areas, etc) shall be systematically retained and protected (e.g. through appropriate buffer zones) throughout the production area of the FMU.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plans,
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.3.4

Site preparation and harvesting methods shall have been designed to minimize soil erosion and compaction and maximizes the retention of nutrients on site.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plans,
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.3.5

Protective areas shall be established between the management areas and the areas, which have high risk of fire or erosion (e.g. bordering on pastures or small farming areas).

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plans,
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.3.6

There shall be no evidence that the harvesting of material from the site is reducing the potential productivity of the soil in the long term

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plans,
3. Field visit

C6.4 Representative samples of existing ecosystems within the landscape shall be protected in their natural state and recorded on maps, appropriate to the scale and intensity of operations and the uniqueness of the affected resources.

NB The Indicators for this Criterion should be considered in conjunction with those for Criteria 6.2 and 6.3.

Indicator 6.4.1

The FMU shall have been surveyed to identify any areas representative of ecosystems in their natural state, and all such areas shall be identified on maps.

Verifiers:

1. Forest management plans and maps
2. Field visit

Indicator 6.4.2

The conservation zones designated by the forest organization that cover at a minimum an equivalent of 10% of the FMU area (see Criterion 6.2) shall include representative areas of any examples of ecosystems in their natural state as identified in 6.4.1.

Verifiers:

1. Forest management plans and maps
2. Field visit

Indicator 6.4.3

Management prescriptions shall be specified in the organization's forest management plan and other documents in order to protect the representative examples of ecosystems within conservation zones in their natural state and in the long term and ensure any management interventions are for their protection or restoration.

Verifiers:

1. Forest management plans and maps
2. Field visit

Indicator 6.4.4

Reference sites of the representative ecosystems within conservation zones, shall be identified and clearly marked on maps, and are monitored at least once a decade to identify and evaluate long-term changes. The organization analyses and utilizes the results of the monitoring to evaluate management of the conservation zones.

Verifiers:

1. Forest management plans and maps
2. Field visit
3. Monitoring results

C6.5 Written guidelines shall be prepared and implemented to: control erosion; minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and all other mechanical disturbances; and protect water resources.

Indicator 6.5.1

The organisation shall have written guidelines sufficient to:

Control erosion;

Minimize forest damage during harvesting, road construction, and other mechanic disturbances;

Protect water resources both within and outside the FMU.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Discussion with private contractors
3. Written guidelines

Indicator 6.5.2

The guidelines shall include, at a minimum, specific provisions to prevent erosion by identifying areas which are susceptible to erosion

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written guidelines

Indicator 6.5.3

Forest manager shall use forest machinery, technology and operations that minimize adverse impact on the soil, water and standing trees

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (tendering documentation)
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.5.4

The forest manager shall build, maintain and use the forest transportation infrastructure to avoid erosion and disturbance to natural drainage patterns.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (forest management plan, written guidelines, road construction plans, maps)
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.5.5

The guidelines shall include, at a minimum specific provisions to protect water courses by specifying wetland, water source and streamside protection zones

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager

2. Written evidence (forest management plan, written guidelines, maps)
3. Discussion with other stakeholders
4. Field visit

Indicator 6.5.6

Implementation of the guidelines shall be clearly and consistently evidenced in site level management practices.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (forest management plan, written guidelines, maps)
3. Field visit

C6.6 Management systems shall promote the development and adoption of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management and strive to avoid the use of chemical pesticides. World Health Organization Type 1A and 1B and chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides; pesticides that are persistent, toxic or whose derivatives remain biologically active and accumulate in the food chain beyond their intended use; as well as any pesticides banned by international agreement, shall be prohibited. If chemicals are used, proper equipment and training shall be provided to minimize health and environmental risks.

Indicator 6.6.1

The forest manager shall control pests, diseases and weeds primarily by using silvicultural measures and mechanical or other non-chemical methods. Chemical agents can be employed only when there are no alternative methods or the efficiency of non-chemical methods is low.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Guidelines for pest, disease and weed control
3. Written evidence (Reports on pests and diseases, marking data on trees to be cut for sanitary reasons, sanitary felling carried out)
4. Field visit

Indicator 6.6.2

If pesticides are used, the organisation shall make sure that it is not included into up-to-date copy of FSC's list of 'highly hazardous' pesticides and on the list of World Health Organization (pesticides Type 1A and 1B).

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (records, reports)
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.6.3

There shall be no storage or use of any pesticide included on FSC's list of 'highly hazardous'

pesticides within the FMU, unless the organization is subject to a current FSC pesticide derogation for the pesticide concerned.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (records, reports)
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.6.4

If pesticides are used, all staff and contractors involved with their use shall have up to date training in handling, application and storage procedures, and all workers shall have been provided with and use proper safety equipment.

Verifiers:

1. Written evidence (certificates of equipment, training program records on actions taken)
2. Discussion with the employees
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.6.5

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

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (records, reports)
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.6.6

The organization shall implement a documented system to minimise its use of pesticides. As a minimum the system shall include the following components:

- Recording of all specific problems for which pesticide use is being considered;
- Identification and readily available documentation of potentially effective non-pesticide methods of control;
- A clear preference for non-pesticide methods of control when this would be effective, even if it is not the cheapest approach in the short term;
- If a pesticide is used, there shall be a record providing a clear explanation as to why a pesticide rather than non-pesticide solution was chosen.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (records, reports)
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.6.7

The organization shall have a documented policy and procedures for the use of pesticides which

comply, as a minimum, with the requirements for the transport, storage, handling, application and emergency procedures for clean up following accidental spillages as specified in ILO publications 'Safety & Health in the Use of Agrochemicals: A Guide', and 'Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work'.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (records, reports)
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.6.8

The organization shall monitor the health of workers who have worked with pesticides in order to identify and investigate potential ill effects resulting from pesticide exposure. (Reference: plantations policy working group recommendations)

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (records, reports)
3. Field visit

C6.7 Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes including fuel and oil shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner at off-site locations.

Indicator 6.7.1

The forest manager shall ensure that non-organic waste; containers, garbage, chemicals and other polluting substances are not disposed of in the forest or on forestland.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written instructions
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.7.2

There shall be a documented procedure, supported by appropriate training and materials, for controlling and cleaning up chemicals, fuel and oil in the case of accidental spillage.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (records on removals)
3. Field visit
4. Contracts with private contractors

Indicator 6.7.3

The organization shall keep an up to date list identifying the off-site location(s) for the disposal of all its chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes (including fuel and oil).

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Field visit

Indicator 6.7.4

There shall be no evidence that the organization's waste products are disposed of other than at the listed sites, and in accordance with environmentally safe methods and applicable legal requirements

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Field visit

C6.8 Use of biological control agents shall be documented, minimized, monitored and strictly controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols. Use of genetically modified organisms shall be prohibited.

Indicator 6.8.1

The forest manager shall avoid the employment of biological control agents.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written procedures and instructions
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.8.2

If biological control agents are used, the organisation shall demonstrate that such use is in strict compliance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written procedures and instructions

Indicator 6.8.3

The impacts of biological control agents shall be closely monitored

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Monitoring results

Indicator 6.8.4

The forest manager shall provide a written guarantee that no genetically modified organisms (including trees and other organisms) are used or are present in the organization's management, production or research program, and there shall be no evidence of such use

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written guarantee

C6.9 The use of exotic species shall be carefully controlled and actively monitored to avoid adverse ecological impacts.

Indicator 6.9.1

The forest manager shall avoid introducing exotic species (plants and animals) to forest ecosystems,

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Records on seedling/planting material used
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.9.2

If (s) he introduces exotic species (plants and animals) to forest ecosystems, the forest manager shall comply with the following indicators for the use of exotic species

Verifiers:

1. See indicators 6.9.3, 6.9.4, 6.9.5 and 6.9.6

Indicator 6.9.3

Exotic species shall not be newly introduced into the FMU or onto new sites within the FMU unless there is convincing evidence available that the species will not become invasive or have other adverse ecological impacts at the local level.

Verifiers:

1. Scientific studies
2. Discussion with the forest manager

Indicator 6.9.4

Prior to introduction of exotic species, the forest manager shall undertake the environmental impact assessment to ensure that introduced species will not become invasive species in Kosovo forests.

Verifiers:

1. Environmental impact assessment

Indicator 6.9.5

The forest manager shall carefully control and monitor already introduced exotic species to avoid negative environmental impacts. If negative impacts occur, forest manager shall take measures to minimise the negative impact.

Verifiers:

1. Monitoring results

2. Records on monitoring results and elimination activities carried out
3. Field visit

Indicator 6.9.6

In all cases, if an exotic species is newly introduced within the FMU, the organization shall document and implement regular monitoring within and outside the FMU to identify any evidence of invasiveness or other adverse ecological impacts.

Verifiers:

1. Written instructions and procedures

organizationorganizationorganizationorganizationorganizationorganization

C6.10 Forest conversion to plantations or non-forest land uses shall not occur, except in circumstances where conversion:

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

Indicator 6.10.1

The organisation shall clearly identify any parts of the FMU that are scheduled for conversion from natural or semi-natural forest to plantation or non-forest use.

Verifiers:

1. Official public interest decision

Indicator 6.10.2

The areas scheduled for conversion:

- Shall not include any High Conservation Value Forest areas (see Principle 9), AND
- EITHER total less than 5% of the total area of the FMU and shall enable clear, substantial, additional, secure, long-term conservation benefits across the forest management unit,
- OR shall be converted in order to restore the land securely and in the long term to a pre-existing "High Conservation Value" habitat.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Field visit

Indicator 6.10.3

The organization shall have all necessary approvals for the conversion, in line with national requirements.

Verifiers:

1. Approvals

Indicator 6.10.4

The forest manager is allowed to convert forests to plantations only if the area entails a very limited portion of the forest management unit and enables long term conservation benefits across the forest management unit (e.g. regeneration of degrade forest stands)

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (forest management plan, conversion plans, maps)
3. Field visit

FSC Principle 7:

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

C7.1 The management plan and supporting documents shall provide:

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

Indicator 7.1.1

Forest manager shall have a valid forest management plan for each area under evaluation. The management plan and/or supporting documents shall specify the long-term management objectives.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Decision of responsible authorities related to establishing of forest management area
3. Map and description of the borders of forest management area
4. Valid Forest management plans

Indicator 7.1.2

The management plan and/or supporting documents shall include:

- A description of the forest resources to be managed,
- Environmental limitations,
- Land use and ownership status,
- Socio-economic conditions and a profile of adjacent lands.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plan
3. Maps

Indicator 7.1.3

The management plan and/or supporting documents shall include a description of the silvicultural and/or other management system, based on the ecology of the forest in question and information gathered through resource inventories (see also Criteria 6.3, 8.2).

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plan
3. Maps

Indicator 7.1.4

The management plan and/or supporting documents shall provide a clear rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection (see also Criterion 5.6).

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plan
3. Maps

Indicator 7.1.5

The management plan and/or supporting documents shall describe the provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics (see also Criterion 8.2).

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plan
3. Maps

Indicator 7.1.6

The forest management plan shall specify measures for protection of rare and endangered species and their habitats, prevention of fire, as well as include the results of the social and environmental impact assessment of forest management activities

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plan
3. Field visit

Indicator 7.1.7

The forest management plan shall include maps describing the forest resources, including protected areas, type of vegetations and management classes and land ownership status

Verifiers:

1. Forest management plan
2. Maps
3. Field visit

Indicator 7.1.8

The management plan and/or supporting documents shall include specific consideration of the presence of any High Conservation Value areas (see Principle 9) within the FMU, and describe the specific measures that will be taken to maintain or enhance these values within the FMU (see Criterion 9.3).

Verifiers:

1. Forest management plan
2. Maps
3. Field visit

C7.2 The management plan shall be periodically revised to incorporate the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, as well as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.

Indicator 7.2.1

The forest management plan shall be revised minimum every tenth year. If major changes occur in the environmental, social and economic conditions during plan's validation period, the plan shall be updated in accordance with the legal regulations.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plan

Indicator 7.2.2

New scientific and technical information shall be incorporated into the forest management plan in the context of its periodical revision process.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Old and new forest management plans
3. Scientific studies

C7.3 Forest workers shall receive adequate training and supervision to ensure proper implementation of the management plan.

Indicator 7.3.1

The forest management plan shall be implemented only by adequately trained staff/contractors. The information on their training is clearly documented and available.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (personal certificate for specific jobs)

Indicator 7.3.2

The forest manager shall provide constant supervision of the forest workers/ contractors to ensure proper implementation of the measures incorporated into the management plan.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Discussion with forest workers
3. Organizational structure of forest management organization
4. Field visit

Indicator 7.3.3

There shall be accurate and up-to-date records showing training and education records of all employees.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Discussion with employees
3. Training records

C7.4 While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the management plan, including those listed in Criterion 7.1.

Indicator 7.4.1

There shall be a publicly available document which provides a summary of the organization's:

- 7.4.1.1 Management objectives;
- 7.4.1.2 Forest resources (including their environmental limitations, land use and ownership status, socio-economic conditions, and a profile of adjacent lands);
- 7.4.1.3 Silviculture and/or other management system;
- 7.4.1.4 Rationale for rate of annual harvest and species selection;
- 7.4.1.5 Provisions for monitoring of forest growth and dynamics;
- 7.4.1.6 Environmental safeguards based on environmental assessments;
- 7.4.1.7 Plans for the identification and protection of rare, threatened and endangered species;
- 7.4.1.8 Justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Summary of the forest management plan
3. Access to the public summary (e.g. website)

Indicator 7.4.2

The document shall include maps describing the forest resource base and including protected areas, planned management activities and land ownership.

FSC Principle 8: Monitoring and Assessment

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

C8.1 The frequency and intensity of monitoring should be determined by the scale and intensity of forest management operations as well as the relative complexity and fragility of the affected environment. Monitoring procedures should be consistent and replicable over time to allow comparison of results and assessment of change.

Indicator 8.1.1

The forest manager shall have a documented monitoring system for collecting the data specified in 8.2 below and is implemented at intervals.

8.1.2 The scale of monitoring intensity shall be determined on a case-by-case consideration.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written procedure and documentation

C8.2 Forest management should include the research and data collection needed to monitor, at a minimum, the following indicators:

- a) Yield of all forest products harvested.
- b) Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest.
- c) Composition and observed changes in the flora and fauna.
- d) Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations.
- e) Costs, productivity, and efficiency of forest management.

Indicator 8.2.1

The forest manager shall collect the following data:

1. Quantity and dynamics of timber production according to type and structure of all forest products
2. Necessary silvicultural, regeneration and protection measures as well as environmental impacts of harvesting
3. Overall economic-financial assessment of forest management (costs, investments, income, productivity and efficiency of forest management)

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Forest management plan
3. Annual business plan
4. Annual business report
5. Research projects

Indicator 8.2.2

The forest manager shall monitor and collect data on the actual condition of endangered, rare and fragile species, habitats, water and soil resources as well as the impact of the forest management on the changes in the flora and fauna.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Collected data and statistics
3. Field visit
4. Research projects

Indicator 8.2.3

The forest manager monitors and collects the data related to the social impact of the forest management. The forest manager shall regularly meet the representatives of local communities, authorities and stakeholders to discuss the social and environmental impacts of forest management

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Collected data and statistics
3. Minutes from the meetings
4. Consultation with employees and other stakeholders

C8.3 Documentation shall be provided by the forest manager to enable monitoring and certifying organizations to trace each forest product from its origin, a process known as the "chain of custody."

Indicator 8.3.1

There shall be a system in place which allows all products (timber and non-timber) harvested within the FMU to be readily identified as such, from the time of harvesting through to the point of sale.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (procedures and documentation, records on labeling, numbering, measuring of trees/logs and waybills)

Indicator 8.3.2

As long as the certified products are in property of the forest manager, they shall be clearly identified and stored separately from non-certified products.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Field visit

Indicator 8.3.3

The forest manager shall provide the following data on the products originated from certified forests:

1. Origin and ownership of products
2. Date of trade
3. Place of loading and unloading
4. Date and way of transport
5. Type and amount of products
6. The point in which the buyer takes the responsibility for chain of custody

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Records on labeling, numbering, measuring of trees/logs and waybills, invoices)
3. Field visit

C8.4 The results of monitoring shall be incorporated into the implementation and revision of the management plan.

Indicator 8.4.1

The forest manager shall take the monitoring results into account when carrying out forest management operations and revising the forest management plan.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. The forest management plan
3. Executing projects

C8.5 While respecting the confidentiality of information, forest managers shall make publicly available a summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2.

Indicator 8.5.1

The forest manager shall provide the wider public with a summary of monitoring results listed in criterion 8.2.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Summary of the results of monitoring activities

FSC Principle 9: Maintenance of high conservation value forests

Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes, which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests

shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.

C9.1 Assessment to determine the presence of the attributes consistent with High Conservation Value Forests will be completed, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management.

Indicator 9.1.1

The forest manager shall, identify and map forests and forestland with attributes of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF).

These forest have the following attributes:

HCV1. Areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia).

HCV2. Globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape-level areas where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.

HCV3. Areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems.

HCV4. Areas that provide basic ecosystem services in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control).

HCV5. Areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health).

HCV6. Areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (maps, identification data)
3. Consultation with stakeholders
4. Field visit

Indicator 9.1.2

The forest managers shall have consulted with local stakeholders with relevant expertise or knowledge relating to each of the listed High Conservation Values in the identification of areas with those values within the FMU.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (maps, identification data)
3. Consultation with stakeholders
4. Field visit

Indicator 9.1.3

The results of the assessment and the specific measures proposed to maintain or enhance the identified HCV shall have been reviewed by individuals with expert knowledge of the listed High Conservation Values and local knowledge of the area in which the FMU is located.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager

2. Written evidence (maps, identification data)
3. Consultation with stakeholders
4. Field visit

C9.2 The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.

Indicator 9.2.1

The forest manager shall consult stakeholders during the identification of HCVMs and on the decision on the appropriate management of HCVM. Results from the consultative process shall be documented.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Consultation with stakeholders
3. Written evidence

C9.3 The management plan shall include and implement specific measures that ensure the maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes consistent with the precautionary approach. These measures shall be specifically included in the publicly available management plan summary.

Indicator 9.3.1.

The forest manager shall develop appropriate management measures for HCVM, which respect the precautionary approach

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (the list of management measures in HCVM)
3. The forest management plan
4. Field visit

Indicator 9.3.2

Management measures shall ensure maintenance and/or enhancement of the applicable conservation attributes.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. Written evidence (the list of management measures in HCVM)
3. The forest management plan
4. Field visit

Indicator 9.3.3.

The forest manager incorporates management measures for HCVM into the summary of the forest management plan that is publicly available.

Verifiers:

1. Summary of the forest management plan

C9.4 Annual monitoring shall be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the measures employed to maintain or enhance the applicable conservation attributes.

Indicator 9.4.1.

The forest manager shall have and implement an annual monitoring program including assessment of effectiveness of the measures employed in maintaining and enhancing HCVF.

Verifiers:

1. Discussion with the forest manager
2. The monitoring program and assessment of the management measures in HCVF
3. Field visit

FSC Principle 10: Plantations

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

This principle 10 is not applicable to Kosovo. See the explanation in the introduction